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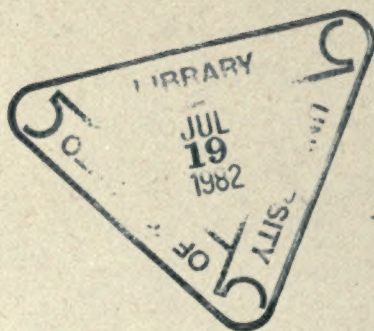
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The Investors' Review

FOUNDED BY A. J. WILSON, FEBRUARY, 1892.

Vol. XXXVIII.—No. 965]
NEW SERIES.

[Registered as a
Newspaper.]

SATURDAY, JULY 1, 1916.

[Price 6d.]

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THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.

(Registered in Japan.)

ESTABLISHED 1880.

Subscribed Capital	Yen 48,000,000
Capital Paid Up	.. ..	Yen 30,000,000
Reserve Fund	.. ..	Yen 20,400,000

Head Office: YOKOHAMA.

Branches and Agencies at

Antung-Hsien.	Harbin.	Nagasaki.	Shanghai.
Bombay.	Honolulu.	Newchang.	Sydney.
Calcutta.	Hong Kong.	New York.	Tientsin.
Changchun.	Kobe.	Osaka.	Tientsin.
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Hankow.	Lyons.	San Francisco.	Tsingtau.

The Bank buys and receives for collection Bills of Exchange, issues Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit on above places and elsewhere, and transacts General Banking Business.

Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be obtained on application.

London Office: 7, BISHOPSGATE, E.C.
K. TATSUMI, Manager.

PRUDENTIAL

ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED,

HOLBORN BARS, LONDON.

Invested Funds exceed - £94,000,000.

CLAIMS PAID £126,000,000.

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Capital Authorised	£1,500,000
Capital Issued	1,125,000
Capital Paid Up	562,500
Reserve Fund	... ..	550,000

Branches:

INDIA, BURMAH, CEYLON, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS
CHINA. AND PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS.

The Bank buys and sells Bills of Exchange, issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, and transacts banking and agency business in connection with the East, on terms to be had on application.

DEPOSITS received for one year at 5 per cent. per annum. Rates for other periods on application.

On current accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on daily balances.

THE LONDON & RIVER PLATE BANK (LIMITED).

ESTABLISHED 1862.

Authorised Capital	.....	£4,000,000
Paid-up Capital	.....	1,800,000
Reserve Fund	.....	2,000,000

BRANCHES—

ARGENTINE.—Buenos Aires, Rosario, Mendoza, Concordia, Bahia Blanca, Córdoba, Tucumán, Paraná, Barracas (Buenos Aires), Once (Buenos Aires), Boca (Buenos Aires), Calle Santa Fé (Buenos Aires), Calle B de Irigoyen (Buenos Aires). URUGUAY.—Montevideo, Montevideo Agency (Calle Rio Negro), Paysandu (Agency), Salto (Agency). BRAZIL.—Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Santos, Pernambuco, Para, Bahia, Victoria, Curitiba, Manaus (Agency). CHILE.—Valparaiso. FRANCE.—Paris (16 Rue Halévy). Agency in New York and Agents throughout the world.

Letters of Credit, Drafts, and Cable Transfers issued. Bills negotiated, advanced upon or sent for collection.—7, Princes Street, E.C.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

Capital (all paid up)	.....	£18,000,000
Sterling Reserve, held in London at exchange of 2s. per \$ =	£1,500,000	\$15,000,000
Silver Reserve	.....	\$33,000,000

Reserve Liability of Proprietors..... \$15,000,000

HEAD OFFICE—HONGKONG. Chief Manager—N. J. STABB.

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H. D. C. JONES, } W. M. BLACKIE, Accountant.

LONDON COUNTY & WESTMINSTER BANK, LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED IN 1836.

CAPITAL £14,000,000, in 700,000 Shares of £20 each.

Paid-up Capital - - - £3,500,000.
Reserve - - - £4,000,000.

Chairman: The Right Hon. The VISCOUNT GOSCHEN. Deputy Chairman: WALTER LEAF, Esq.

HEAD OFFICE: 41, LOTHBURY, E.C.

The Bank is represented by Branches or Agents in all the Principal Cities and Towns of the United Kingdom and has Correspondents throughout the World.

Paris: London County and Westminster Bank (Paris) Limited, 22, Place Vendôme.

SUMS OF £10 UPWARDS RECEIVED ON DEPOSIT, AND INTEREST ALLOWED THEREON
EVERY DESCRIPTION OF BRITISH AND FOREIGN BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED
EXECUTOR AND TRUSTEE DUTIES UNDERTAKEN.

STANDARD BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA, LTD.

Bankers to the Government of the Union of South Africa in Cape Province, to the Imperial Government in South Africa, and to the Administration of Rhodesia.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	£6,194,100
PAID-UP CAPITAL	£1,548,525
RESERVE FUND	£2,000,000
UNCALLED CAPITAL	£4,645,575
	£8,194,100

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K.C.M.G.	Right Hon. Lord Sydenham, G.C.S.I.,
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Hamburg Agency: 27, ALSTERDAM.
New York Agency: 55, WALL STREET.

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EVERY DESCRIPTION OF BANKING BUSINESS transacted with the Cape Province, Natal, Orange Free State, Transvaal, Rhodesia, Nyasaland, East Africa Protectorate, Uganda, Zanzibar, Portuguese East Africa, South-West Africa Protectorate and the Belgian Congo, and with the Bank's Agencies in New York, and elsewhere.

CURRENT ACCOUNTS are opened on the usual terms.
DEPOSITS RECEIVED for fixed periods at rates which may be ascertained on application.
BILLS NEGOTIATED AND COLLECTED.
MAIL and TELEGRAPHIC REMITTANCES made.
LETTERS OF CREDIT and DRAFTS granted on the Branches and Agencies of the Bank.
THE BANK issues CIRCULAR LETTERS OF CREDIT available in all parts of the world.
COMMERCIAL LETTERS OF CREDIT issued.
PURCHASE and SALE of Stocks and Shares effected.
DIVIDENDS, ANNUITIES, Etc., received.
EXECUTOR and TRUSTEE BUSINESS undertaken.

The Officers of the Bank are bound not to disclose the transaction of any of its customers.
FRANCIS SHIPTON, London Manager.

BANK OF NEW ZEALAND.

(Incorporated July 29th, 1861.)

BANKERS TO THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT.

London Office: 1, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL	£1,500,000
SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	

Four per Cent. Guaranteed Stock	£528,988
"A" Preference Shares issued to New Zealand Government	500,000
"B" Preference Shares issued to New Zealand Government	250,000
Ordinary Shares	1,500,000
	£2,778,988

Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits	£2,057,170
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Negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange.
Grants drafts on its Offices in New Zealand, Australia, Fiji and Samoa. Remittances made by telegraphic transfer.

ALEXANDER KAY, Manager

THE BANK OF ADELAIDE.

(Incorporated by Act of Parliament, 1865.)

Authorised Capital	£1,000,000.	Subscribed Capital	£625,000
Paid-up Capital			£500,000
Reserve Fund			510,000
			£1,010,000
Uncalled Capital			125,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders			625,000
			£1,760,000

London Office—11, Leadenhall Street, E.C.

BILLS on Australasia purchased or collected.

DRAFTS issued and REMITTANCES cabled.

DEPOSITS received for fixed periods at rates to be ascertained on application.

PERCY ARNOLD, Manager

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BANK.

Established 1841.

Paid-up Capital	£250,000 0 0 (25,000 Shares of £10 each.)
Reserve Fund	£680,000 0 0 | Reserve Profits
	£24,067 0 0
Reserved Liability of Shareholders	£250,000.

Drafts issued, Remittances cabled, Bills negotiated or collected, Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be ascertained on application, and all banking and exchange business connected with Western Australia conducted through the London Agents, The Bank of Adelaide, 11, Leadenhall St., E.C.

BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Established 1817.



Paid up Capital	£3,500,000
Reserve Fund	2,675,000
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	3,500,000
	£9,675,000

Head Office: SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES.

London Directors:

Sir FREDERICK GREEN, Chairman.

H. L. M. TRITTON, Esq. WALTER S. M. BURNS, Esq.

DAVID GEORGE, Manager.	J. S. CAMPBELL, Secretary.
HALKERSTONE MELDRUM, Assistant Manager.	DAVID GEDDIE, Accountant.

The Bank has 346 Branches and Agencies in the Australian States, New Zealand, Fiji, Papua (New Guinea), and London, and Agents and Correspondents all over the World, on whom the London Office grants Circular Letters of Credit and Circular Notes. Also issues Drafts on demand. Makes Mail and Cable Transfers. Negotiates and Collects Bills of Exchange. Receives Deposits for Fixed Periods on terms which may be known on application, and transacts every description of Australian Banking business.

London Office: 29, THREADNEEDLE STREET, E.C.

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND.

Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1727.

CAPITAL PAID UP	£2,000,000
REST & UNDIVIDED PROFITS	£800,986

Head Office: ST. ANDREW SQUARE, EDINBURGH.

ADAM TAIT, Cashier and General Manager.

A. K. WRIGHT, Secretary.

London Office: 3, BISHOPSGATE, E.C.

WILLIAM WALLACE, Manager.

166 Branch Offices throughout Scotland.

Banking Business of every description transacted. Accounts opened for Foreign and Colonial Correspondents. Bills, Cheques, and other documents collected. Deposit received at interest repayable at call or at notice.

THE LONDON BANK OF AUSTRALIA, LIMITED.

Head Office—71 Old Broad Street, E.C.

Subscribed Capital	£1,276,747 10 0
Paid up Capital	669,587 10 0
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits	354,791 5 3
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	606,962 10 0

REMITTANCES made by CABLE.
DRAFTS, LETTERS OF CREDIT and CIRCULAR NOTES issued upon Branches and Agents.

BILLS on Australasia NEGOTIATED or sent for collection.

DEPOSITS RECEIVED for periods and at rates which may be ascertained on application, and Banking Business of every description conducted with Australia.

THE UNION BANK OF AUSTRALIA

ESTABLISHED 1837.

LIMITED.

INCORPORATED 1880.

Authorised and Issued Capital, £6,000,000.

Paid-up Capital, £2,000,000; Reserve Fund, £1,950,000; together	£3,950,000
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	4,000,000
Total Capital and Reserves	£7,950,000

HEAD OFFICE - - - 71, CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.

DRAFTS are granted on the Bank's Branches throughout the Australian States and Dominion of New Zealand.

TELEGRAPHIC REMITTANCES are also made.

BILLS are purchased or sent for Collection.

DEPOSITS are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application.

The Investors' Review.

Vol. XXXVIII.—No. 965.
New Series.

SATURDAY, JULY 1, 1916.

(Registered as a Newspaper.) Price 6d.

PUBLISHERS' NOTICES.

The Investors' Review is a Subscription Journal, and will be delivered to subscribers in London by the first post, or sent to the country and abroad by the first mail, on Saturday Morning, on the following terms:—

One Year, £1 5s. 0d. Six Months, 12s. 6d. Three Months, 6s. 6d.

For the Colonies and Abroad the charge is

One Year, £1 8s. 0d. Six Months, 14s. 0d. Three Months, 7s. 0d.

Short of Three months the Price is 6d. per Copy Inland, and 7d. Abroad, Post Free.

Cloth cases for binding the Half Yearly Volumes price 1s. 6d., postage 4d. extra. Bound Volumes 15s. 6d., or 16s. 3d. post free.

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"Investors' Review,"

Norfolk House, Norfolk Street,
London, W.C.

Telephone No.:
Gerrard 9132.

Telegraphic Address:
"Unveiling, London."

The Editors cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

Letters from correspondents must, in every case, be authenticated by the name and address of the writer.

The Editors desire it to be understood that a charge is made for the insertion of reports under the heading of Company Meetings, and they cannot accept responsibility for statements made therein.

ANSWERS TO QUERIES.

One Reply to One Question — One Shilling. Any number of questions may be put and will be answered at the rate of **One Shilling** each. The questions should be numbered and a copy kept, as securities cannot be named with comments in the printed replies. Questions to be answered in the current issue should reach us not later than Friday morning.

For a fee of **One Guinea** per annum paid in advance, a **Key** to the previous week's replies will be sent early in the following week.

Deposits of "Query Money" may be made in advance, and will be acknowledged in the "Answers" column. Notice of exhaustion will also be given there.

Telegrams advising about new securities cost **Half-a-Crown** each, plus cost of the telegram.

Private Letters in answer to inquiries can be had if desired. The minimum charge for such letters is **Ten Shillings**, but for this three questions will be answered if desired. For every question beyond three replied to in any one letter the charge is **Half-a-Crown per question**.

Correspondents can have their lists of investments overhauled and advised upon by letter on terms varying according to the time taken.

Groups of Five Stocks for investment supplied at the rate of **One Guinea**, each list different.

Passing Events.

In the week ended Saturday last revenue came in to the amount of £5,289,000. Of this £1,165,000 was from excess profits duty, the ordinary income-tax giving £800,000 additional. Customs also produced £1,558,000 and Excise £975,000. Supply alone, however, took £45,765,000, which we believe to be about, if not quite, the largest amount disbursed in any single week since the war began. The total expenditure of the week, exclusive of the finance operations represented by a deduction of £9,062,000 Treasury bill money, was £47,421,397. Leaving out the Treasury bills, the final figure of outgoings was £38,479,397, and as the Exchequer in all raised £38,824,000, including £16,744,000 by Treasury bills, the bank balances were actually £344,603 up on Saturday. The total of Treasury bills outstanding is now £743,666,000, an increase of £25,637,000 on the week. Altogether there were £9,507,000 of Exchequer bonds disposed of during the week, the largest item in which was £5,386,000 of 1921 Exchequer bonds. This raised the total outstanding of these bonds to £115,370,000. War expenditure certificates paid during the week came, however, to no more than £1,584,000 as compared with £3,132,000 in the previous week. How long is this prodigious outlay to continue? Probably throughout the whole of the summer until the enemy begins to flinch and give way.

It was time that the Declaration of London should be definitely abandoned. That Declaration arose out of an effort made by the present Tsar of Russia to humanise, by limiting the ravages of, war at sea. At his instance, a prize court conference was gathered at the Hague in 1907, and out of it and the subsequent conference which assembled in London in the end of 1908 the agreement known as the Declaration of London was evolved. It dealt with the treatment of contraband, and drew up a list of things absolutely contraband, an inconveniently narrow list as it has turned out, at the same time that neutral vessels sailing under their own national colours were declared immune from search. The restrictions otherwise imposed were not, perhaps, in themselves very far-reaching, but it was also provided that an international

naval prize court should be set up, on which representatives of every European country should have the right to sit, and this was felt, has all along been felt, to be a dangerous innovation. When the subject came before Parliament, it was sternly opposed by, among others, Mr. Gibson Bowles, who declared that the Declaration was framed solely in the interests of neutrals, and likewise by representatives of Chambers of Commerce, who maintained the other view, that if war broke out, our rights as neutrals would be seriously weakened. The experience of this war has proved that the Declaration did hamper us in our dealing with contraband, and it has demonstrated the absurdity of making any attempt to establish an international prize court. Fancy a prize court on which German judges would have a seat! As things German are now understood, that would be unthinkable. We have no doubt, therefore, that the Order in Council now withdrawing the Declaration *in toto* will be welcomed by all our Allies, as it has already been by France. Practically this step signifies that the blockade of Germany will now be more stern and effective than ever. The more rigorous it is, the more merciful will it be, for hunger is a great humaniser.

Junkerism in Germany is very far yet, in appearance, from being subdued. Its spokesmen continue to blow out the arrogance of the Prussian as if he were the one holy being on earth. The Jews at the height of their glory in the days of Solomon and in the most sublime and exalted age of their prophets never put forth greater pretensions to God-given licence to destroy at will all outside Judaism than the conceit-demented German, cowering beneath the lash of his vanity-swollen Prussian slave-driver, habitually arrogates. A Dr. Kapp, a loan-manipulating functionary of the Agrarians, has, it appears, been shrieking that von Bethmann-Hollweg is too flabby over peace ideals to suit the stalwart world conquerors to be. They serenely continue to order all the world to submit to their will, even the United States of North America. "The United States has shown herself to be our enemy; she treats Germany as if Germany were a negro Republic." Therefore peace must be "dictated" to her also by the ever holy Prussian, says the astounding Dr. Kapp, and in saying it grossly insults the negro.

Language fails us to express what we feel about the German treatment of British prisoners of war. Half starved, maltreated with a systematic, calculating malignity, diabolical in its stolid brutishness, these victims of the Kaiser's long plotted war are not merely objects of pity. Their lot and treatment stir and keep alive the hottest wrath, and instil into men's minds the world over a loathing whose effects the Germans will never live down. Not even the most degraded Mexican brigand could sink to the depths of the swinish infamy the Germans calmly devise and wallow in with a serene unconsciousness of their loathsomeness, which forces all who observe them to conclude that a superficial coating of scientific and mechanical aptitude has been plastered over a degraded survival of races that have come down to us from pre-historic times more completely devoid of any attributes of common humanity than the pariah dog. The sow that devours her own litter is fit symbol for a nation of beasts such as the Kaiser reigns over.

We threaten retaliation. What can we do? The first reply of the Prussian beast would probably be a further increase in the torture applied to our fellow countrymen, military and civil, so unfortunately in his hands. That would certainly be the case if we began by punishing the common ruck of German prisoners, but not if we began at the top with the officers. After brief warning, if the Berlin functionaries have not mended their ways, it should be straw pallets or plank beds, half rations, and *no servants* or service for the German officers of all ranks in our custody, from the highest to the lowest. Shut them in, supply them with a minimum of the plainest food, and leave them to cook it for themselves. If further wild-beast treatment in retaliation should be attempted on our fellow citizens in Germany, rations here might be further reduced, with the alternative, "If you wish to eat more, work for it." As for all the able-bodied of the common, slave, or non-sacred *junker* class prisoners here, they ought to be made to work, and to be paid a reasonable pittance for their work, according to its value, or given food rations beyond the minimum in quantity measured by what work is performed. And all the food should be vegetarian. We ought to have no meat to spare just now for repulsive beasts of this description. History, for the last thousand years at least, has never presented mankind with a more disgusting spectacle of moral vileness than Germany has been affording throughout this war. Its loathsomeness is increased by the smug, one may say the ecstatic, self-glorification by which its basest, its most savagely inhuman deeds are accompanied and admired. The more inhuman he contrives to be, the more proud the German is of himself. He expects us all to admire him when he ends the war "conqueror." And the world will cast him out.

Progress of a satisfactory description was made by the National Bank of South Africa, Ltd., in its year closed March 31 last. Gross profits rose £86,361 to £768,921, and working expenses were only £44,082 larger at £510,351. Rebate, however, required £5,259 more at £36,994, so that the nett profit of £221,576 is only £37,018 better, including the balance of £30,585 brought forward, which was itself £2,400 higher. Shareholders received the usual 6 per cent. dividend for the year, and £10,000 was added to the pension fund, which got nothing a year ago. This leaves £13,709 more at £44,294 to be carried forward, but the directors recommend that it should be left to their discretion to award a bonus to the officers of the bank in recognition of the loyal and efficient services rendered by them, and to that there surely can be no objection. Liabilities on deposit, current and other accounts rose during the year by £2,933,822 to the substantial figure of £23,157,244, and notes in circulation were larger by £82,542 at £1,246,283. Drafts and acceptances show an increase of £471,822 at £1,048,959, and bills receivable an increase of £423,586 to £3,310,167, but the contingent

liability on loans and guarantees shows a reduction of £31,655 at £220,676. Amongst the assets, the principal changes are an increase of the money in London lent at call and short notice, which has risen £1,447,150 to £1,510,575. Bills of exchange have also expanded £2,169,059 to £4,462,933, and British and Colonial Government securities are up £1,921,023 to £3,299,550, the increase in loans and discounts being a further £821,166 at £14,227,832. These figures indicate that the bank has more resources available than it can at present employ in its current business, but it has put away the surplus in directions where it should be easily available when brisk times come round again. Altogether, the total of the balance-sheet has increased £3,514,545 in the course of the year to £32,471,298.

Last year ended March 31 the gross profit of the Bank of British West Africa, Ltd., increased £36,310 to £180,346. Working expenses took £19,950 more at £111,310, and rebate on bills was allowed for to the extent of £4,626 in excess of last year at £9,760. Consequently the nett profit of £59,275 is only £11,734 larger, but it is arrived at after providing for bad and doubtful debts and depreciation of investments. Adding the £10,141 brought forward there is £69,417, or £12,276 more, available to divide, and the directors give part of this increase to the shareholders by raising the dividend to 8 per cent. for the year as compared with 6½ per cent. paid for 1914-15. They also utilise £10,000, as against £5,000, to write down premises and furniture, and give £5,000 instead of £2,000 to the staff fund, besides which £2,000 is this time put aside to insurance and £5,000 to war contingencies fund, yet when the dividend also is paid the balance of £15,417 left to carry forward will be £4,276 up. A year ago, however, £13,000 was placed to the reserve, which is not mentioned this time; its total therefore remains at £150,000. Although young, the growth of this bank has been rapid, and, we should judge, very substantial. Its cash, taking all sorts together, shows a reduction of £140,685 at £1,020,712, but it has invested £515,000 in Treasury bills which it did not hold a year ago, and its other bills have increased £31,171 to £638,259. Also £50,000 has been sunk in the West Africa Building Co., Limited, but the Government securities are down £80,689 to £370,303, and the other securities £112,108 to £125,798. Loans and advances have also shrunk £68,343 to £638,398. As for liabilities they show little change, those on current and fixed deposit accounts being the largest and £255,375 up at £2,523,000. The total of the balance-sheet is greater by £355,790 at £3,591,040, and the directors may well say that the result for the year's operations is very satisfactory.

In a very trying year, full of war, the National Bank of New Zealand contrived to earn a nett profit only £6,235 less than that of the previous year at £143,528. Actually the gross profit was £21,316 larger at £296,555, but expenses of all kinds, including income-tax, rose £27,551 to £153,027, hence the shortage of nett revenue stated. It was nearly all made good, however, by the increase of £4,763 in the balance brought forward, so that the final available total of £191,609 is only £1,472 less, and much more than that is economised by the reduction in the amount added to the reserve—£15,000 as compared with £20,000 for 1914-15. The smaller addition now made, however, brings the reserve fund up to £700,000, or within £50,000 of the paid-up capital, which is satisfactory progress. Out of the available profits the directors have, moreover, placed £25,000 to the reserve for depreciation of investments as against £20,000 given to the premises account a year ago. Also £8,000 as compared with £12,500 is utilised to pay a bonus to the staff. From what remains, £4,000 is given to the pension and gratuity funds, and the dividend maintained at the usual 12 per cent., plus a bonus of 1 per cent. All this done £42,109, or £5,971 less than was brought forward, will remain to be taken to the new

year. In the accounts the most notable change is a new entry of £679,609, representing British Government War Loans and Treasury bills held by the bank. Its investments in home, colonial, and foreign securities of other descriptions have fallen off £177,542 to £481,515. Its bills receivable are also down £273,292 to £1,096,866, but its bills discounted are up £119,194 to £697,357 and its advances £359,417 higher at £3,802,305. On the liabilities side we have bills payable, &c., £142,462 larger at £841,555, and liabilities on deposit and current accounts up £557,899 to £5,298,296. Notes in circulation also show an increase of £70,150 at £535,665.

The adverse conditions which affected the business of the South African Breweries, Ltd., in 1914-15 were naturally even more marked during the 12 months ended March 31, but the efforts made to counteract them by economy were so far successful that the profits showed a small but satisfactory recovery of £4,046 at £231,753. Dividends and interest yielded £2,653 more at £20,215, and, after deducting £27,977, or £1,682 less, for depreciation and meeting administration charges, the nett surplus was £8,990 up at £215,587. The amount required to meet balance of income-tax was £10,048 larger at £16,991, but depreciation of securities took £10,909 less at £4,617, and the appropriation to reserve is reduced from £20,000 to £13,500. It is, therefore, possible to repeat the dividend of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the ordinary shares, and still leave £42,476 to be carried forward, or £9,819 more than was brought in, an achievement which in the circumstances can only be regarded as satisfactory. Property and goodwill account has been reduced by £19,504 to £1,618,618, trade investments are a trifle lower at £174,937, and plant, &c., is £12,784 down at £200,563, and against these items the reserves now stand at £738,775, of which the £38,775 is "earmarked" for trade investments. Trade loans and mortgages are also £10,851 lower at £283,239, but stocks, including shipments in transit, have risen by £62,466 to £236,875, while current liabilities are only £2,434 higher at £50,821. Investments in Government, municipal, and railway stocks show a decrease of £8,618 at £103,426, and cash is £15,512 down at £107,850, but £50,390 has been temporarily invested in Treasury bills.

The year of the Mond Nickel Co., Ltd., closes on April 30, and for the 12 months then rounded off the profit was £22,293 larger at £322,589, but the balance brought forward was £37,755 smaller at £54,162, and consequently the £376,751 in this way reached shows a reduction of £15,462 raised to £16,577 by the directors' fees, which took £1,115 more at £16,129. Consequently the total amount finally available is £360,622, and out of this the ordinary shares again get their dividend made up to 20 per cent. for the year, less income-tax, but the reserve is to have only £50,000 against £100,000 added to it at the end of the previous year. The balance left to carry forward, which includes provision for war taxation, will, however, be £45,150 larger at £99,312, and the company is no doubt richer in means than it looks, for we cannot tell whether other amounts may not have been put aside against contingencies. What the report does tell us is that the expenditure for allowances to families and dependents of company's employees enlisted, subscriptions to hospitals and war funds, war bonuses, and provision for excess profits took no less than £56,866 last year, or £49,202 more than was charged against the profits of the preceding year. Obviously this business is now exceedingly prosperous, and if it goes on in the way it is doing it will require more capital by and by. Already there is nearly £900,000 of debenture stocks outstanding, and last year the company had to borrow £194,000 from its bankers, besides increasing its debt to sundry creditors by £173,417 to £312,723. The property, however, in Ontario and South Wales went up by nearly £40,000 in book value last year, and the stock, tools, &c., shows an increase of £322,213 at

£929,227, but sundry debtors owe £37,830 less at £183,028, while cash has shrunk £111,690 to £22,321. For some reason, to be disclosed at the meeting doubtless, a suspense account of £30,000 is entered amongst the assets, while the company's holding of shares and debentures in associated and other companies has increased in book value by £119,566 to £280,786. Its unclassified investments also are £52,552 larger at £100,052. Including all properties the total of the balance-sheet is now £3,679,888, which must obviously represent a very fine business.

The year 1915 was a bad one for the Australian Estates and Mortgage Co., Ltd., as for all similar corporations in Australia. It was a year of drought, and this company's report says that in Central Queensland and in Western and North-Western New South Wales the season was "almost the worst on record"; hence the heavy decline in the wool clip and losses by shortage in lambings and drought. Compensation, however, was found in the high prices obtaining both for wool and livestock, so that the gross profit of the year was only £29,397 worse at £210,792, and even that decline may have been a matter of book-keeping more than of actual shortage of receipts, because the total is brought out after providing for depreciation of investments in Stock Exchange securities at the end of last year. No such deduction is mentioned in the previous report. General expenses were curtailed by £3,599 and amounted only to £31,580, but English and Australian income-tax took £2,285 more at £23,501. Consequently the nett profit of £155,710 is just £28,083 less, and the amount brought forward only £1,531 more at £5,979. By halving the assignment to reserve, giving it £25,000 as against £50,000, the balance left for the shareholders after paying debenture interest is a mere £2,110 down at £30,631, and the directors can pay the 6 per cent. dividend on the ordinary stock with £5,138 left to carry forward, which is not a bad outcome in the circumstances. Movements in the balance-sheet are of no particular significance, but we may note that the book value of the properties, stock, loans on mortgage, &c., shows a reduction of £32,981 at £2,052,229, while the investments in War Loan, colonial and railway stocks, &c., taken at the market value of December 31 last, or in the case of the War Loan at cost, have increased £30,052 to £237,045. Sundry debtor balances, including advances on wool and other produce, form a large item of £755,174, which is just £9,798 down, a good proof of the way values have kept up. The company owes £13,880 less to sundry creditors at £149,501.

Business must have been splendid in Nigeria, on the Gold Coast, and elsewhere in and around North-West Africa in the year 1915. Here is the African Association, Ltd., displaying profits of a most satisfactory kind, the total of which can only be guessed at in a tentative way. The profit and loss exhibit shows a trading profit, after making reserve for excess profits duty, £44,541 larger than that of previous year, of £95,628. How much then was put aside for excess profits duty? We cannot tell, but the amounts set down in the balance-sheet as due to sundry creditors shows an increase of £220,045 at £330,792, and doubtless that increase contains the sum set aside to meet excess profits charges; but it may only be a small part of the increase shown, for the company's advance from its bankers increased last year by £95,656 to £122,874, and its stock of goods at all points, including the Continent, shows an increase of £258,303 at £658,065. Also produce in transit homeward and stock in Liverpool and on the Continent is £44,662 higher at £239,769. Its investments in the shares and debentures of other companies are up £13,110 to £303,557, and sundry debtors owe it £58,073 more at £128,795. It is thus a very powerful company, the total of whose balance-sheet has now risen to £1,624,935, and shareholders have good cause to be satisfied with their investment. The directors, too, have shown great prudence in avoiding extravagant

dividend payments, although a 200 per cent. dividend on the deferred shares may hardly look like stinginess in dispersing the money. It comes out this way. The total sum available, including the balance brought forward, which at £10,370 was £2,835 down, is £105,998, or £41,706 more, and after meeting the preference dividend and paying a dividend of 12 per cent. on the ordinary shares there is £53,915 left to be divided in equal halves between the ordinary shares and the founders. The ordinary shares get their 12 per cent. plus a bonus of 3 per cent., which compares with a 12 per cent. dividend and bonus of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. the previous year, but this time the shareholders have to pay the tax, whereas a year ago the distribution was tax free. At the beginning of the year the dividend fund of the ordinary shareholders amounted to £180,140, and after paying the dividend and the bonus, less income-tax, there will be £212,011 left at the credit of this fund. In the same way at the beginning of the year 1915 the founders' share dividend fund amounted to only £1,591, but by the additions made out of the profits of 1914 and 1915 it was brought up at December 31 to £34,719, and after distributing £2 a share on the £6,768 in £1 shares to which this portion of the capital amounts, there will be £13,621 left to carry forward. On both counts, therefore, the directors have abstained from dividing the last shilling, which is prudent for, however derived—and no hint is given of the sources—last year's profits cannot be relied upon to continue at the same scale year after year in time to come. These dividend funds, however, belong to two classes of the proprietors, not to the proprietary as a whole. They possess an insurance fund increased last year by £7,551 to £143,241, and there is also a depreciation fund £10,326 larger at £140,946. No other reserve, however, worth mentioning is to be found, but there is £7,500 of premium money received on shares sold and kept apart, as also the £500 contingencies fund of a year ago.

All interested will welcome the step taken by the Joint Committee of Bondholders of the Mexico Tramways Co., the Mexican Light and Power Co., Ltd., the Mexican Electric Light Co., and the Pachuca Light and Power Co. It is through no fault of the originators of these enterprises that their bonds are in default, for they were conceived with ability and carried out, if not cheaply, at any rate in a manner that seemed to ensure permanent advantage to the places, the undertakings served, and to the bondholders. But chaos in Mexico has upset all calculations, and we are glad that the Joint Committee has summoned a preliminary meeting to be held on Friday, the 14th inst., in Winchester House, Old Broad Street, at noon, to consider and decide upon the policy to be adopted for the protection of the bondholders' interests until conditions in Mexico improve. At that meeting resolutions framed to meet the special case of each class of bondholders will be submitted for approval at separate meetings. These cannot be held for some time yet, because the notices have to be advertised in Mexico City and in Brussels, and neither place is at present very accessible. A report, however, has been prepared by the Hon. F. H. Phippen, K.C., of Toronto, and Mr. E. D. Trowbridge, C.E., of Detroit, Michigan, dealing with the condition of the properties, and making important recommendations. A copy of the report and a statement issued by the National Trust Co., Ltd., and the Bondholders' Committee are available for all who want them on application at the several banks mentioned in the advertisement, viz., the Bank of Scotland, the London County and Westminster, and the Union of London and Smiths, or bondholders can apply to Thomas Porter, secretary to the Bondholders' Committee, at 34, Bishopsgate Street. By and by, we presume, these reports will be circulated to the Press.

£99,587 at £398,612. From this income-tax took £39,188, or £17,630 more, and an additional £50,000 at £100,000 was added to the reserve fund, but debenture interest took £2,849 less at £32,366, and current expenses were only £400 higher at £15,392. Consequently the nett profit of £311,666 is £84,406 up, and in addition to the £100,000 put to reserve, raising it to £700,000, £9,061 has been added to the fire insurance fund, raising it to £100,000. From the balance of £202,605 the preference shares dividend has been paid, and that on the ordinary shares again made up to 10 per cent., tax free, for the year by a final payment of 6 per cent. A balance of £60,602 will then remain to be carried forward, or £35,462 more than was brought in. This recital indicates how prosperous the year has been in spite, or perhaps because, of the extent to which the production of whisky has been diverted from the consumer to the munitions department. Nothing is said about that in the report, which only contains the intimation that the works have been maintained out of revenue in the fullest state of efficiency, and provision made for depreciation in the value of investments and for the liability under the Finance Acts. There must be excess profits tax to pay here one would imagine. Stock of spirits, grains, warehouse rent, &c., continues to increase, and was on May 15 last at £1,072,498, £72,275 higher than at the same date in 1915. Sundry debtors owe £172,760 more at £921,178, and cash and bills receivable are together £60,061 higher at £365,859. There is also an increase of £18,750 in the cost of land and buildings, now £793,750, and £12,851 in the plant and utensils entered at £312,857. Investments have increased by £32,559 to £490,701. On the liabilities side, apart from the increase of £110,000 in the two reserves, the only notable expansion is £198,597 in the amount due by the company to sundry creditors, but the total is only £301,819. Bills receivable under discount from which no liability is anticipated are entered outside the balance-sheet at £268,010.

It is rather significant to find that a high-class jewellery firm such as Asprey and Co., Limited, whose well-known shop in New Bond Street attracts the attention of passers-by, should have done almost as well in its year closed March 31 last as in the preceding year. The profit on trading was, to be sure, £3,748 down, but it still amounted to £19,221, and seeing that the balance brought forward was £1,813 up at £6,725, the actual amount of £25,949 divisible was only £1,836 smaller, which appears to be almost marvellous in these times. The directors say that the slight reduction in profit was due to increase in expenses rather than to decrease in the volume of trade, which, although considerably below pre-war level, shows a steady recovering tendency. The number of new customers is remarkably large, and augurs well for the time after the war. These statements are utilised to enforce the broadening value of the company's goodwill, patents, registered designs, trade-marks, &c., which figure in the balance-sheet at £51,992, but the fact remains that the business appears to be fully holding its own, and even expanding. Such expenses as are shown in the profit and loss account are actually down £368 to £3,120, but the sum set aside for income-tax schedule "D" is £2,111 up at £4,194. Only the office expenses, however, are really dealt with. The balance-sheet shows that the company owes sundry creditors £10,782 more at £28,338; that the stocks are £5,441 up at £92,342, and that the cost of the New Bond Street leases which have been bought shows an increase of £19,891 at £30,190. The company holds some Great Northern Railway debenture stock, and £1,000 nominal of the War Loan. It has ample cash also, although at £13,936 the total is down £9,873 on a year ago. The reserve remains at £30,000.

When Mr. Hartley Withers was picked up by the Treasury to be, as we thought, its guide and monitor in the intricacies of City moods, habits, and humours

Including the £25,137 brought forward, which was £4,120 up, the gross profit of the Distillers Co., Ltd., for the year ended May 15 last shows an increase of

in finance, we were genuinely delighted, less perhaps for his sake than for those of the public services and the taxpayer, for he knows his City well. But it seems we were altogether wrong. Mr. Withers was not the man the Treasury had need of, any more than Sir George Paish, and when the shrewd proprietors of the *Economist* were constrained to look out for a new editor, what better could they do than offer the post to one of the coolest and shrewdest practical men of affairs of the day, a writer possessed also of a lucid, humour-suffused, and well-weighted style? They could do no better, and so it has fallen out that in a month's time Mr. Hartley Withers will, as a free and most competent observer and impartial supporter of the right policy, have the happiness of advising the Treasury, and perchance even the Chancellor of the Exchequer himself, *from outside*.

Most people will share the regret expressed by the board of the Cordoba Central Railway Co., Ltd., through its secretary, at the inability to pay the half-year's interest due to-day on the $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. second debenture stock of the company. The nett revenue for the year ended yesterday will not allow this to be done, and the secretary adds:—"In consultation with a committee appointed at a meeting to which the larger holders of the $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. debenture stock and of the three-year notes issued by the company were invited, a scheme of arrangement for funding the interest on the above stock and on the three-year notes has been prepared, and will in due course be submitted for the consideration of the stock and note holders." A few years ago no road in all Argentina was more favourably looked upon here than this Cordoba Central, and its prospects seemed assured. But it has never prospered since it fell into the hands of Mr. Farquhar and his Argentine Railway Co. It should, however, see better days again by and by, as it is a property well located, and serving a very partially developed country, endowed with great possibilities. All, therefore, the company's creditors can now do is to settle on the best course available to help the company through its misfortunes. If the interest has to be funded for a period, then let the terms be as little burdensome as possible.

Apparently the confusion and helplessness of Spiers and Pond, Ltd., increases, and a circular of ominous import has been issued by holders of the first mortgage debentures of the company, who have united to take action to protect their interests. The value of the security depends so largely upon the efficient management of the business that, in the absence of definite arrangements for this and the protection of the company's credit, the holders of the debentures, which form a first charge on the property, are, as they well may be, uneasy. Therefore Colonel C. J. Goer, Colonel John Gretton, M.P., chairman of Bass, Ratcliff and Gretton, Ltd., Mr. Murray-Smith, chairman of the Midland Railway, and Mr. E. Sebag-Montefiore, of Messrs. Joseph Sebag and Co., Stock Exchange, have drawn up, signed, and issued this circular, in which they recommend the appointment of Mr. Arthur Francis Whinney, a member of one of the great firms of accountants in the City, as receiver and manager. Mr. Whinney has never been in any way connected with the company, and will represent the debenture-holders alone. He ought to be appointed as promptly as possible. Apparently there are no less than five actions pending against the company since the scheme of arrangement laid before its creditors fell through. The first debenture holders were not consulted with regard to the actions, five of which have been commenced, and meantime the affairs of the company appear to be falling more and more into confusion. A receiver will be able to bring some order back, and to deal, perhaps, with the difficulties involved in the overlapping of securities issued under five different series of debentures and debenture stocks. The company has been anything but prosperous for many a day.

By a lamentable oversight a slip of the pen was left uncorrected last week whereby an eminent and gracious Jewish lady was made to say: "I hate the Jews." What she actually did say to this writer and others was: "I hate the Germans," as the context would enable readers to understand. But that does not make the slip less regrettable, for there could be no doubt whatever of the depth of feeling behind the words. By their deeds, their deficient moral nature, the Prussians have made themselves hated and loathed the world over, and in that sentiment German citizens of all races are being more and more embraced. "I hate the Germans" is the feeling of millions of every race and creed, as well as of this Jewish lady.

The dividend announcements of the Rand mining companies for the past half-year are fairly satisfactory when viewed as a whole. Of the 38 companies enumerated in the subjoined table, eight increase their distributions on those of the preceding half-year, the Village Main Reef resumes dividend-paying with a distribution of 10 per cent., 15 companies maintain the same rates as before, while 10 companies reduce their payments. Four pay no dividends at all, prominent among these being the Randfontein Central, the eternal disappointment. The Johannesburg Consolidated Investment pays a dividend of 5 per cent. for the year, the same as for the preceding 12 months. All three big amalgamations make a poor show, for in addition to the Randfontein Central, the Crown Mines has had to reduce its dividend a further 5 per cent., to 25 per cent., which has brought down the Rand Mines distribution to 75 per cent., while the East Rand is able to pay only $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., the smallest on record. The new producers, the City Deep, Modder Deep, Modder B, and the Van Ryn Deep, all show increased payments, and of the older companies, the Meyer and Charlton, the Geldenhuis Deep, and the Wolhuter make the best exhibits. Of the group results, pride of place belongs to the Barnato, the only reduction recorded by this group being the New Primrose, and this was more than offset by the raising of the Van Ryn Deep dividend to 20 per cent.

Company.	First Half 1916.	Second Half 1915.	First Half 1915
	%	%	%
Apex	5	10	5
Bantjes	nil	nil	nil
Brakpan	$22\frac{1}{2}$	$22\frac{1}{2}$	$17\frac{1}{2}$
City and Suburban	$6\frac{1}{2}$	$6\frac{1}{2}$	$7\frac{1}{2}$
City Deep	$22\frac{1}{2}$	20	$13\frac{1}{2}$
Consolidated Langlaagte	$12\frac{1}{2}$	$12\frac{1}{2}$	$12\frac{1}{2}$
Consolidated Main Reef	$6\frac{1}{2}$	$6\frac{1}{2}$	$6\frac{1}{2}$
Crown Mines	25	30	35
Durban Deep	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$
East Rand Proprietary	$2\frac{1}{2}$	5	$6\frac{1}{2}$
Ferreira Deep	$22\frac{1}{2}$	$17\frac{1}{2}$	25
Geduld	5	5	5
Geldenhuis Deep	$12\frac{1}{2}$	10	10
Ginsberg	$7\frac{1}{2}$	$7\frac{1}{2}$	$7\frac{1}{2}$
Johannesburg Consolidated Investment.	5*	—	5*
Langlaagte Estate	5	$7\frac{1}{2}$	$7\frac{1}{2}$
May Consolidated	nil	5	nil
Meyer and Charlton	45	40†	40
Modder "B"	$37\frac{1}{2}$	35	$32\frac{1}{2}$
Modder Deep	30	25	10
New Goch	5	5	5
New Kleinfontein	5	5	5
New Modderfontein	$16\frac{1}{2}$	$16\frac{1}{2}$	$16\frac{1}{2}$
New Primrose	5	$7\frac{1}{2}$	10
New Unified	10	10	10
Nourse	5	5	5
Rand Mines	75	80	80
Randfontein Central	nil	nil	$2\frac{1}{2}$
Randfontein Estates	nil	nil	$2\frac{1}{2}$
Robinson	4	6	8
Rose Deep	15	15	$17\frac{1}{2}$
Transvaal Coal Trust	$12\frac{1}{2}$	$12\frac{1}{2}$	$8\frac{1}{2}$
Van Ryn	$17\frac{1}{2}$	$17\frac{1}{2}$	$22\frac{1}{2}$
Van Ryn Deep	20	$17\frac{1}{2}$	15
Village Main Reef	10	nil	20
Village Deep	$8\frac{1}{2}$	$11\frac{1}{2}$	10
Witwatersrand G.M.	25	25	25
Witwatersrand Deep	$12\frac{1}{2}$	$13\frac{1}{2}$	15
Wolhuter	$7\frac{1}{2}$	$6\frac{1}{2}$	$6\frac{1}{2}$

* For year. † Plus a bonus of 50 %.

With regard to prospects for the current half-year, the Government Areas of Modderfontein Company may declare a maiden distribution in December, and the Springs Mines will shortly reach the producing stage. When this occurs there will be only one developing property. A number of old producers are rapidly exhausting themselves, and unless the Union Government takes steps to exploit the undeveloped portion of the Far Eastern Rand very soon the Transvaal output will in a few years' time begin to shrink. In view of the vast creations of credit which this war has entailed, the necessity for an increased production of the precious metal in the future is obviously urgent.

The effect of the prohibition of speculation can now be clearly seen in the metal markets. Copper began to decline in May, as the result of some unloading by second-hand sellers in America, and so far that movement has received no serious check. At the end of last week standard touched £97½ per ton, a drop of about £46 a ton from the high point which was reached about the middle of May. Refined metal has fallen about £16 to £21 a ton in sympathy. The factors in this movement are the increasing production, especially in America, stimulated by high prices, and the fact that buying in this country can now only be effected by consumers, who are naturally very conservative, and only buy such metal as they actually want while prices remain high. It must not, however, be assumed that the demand for the metal for war purposes has diminished. It is still on a very large scale, and as the American refiners to a large extent control the situation, it does not seem likely that prices will fall to a more or less normal level. Copper, after touching £97½, has recovered to £102½, but practically no business is being done in the market here, owing to the absence of buyers. Tin is £1 2s. 6d. down on the week at £172 2s. 6d., lead has fallen £2 to £29 a ton, and spelter is £4 lower at £63-£53. As these quotations still leave a very good margin of profit, it cannot be said that the prohibition of speculation has retarded production; it has simply deprived those who had no real right in the market from making a profit at the expense of the consumers of metals—in other words, the State.

Inequalities in the Excess Profits Tax.

On the surface, at least, manufacturers whose works are in control of the Ministry of Munitions have some ground for their complaint against the excess profits tax. If it be true, as Sir J. Harwood-Banner asserted, and as we believe it is, that uncontrolled firms are entitled to retain 40 per cent. of their excess profits while controlled firms may keep back only 6 per cent. beyond their pre-war scale of profits, then some readjustment would seem to be necessary. But Mr. McKenna declared that were he to accept the amendment, which was supported in the House of Commons on Tuesday afternoon by 72 members against 158 for the Chancellor, he would lose £10,000,000 of revenue, and that is not to be thought of. The agitation might therefore result, not in relieving the controlled firms from the excess profits tax as now levied upon them, but in a reduction of the proportion of excess profits now allowed to be retained by non-controlled firms. Why should these firms be allowed to keep back 40 per cent. of their excess profits? Would not 10 per cent. be sufficient to reward them for their extra-efforts? The answer to questions of this type depends to some extent upon the position of the company taxed. If a company, for example, has been in low water for a number of years so that it has been unable to pay good dividends, or any dividends at all sometimes, on its ordinary shares, and also unable to set aside the requisite amounts to meet depreciation and repairs, then the sudden prosperity which may have accrued to it from business in war-time ought not to be swept away so completely as it might very well be where a company has prospered throughout its career, paid good dividends, provided amply for depreciation, and piled up reserves out of income in the way every healthy

business ought to do. Would it not therefore be possible to arrange, before next revision, by the help of a few business men, a sort of sliding scale, still leaving the excess profits tax severe enough to ensure the largest possible yield to the Treasury?

Almost inevitably there appears to be too much of a hard and fast here-the-line-is-drawn-and-you-must-stick-to-it attitude assumed by the permanent officials, who cannot be familiar with the intricacies of the businesses coming under the tax harrow. The Treasury is not in a position to appreciate or to assess justly the differences between one firm's circumstances and another's. All companies, firms, and men of business are submitting to the excess profits tax as a painful necessity, and only a minority of them are resenting its imposition. Whatever the circumstances may be, as far as we can estimate from reading their annual reports, no board of directors has set itself up seriously to oppose the law or agitate for its repeal. It was law hastily imposed none the less, though with the quite proper object of extracting as much money as possible to help towards meeting the prodigious costs of the war, and so it must be kept in force. Its careful readjustment, however, may be necessary, and might perhaps render it acceptable, in some form at least, even after the war is over. That time may not be so far away, but whether far or near its coming should never be lost sight of, because we shall then, and for many a year after, probably need more revenue than we can easily raise. The ordering anew of a devastated world is going to be extremely costly. To enable us to square matters up and adjust the burden to the back, as also to pay the charges on our huge debt a revenue fourfold what it was before the war must come from somewhere. So, although a provisional pledge has been given to reconsider the tax 13 months hence, we see no hope of its removal, or even of its material reduction, even should the war be over before then. Taking that extended view it would surely be worth while for the Government to be conciliatory, and to get experts to help to rearrange the tax in a reasonable way against the day when we shall be told that it cannot be repealed.

What About German Banking Credit After the War?

From Paris Reuter sent the news on Wednesday that the French Government has got to work instantly on the decisions arrived at by the Economic Conference of the Allies held a fortnight ago. The Parliamentary commercial committees of the Allies will next week begin the study of the work to be tackled at the next inter-Parliamentary Conference, which is to decide upon uniform principles regarding fraudulent descriptions of goods, and upon international measures for the control of German insurance companies, the revision of the Brussels Convention regarding trade in arms and alcohol in the Entente countries, and the unification of Customs standards. Also the Inter-Allies Maritime Conference is to meet in Paris next December, in order to decide upon the bases for a union of the merchant services of the different Allied nations. We hope this is an accurate statement, for it is good news. The time for talking and warning and adjuring seems to have passed. We have had rather too much "eloquence" over the best patent method of blocking German trade, whether it be in our interests or in equity to our Allies to do so or not, and everybody will welcome some practical results, tending towards harmonious co-operation. It is not going to be so easy as the glib-tongued ones would persuade us to devise what may be called barbed-wire entanglements to keep the Teuton out of other countries, with his shoddy goods and his queer banking and dependant industrial company centres of observation and activity spread over all lands.

On one or two points all our orators have been silent. They have told us a great deal about the wonderful perseverance of the Germans in burrowing their way into other countries, their adroitness in stealing business out of the hands of the natives of these other

countries, their boldness in attacking obstacles or outflanking them, and of their audacity in opening new ocean routes without any prospect of making them pay by honest methods of "push," at any rate, at the start; their amazing capacity also to increase manufactures without reference to consumption, and the drilled precision with which they have been in the habit of invading and overwhelming competitors everywhere. Basing their proposals for the peace era to come on this true but lamentably imperfect recital of Germany's behaviour and performances, they utilise every fact and argument they can marshal to force upon the British Empire and its Allies a Customs tariff, designed, so they say, to beat the Germans out of the field and to keep them out; and all along we have kept asking, Is this necessary? Is there no better, no more fair, rational, and profitable way? Quite apart from the proposals made repeatedly in this journal to unite the Allies in a complete trading and manufacturing accord, and to put into the control of representative bodies in each country the trade and industry of a circumscribed and subdued Germany, there is the question of banking and of the power the German banker has wielded. Why have none of the speakers who have been illuminating us so movingly on German infamies in trade dwelt more upon the wonderful fashion in which German bankers, guided by the centuries-long cultivated adroitness of their Jews, have wormed themselves into the very heart of business in every country, and used its credit as freely as if it had been verily of the Fatherland? A mere recital of the number of banks created abroad by Germans to aid their manufacturers and traders in these other countries would have shown that tariffs by themselves are ineffective for the purpose aimed at. All the disciplined, State-inspired energy of the bankers and their linked industries was engaged in opening and enlarging markets all the world through. The survey of German progress from this point of view is well calculated to astonish us. The success with which the Far East was penetrated, Argentina and Brazil put under subjection or in the way to be so, Chile and Peru overrun and in course of subjection, Mexico filled with corruption for ulterior purposes, in short, the progress everywhere attained fills the mind with amazement. And the results appeared to demonstrate that it was victorious progress which lifted his foreign trade to a position in the world second to our own. The whole panorama of expansion is one of the wonders of the present generation.

All this mighty trade has grown up within little more than 40 years, and has attained its present magnitude in virtue of forces created, marshalled, and applied with a barrack-yard precision, which, working silently, has gone far to make all the world tributary to the Prussian Empire. But tributary only for a season. Most approved and tested economic rules of conduct were ignored or set at defiance by this kind of progress, and the faster the pace became, the more frequent were the crises, the greater was the risk of ultimate collapse.

Looked at from this point of view, German trade methods and German expansion do not seem quite so alarmingly formidable. Surely it ought to be easy to prevent anything of the kind ever again happening. What if the Allies were to unite, say, in taking measures to prevent German banks from establishing dependents, getting credit everywhere, as they did before the war, would it not be easy to stop their "dumping," to prevent them from swamping our markets by manufactures of whatever kind, and, therefore, to keep the brigand Empires in subjection, that is assuming their continued existence as Empires, which is taking a great deal for granted. They have done their best to blot themselves out.

Look how the Germans invaded London in the 44 years of uneasy peace. Three at least of their monster banks had established big offices here, and their paper was treated by our own bankers as if it were of the highest class, as much of it was, although the rest, and perhaps usually the larger part, was really what used to

be known as of the "pig upon pork" description. That is to say, the Deutsche or other bank in Germany had sub-banks with attractive names in most countries of the world, upon which it drew bills to create credit or was drawn upon, and such purely domestic paper was accepted here just as if the paid-up capitals of two independent banks stood behind the document as joint guarantors. That was loose, easy-going banking on our part at any time, but it suited the Germans well because it supplied them with our capital, our banking credit, on the easiest terms, and often, we believe, kept their mushroom industries overforced and their banks off the rocks. This sort of banking cannot be permitted any more. No German bank will be allowed to continue to have offices in this country or in any of our dependencies, still less in any self-governing British colony. The same rule will doubtless be rigidly enforced by France, Italy, and Russia, consequently when the war stops, and if Germans, in the foolishness of their incapacity to comprehend the civilised human mind, attempt, if they have the strength, which we do not believe, to rush their goods into other countries and "dump" accumulations said to be gathering up while the war lasts, all in the old fashion, they will be confronted by an insuperable barrier. No credit will be available for them in any civilised land, their means of manufacturing credit by chains of interdependent banks will be gone. And they will neither have the ships to convey their goods abroad nor the facilities to finance the consignments until disposed of, should these be sent in neutral bottoms. The perfect freedom they enjoyed before the war will be gone for ever. All the reward the Allies have got for their complaisance—especially all the thanks and reward we have got—is hate, envy, spite, a blind fury of wrath as of a wild beast baffled of its prey, and we are not disposed to submit ourselves to that again without cause. No doubt it is right enough to take every precaution against a revival of the old state of affairs, but we have no need to take alarm. Cut off credit except when the goods are made to the order of and consigned to boards of control in every country, and not the goods made for these countries only. All exports from the populations of the ruined Empires must pass through the channels assigned. Let us work by all means so that we can fill the place of the German in all markets from now onwards, and see to it that he neither gets our material nor the use of our credit except in so far as it serves our own purposes, viz., to help in getting some compensation out of the malignant foe for the irreparable wrongs and abominable devastation he has committed.

And, finally, may we not ask, What is to be the consequence to Germany of the abominable cruelties perpetrated by the troops of both Kaisers, but especially of the Prussian madman, during this war? Will the horrors of Belgium and Northern France, the martyrdom of Poland and Serbia, the brutalities towards Italians, the impish inhumanity exercised on prisoners of war, all the nameless abominations daily indulged in by the enemy be forgotten in a day or a year? The politician of the hour may forget, but deep down in the consciousness of the peoples the memory will remain for ever as that of a devastating scourge. On all battlefields wherever the enemy is fighting, whether he be Austrian or Prussian, evidence continues to be forthcoming of the bestial cruelty exercised by the troops wherever they get a chance, and often it has been cruelty by order. Will the evidence of that be all forgotten immediately the war is over? We may be sure that by the people it will not, and its effect will be seen and felt everywhere in an instinctive shrinking from having dealings with anyone who is a German. There will be no eagerness to do trade, not even with the open-minded, frankly non-patriotic and always enterprising Prussian Jew. Have we not here a barrier against Teutonic penetration and unscrupulous dumping which should be a more valuable safeguard for our trade—provided we work to procure and retain that trade—than any tariff wall even were it as lofty as the Tower of Babel?

By-the-Way War Notes.

At last the British offensive has started. The wait has been a long one, nearly two years. During that period the nation has never lost courage or faith in the future, nor has its resolution ever faltered to do the utmost possible to help the Allies to win this war in a manner so complete as to relieve humanity from the apprehension of any similar catastrophe in time to come. It has been an anxious time though, and often the minds of many among the people have become impatient at what seemed the absence of progress. "Why are we doing nothing?" was the grumble, because the nature of the gigantic task of holding the foe back until we could get ready was overlooked. We have had reverses also which have not tended to improve the temper of the less reflective elements of society, and at times the most extravagant rumours flew through the crowd, disturbing its equanimity. But, on the whole, we have stood the strain better than might have been feared, and now that the Army at last is ready and at work, we trust equally commendable patience will be displayed in waiting for results.

For most of us it remains difficult to clear out of the mind the old-fashioned conception of battles and campaigns. We read of Marlborough, Napoleon, Wellington, and other great generals of modern days, and think that trench warfare and the great batterings by artillery are something slow, unproductive of results adequate to the expenditure of material and risks incurred. We must disabuse our minds of this conception. The old strategy and tactics have not been superseded, but they have had to be amplified, remodelled, and applied in new ways according to the tactics imposed by modern inventions and the development of what may be called the long-armed murder power of armies. And we have to be masters in the air as well as on land and sea. Before we can move forward on our 90 miles front in France we must have the ground prepared by our guns, else the loss of life would probably be beyond all bearing, and our aircraft must help us to determine when the *terrain* is ready. It may take some weeks to complete this preliminary work, and when it is finished, probably the bombardment will still have to be maintained all along the front to conceal from the enemy the points where our advance is to develop and force him to retreat. We must therefore have patience, and also learn to be content with meagre official bulletins. Clearly nothing could be more imprudent than to send details of the fighting in which there might be information useful to the foe. The more things are kept in the dark at present the better, and we must rest satisfied with knowing that our work of destruction has begun in a way that proves us ready to continue to the end. "Much of the delay might have been prevented," people have a habit of saying, "if we had been ready. If France and ourselves and Russia had been armed to the teeth in August, 1914, then there might have been no war, or if war did break out because of the uncontrollable fury of the Prussian beast, it would have been short and sharp." Possibly, but we are no believer in might-have-beens, and are by no means sure that it may not in the long run prove an advantage for us that we were *not* ready.

Look at the matter from this other point of view. What would have been our economic position in August, 1914, if the previous quarter of a century had been occupied by preparations for war such as we now know Germany and Austria to have been busy upon, Germany for 30 years at least? Long before the date when actual war did break out we, the Allies, should all have been bankrupt, impotent to sustain a conflict of the magnitude the war at once assumed. There would have been revolutions in every country now affected and severely strained by the onslaughts. As it was, our working population was restive enough under the heavy expenditure laid out upon the Navy. What it would have been had we been spending £40,000,000 or £50,000,000 a year additional on the Army also, and had we been obliged to submit to

compulsory military service, in all ways to follow in the footsteps of France, anybody of moderate understanding should be well able to imagine. The kingdom—the Empire—would have been a heaving mass of discontent, Russia would have been torn by internal dissension, Italy probably confronted by a fresh danger of dismemberment, France the home of anarchy, and some parts of the Dominions of all of us perhaps in full revolution. Contemplate probabilities from this side and be thankful that we were foolish believers in moral progress, even *German* moral. For nothing can be more sure than that, even if there had been acquiescence everywhere as docile as the German in the necessity for diligently preparing to meet the onslaught of the modern Huns, there would have been no wealth left in any of the Allied countries with which to pay for the war when it did burst upon us. Our resources would have been already consumed. There are compensations in all things, in short; and when we look at the enormous expenditure now being incurred we may, after all, be thankful that we did go on dreaming dreams of a world peace brought about by the commercial interlinking of interests and the power of international finance to curb savagery until the enemy sprung upon us from his lair with the roar of the panther hungry for prey.

Nobody can really grasp what this war is costing. Our own expenditure up to the end of this financial year will probably raise the total of our share in money price to be paid for the deliverance of mankind to £3,000,000,000. By the time the credit now running through its last month has been disbursed the total spent will have been about £2,400,000,000, and France is not far behind. In his summary of the French Government arrangements, to be found in the current issue of the *Journal des Economistes*, M. Yves Guyot puts together official figures that are quite as suggestive of the inconceivable consumption of accumulated wealth as our own. Including the vote for the third quarter of the present year, under consideration when he wrote, the total cost of the war to France up to the end of September may be put at £2,100,000,000, and if the outlay continues at the same rate for the last quarter of the year, the total amount of French wealth mortgaged to carry it on, or consumed in paying for it, will not be much short of £2,500,000,000. That is to say, and allowing a fifth, or say £500,000,000, of that amount for Italy and £1,500,000,000 to £2,000,000,000 for Russia, the total cost of the war to the four Allies will be between £7,500,000,000 and £8,000,000,000 by the end of their current fiscal years. "And is not this appalling prospect of ruin a most urgent plea for hurrying up and ending the war soon?" / It is, but much more it is *not*. Probably the extremest fury of the war cannot last much more than another three months, if so long, and it may be that the expenditure of the Allies will gradually diminish after September or October next. There must, however, be no turning aside to calculate, because the work in hand has to be done thoroughly and for ever, no matter what the cost. It must be made impossible for any other nation or race to conceive the idea of starting out to slay and devastate in order to conquer the "hegemony of the world," as these maddened Germans have done. Nay, it must be made unthinkable for any people, however undeveloped in moral nature it may be, to plot the robbery of any neighbour, however small. There must be no room for Naboth's vineyard stealing in the international comity of the future, and if we are to escape from the haunting terror of the last 45 years, the pride of the Germans and the fabric of their State have alike to be destroyed for good and all. That will be a slow work and a long work, probably involving years of effort, many years and much expenditure, but it must be undertaken under penalties, and we must see to it that the transgressors shall be made to pay.

An able writer in the *Mercure de France*, of June 1, rather takes to task journalists in Allied countries for

their optimism, their eagerness to jump to conclusions about the position of the fight or the progress of the war, and their proneness to say things that prompt slackening off in effort. The writer's name, M. J. Norel, is unfamiliar to us, but there is force in his rebuke. We have all been too ready to assume that the Germans would recognise the hopelessness of their position and come to terms before their exhaustion was complete. That is why journalists everywhere in Allied and neutral countries have more than once entertained the idea that the Battle of Verdun was over, merely because the assailants had paused to take breath and to bring up more men and guns; why also they have been inclined to believe that neither the Prussian nor his Austrian dupe would hang on to the enormous fronts their armies occupied to the last extremity, and we were all wrong. The German ideal—world dominion—will lead the dupes on and on until their ruin is complete. Therefore, in days to come we must abstain from eager anticipations of speedy victory and peace, because it is not the work of a week or a month to beat down forces animated by a fanatical belief in their own invincibility and political perfections. Perhaps—though it is doubtful—if the German and Austrian peoples knew the truth they might force those who are luring them to their destruction—to their extinction for generations, not as a dominant, but merely as a weighable, economic force among nations—to stop the war, but they are too ignorant and too enslaved to allow us to cherish the hope. For example, they, it appears, still believe, according to a *Times* "neutral," that the Kaiser's fleet has sunk our Fleet at the bottom of the sea, and that trade routes are again open to Germany, so that in a few weeks' time abundance of food will gladden the hearts of the German *hausfrau*. What are we to do with a people hypnotised to this extent, so misled by their vanity, so docile towards the authority that rules them as to swallow unquestioningly any lie flung at them, as to hug still with a kind of ecstasy of hope the belief that they are winning this war, that they have men and means enough left with which to outface and outfight great armies all over Europe and in Asia? Nothing can be done; we must just pound away until hunger and the exhaustion of human lives brings something of the truth into their minds. That may take months yet, for even if willing to grovel for peace, the liars who have led the Empires on dare not now confess the truth. So they must bluff, and bluff and bluff to their last hour.

The Quarter's Revenue.

Revenue for the first quarter of the financial year amounted to £72,682,998, an increase of £21,385,862 as compared with the corresponding period. To this total Customs contributed £16,162,000, an increase of £6,366,000, property and income-tax £20,203,000, an increase of £9,384,000 (including super-tax), excess profits duty £6,219,000 (new), postal service £4,550,000, an increase of £1,310,000, and miscellaneous £1,806,600, an increase of £960,945. On the other hand, excise produced only £11,571,000, or £1,803,000 less, and estate duties £7,593,000, or £1,471,000 less. Changes in the other main items of revenue are relatively small. In addition to revenue, loans were raised to the extent of £842,000,000 by various means, and the total expenditure amounted to £903,818,000, but of this £437,663,000 was used in redemption of unfunded debt. Leaving cross entries out of account, the expenditure was £444,560,000, of which £440,931,000 was for supply services, as against £248,616,000 in the corresponding quarter. In the result Exchequer balances are reduced to £26,553,000, a decrease of just over £41,000,000 as compared with the corresponding date. These figures are rather appalling, but we have to face them manfully till the enemy is "beaten to a frazzle."

I.—AN ACCOUNT OF THE TOTAL REVENUE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM in the undermentioned periods of the year ending March 31, 1917, as compared with the corresponding periods of the preceding year.

	Quarter from April 1 to June 30, 1916, compared with the corresponding quarter of the preceding year.			
	Quarter ending June 30, 1916.	Quarter ending June 30, 1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
Customs	£16,162,000	9,796,000	6,366,000	—
Excise	11,571,000	13,374,000	—	1,803,000
Estate, &c., Duties	7,593,000	9,064,000	—	1,471,000
Stamps	1,635,000	1,332,000	303,000	—
Land Tax	40,000	20,000	20,000	—
House Duty	260,000	290,000	—	30,000
Property and Income Tax (including Super-Tax)	20,203,000	10,819,000	9,384,000	—
Excess Profits Duty	6,219,000	—	6,219,000	—
Land Value Duties	70,000	40,000	30,000	—
Postal Service	4,550,000	3,240,000	1,310,000	—
Telegraph Service	800,000	780,000	20,000	—
Telephone Service	1,650,000	1,580,000	70,000	—
Crown Lands	110,000	110,000	—	—
Receipts from Suez Canal Shares and Sundry Loans	13,389	6,472	6,917	—
Miscellaneous	1,806,609	845,664	960,945	—
	72,682,998	51,297,136	24,689,862	3,304,000
			£21,385,862	Nett Increase.

II.—AN ACCOUNT showing the RECEIPTS into and ISSUES out of the EXCHEQUER in the Quarter ending June 30, 1916, as compared with the corresponding period of the preceding Year.

RECEIPTS.	Quarter ending June 30, 1916.	Quarter ending June 30, 1915.
BALANCES IN EXCHEQUER ON APRIL 1:—	£	£
Bank of England	25,111,065	81,898,728
Bank of Ireland	463,941	1,552,224
	25,575,006	83,450,952
REVENUE, as shown in Account I.	72,682,998	51,297,136
ADVANCES REPAID—		
Bullion	1,200,000	230,000
MONEY RAISED BY CREATION OF DEBT—		
By Treasury Bills for Supply	422,926,000	20,687,000
By War Loan, 1925-1928	—	35,300,000
By 3 per Cent. Exchequer Bonds, 1920.. .. .	—	242,345
By War Loan, 1925-1945	424	—
By 5 per Cent. Exchequer Bonds, 1919	19,281,000	—
By 5 per Cent. Exchequer Bonds, 1920.. .. .	76,091,000	—
By 5 per Cent. Exchequer Bonds, 1921	27,558,600	—
By War Expenditure Certificates	10,132,600	—
By other Debt created under the War Loan Act, 1915	13,950,000	—
AMOUNTS TEMPORARILY BORROWED—		
ON THE CREDIT OF WAYS AND MEANS—		
By Treasury Bills	209,974,000	199,963,000
By other Advances	51,000,000	—
	£ 930,371,628	391,170,433

ISSUES.

	Quarter ending June 30, 1916.	Quarter ending June 30, 1915.
EXPENDITURE—	£	£
Permanent Charge of Debt	6,737,236	7,618,382
Interest, &c., on War Debt	35,444,772	394,637
Road Improvement Fund	—	281,034
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c.	1,012,294	1,027,398
Other Consolidated Fund Services	434,272	535,730
Supply Services	400,931,000	248,615,807
Total Expenditure chargeable against Revenue	444,559,574	258,472,991
ISSUES TO MEET CAPITAL EXPENDITURE—		
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913	130,000	700,000
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913	50,000	—
Under the Housing Act, 1914.. .. .	18,900	250,000
ADVANCES—		
Bullion	1,440,000	320,000
Interest on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	30,457	30,457
REDEMPTION OF UNFUNDED DEBT—		
Treasury Bills for Supply	437,663,000	47,250,000
Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan (Redemption) Act, 1910	—	15,395,500
OLD SINKING FUND, 1907-8	—	—
Issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1908.. .. .	10,000	27,000
OLD SINKING FUND, 1910-11	—	—
Issued under the Finance Act, 1911:—		
Section 16 (1) (b)	20,000	30,000
TEMPORARY ADVANCES REPAID—		
ADVANCES ON THE CREDIT OF WAYS AND MEANS—		
Treasury Bills	—	—
Other Advances	19,896,500	—
	903,818,431	323,475,949
BALANCES IN EXCHEQUER—	1916. June 30.	1915. June 30.
Bank of England	£ 25,348,781	£ 66,942,560
Bank of Ireland	1,204,416	751,924
Total Balance	26,553,197	67,694,484
	£ 930,371,628	391,170,433

Treasury, June 30, 1916.

American Business Notes.

We are glad that it is to be a straight fight for the Presidency. Mr. Roosevelt has done nothing more becoming in his whole public career than his withdrawal from the field and abandonment of all attempts again to split the Republican party. In Mr. Charles Hughes that party would appear to have as strong a candidate as it could find, and his utterances since accepting the nomination have been those of a man of affairs gifted with a mind of his own. The probability, therefore, is that the election next November will dismiss Dr. Woodrow Wilson to private life. We have no sort of enmity, no dislike even, to that worthy gentleman, but it is impossible to deny that he has been a failure, especially in his handling of foreign politics. He did not seem to know anything about other countries, their history or moral grade, so to say; it was a new world he had drifted into, and he was for ever either feeling his way, as a man does in the dark, or sitting down with folded hands to wait for evidence just when swift, stern action was most imperatively demanded of him. What he has done in domestic affairs is also open to criticism in various directions, and already the agitation for amending his Federal Bank law—by which money was to be made universally and for ever cheap and easily obtainable by every citizen in the United States—indicates that it was not big enough or complete enough to satisfy the community. It opened the way to dangerous extensions in credit facilities which an effort is now being made to stretch further still. The community wants what it should never get in this direction, and we have no great faith in the stability of credit founded on paper, bulged out by further paper, and whose modicum of metal paraded for show can be mortgaged several times over. That, however, is not our affair at present.

What is far more interesting is the position in Mexico. Are Carranza and the brigands around him, or fighting him and preying mercilessly on the helpless country, to be handled with the same hesitating moral aloofness or imperviability displayed by President Wilson in dealing with the Germans? He makes use of strong words one day and hastens to concede something he should not the next. The more he wobbles, the more insolent become the people with whom he has to deal, and in the case of Mexico the longer the disorder is permitted to go on and spread without attempt at check or remedy, while at the same time intervention and interference with a view to remedy are threatened, the less satisfactory will become the relations of the Washington Government with the Republics of Central and South America. Already Brazil, at least, has proceeded to remonstrate with the proposed action of the United States, and the other Republics are pretty sure to follow its example. If they make clamour enough President Wilson will assume an attitude of moral perfection, withdraw his troops, and miss his opportunity, leaving to his successor a far more thorny and perplexing task than he himself had to take hold of three years ago. But throughout he has been the college professor and martinet, fully supplied with apposite and neatly phrased moral sentiments, purely abstract.

The Inter-State Commerce Commission, in obedience to orders, has been investigating the relations between rail and water carriers in the United States, with a view to getting at the effects of Panama Canal competition, and has issued a report thereon. According to that report, there appear to be 27 railroad systems within the Republic engaged or interested in carriage by water either directly or through subsidiary railways or ships. The largest owner of steam vessels is the New York, Newhaven and Hartford, which possesses 74 steamers of 135,000 gross tonnage. Next comes the Southern Pacific, owning 70 steamers of 246,000 gross tonnage. Adding the barges owned, the total tonnage of the vessels possessed by all these 27 companies is 1,058,000 tons, which is the capacity of 672 vessels of all sizes.

Of these vessels, 498, of a gross capacity of 596,000 tons, ply on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, and another 71, of 234,000 tons capacity, are on the Pacific Coast, the remaining 69, representing 199,000 gross tons, being upon the Great Lakes. It will be seen from this recital that unless there is a very large mercantile marine outside the railway companies, the United States is but poorly furnished with the means of transport by sea. It therefore suffers in an aggravated degree from the difficulty which besets every country with a seaboard, and one of the motives for ordering this investigation was to find out whether railways owning steamships took advantage of their water facilities to undercut rates, so as to hurt such railways as were not possessed of the same double-barrelled power, as it were. Apparently the Commissioners found out that water rates through the Panama Canal are from 50 to 60 per cent. lower than the rail rate from coast to coast, and that, therefore, vessels using the Canal are competing really and effectively with the railroads. Leather alone, it seems, costs as much to go by water as by rail, and the greatest difference was on gin and whisky, upon which the rate was 60 cents by water and \$3.20 by rail. On agricultural products the water rate was almost uniformly 67 per cent. less than by rail rate. This is only the first hint of what may become a most interesting problem, the problem, viz., whether an effective use of the Panama Ship Canal by a large domestically-owned United States tonnage will tend to permanently injure the cross-continent traffic of the great trunk railroads? We see no reason why it should if the shipping is freed from existing disabilities and restrictions and the mixed ownership of ships and railways put under proper control.

Insurance News.

No insurance office licensed to do business in this country has pushed the sale of annuities with such systematic vigour and audacity as the Sun Life Assurance Co. of Canada, and its report and accounts for 1915 bear strong testimony to its success in this country. Against only £20,980 of capital received for annuities sold in countries other than the United Kingdom last year the company's receipts here amounted to £245,190, including renewal premiums on deferred and reversionary annuities, but not "consideration for supplementary contracts," the bearing of which we do not quite grasp. Of ordinary insurance business comparatively little was done here, most of that lying, we presume, in Canada itself. We have more than once had occasion to say that recklessly pushed annuity business as conducted by such an office as this is one that fills us with dread about the future of office and annuitant alike, and although we have been told lately that we have been very unkind to this Canadian company because it also was "founded by an Aberdeen man" to whom we ought to have shown more consideration—though what that has to do with it we cannot fathom—so much depends upon the solidity of the structure of a business of this kind that it is necessary to insist and to go on insisting.

Is the foundation for this Sun Life of Canada annuity business solid? We are not given any means of forming a correct judgment, because the life annuity fund is wrapped up in the accounts with the ordinary assurance fund, apparently increasing at a satisfactory speed. At the end of 1914 the combined fund was £12,739,750. At the end of December last it was £15,019,395, an increase of £2,279,645 in the 12 months. How much of that is capital parted with to buy an annuity, how much premium income and interest on investments accumulated against the liabilities assumed on life or endowment policies? We should like to know that, but it is by no means all we want to know. We should like to scan a list of the securities in which the fund has been placed. Furthermore, when we find that the amount paid out as annuities within the past year was £216,937, or within less than £50,000 of the amount of capital received in payment for the new annuity obligations assumed within

the same period, we cannot help feeling that the pace of the business must be somewhat giddy. And this feeling is augmented when we look at the expense ratio. Of course, we are not told what it costs to get all this fine volume of annuity business, although, judging from the advertisements we see everywhere, it must be pretty expensive. Taking commissions and expenses of all kinds together and comparing them with the premium income, the aggregate cost of the whole business was last year more than 26 per cent. of that income. Add in the capital received for annuities sold on the one side and the loss on sale of securities and shareholders' profits on the other, so as in a rough fashion to equalise things, and the cost of the business to those who are supposed to profit by it came to about 24 per cent. of premium income and capital invested together. It should not be necessary to tell the British public any more—although unfortunately it always is—that an expense ratio of this magnitude must sap in time the foundation of any insurance business, no matter how it seems to flourish now. Sooner or later, and in the after-war times we much fear sooner rather than later, an insurance business—no matter of what kind other than mere industrial or collecting-book business—must fall into straitened times as a consequence of extravagance so reprehensible.

Some apprehension has been expressed with reference to the soundness of the National Insurance Act having regard to the effects of the war on its finances, but statements recently made in the House of Commons were of a reassuring character. In various directions a substantial reduction in expenditure has been effected. In regard to the ten millions of men insured under the Act the provision made for sickness benefit in 1915, under the abnormal conditions due to the war, was 8 per cent. above what was required, that is to say, just over £500,000 more than was needed. So far the working of the Act is in no bad condition, and the results reflect great credit on the actuaries who made the original estimate. The case of the four millions insured women is not so satisfactory; the provision made in 1914 was £675,000 short, though in 1915 this shortage was reduced to £170,000. The total income under the Act from all sources was 25 millions sterling. Grants under the Appropriation Act of last year were £7,195,000, while the estimates for 1916-17 come to £6,300,000, as compared with two years ago, the estimates showing a reduction of £1,380,000. It is claimed that the accounts this year are in much more satisfactory order to serve as a basis of comparison for future years. With regard to the effect of the war, Sir G. Ryan's Committee does not think that sufficient data exist yet for calculating what that effect might be; there is no immediate bad effect, however.

Considerable surprise has been caused in insurance circles as the result of the statement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer concerning the relief of taxation in connection with endowment insurance premiums. New proposals have been brought forward by the Government with the object of checking the growth of a practice to defeat the revenue by a new method of insurance, schemes having been devised in certain quarters to enable the insured person to obtain relief from income-tax in a way such as may not have been intended. Mr. McKenna's proposal is that there should be no relief from tax on any policy where the sum insured was payable before the age of 60, or where there was a contract to pay for a period of less than 20 years from the date of the policy. Such policies, it may be noted, form a large proportion of insurance policies, and the combination of conditions fixing the age at 60 and the period of insurance at 20 years, naturally was regarded as very severe, for it is obvious that a young man of 25 wishing to take out an endowment maturing at 45 would under the new conditions not be able to claim any reduction of the premiums from his income-tax assessment. Existing policies are not to be interfered with, and there appears at present to be no evidence to show that short-term endowments have been taken out to such an extent during the current year as to seriously affect the revenue. The majority of life offices are in

sympathy with the objects of the new clause which is to be inserted in the Finance Bill, as while it will undoubtedly affect the future course of business, inasmuch as persons effecting endowment assurances will postpone the maturing age to at least 60, it will have the effect of stamping out the new schemes which have been drafted with no other object than of taking advantage of the income-tax concessions. The prospect of some modification of the resolution permitting of the retention of the privilege up to now enjoyed by 20-year endowments are considered hopeful, as the Chancellor has been in consultation with representatives of the large insurance companies, with the result that, should the advisers of the Treasury be able to come to an arrangement with the companies which would be satisfactory to them, while allowing the Government to effect its purpose, the clause will be amended on the report stage of the Bill. Failing this the clause must stand.

Letters to the Editor.

POOR, DIVIDED IRELAND.

SIR,—Will you allow me to point out that, so far from the conditions of the poor being as abject (as you state in your issue of the 17th) in Belfast, Lisburn, Londonderry, and Donaghadee, as in Dublin, Limerick, Cork, &c., the Board of Trade statistics for May showed that Belfast holds the record for the smallest number of inhabitants dependent on poor law relief in the United Kingdom. The rate per 10,000 in Belfast is 78—in Dublin 242. I have not the figures for Cork and Limerick, but one, if not both, as far as my memory serves me, are over 300 per 10,000. As to Donaghadee, there is absolutely no abject poverty there. Owing to the war some women, who were earning from 5s. to 9s. a week at embroidery, have, I am sorry to say, very little to do just now; and a few old people have outdoor relief, in addition to their old-age pensions in most cases.

The leaders of the opposition to Home Rule were not generally Orangemen. Mr. Thomas Andrews, Mr. Thomas Sinclair, Mr. McMordie, Mr. John Young were never Orange, nor Junkers, to use your favourite term of abuse, as owning land, but merchants and professional men; nor were the leaders of the Presbyterian and Methodist clergy, and comparatively few of the Church of Ireland clergy. The late Lord Londonderry and Colonel Sharman Crawford were not Orangemen. Personally, I think a man may well be proud to be one, and even a Puritan, which you used as a term of abuse against Ulster, in a late issue, when you had exhausted all others. I have not any Irish blood in me. But I feel that Ulster, in refusing to be handed over to the misgovernment of your friends, the Sinn Féin and ancient Hibernians, took a wise and patriotic stand. If they had not done so Ireland would be in the hands of the Germans at the present time.

CHARLES DUNBAR-BULLER.

15, Upper Grosvenor Street, W., June 24, 1916.

[We shall be only too pleased to have been proved wrong in what we say about the condition of the poor in Ireland. It is a good many years now since we saw

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ENDOWMENT ASSURANCE RESULTS ALSO UNSURPASSED.

37, Threadneedle Street, London, E.C.

with our own eyes some of the places named, and there may have been improvement. As to the Protestant leaders in Ireland, we have nothing to say against them as Protestants; THE INVESTORS' REVIEW has no concern with any man's religious belief or opinions. It is not for their Protestantism that we characterise the opposition to Home Rule in Ulster as Orangemen, but for their feudalism. Take away—buy out—the landlords, great and small, and we are convinced the whole island would soon settle down. As feudal masters the landowners everywhere in these kingdoms, especially the great landowners, are in line with, of the same caste as, the Prussian Junker, although, mercifully, of a much nobler race. Might we recommend to the writer of the above letter the recently issued reports of the Land Enquiry Committee? There are two of them, one "rural" and the other "urban," price 1s. each, and in the rural one Mr. A. H. Dyke-Ackland's introductory essay alone says more terrible things in condemnation of feudalism and its blight than we have ever done. The land and how to free it is to be the question of questions for this country when the war ends—not merely for Ireland.—E.D.]

What Balance Sheets Tell.

NEW CAPE CENTRAL RAILWAY, LTD.

Recognising the exceptional conditions which prevailed last year, the directors set themselves to economise, and were able to effect a substantial reduction in the train mileage, with the result that expenses showed a decrease of £4,860. The traffic does not appear to have been injuriously affected as receipts only fell off by £359 to £92,392, and after providing for administration charges in London and at the Cape the nett revenue was £4,148 better at £45,390. A balance of £1,633 was brought forward, compared with a debit of £609 a year ago, and in addition to transferring £3,000, or £1,000 more, to reserve, the directors are able to bring the shares back into the dividend-paying list, after an absence of many years, with distributions of 2 per cent. on the first issue and 1 per cent. on the second, third, and fourth issues, leaving £840, or £793 less, to be carried forward. Construction account shows a small increase of £3,487 at £1,239,814, but "inventory, &c.," is £2,485 down at £15,130. Debtors owe £1,247 less at £5,801, against a decrease of £4,863 to £6,293 in sundry creditors, and cash has risen by £3,927 to £35,939.

A. W. GAMAGE, LTD.

Its year closed January 31 last, and the results brought out are surprisingly good. Gross profit rose £5,880 to £150,509. Salaries, commissions, war pay to employees in the army, &c., however, took £2,318 more at £60,174, and carriage and garage expenses, printing, stationery, postage, &c., increased £2,231 to £23,947. There was also a slight increase in the rents payable, rates, &c., rather more than balanced, however, by a decrease in the assignment for bad debts, which was £795 down at £1,375. Depreciation, on the other hand, got £1,545 more at £4,465, so that with it all the nett profit of £33,181 was only £276 up. Adding the balance of £5,150 brought forward there was altogether £38,332, or £2,057 more, available for division, and of that £5,000, as against £4,600, was placed to the reserve fund, raising it to £29,000. Then the depreciation reserve for fixtures and fittings again got £2,500, and after the shares had received their customary dividend of 6 per cent. for the year there is £5,457 left to carry forward. This seems a very satisfactory record of a business well managed, and the board says that new business has been created in several departments which has more than compensated for the unavoidable loss in certain other departments directly affected by the war. Up to date between 400 and 500 of the company's employees have gone to serve their country in the field.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS, LTD.

Income last calendar year improved £9,661 to £31,585, and after deducting the Government share of the profits, estimated at £3,200, or £2,250 more than in the previous year, £6,910 additional at £32,885 remains to be divided, that sum including £4,500 brought forward. In actual fact, the clear nett profit, excluding those figures, was £7,411 larger at £28,385. The board is accordingly able this time to place £1,590 to the general reserve, and to increase the dividend paid to ordinary shareholders to 10 per cent. for the year, the final payment being 6 per cent. and the interim 4 per cent. Then on the deferred shares the payment is to be £6 2s. 5d. per share, or £5 8s. 7 11-32d. per share more than for 1914. The balance of £5,594 then left to carry forward will still be £210 up. The largest change in the balance-sheet is an increase of £36,790 in the stocks of nitrates and chemical manures on hand, making the total £52,605, but the company has also increased its cash by £2,130 to £12,314, although it has borrowed outright during the year £28,570 from its London bankers. It was a better year, however, for markets, and the average receipts per cattle market per week increased 14s. 10d. to £5 15s. 3d., while on the general markets the increase was

only 2s. 3d. at £2 17s. Business has been interfered with so far as chemical manures are concerned by the great difficulty in securing stocks in consequence of the scarcity of ships and high freight and insurance charges from Chile.

J. STONE AND CO., LTD.

Throughout the year this company's works at Deptford have been a "controlled establishment," and although it has evidently done a large amount of war work, the trading profit brought out for the calendar year is no more than £160,955. This is £41,007 less than that of the previous year, but the exhibit is made after providing for excess profits duty, about which there was no question in 1914. Altogether, including interest, receipts came to £175,258, or £42,416 less, and maintenance and depreciation of plant and machinery took £9,495 more at £22,585, while the balance of income-tax account due after amounts deducted from dividends shows an increase of £7,943 at £10,903, while £5,742, against nothing 12 months ago, is assigned to depreciation of investments, consequently the outgoings are £23,353 up at £42,101 and the free profit of £133,158 down £65,769. This company has not made itself suddenly rich out of Government business. Its board manages to continue the 10 per cent. dividend on the ordinary shares together with the bonus of 3s. per share, and has £18,108 more at £207,147 left to carry forward, but that is because this time nothing at all is given to the reserve fund which 12 months back got £20,000. The reserve, however, is £165,000, and there is an investment reserve of £54,407 which emerges for the first time, so that, when we note also the fact that although £7,527 smaller, cash is £118,668, there is no reason to be downhearted about the position.

J. TYLOR AND SONS, LTD.

Since November last this firm has been a "controlled establishment" under the Munitions of War Act. Its output has increased almost 50 per cent., and the profit is considerably greater than that of any previous year, thanks to the way the much-depleted staff has risen to the necessities of the day and "worked exceptionally long hours." Important additions to the plant and machinery are in progress to enable certain import work which has been entrusted to the company to be undertaken, and a large increase in output is anticipated in the near future. Whether this refers to war work or private or corporate work the report does not tell us, but anyway the 12 months ended March 31 last showed an increase of £11,265 in the profits, making them £23,481, and as the balance of £3,387 brought forward was £1,423 up, it follows that the £26,868 available is £12,688 larger, so the shareholders get in all 16s. for the year as against 12s. or 8 per cent. as compared with 6 per cent., and also £10,000 as compared with nothing is added to the reserve fund, leaving still £4,689 to be carried forward. Long may the prosperity continue.

MONKS, HALL AND CO., LTD.

Although this business of iron and steel bar manufacturers found the 12 months ended April 30 even more difficult to work in than the preceding year, it evidently enjoyed some compensations as the nett profits, including £1,826 less at £2,353 brought forward, were £11,292 up at £22,683. The directors pay a dividend on the preference shares for 18 months compared with 12 months last time, and in addition to repeating the transfer of £2,500 to debenture redemption account, they write off a like sum for depreciation and carry forward £8,887, or £6,234 more. Property account now stands at £232,533, and the outlay on developments has been reduced by £3,671 to £4,392. Stocks are £25,817 down at £76,503, but debtors have risen by £32,093 to £68,337, while on the other hand an increase of £19,730 to £52,382 in sundry creditors is much more than offset by a decrease of £31,314 to £23,204 in the amount due to bankers.

GLOBE TELEGRAPH AND TRUST CO., LTD.

Nett revenue for the year ended May 31 last rose £16,921 to £226,085, an amount made up to £253,741, or £18,853 more than a year ago, by the balance of £27,655 brought forward. The ordinary shares in consequence are to get their dividend made up to 7 per cent. for the year, which compares with the 6 per cent. paid twelve months ago. That is to say, the ordinary shareholders this time get 1 per cent. more than the preference, and even so the balance of £36,849 remaining to be carried forward is £9,193 up. The shareholders are to be asked at the forthcoming general meeting to approve the payment of the directors' fees free of income-tax. Said fees amount to £1,500 a year. A minor change has been made in the investments, and nine certificates of the Submarine Cables Trust, belonging to this company, have been drawn and paid off at £120 each. All the money has been reinvested in the Eastern Telegraph, the Telegraph Construction and Maintenance and the Indo-European Telegraph Companies, and the position of the trust remains excellent. The total of its investments now amounts to £3,216,210, all remunerative, some highly so, and take it altogether the business is conducted with marked economy.

PACIFIC PHOSPHATE CO., LTD.

European markets were naturally still closed to this company in 1915, but trade in other directions appears to have been fairly well maintained, and the output was approximately the same as in the previous year. Profits showed an improvement of £5,893 at £140,370, and although £3,735 more at £33,171 was allowed for depreciation, London administration charges were reduced by £1,852, and nothing was written off compared with £4,209 for underwriting on new capital last time. The nett

balance was consequently £8,219 up at £66,918, and out of this the appropriation of £25,000 to war contingency reserve is repeated, as well as the payment of a dividend of 7½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, and after giving the directors £2,109 as additional remuneration £14,651 is carried forward, as against £6,780 brought in. The bank loan of £10,000 shown a year ago has been paid off, and sundry creditors have been reduced by £3,329 to £154,796. On the other hand, stocks are £1,088 up at £181,595, debtors owe £5,137 more at £169,757, and cash has risen by £12,352 to £28,724. Phosphate rights stand at £200,000, but buildings and fixed plant have been reduced by £3,240 to £217,902, while moorings are valued at £11,665 or £2,098 more.

BOOTS CASH CHEMISTS (EASTERN), LTD.

Gross profit for the year ended March 31 last was £4,963 larger at £45,451, but income-tax took £2,016 more at £3,537. That left the nett profit £2,982 larger at £27,471, and adding the £15,251 brought forward, which itself was £639 up, there is £42,722 or £3,621 more available for division. Out of this the freehold reserve gets £3,000, as against £2,000, and £2,000 is again placed to the contingency reserve, raising it to £18,101. Management expenses absorb £500 more at £1,250, and after the preference and ordinary dividends have been provided for, the ordinary being again 10 per cent. for the year, free of income-tax except for the quarter ended December 31 last, there is £17,372 left to carry forward, or £2,121 more than was brought in. Goodwill remains in the balance-sheet at £25,000. Changes in the accounts are more or less trivial. Reserves and depreciation, however, are altogether £12,587 higher at £190,227. Stock is £9,847 up at £125,620, and cash £2,783 larger at £19,131.

NESTLE AND ANGLO-SWISS CONDENSED MILK CO.

In the year to December 31 last this company made a profit of 16,402,480 frs., an increase of 1,927,000 frs. over 1914, and a slightly larger balance was brought forward. The statutory reserve gets 192,700 frs. more, and the special reserve 200,000 frs. more, while donations to charitable institutions are doubled at 400,000 frs., and 700,000 frs. is set aside as a fund against non-insurable risks. It is proposed to pay a supplementary dividend of 80 frs., against 75 frs., making a total dividend of 25 per cent. for the year, and the carry forward is increased by 37,000 frs. to 83,490 frs. Mention is made of the difficulties under which the business has been conducted, and the resulting heavier expenses, but on the figures the company has not much to grumble at, and from what we hear it seems quite able to make the public pay. There was a loss of 2,075,000 frs. on interest, discounts, &c., as against a profit of 1,019,000 frs. last year, mainly owing to losses on exchange. Investments are up 7,852,000 frs., owing to the formation of a Norwegian company, and debtors are up 3,747,000 frs., while creditors are 6,020,000 frs. lower. Bonds have increased 10,000,000 frs., and cash is up 6,450,000 frs., but stocks show a reduction of 4,064,000 frs.

FORTUNA NITRATE CO., LTD.

None of this company's oficinas worked throughout 1915, the first having only been reopened on May 20, and the second and third on September 20 and November 22 respectively. Profit was consequently taken on 447,772 qtls. of nitrate, as against 1,022,370 qtls. in the previous year, but prices were evidently more satisfactory as the decrease in profits was only £5,887 at £28,898. Income-tax, however, took £4,406, or £2,016 more, and the directors resumed their appropriations for depreciation with £5,840, so that the nett balance, after providing for London office charges, was £12,763 down at £16,468. The balance brought in was £21,531 larger at £27,351, giving a total of £43,819 or £8,758 more to be dealt with, out of which the directors transfer £33,230 to reserve, to bring that fund up to £100,000, and after repeating the dividend of 5 per cent. carry forward £24,462 less at £2,889. Stocks of nitrate show an increase of £40,750 at £79,857, but cash and bills receivable have been reduced by £36,111 to £56,189, while, on the other hand, a decrease of £15,729 to £106,002 in creditors and bills payable is largely offset by bank advances of £12,021.

SALAR DEL CARMEN SYNDICATE, LTD.

The oficina having remained closed until September 1, operations were confined to four months in 1915, as against eight months in the previous year. In view of this the results may be regarded as satisfactory, although for the first time in its history the company is not in a position to pay a dividend. During the working period 137,159 quintals of nitrate were produced, compared with 238,625 quintals, but better prices appear to have been realised, and the decrease in nett profits was only £1,498 at £2,911. Interest and other receipts yielded less, so that the total income was £4,257 down at £6,865, and after providing for London office expenses and adding £648 or £1,214 less brought in, the nett surplus was £5,271 lower at £3,124, the whole of which is carried forward. A year ago a dividend of 5 per cent. was paid, and £2,694 was written off for stoppage expenses. Stocks of nitrate, &c., are £13,939 larger at £36,768, debtors have risen by £2,204 to £4,700, and cash is £1,916 up at £6,976, while £17,853 more at £22,822 is due to creditors and on bills payable, and it has been necessary to borrow £4,172 from the bankers.

EDWARD AND JOHN BURKE, LTD.

Considering the difficulties under which the export trade was carried on last year, this Dublin bottling business did surprisingly well in the 12 months ended April 30. Profits showed a

recovery of no less than £16,383 at £76,604, and as £5,360 more was brought in, the divisible surplus of £91,259 was £21,744 up. The ordinary shares return to the dividend-paying list with a distribution of 5 per cent., which compares with 7 per cent. two years ago, and the balance carried forward is increased by £12,003 to £26,658. Stocks are £43,088 larger at £264,789, debtors owe £25,326 more at £55,768, and bills receivable come to £15,356 more at £31,968, but cash is £12,403 down at £2,855, and investments have been reduced by £16,700 to £123,484, while £68,086 or £34,310 more is due to sundry creditors.

DINNINGTON MAIN COAL CO., LTD.

Profit for the year closed March 31 last rose £24,342 to £69,098. Deducting interest and depreciation, which took £1,979 more at £15,018, there was altogether £54,080, or £22,363 more, available for division, and the directors pay a final dividend of 10 per cent., less tax, making, with the interim dividend, 15 per cent. for the year as compared with 10 per cent. They also add £10,000 to the reserve to meet calls on shares taken in the Firbeck Main Collieries, Ltd., and will have £10,045 left to carry forward. Agreeably with the umpire's award, the conversion of the deferred shares into ordinary shares has been completed, and the paid-up capital is now £287,500 in £1 ordinary shares. Miners' wages have been advanced 10 per cent. during the year, and a further advance of 3½ per cent. became payable at the beginning of June last. The wages now stand at the maximum fixed by the Coal Conciliation Board, viz., 23½ per cent. above the 1911 basis. The output has been satisfactorily maintained, notwithstanding the fact that 714 of the company's men have joined the Army. Scarcity of men we fear will press wages up still further if the strong hand of the Government is not clenched. There is nothing to say about the accounts.

Earl Russell has been appointed a member of the board of the San Antonio de Esquilache (Peru). Mines, Ltd.

The registered offices of Messrs. Lambert Bros. (Insurance), Ltd., have been removed to 85, Gracechurch Street, E.C.

The directors of the Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Co. announce that Mr. Arthur Kentish Barnes, of the firm of Messrs. Mellor and Fenton, cotton brokers, Liverpool, has been elected to a seat on the board of directors of the company.

Canadian Crop Outlook.—Mr. R. M. Horne-Payne, director in England of the Canadian Northern Railway, has just received the following cable from Mr. D. B. Hanna, third vice-president of the company:—"Western crops generally excellent shape. Moisture ample, and with warmer weather conditions would be altogether satisfactory. Wheat area 15 per cent. less than last year. Oats and barley each show increase 5 per cent."

New Zealand.

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New Zealand, a country as large as the United Kingdom, with but a million population, has an annual export of raw products exceeding Twenty Million Pounds sterling.

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Over Eighteen Million Pounds have been advanced by Government to Farmers and Workers for Improvements and Buildings at a low rate of interest.

The Railways, 3,000 miles, Telegraphs and Telephones, 124,000 miles, are owned and operated by the State.

New Zealand has the highest wealth-rate and the lowest death-rate in the World.

To those desirous of making a home in a new country, New Zealand offers solid advantages.

Excellent Steamship Services are run direct to New Zealand by the Shaw Savill and Albion Company, Limited, New Zealand Shipping Company, Limited, and the Federal and Shire Lines.

Full information is supplied free by

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR NEW ZEALAND,

413-416, STRAND, W.C.

IRISH RAILWAYS.

		£	£	£	£
Belfast and County Down ..	June 23	4,465	—	357	81,250
Grand Canal	" 23	1,117	—	64	20,711
Great Northern	" 23	25,035	—	1,235	565,535
Gt. Southern and Western ..	" 23	34,023	—	1,809	764,696
Midland Great Western ..	" 23	13,671	—	1,293	290,647

* From Jan. 1.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam Bengal	May 20	1,32,000	—	4,641	9,31,000
Bengal & N.W.	" 20	4,91,060	—	49,327	31,79,880
Bengal Nagpur	" 27	9,18,000	—	48,000	79,75,000
Bombay, Baroda	June 17	12,31,000	—	55,000	1,61,85,000
Burma	May 13	4,33,050	—	33,495	26,86,365
Delhi Umballa	June 17	77,900	—	8,246	7,98,090
East Indian	" 24	21,68,000	—	1,34,000	2,74,81,000
Gt. Indian Penin.	" 17	16,78,100	—	1,83,700	2,33,72,500
Lucknow-Bareilly	May 20	51,781	—	5,728	3,38,408
Madras and S.	" 27	10,80,000	—	45,407	83,80,000
Mahratta	" 20	1,36,836	—	18,493	10,13,634
Nizam's Gd. (Broad)	" 20	77,702	—	10,881	5,97,125
Robilkund and	" 20	46,770	—	4,762	3,12,201
Kumaon	" 20	6,25,089	—	54,038	43,32,511
South Indian	" 20				2,53,000

a 13 days. † April 1. ‡ October 1.

COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

		£	£	£	£
Beira	Apl. *	29,462	—	4,400	—
Canadian Northern	June 21	\$744,300	—	\$330,500	\$25,599,900
Canadian Pacific	" 21	\$2,631,000	—	\$1012,000	\$20,903,800
Gr. Trk. Main Line	" 21	180,105	—	18,070	4,040,321
Gr. Trk. Western	" 21	41,075	—	11,445	8,040,003
Detroit G. H. & M.	" 21	15,623	—	4,934	316,151
Gr. Trk. Pac. Prairie Sc	" 21	20,260	—	10,938	452,873
Mashonaland	Apl. *	49,604	—	4,014	668,820
Mid. of Westn. Aus.	" *	8,223	—	1,076	76,217
New Cape Central	May 27	1,356	—	230	33,585
Rhodesia	Apl. *	70,794	—	8,297	1,097,621

a 9 days. * Months. † July 1. ‡ Jan. 1. c From Oct. 1.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

		£	£	£	£
Chesapeake & Ohio	June 14	954,000	—	154,000	45,688,000
Chicago G.W.	" 14	325,000	—	9,000	14,388,000
Colorado & South'n	May 31a	376,000	—	95,000	14,408,000
Denver & Rio Gran.	June 14	450,900	—	29,000	23,774,200
Louisv'e & Nashv'e	" 14	1,182,000	—	206,000	57,538,000
Minn. S.P. (Soo)	May 31a	854,000	—	239,000	31,833,000
Missouri Kansas	June 14	551,000	—	5,000	30,870,000
Northern Pacific	May 31a	2,080,000	—	676,000	69,020,000
Southern	June 14	1,300,000	—	209,000	66,772,000

a 10 days. † Includes Wisconsin Central. ‡ From July 1.

MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

NAME.	Month.	NETT EARNINGS FOR MONTH.		No. of Mths.	NETT EARNINGS TO DATE.	
		Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year.		Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year.
Atchafson T. & S. Fé	Apl.	3,408,000	—	10	35,761,000	—
Atlantic Coast Line	"	1,157,000	—	10	8,231,000	—
Baltimore & Ohio	"	1,914,000	—	10	26,289,000	—
Canadian Northern	May	727,200	—	7	7,552,800	—
Canadian Pacific	Apl.	3,734,000	—	9	28,454,000	—
Chesapeake & Ohio	"	1,122,000	—	10	13,330,000	—
Chicago & N.W.	"	1,799,000	—	10	22,822,000	—
Chicago Burl. & Q.	"	2,618,000	—	10	34,895,500	—
Chicago G.W.	"	259,000	—	10	3,591,000	—
Chicago Mil. & S.P.	"	2,133,000	—	10	27,069,000	—
Chicago, Rock I. & P.	"	1,470,000	—	10	15,833,000	—
Colorado & Southern	"	318,000	—	10	4,299,000	—
Cuba	"	777,660	—	10	5,530,581	—
Do.	"	372,717	—	10	2,053,822	—
Delaware & Hud.	"	622,000	—	3	2,633,000	—
Denver & Rio Gran.	"	747,000	—	10	7,511,000	—
Erie	"	1,485,000	—	4	5,063,000	—
Gr. Tr. Main Line	"	£254,950	—	4	£663,700	—
Grand Trunk Westn	"	£51,200	—	4	£120,100	—
Detroit G.H. & Mil.	"	£5,703	—	4	£800	—
Gt. Northern	"	1,701,000	—	10	27,764,000	—
Illinois Central	"	907,000	—	11	11,377,000	—
Kansas City Southn.	May	347,000	—	11	3,359,000	—
Lehigh Valley	"	1,312,000	—	10	15,425,000	—
Louisville & Nashv.	Apl.	1,567,000	—	10	15,018,000	—
Minn. S.P. (Soo)	"	922,000	—	10	11,530,000	—
Miss. K. & Texas	"	181,000	—	10	5,288,000	—
Missouri Pacific	Mar.	527,000	—	9	9,293,000	—
New York Cent. & H.	Apl.	4,980,000	—	4	18,557,000	—
N.Y. N. Haven & H.	"	1,905,000	—	10	18,030,000	—
New York Ont. & W.	"	154,000	—	10	3,001,000	—
Norfolk & Western	"	1,993,000	—	10	18,943,000	—
Northern Pacific	"	2,534,000	—	10	25,999,000	—
Pennsylvania East	"	8,811,000	—	4	29,699,000	—
and West Lines	"	1,043,000	—	9	10,018,000	—
St. Louis & San F.	"	845,000	—	9	5,287,000	—
Seaboard Air Line	"	2,038,000	—	10	17,315,000	—
Southern	"	3,694,000	—	10	39,275,000	—
Southern Pacific	"	3,133,000	—	10	33,651,000	—
Union Pacific	"	977,000	—	10	8,985,000	—
Wabash	"			10	3,588,000	—

† Includes Wisconsin Central. * Gross earnings. † Surplus.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—HOME.

		£	£	£	£
Bristol	June 23	10,541	—	739	238,932
Dublin United	" 16	6,558	—	85	131,508
Hastings and Dist.	" 23	1,038	—	28	21,276
Isle of Thanet	" 24	366	—	67	10,470
Lancashire United	" 21	2,111	—	281	42,493
Provincial	" 24	2,468	—	7	81,812
Yorks. (Wst. Rdng.)	" 25	1,717	—	150	43,748

* From Oct. 1. † From Jan. 1.

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Week ending	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.		Week ending	GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.	
		Amount	In. or dec. on last year.		Amount	In. or dec. on last year.
Alcoy and Gandia	June 24	Ps. 20,000	—	Ps. 5,000	Ps. 353,900	—
Antofagasta (Chili)	" 25	33,590	—	12,330	853,375	—
Arauco	May	9,800	—	3,241	134,138	—
Argentine N.E.	June 17	6,600	—	15	310,013	—
Bilbao R. and Canta	April *	4,387	—	1,341	16,803	—
Bolivar	May *	10,000	—	1,225	101,633	—
Brazil	Apr. *	M3,431,000	—	M340,870	M1439,800	—
Brazil Gt. Southern	"	M12,3750	—	M3,300	M 69,520	—
B. Ayres & Pacific	June 24	84,000	—	10,000	4,570,000	—
Do. Gt. South'n	" 25	105,000	—	17,000	5,468,908	—
Do. Western	" 25	52,000	—	12,000	2,671,000	—
Central Argentine	" 24	105,000	—	23,000	5,630,800	—
C. Ur'g'ay of Mts V.	" 24	11,540	—	139	641,242	—
Do. East'n Ex.	" 24	5,212	—	934	212,660	—
Do. North'n Ex.	" 24	2,304	—	610	111,837	—
Do. West'n Ex.	" 24	1,683	—	186	102,198	—
Colombian National	Mar. *	11,200	—	1,288	34,000	—
Cordoba Central	June 24	32,000	—	2,780	1,510,300	—
Costa Rica	Apr. 22	5,177	—	1,903	228,544	—
Cuban Central	June 24	12,987	—	4,863	784,381	—
Dorada Extension	April *	5,900	—	1,050	28,463	—
Egyptian Delta	May 31a	4,934	—	2,300	597,200	—
Entre Rios	June 24	11,800	—	14,971	340,095	—
French Sante Fé	Apl. *	92,945	—	Ps. 17,645	Ps. 647,803	—
Gt. South. of Spain	June 17	Ps. 83,813	—	1,300	235,800	—
Gt. West. of Brazil	" 24	6,700	—	1,280	334,870	—
Havana Central	" 24	6,655	—	1,280	180,392	—
Inter. of C. Amer.	May *	37,809	—	16,495	34,250	—
La Guaira and Car.	"	7,256	—	750	510,552	—
Leopoldina	June 24	23,116	—	247	256,626	—
Manila (Nr. & Sth.)	" 24	8,939	—	1,004	112,007	—
Midland Uruguay	May	11,277	—	M173,649	M 5,147,000	—
Mogiana	Apr. *	M1,200,000	—	M2,007	M 242,566	—
N.W. of Uruguay	May *	£21,000	—	£5,886	£62,866	—
Nitrate	June 15b	30,034	—	1,700	124,790	—
Paraguay Central	" 24	3,320	—	M4,220	M 7,900,000	—
Paulista	Apr. *	M1,900,000	—	M8,734	M 8,833,997	—
Peruvian Corp'n	May *	S866,900	—	S89,734	S1,383,620	—
Salvador	June 24	£21,500	—	£2,316	£1,383,620	—
S. Paulo (Brazilian)	" 18	23,044	—	M101,010	M 5,691,000	—
Sorocabana	Apr. *	M1,287,000	—	M8,707	M 181,411	—
Talita	"	18,592	—	6,101	2,015,112	—
United of Havana	June 24	30,020	—	502	298,056	—
West'n of Havana	" 24	5,758	—	1	57,758	—
Zafra and Huelva	May *	11,359	—	3,806	21,571	—

* Months. † From Jan. 1. ‡ From July 1. c Nett. b 15 days. a 10 days

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.

		£	£	Ms.	£	£
Anglo-Argentine	June 24	48,580	—	716	1,279,333	—
Auckland Electric	May 5b	21,202	—	755	231,906	—
Brazilian Traction	Apl. *	M3,774,000	—	M 68,230	M 14,713,000	—
Brisbane Elec. Inv.	"	30,420	—	3,730	62,600	—
British Columbia	"	£77,867	—	£22,559	£734,553	—
B. A. Lacroze	"	40,220	—	1,545	£13,102	—
Burnham Electric	June 24	Rs. 3,718	—	Rs. 506	—	Rs. 5,944
Calcutta	" 24	Rs. 66,443	—	131	1,707,692	—
Cordoba Light	"					
P. & T.	Mar.	13,598	—	852	161,906	—
Hongkong	May 20	£14,937	—	£4,625	£269,764	—
La Plata	"	4,342	—	216	22,189	—
Lima	"	15,693	—	69	75,913	—
Madras Electric	June 15c	Rs. 30,277	—	Rs. 2,937	Rs. 341,092	—
Manila	Dec.	£71,326	—	£4,120	£73,551	—
Mexico	Nov. *	£215,456	—	£108,669	£3,193,106	—
Puebla	Dec. *	£40,000	—	£25,600	£669,500	—
Rangoon	May *	£4,589	—	298	19,527	—
Singapore Electric	" 20	£13,139	—	£1,897	£247,259	—
Toronto	"	£438,997	—	£65,953	£1,693,709	—
United of Monte V.	"	28,349	—	578	215,768	—
Veracruz	Feb.	£57,700	—	£20,800	£130,407	—
Winnipeg	Apl. *	£111,935	—	£23,515	£439,660	—

AMERICAN DOLLAR SECURITIES COMMITTEE

THIRD LIST

of Securities which the Treasury is prepared to Purchase, and which will be subject to Special Income Tax. Exemption will be granted in respect of those Securities which are lent to the Treasury under the Deposit Scheme.

FURTHER LISTS

of the Securities in respect of which holders will be liable to the Special Income Tax of 2s in the £ will be issued from time to time.

- 386 Albany & Susquehanna R.R. 1st Mort. Conv. 3½ p.c., 1946.
 387 Albany & Susquehanna R.R. Guaranteed Stock.
 388 American Agricultural Chemical Co. 1st Mort. Conv. S.F. 5 p.c., 1928.
 389 American Agricultural Chemical Co. Conv. Debenture 5 p.c., 1924.
 390 American Agricultural Chemical Co. 6 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
 391 American Bank Note Co. 6 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
 392 American Beet Sugar Co. 6 p.c. Non-Cum. Preferred.
 393 American Can Co. Debentures 5 p.c., 1928.
 394 American Can Co. 7 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
 395 American Car & Foundry Co. 7 p.c. Non-Cum. Preferred.
 396 American Cotton Oil Co. Debentures 5 p.c., 1931.
 397 American Cotton Oil Co. 6 p.c. Non-Cum. Preferred.
 398 American Dock & Improvement Co. 1st Mort. Guar. 5 p.c., 1921.
 399 American Hide & Leather Co. 1st Mortgage 6 p.c., 1919.
 400 American Locomotive Co. 7 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
 401 American Power & Light Co. 6 p.c. Notes, 1921.
 402 American Smelting & Refining Co. 7 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
 403 American Sugar Refining Co. 7 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
 404 American Tobacco Co. Bonds 6 p.c., 1944.
 405 American Tobacco Co. Bonds 4 p.c., 1951.
 406 American Tobacco Co. 6 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
 407 American Tobacco Co. New Preferred.
 408 American Woolen Co. 7 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
 409 Atlanta & Charlotte Air Line Rly. 1st Mort. 4½ p.c., 1944, Series "A."
 410 Atlanta & Charlotte Air Line Rly. Guaranteed Stock.
 411 Atlanta Gas Light Co. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1947.
 412 Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Common.
 413 Atlas Portland Cement Co. 1st Mortgage 6 p.c., 1925.
 414 Austin & North-Western R.R. 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1941.
 415 Baldwin Locomotive Works 1st Mortgage S.F. 5 p.c., 1940.
 416 Baldwin Locomotive Works 7 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
 417 Baltimore & Ohio R.R. 4½ p.c. Equipment Notes.
 418 Bay State Street Rly. 5 p.c. Serial Coupon Notes.
 419 Bethlehem Steel Corporation 1st Extension Mtge. S.F. 5 p.c., 1926.
 420 Bethlehem Steel Corporation 1st Lien & Refunding Mortgage 5 p.c., 1942, Series "A."
 421 Bethlehem Steel Corporation 7 p.c. Non-Cum. Preferred.
 422 Boston & Albany R.R. Equipment 4½ p.c. Notes.
 423 Carolina Clinchfield & Ohio Rly. (Elkhorn Extension) 1st Mortgage 5 p.c. Notes, 1917.
 424 Cedar Rapids Iowa Falls & North-Western Rly. Guaranteed 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1921.
 425 Central District Telephone Co. 1st Mortgage S.F. 5 p.c., 1943.
 426 Central Leather Co. 1st Lien 5 p.c., 1925.
 427 Central Leather Co. 7 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
 428 Central New England Rly. 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1961.
 429 Central of Georgia Rly., Chattanooga Division, Purchase Money Mortgage 4 p.c., 1951.
 430 Central of Georgia Rly., Macon & Northern Division, 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1946.
 431 Central of Georgia Rly., Middle Georgia & Atlantic Division, 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1947.
 432 Central of Georgia Rly., Mobile Division, 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1946.
 433 Central Ohio R.R. Reorganisation 1st Mortgage 4½ p.c., 1930.
 434 Chesapeake & Ohio Rly. Gen. Refdg. & Impvt. Mort. 5 p.c., 1929.
 435 Chesapeake & Ohio Rly. Craig Valley Branch 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1940.
 436 Chesapeake & Ohio Rly. Richmond & Allegheny Division 1st Cons. Mortgage 4 p.c., 1929.
 437 Chesapeake & Ohio Rly. Richmond & Allegheny Division and Cons. Mortgage 4 p.c., 1929.
 438 Chesapeake & Ohio Rly. Warm Springs Valley Branch 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1941.
 439 Chicago & North-Western Rly. S.F. 6 p.c., 1920.
 440 Chicago & North-Western Rly. S.F. 5 p.c., 1920.
 441 Chicago & North-Western Rly. Debentures 5 p.c., 1921.
 442 Chicago & North-Western Rly. General Mortgage 5 p.c., 1927.
 443 Chicago Burlington & Quincy R.R. Denver Extn. S.F. 4 p.c., 1922.
 444 Chicago Burlington & Quincy R.R. Iowa Division S.F. 5 p.c., 1919.
 445 Chicago Burlington & Quincy R.R. Iowa Division S.F., 4 p.c., 1919.
 446 Chicago Burlington & Quincy R.R. Sth.-Wstn. Div. S.F., 4 p.c., 1921.
 447 Chicago Burlington & Quincy R.R. Capital Stock.
 448 Chicago Hammond & Western R.R. 1st Mortgage 6 p.c., 1927.
 449 Chicago Indiana & Southern R.R. 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1956.
 450 Chicago Railways Co. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1927.
 451 Chicago Rock Island & Pacific Rly. 1st Mortgage 6 p.c., 1917.
 452 Choctaw Oklahoma & Gulf R.R. General Mortgage 5 p.c., 1919.
 453 Choctaw Oklahoma & Gulf R.R. Cons. Mortgage 5 p.c., 1952.
 454 Cincinnati Indianapolis St Louis & Chicago Rly. 1st Cons. 6 p.c., 1920.
 455 Cincinnati Indianapolis St Louis & Chicago Rly. General 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1936.
 456 Cleveland Akron & Columbus Rly. 1st Cons. Guaranteed 4 p.c., 1940.
 457 Cleveland Akron & Columbus Rly. General Gold 5 p.c., 1927.
 458 Cleveland Cincinnati Chicago and St Louis Rly. Cincinnati Wabash & Michigan Division Mortgage 4 p.c., 1921.
 459 Cleveland Col. Cin. & Indianapolis Rly. Gen. Cons. Mort. 6 p.c., 1934.
 460 Cleveland & Pittsburgh R.R. Guaranteed Betterment Stock.
 461 Cleveland Short Line Guaranteed 1st Mortgage 4½ p.c., 1961.
 462 Cluett Peabody & Co. Inc. 7 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
 463 Colorado Fuel & Iron Co. General Mortgage 5 p.c., 1943.
 464 Commonwealth Edison Co. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1943.
 465 Commonwealth Electric Co. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1943.
 466 Consolidated Gas Electric Light & Power Co. of Baltimore 6 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
 467 Consolidation Coal Co. 10 Year Convertible 6 p.c., 1923.
 468 Consolidation Coal Co. 1st & Refunding Mortgage 5 p.c., 1950.
 469 Cuban American Sugar Co. 7 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
 470 Delaware & Hudson Co. Conv. 5 p.c., 1935.
 471 Delaware & Hudson Co. Pennsylvania Div. 1st Mort. 7 p.c., 1917.
 472 Delaware & Hudson Co. Capital Stock.
 473 Detroit Grand Haven & Milwaukee Rly. Cons. Mort. 6 p.c., 1918.
 474 Detroit Grand Haven & Milwaukee Rly. Equip. Mort. 6 p.c., 1918.
 475 Duluth & Iron Range R.R. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1937.
 476 Duluth Missabe & Northern Rly. General Mortgage 5 p.c., 1941.
 477 Duluth Short Line R.R. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1916.
 478 East Ohio Gas Co. 1st Lien 5 p.c., 1939.
 479 Edison Electric Co. of New Orleans 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1929.
 480 Edison Electric Illum. Co. of New York 1st Cons. Mort. 5 p.c., 1905.
 481 Edison Electric Illum. Co. (Brooklyn) 1st Cons. Mort. 4 p.c., 1939.
 482 Equitable Gas Light Co. of New York 1st Cons. Mort. 5 p.c., 1932.
 483 Erie & Pittsburgh R.R. Gen. Mort. 3½ p.c., 1940, Series "B" & "C."
 484 Fremont Elkhorn & Missouri Valley Rly. Cons. Mort. 6 p.c., 1933.
 485 General Electric Co. Debentures 3½ p.c., 1942.
 486 General Electric Co. Capital Stock.
 487 Gouverneur & Oswegatchie Rly. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1942.
 488 Havana Electric Rly. Cons. Mortgage 5 p.c., 1952.
 489 Hocking Valley Railway Common.
 490 Houston Electric Co. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1925.
 491 Houston & Texas Central R.R. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1937.
 492 Houston & Texas Central R.R. General Mortgage 4 p.c., 1921.
 493 Hudson County Gas Co. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1949.
 494 Illinois Central R.R. Purchased Lines 1st Mortgage 3½ p.c., 1952.
 495 Illinois Central R.R. Western Lines 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1951.
 496 Illinois Steel Co. Debentures 4½ p.c., 1940.
 497 Indiana Illinois & Iowa R.R. 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1950.
 498 Indiana Steel Co. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1952.
 499 International Harvester Co. of New Jersey 7 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
 500 International Harvester Corporation 7 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
 501 Jefferson & Clearfield Coal & Iron Co. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1926.
 502 Jefferson & Clearfield Coal & Iron Co. and Mortgage 5 p.c., 1926.
 503 Lehigh Valley R.R. Common.
 504 Long Island R.R. 1st Cons. Mortgage 4 p.c., 1931.
 505 Long Island R.R. Co. Unified Mortgage 4 p.c., 1949.
 506 Long Island R.R. Co. North Shore Branch 1st Cons. Mort. 5 p.c., 1932.
 507 Louisville & Nashville R.R. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1937.
 508 Louisville & Nashville R.R. Evansville & Henderson & Nashville Division 1st Mortgage S.F. 6 p.c., 1919.
 509 Louisville & Nashville R.R. Mobile & Montgomery Division 1st Mortgage 4½ p.c., 1945.
 510 Louisville & Nashville R.R. New Orleans & Mobile Division and Mortgage 6 p.c., 1930.
 511 Louisville & Nashville R.R. Paducah & Memphis Division 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1946.
 512 Louisville & Nashville R.R. South-East and St Louis Division 1st Mortgage 6 p.c., 1921.
 513 Memphis Union Station Co. 1st Guaranteed 5 p.c., 1959.
 514 Michigan State Telephone Co. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1924.
 515 Minneapolis & St Louis R.R. 1st Mortgage 7 p.c., 1927.
 516 Minneapolis & St Louis R.R. 1st Cons. Mortgage 5 p.c., 1934.
 517 Minneapolis & St Louis R.R. Pacific Ext. 1st Mortgage 6 p.c., 1921.
 518 Minnesota & Ontario Power Co. 1st Serial 6 p.c.
 519 Mobile and Ohio R.R. 1st Extension Mortgage 6 p.c., 1927.
 520 Mobile & Ohio R.R. 1st Guaranteed Mortgage 6 p.c., 1927.
 521 Monongahela River R.R. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1919.
 522 Montana Power Co. 1st & Refunding S.F. Mortgage 5 p.c., 1943.
 523 Montreal Light Heat & Power Co. 1st Mortgage & Collateral Trust 4½ p.c., 1932.
 524 Morris & Essex R.R. 1st Refunding Mortgage 3½ p.c., 2000.
 525 Nashville Railway & Light Co. Refunding & Ext. Mort. 5 p.c., 1958.
 526 Nashville Railway & Light Co. 1st Cons. 5 p.c., 1953.
 527 National Biscuit Co. 7 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
 528 National Lead Co. 7 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
 529 Newark Cons. Gas Co. Cons. Mortgage 5 p.c., 1948.
 530 Newark Passenger Railway 1st Cons. 5 p.c., 1930.
 531 New York & Harlem R.R. Refunding Mortgage 3½ p.c., 2000.
 532 New York & Jersey R.R. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1932.
 533 New York & Rockaway Beach Railway 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1927.
 534 New York Brooklyn & Manhattan Beach Railway 1st Cons. Mortgage 5 p.c., 1935.
 535 New York Central Lines 5 p.c. Equipment Trust (1907).
 536 New York City Bonds (other than those in first taxable list).
 537 New York Lackawanna & Western R.R. 1st Mortgage 6 p.c., 1921.
 538 New York Lackawanna & Western R.R. Cons. Mort. 5 p.c., 1943.
 539 New York Lackawanna & Wstn. R.R. Term. & Imp. Mort. 4 p.c., 1943.
 540 New York Lackawanna & Western R.R. Guaranteed Stock.
 541 New York Lake Erie & Western Dock & Imp. Co. 1st Extension Mortgage 5 p.c., 1943.
 542 New York, New Haven & Hartford R.R. Conv. Deb. 6 p.c., 1948.
 543 New York Providence & Boston R.R. Gen. Mort. 4 p.c., 1942.
 544 New York State Railways 1st Cons. 4½ p.c., 1962, Series "A."
 545 New York, Susquehanna & Western R.R. 1st Mort. Ref. 5 p.c., 1937.
 546 New York, Susquehanna & Western R.R. Term. Mort. 5 p.c., 1943.
 547 New York & Westchester Lighting Co. 5 p.c. Debentures, 1954.
 548 New York & Westchester Lighting Co. General Mort. 4 p.c., 2004.
 549 Ohio River R.R. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1930.
 550 Ohio River R.R. General Mortgage 5 p.c., 1937.
 551 Pacific R.R. of Missouri 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1938.
 552 Pacific R.R. of Missouri and Mortgage 5 p.c., 1938.
 553 People's Gas Light & Coke Co. 1st Cons. Mortgage 6 p.c., 1943.
 554 People's Gas Light & Coke Co. Refunding Mortgage 5 p.c., 1947.
 555 Philadelphia Co. 1st Mortgage & Collateral Trust 5 p.c., 1949.
 556 Puget Sound Coal Co. of Pennsylvania 5 p.c. Debentures, 1931.
 557 Puget Sound Traction Light & Power Co. 6 p.c. Notes, 1919.
 558 St Louis Springfield & Peoria Rly. (St Louis & Springfield Rly.) 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1933.
 559 St Louis Springfield & Peoria R.R. 1st & Ref. Mort. 5 p.c., 1939.
 560 St Paul & Duluth R.R. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1931.
 561 St Paul & Duluth R.R. and Mortgage 5 p.c., 1917.
 562 St Paul & Duluth R.R. 1st Cons. Mortgage, 4 p.c., 1968.
 563 St Paul & Northern Pacific R.R. General Mortgage 6 p.c., 1923.
 564 St Paul & Sioux City R.R. 1st Mortgage 6 p.c., 1919.
 565 St Paul City Railway Cable Cons. Mortgage 5 p.c., 1937.
 566 St Paul Union Stock Yards Co. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1916.
 567 Savannah Florida & Western Rly. 1st Mortgage 6 p.c., 1934.
 568 Savannah Florida and Western Rly. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1934.
 569 Southern Bell Telephone & Telegraph Co. of New York 1st Mortgage S.F. 5 p.c., 1941.
 570 Southern Pacific R.R. 1st Cons. Mortgage 5 p.c., 1937.
 571 Third Avenue Railway 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1937.
 572 Toledo & Ohio Central Railway 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1935.
 573 Toledo & Ohio Central Railway General Mortgage 5 p.c., 1935.
 574 Tri-City Railway and Light Co. Collateral Trust 1st Lien 5 p.c., 1923.
 575 Tri-City Railway & Light Co. 1st and Refunding 5 p.c., 1930.
 576 United States Government Cons. 2 p.c. Bonds, 1930.
 577 United States Government 10-20 Year 3 p.c. Bonds, 1918.
 578 United States Government 4 p.c. Bonds, 1925.
 579 Virginia-Carolina Chemical Co. S.F. Conv. Debenture 6 p.c., 1924.
 580 Virginia-Carolina Chemical Co. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1923.
 581 Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Co. 10 Year Collateral Notes 5 p.c., 1917.
 582 Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Co. Conv. S.F. 5 p.c., 1931.
 583 Westinghouse Electric & Mfg. Co. 7 p.c. Cum. Participating Prefd.
 584 Wheeling & Lake Erie R.R. Extn. & Impvt. 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1930.
 585 Wheeling & Lake Erie R.R. Lake Erie Division 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1926.

THE AMERICAN DOLLAR SECURITIES COMMITTEE,

NATIONAL DEBT OFFICE,

19 OLD JEWRY, LONDON, E.C.

20th June, 1916.

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The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 5 PER CENT. (Reduced August 6 to 6 per cent., and to 5 per cent. August 8, 1914.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

As the end of the half-year approached, the demand for accommodation naturally increased, but, owing to the abnormal conditions, there appeared to be much less pressure than was the case at this period in pre-war times. In the first day or two, when weekly fixtures just covered the turn of the month, some of the business could still be arranged at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., but the clearing banks asked $4\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., and that figure quickly became the general rate. Supplies, however, were hardly sufficient to meet all requirements, and in the first three days they had to be supplemented by applications to the Bank, which did a moderate business each time in loans for a week at $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The amounts thus obtained satisfied the needs, and only a trifling sum was taken to-day. Day-to-day money, on the other hand, has been abundant, and although the regular charge for continuing old loans ranged from 4 to $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in the first half of the week, surplus balances were offered pretty freely in the afternoons down to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. To-day advances over the week-end were very much wanted, and up to 5 per cent. was occasionally paid.

In the discount market business continues to be extremely quiet. Bills were offered rather more freely, but brokers were not very keen buyers, as they are in some doubt as to the course events are likely to take next month. Revenue demands on the market's resources will be greater than usual at this time of year, owing to the arrangements made for collecting the additional income-tax imposed for last year by instalments, while the payments for excess profits duty are steadily increasing in volume. The rate for three months' bills is quoted at $5\frac{1}{8}$ – $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and a few parcels of fine paper changed hands at the lower figure.

A further batch of Russian commercial bills was also placed at $5\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. August Treasury bills were in request in some quarters, and a few transactions took place in them at $4\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. As Treasury bills issued to-day provide a most useful maturity, there was a good demand for them at the Bank, where a large business was done in all usances.

Tenders will be received at the Bank of England on Wednesday, July 5, for £750,000 Birmingham Corporation bills, of which £500,000 is in replacement of bills falling due on the 10th inst., and the balance is in replacement of Corporation mortgages. The bills will be dated July 10, and will be payable at 12 months after date, viz., July 10, 1917.

Amongst foreign exchanges, the Scandinavian rates moved steadily downwards, in spite of the reports of arrangements being made for establishing credits, and at one time they were as low as 16.10. A recovery, however, to 16.30 followed the definite announcement that negotiations had been concluded with a group of Norwegian banks for loans of about £1,390,000 to France and £2,204,000 to Great Britain for a period of two years. The Paris cheque has dropped to 28.13 $\frac{1}{2}$, and the Italian rate has lost a little of its early advance, but the Dutch has hardened. The New York cable rate and the South American exchanges, with a small advance in Valparaiso.

The end of the half-year requirements drew away a good deal of gold from the Bank of England in the past week, and although £771,000 came in from abroad, the stocks of coin and bullion were reduced by £328,000 to £61,380,000. For the same reason the note circulation expanded by £684,000, making a reduction of £1,012,000 in the total reserve, and with largely increased liabilities, the proportion is $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. down at $28\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. Government disbursements exceeded the receipts and Public Deposits showed a decrease of £1,922,000, but Other Deposits rose by £14,822,000 to £106,371,462 as the result of an addition of £13,930,000 to "Other" Securities.

As is well known, the staffs of the joint-stock banks have been amongst those who responded most readily to their country's call, and the absence of so many experienced men is proving exceptionally inconvenient at the present time. The banks have been granted to-morrow as a Bank Holiday, to enable them to cope with the extra pressure of work in connection with their half-yearly balance-sheets, but in spite of that, the announcement of the dividends for the past six months will probably be made about a week later than usual.

According to the official statement for the week ended June 28, currency notes amounting to £3,602,851 in £1 and £1,105,174 in 10s. notes were issued, against which £3,102,504 in £1 and £1,035,782 10s. in 10s. notes were cancelled. There was therefore an increase of £569,738 10s. in the amount outstanding at a total of £112,349,278, made up of £85,292,700 in £1 notes and £27,056,578 10s. in 10s. notes. During the same period currency note certificates for £50,000 were issued, and as none were cancelled, the amount outstanding was increased to £9,750,000. There is also an investment reserve account of £1,704,003 13s. 10d. Against these £28,500,000 is held in gold, £88,157,691 11s. 10d. in Government securities, and £7,005,590 2s. at the Bank of England, while £104,000 has been advanced to bankers other than Scottish and Irish banks of issue, and £36,000 to the Trustee Savings Bank.

SILVER.

With China still out of the silver market, supplies of the metal have been small, and the fluctuations from day to day have depended mainly on the attitude of the Indian bazaars. Orders from that quarter have alternated between buying and selling, with the result that the price has ranged between 31 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 31 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. At the close selling predominated, and as offerings came from America the final quotation closes at the lowest.

Applications for the Rs. 30,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 7,40,000 in bills, Rs. 34,70,000 in deferred telegraphic transfers, and Rs. 1,26,00,000 in immediate telegraphic transfers. Of these Rs. 75,000 were allotted in bills, Rs. 12,38,000 in deferred transfers, and Rs. 16,87,000 in telegraphic transfers, tenders for bills and deferred transfers at 1s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and for immediate transfers at 1s. 4 3/4d., receiving about 10 per cent.

The amount to be offered next Wednesday is again Rs. 30,00,000. Between April 1 and June 27, the total sales were Rs. 5,83,64,569, realising £3,915,426.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, June 28, 1916.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued £	Government Debt £
77,992,315	11,015,100
	Other Securities 7,434,900
	Gold Coin and Bullion .. 59,542,315
	Silver Bullion —
£77,992,315	£77,992,315

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital .. £	Government Securities .. £
14,553,000	42,187,454
Reserve 3,199,878	Other Securities 87,312,762
	Notes 42,093,085
	Gold and Silver Coin .. 1,837,413
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts) .. 49,278,577	
Other Deposits 106,371,462	
Seven Day and other Bills .. 27,797	
£173,430,714	£173,430,714

Dated June 29, 1916.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year.

Last year, June 30.		June 21, 1916.	June 28, 1916.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,087,078	Rest	3,181,349	3,199,878	18,529	—
81,514,428	Pub. Deposits ..	51,200,122	49,278,577	—	1,921,545
140,654,115	Other do. ..	91,549,115	106,371,462	14,822,347	—
55,187	7 Day Bills ..	28,987	27,797	—	1,190
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
51,043,491	Gov. Securities.	42,187,454	42,187,454	—	—
152,914,703	Other do. ..	73,382,518	87,312,762	—	13,930,244
35,905,614	Total Reserve ..	44,942,601	43,930,498	1,012,103	—
				15,852,979	15,852,979
				Increase.	Decrease.
34,636,280	Note Circulation	35,215,095	35,899,230	684,135	—
52,091,894	Coin and Bullion	61,707,696	61,379,728	—	327,96
16 1/2 p.c.	Proportion ..	31.5 p.c.	28.2 p.c.	—	3.3 p.c.
5 "	Bank Rate ..	5 "	5 "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week £771,000 in.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1916.	1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
January	1,071,948,000	918,685,000	153,263,000	—
February	1,107,655,000	960,743,000	146,912,000	—
March	1,364,599,000	1,231,392,000	133,207,000	—
April	1,090,356,000	976,264,000	114,092,000	—
May	1,447,416,000	1,164,194,000	283,222,000	—
June 7	296,965,000	231,525,000	65,440,000	—
" 14	290,373,000	225,460,000	64,913,000	—
" 21	275,677,000	226,435,000	49,242,000	—
" 28	284,615,000	266,789,000	17,826,000	—
Total ..	7,229,604,000	6,211,487,000	1,018,117,000	—

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue:—

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Wednesday—Bars £	Thursday—Spain £
765,000	103,000
Friday—Bars 33,000	Friday—U.S.A. 5,000
	Nett Influx 694,000
£798,000	£798,000

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	June 24, 1916.	June 17, 1916.	June 10, 1916.	June 26, 1915.
Loans	£	£	£	£
659,826,000	664,940,000	674,335,000	493,016,000	
Reserve held in own Vaults ..	89,180,000	84,616,000	81,338,000	91,644,000
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk.	32,172,000	31,804,000	32,026,000	25,942,000
Reserve held in Other Depos.	11,942,000	12,038,000	12,096,000	5,648,000
Nett Demand Deposits ..	653,528,000	654,286,000	661,788,000	486,862,000
Nett Time Deposits ..	35,346,000	35,490,000	34,546,000	27,558,000
Circulation	6,332,000	6,312,000	6,304,000	7,582,000
Excess Lawful Reserve ..	20,894,000	16,002,000	11,690,000	39,006,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits.

NEW YORK STATE BANKS & TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.).

	June 24, 1916.	June 17, 1916.	June 10, 1916.	June 26, 1915.
Loans	£	£	£	£
145,300,000	144,814,000	143,220,000	116,114,000	
Specie	11,954,000	11,910,000	12,008,000	9,820,000
Deposits	151,758,000	150,912,000	149,460,000	118,860,000
Legal Tenders ..	1,808,000	1,836,000	1,854,000	1,950,000

FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	June 9, 1916.	June 2, 1916.	May 26, 1916.
	£	£	£
Gold coin and certificates ..	51,088,800	48,450,600	48,597,000
Gold Redemption Fund ..	340,670	358,600	432,600
Gold Settlement Fund ..	20,695,200	20,466,200	18,398,200
Legal tender notes, silver, &c.	3,611,000	2,777,000	4,394,400
Total reserves ..	75,736,600	72,046,400	71,822,200
10-day bills and loans ..	2,606,000	2,321,400	1,894,200
30-day bills and loans ..	4,212,200	3,845,400	3,612,800
60-day bills and loans ..	4,862,000	4,818,200	4,949,600
90-day bills and loans ..	5,778,000	2,916,400	3,424,400
Maturities over 90 days ..	810,400	775,400	733,600
Total ..	15,663,600	14,677,400	14,614,600
Investments—			
U.S. Bonds	10,438,200	10,398,200	10,388,400
One year U.S. Treasury notes	838,000	838,000	768,000
Municipal Warrants ..	4,619,000	7,326,600	8,989,200
Federal Reserve notes—nett.	4,784,600	4,816,400	5,286,600
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—nett. ..	3,550,000	3,660,000	3,302,400
All other assets	1,123,200	1,786,400	1,898,600
Total assets	115,782,200	114,919,400	117,070,000
Paid-up capital	10,972,600	10,971,600	10,975,000
Government Deposits ..	10,315,600	10,000,000	8,826,200
Reserve deposits—nett. ..	93,556,000	92,084,400	95,336,000
Note circulation—nett. ..	1,518,600	1,502,400	1,541,200
Fed. Res. notes in circulation	346,000	346,200	346,400
All other liabilities ..	49,400	44,800	45,200
Total liabilities ..	116,758,200	114,949,400	117,070,000
Gold reserve against nett liabilities	70.8%	68.9%	65.8%
Cash reserve against nett liabilities	74.4%	71.7%	70.1%

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For 7 days ended June 24.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
£	£
Customs	1,558,000
Excise	975,000
Estate, &c., Duties ..	380,000
Stamps	16,000
Land Tax and House Duty.	10,000
Property and Income Tax ..	800,000
Excess Profits Tax	1,165,000
Land Values	—
Post Office	—
Crown Lands	20,000
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	—
Miscellaneous	165,000
Bullion advances repaid ..	100,000
For Treasury Bills (nett amt.)	—
War Loan, 1915-8	—
War Loan, 1915-45	—
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919 ..	3,471,000
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920 ..	650,000
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1921 ..	5,386,000
War Expenditure Certificates	1,584,000
Other Debts created under War Loan Act, 1915 ..	600,000
Telegraph Money Act, 1913 ..	—
Under Post Office Rly. Act, 1913 ..	—
Under Military Works Acts, 1897-1903 ..	—
Under Housing Act	—
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920 ..	—
East Africa Protectorate Loan repayments	—
Cunard Loan—repayment on account of principal ..	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	—
China Indemnity	—
Ways and Means Advances repaid	21,744,000
Decrease in Exchequer balances	—
£38,814,000	£38,824,000

* Decrease.

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	June 29, 1916.	June 22, 1916.	June 15, 1916.	July 1, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold in hand	190,530,280	190,276,760	190,020,360	157,262,000
Silver in hand	13,758,160	13,824,120	13,951,120	14,862,840
Bills discounted	17,915,880	15,383,440	15,689,320	10,810,440
Advances	48,241,240	49,115,040	48,772,280	24,972,880
Note circulation	632,226,200	629,369,280	629,867,200	488,633,880
Public deposits	1,531,080	1,281,200	2,142,440	3,280,560
Private deposits	90,905,680	82,179,680	81,933,680	94,609,720
Foreign Bills	70,480	68,080	67,800	65,520

Proportion between bullion and circulation 32.21 per cent., against 32.42 per cent. last week. Advances to the State £316,000,000, increase £4,000,000. The adjourned payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium amounted to £26,910,320, decrease £48,400, and at the branches to £31,842,440, decrease £128,040.

SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	June 15, 1916.	June 7, 1916.	May 31, 1916.	June 15, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold and silver	12,450,060	12,442,288	12,399,812	11,722,864
Bills	6,994,360	6,235,568	6,235,252	4,918,084
Note circulation	16,255,724	16,580,980	17,008,528	16,035,372
Current and deposit accounts	5,833,420	4,953,532	4,378,252	2,992,776

NETHERLANDS BANK (12 Florins to the £).

	June 3, 1916.	May 27, 1916.	May 20, 1916.	June 5, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	45,241,122	45,002,530	44,857,143	26,826,496
Silver	495,611	373,869	—	219,327
Bills discounted, &c. ..	9,338,198	8,786,289	9,054,604	18,098,649
Note circulation	53,790,326	53,081,877	52,929,632	40,459,818
Deposits	5,116,628	4,667,177	4,350,413	4,011,410

IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	June 21, 1916.	June 14, 1916.	June 5, 1916	June 21, 1915.
Notes in reserve ..	£ 10,760,000	£ 11,840,000	£ —	£ 7,722,300
Cash in reserve ..	153,830,000	153,990,000	153,990,000	157,280,200
Gold in reserve abroad ..	149,390,000	149,370,000	140,920,000	10,922,700
Treasury Bonds ..	384,320,000	367,930,000	363,650,000	—
Circulation note issue ..	641,040,000	637,950,000	634,020,000	359,500,000
Treasury deposits ..	20,920,000	26,430,000	20,430,000	39,263,200

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	June 23, 1916.	June 15, 1916.	June 7, 1916.	June 23, 1915.
Total Coin & Bullion ..	£ 125,001,950	£ 125,049,350	£ 124,994,100	£ 121,813,750
Treasury Notes ..	16,739,550	14,091,600	20,313,250	13,559,850
Bills discounted ..	306,241,300	289,192,300	281,892,000	211,005,850
Advances ..	543,700	615,300	663,600	751,300
Note circulation ..	331,707,150	331,825,950	334,851,700	261,245,500
Deposits ..	117,901,650	91,427,550	87,851,250	80,692,200

Clearing House returns during May, £276,664,808 against £251,760,560 in April.

BANK OF SWEDEN.

	June 17, 1916.	June 10, 1916.	June 3, 1916.	June 19, 1915.
Gold	£ 9,233,000	£ 9,235,000	£ 9,237,000	£ 6,302,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	8,667,000	8,750,000	8,509,000	4,009,000
Swedish and Foreign Govt. Securities ..	4,369,000	4,377,000	3,850,000	2,803,000
Discounts and Loans ..	2,674,000	2,804,000	2,847,000	7,134,000
Notes in circulation ..	18,119,000	18,330,000	18,660,000	15,017,000
Deposits at notice ..	5,739,000	5,522,000	4,499,000	4,175,000

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	June 17, 1916	June 10, 1916	June 3, 1916	June 19, 1915
Gold	£ 41,151,058	£ 41,085,145	£ 40,477,046	£ 27,493,370
Silver	30,603,528	30,517,504	30,662,673	29,753,304
Foreign Bills ..	3,977,536	4,003,337	4,014,339	4,998,249
Discounts and Short Bills ..	23,496,225	23,542,672	23,745,858	27,147,740
Treasury Account, &c. ..	31,268,350	30,772,617	30,357,796	32,080,689
Notes in Circulation ..	86,248,062	86,681,799	86,328,917	79,330,540
Current Accounts, Deposits ..	50,563,212	30,618,387	29,756,678	27,742,811
Dividends, Interests, &c. ..	1,365,627	1,050,241	1,141,631	1,334,847
Government Securities ..	2,701,068	2,350,971	2,423,584	3,498,325

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	May 20, 1916	May 10, 1916	Apr. 30, 1916	May 20, 1915
Total cash	£ 45,669,520	£ 45,994,649	£ 47,007,200	£ 52,266,240
Island Bills	17,691,520	17,437,040	17,855,840	36,047,640
Foreign Bills	833,480	833,800	834,120	1,266,720
Advances	8,715,200	9,232,280	9,693,800	11,016,280
Government securities ..	7,410,480	7,464,680	7,665,280	8,425,360
Circulation	120,248,800	120,154,680	118,395,160	104,050,600
Deposits at notice ..	11,798,840	11,966,160	11,207,600	11,525,800
Current accounts ..	16,873,600	16,299,840	14,643,160	16,878,240

BANK OF NORWAY.

	June 15, 1916.	June 7, 1916.	May 31, 1916.	June 15, 1915.
Gold	£ 6,547,000	£ 6,536,000	£ 6,618,000	£ 3,410,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	5,276,000	5,320,000	5,318,000	3,190,000
Gov't Securities ..	762,000	762,000	762,000	637,000
Discounts & Loans ..	5,212,000	5,358,000	5,367,000	4,679,000
Notes in Circulation ..	11,658,000	11,701,000	11,656,000	7,545,000
Deposits at notice ..	3,716,000	3,782,000	3,966,000	1,464,000

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.
Paris	chqs.	28.15 $\frac{1}{2}$	28.13 $\frac{1}{2}$	Antwerp	short	—	—
Brussels	chqs.	—	—	Italy	short	30.30	30.35
Amsterdam	sight	11.46 $\frac{1}{2}$	11.47 $\frac{1}{2}$	Constantinople ..	3 mths	—	—
Berlin	chqs.	—	—	Rio de Janeiro ..	90 dys	12.7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	12.7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
Hamburg	chqs.	—	—	Buenos Aires	90 dys	48.3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	48.3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
Vienna	sight	—	—	Cebu	T.T.	1/4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	1/4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
Petrograd	3 mths	155 $\frac{1}{2}$	155 $\frac{1}{2}$	Bombay	T.T.	1/4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	1/4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
New York	cash	4.76 $\frac{1}{2}$	4.76 $\frac{1}{2}$	Hong Kong	T.T.	2/1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	2/1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
Lisbon	sight	35	35	Shanghai	T.T.	2/1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	2/1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
Madrid	sight	23.50	23.47	Singapore	T.T.	2/4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	2/4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
				Yokohama	4 mths	2/1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	2/1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	June 27, 1916.		June 29, 1916.	
		Sellers.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Buyers.
Amsterdam ..	Cable transfers ..	12.47	12.52	11.48	11.51
" ..	Three months' bills ..	12.67	12.72	11.68	11.76
Paris ..	Cable transfers ..	28.12	28.15	28.11	28.16
" ..	Three months' bills ..	28.55	28.65	28.50	28.60
Marseilles ..	Three months' bills ..	28.55	28.65	28.50	28.60
Switzerland ..	Cable transfers ..	25.10	25.20	25.18	25.28
" ..	Three months' bills ..	50	50	58	58
Petrograd ..	Cable transfers ..	155 $\frac{1}{2}$	156 $\frac{1}{2}$	155 $\frac{1}{2}$	156 $\frac{1}{2}$
Genoa, &c. ..	Cable transfers ..	30.35	30.45	30.30	30.40
" ..	Three months' bills ..	30.85	30.90	30.78	30.85
Spain ..	Cable transfers ..	23.45	23.55	23.43	23.53
" ..	Three months' bills ..	48	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	49
Lisbon and Oporto ..	Cable transfers ..	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{1}{2}$
" ..	Three months' bills ..	—	—	—	—
Scandinavia ..	Cable transfers ..	16.20	16.40	16.15	16.30

* Nominal.

TREASURY BILLS.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months ..	5	5
Six months ..	5	5
Nine months ..	5	5
Twelve months ..	5	5

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	This week	Last week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted ..	5-5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5
Three months ..	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ -5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ -5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Four months ..	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ -5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ -5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Six months ..	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ -5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ -5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Three months fine island bills ..	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Four months ..	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ -5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ -5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Six months ..	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ -6	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ -6

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Last week	This week
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate ..	5	5
" " short loan rates ..	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call) ..	4	4
" 7 and 14 days' notice ..	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Current rates for 7 day loans ..	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
" for call loans ..	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ -4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ -4 $\frac{1}{2}$

The Week's Stock Markets.

So quietly has the news come that all the remaining barriers to business in the shape of minimum prices are now to be removed that one might almost say the step has passed unnoticed, only that prices have been, or are on the eve of being, put down to figures that may bring business. There has, however, been no indication so far of any tendency to throw stock on the market, and none was to be expected. All holders of securities have made up their minds to stick to what they possess unless driven by necessity to face the loss of capital certain to be inflicted by realisation. Finance, as it were, holds its breath waiting for some glimmer of light on the war position, and that is the only course open to it. Nobody should sell who can avoid selling. As for the continual stream of deceased estates which have to be liquidated, those who have charge of such will be helped by having the market cleared of all obstacles. It was not possible to make true and realisable valuations of many securities as long as the minimum price barred the way.

Business has been quieter this week than last; at the same time, the undertone, as it is called, may be described as good still. A feeling of hopefulness pervades the minds of business men everywhere now that our long preparation for encountering the hosts of the barbarian is effectively beginning to bear fruit. Should any apparently sensational, but really matter of fact, change occur soon on the Western siege front favourable to France and ourselves a sharp rise in prices may be looked for, especially in the Government stocks most affected and probably in industrial securities of special kinds. In these latter, however, the future seems to have been already rather fully discounted, and we should not like any one to go and buy on current quotations merely because the guess is that prices will be harder by and by. There is always the risk of disappointment, and no one can in the least forecast with an approach to certainty the course of markets after the agony of the war begins to subside, for then only will the problems attending peace, as also the consequences of the war waste of wealth, begin to come into view. At present all people can do is to sit tight, hold fast, and hope.

An incident of pleasant augury for the finances of Australia has to be recorded this week in the success of the £4,000,000 debenture loan issued by New South Wales. To be sure the interest offered was 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and the debentures are of short currency—four to six years. So tremendous, however, is the demand for credit, for money in all shapes, by the home Government that many people felt doubts as to whether even this small loan could be fully subscribed in the City, and few would have been surprised if its underwriters had been obliged to take up some portion of their subscription. They have not been called upon to find a penny. All the loan has been taken up by the public, and that is well. We hope, however, that this success will not encourage all the Colonies to come after more of our money than they can possibly avoid asking for.

Although the volume of business has been rather smaller Stock Markets have been very cheerful, and Trustee stocks especially remain very firm. The official announcement that the last of the minimum prices would be removed on Monday next had been expected for some time, but none the less gave satisfaction, and nothing has happened to indicate that there is any fear that selling pressure will follow. War news has also been satisfac-

up at 87. Russian things were steady, but Japanese gave way a little, while Chinese were dull. Brazilian issues hardened in one or two cases, and there was some demand for Argentinian loans, but Chilean were easier.

The Home Railway market was firm for the heavy stocks in the early part of the week, but the others were inclined to give way. A sharp rally, however, set in towards the end of the week, and on balance the majority of the changes are favourable. Great Western has risen to 99½ and North-Western to 108, while Midland deferred and preferred and North-Eastern are ½ to 1 up. Amongst passenger stocks the most notable movements were the improvements in South-Eastern deferred to 28 and in Great Eastern to 39½. Canadian Pacific shares fell at one time to 183½, but recovered to 184½, and Grand Trunk stocks, although hardly mentioned, were firm with gains of ½ each in the first and second preference. American Railroad shares have been somewhat irregular owing to the Mexican situation, but the movements from day to day have been small. Argentine Railway stocks were generally inclined to be easier, although they finish above the lowest, and amongst other Foreign Railways Leopoldina fell to 38½, Mexican first preference was marked down to 57½, and Havana Terminal bonds to 97.

Amongst Bank shares there has again been a fair inquiry for the London group. Parrs improved to 31, and a number of the others show gains ranging from ½ to 1, while the only adverse movement was a relapse of ½ in National Provincial £12 paid. Bank of Australasia continued to meet with support, and rose to 118½, Chartered of India and National of India are both ½ better at 59½, and Anglo-Egyptian, National of South Africa, and British Bank of South America are all fractionally higher. Amongst Shipping shares, P. and O. were offered and fell to 32½, but have since rallied to 328. Royal Mail was also offered down to 117, but finishes with a small gain on balance at 119½. Cunard and Furness Withy both fluctuated within narrow limits, but finish higher, while Prince Line have risen to 66s. Cities Services again made a sensational-looking advance to 368, without any great amount of business taking place, but close 3 points below that figure, and Brazilian Traction shares have been offered, closing at 61¼, after touching 61. Cable shares were generally firm, and Marconi ordinary and preference have risen as the result of a fair amount of business. Hudson's Bay shares are a shade harder at 7½, but Forestal Land weakened to 50s. 6d. xd. A big demand sprang up for British Oil and Cake Mills, sending the price up to 29s. 6d., but Castner-Kellner and Salt Union ordinary and preference are all rather weaker. Armament and Engineering shares continue fairly active, and are generally firm, but Mond Nickel were sold, and fell to 3½ on the dividend announcement. An active business has taken place in Courtaulds, and the price, after dropping to 6½ on profit-taking, recovered to 7½. Textiles generally are firm, although not quite at the best. British American Tobacco were bought with some freedom, and rose to 90s., but have since reacted to 88s. Meat shares are firm, with small gains in British and Argentine and Smithfield and Argentine. Except for a fair amount of business in "Shell," the Oil share market has been very quiet. "Shell" was a shade harder at 57-32 xd., and Royal Dutch have improved to 47½, while the new shares have been dealt in at 45: North Caucasian have hardly moved, but Ural Caspian and Spies are a shade easier. Mexican Eagle issues were affected by the political situation, but the earlier losses were recovered on the latest news, and the common and preference are a trifle up on balance. The Rubber share market has been quiet for the most part, but the latest annual reports brought some inquiry for the companies interested, and there has also been a moderate demand for Vallambrosa, Federated Selangor, Bukit Mertajam, and Bukit Sembawang. Straits Bertam flinched a little after the report came out, but the loss was soon recovered. Java descriptions were quiet as a rule, but Java Para were helped by the report, and Anglo-Java also came in for a little attention, while, amongst Ceylon issues, Dalkeith have been prominent, with a rise to 33s. 9d.

Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields.—Production for June 17, 516 tons.

Ural Caspian Oil.—Total production week June 22, 141,142 poods (or 2,276 tons).

Shawinigan Water and Power.—Earnings for May were maintained at the same level as the previous month, viz., \$160,000, or at the rate of \$1,920,000 per annum.

ROYAL SARDINIAN RAILWAY COMPANY.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that COUPON NO. 86 of the Company's Preference and Ordinary Shares falling due on the 1st proximo will be PAID at these Offices on and after 3rd July, at the rate of 6s. per share, being 4s. 6d. for the current half-year, and 1s. 6d. as balance dividend for the Year 1915, less English Income-tax.

Holders of Certificates of Paid Off Shares are entitled to 1s. 6d. per share as dividend for 1915, upon deposit of their Certificates.

JAMES FRASER AND SONS,
Agents of the Company.

31, Copthall-avenue, London, E.C., June 21st, 1916.

	Last Week	This Week		Last Week	This Week
Consols.....	59½	60½	N.S.W. 4½ 1922-7	95½	95½
War Loan 3½%	89½	89½	" 5% 1921-3	99½	100
India 3½%	90½	90½	New Zealand 4%	89	89
" 3½%	80½	80½	Queensland 4%	84	85
Australian 5½% 1920-22 ..	—	—	" 4½% new	96	96½
Canada 4% 1940-60	87½	86½	Union of S. Africa 4½% ..	94½	94½
" 4½% 1920-5	95½	95½	Victoria 4½% 1920-5	94½	96
N.S.W. 4%	86	86½	Westn. Aus. 4%	8½	83
" 4½% 5-yr. b.	97½	98			
Belgian 3%	63	62½	French War Loan, 5% ..	86½	87
Brazil, 1913	—	—	Japan 4½% (1st)	93½	93½
" New Funding	81	81	" (2nd)	93½	93½
Chinese 1896	94½	94½	Russia 4%	72½	72½
" 1913	79½	79½	" 4½%	80	80
Egypt Unified 4%	79	79	" 5%	90½	90½
Brighton defd.	64½	64½	London and S.-W. dfd.	25½	25½
Caledonian defd.	10	10½	" Do. new pf.	100	100
Chatham ord.	8½	9½	Metropolitan	27	27½
Gt. Central pf.	17	17½	" Do. 5% New pf.	91	91
" dfd.	8½	8½	Met. District	19½	19½
Gt. Eastern	38	39½	Midland dfd.	63	63½
Gt. Northern dfd.	40½	40½	Nth. British dfd.	16½	16½
Gt. Western	97½	99½	Nth. Eastern	107½	108
Lancs. and Yorks.	75½	75½	Nth. Western	107	108
			Sth. Eastern dfd.	26½	28
Canadian Pacific	184½	184½	Chesapeake	64½	64
Do. 6% Notes	108½	108½	Erie	37½	37½
E. Indian Guar. 4½% debts.	91½	91½	Milwaukee	101½	100½
Grand Trunk ord.	112	112½	N. Y. Central	109½	108
" Do. 3rd pf.	27½	27½	Southern	23½	23½
" Do. 5½% 3-yr. Notes ..	100	100	Southern Pacific	101	101½
" Do. 5½% 5-yr. "	99½	100	Union Pacific	141½	142½
Atchafscan	109½	109	U. S. Steel	87½	88½
Baltimore	93	91½			
Antofagasta dfd.	127½	126½	Cent. Argentine ord.	77½	77½
" Do. 6% Notes	100½	100½	" Do. 5% Notes	98	98
Brazil Common	8	8	" Do. 6% "	101	101
B. A. & Pacific	47	46½	Leopoldina	39	38½
B. A. Gt. Southern	83½	83½	Mexican ord.	16	16
B. A. Western	85½	86	San Paulo (Brazilian) ..	194	194
			United of Havana	84	84
Bank of Australasia	117½	118½	London City & Midland ..	8½	8½
Barclay & Co. "A"	8½	8½	London County & West. ..	16½	16½
" Do. "B"	11½	11½	London Joint Stock	23½	23½
Capital & Counties	23½	23½	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (£100 pf.)	29	29
Chartered of India	59	59½	" Do. (£12 pd)	34½	33½
Hongkong & Shanghai	80½	80½	Parr's	30	31
Lloyds	24½	25½	Standard of S.A.	10½	10½
London & Provincial	17½	17½	Union & Smiths.	25	25
London & S.W.	11½	12			
Apollinaris ord.	17½	17½	Forestal Land	53½	50½x
Armstrong, Whitworth ..	37½	37½	Furness, Withy	47½	48½
Associated Cement	3½	3½	Hudson's Bay	7½	7½
Birmingham Small Arms	47½	46½	Imperial Tobacco pf. ord.	22½	22½
Borax dfd.	32½	32½	" Do. dfd. 'A'	33½	33½
Bovril	20½	20½	Kynochs	37	36½
Brazil Traction	62½	61½	Lever Bros. "C" pf.	21½	21½x
British Amer. Tobacco ..	86½	x	Lyons, J.	4½	4½x
Brown (John), & Co.	35½	35½x	Marconi	25½	25½
Brunner, Mond	4½x	4½x	Maypole Dairy dfd.	23½x	23½
Cammell-Laird	6	6	Mond Nickel ord.	3½	3½
Castner-Kellner	3½	3½	National Steam Car.	15½	15½
Coats	6	6	Pears, A. & F.	1½	1½x
Cunard	83½	85½	P. & O. dfd.	32	32
Dennis Bros.	31½	32	Royal Mail	119	119½
Dorman, Long	30½	30½	South Durham Steel	32½	32½
Eastmans	8½	8½	Underground Inc. Bds.	86½	87½
English Sewing Cotton ..	40½	40½	Vickers	37½	37½
Fine Cotton Spinners ..	28½	29½			
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	7½	7½	Mexican Eagle pf.	35½	1½
Baku (10s.)	34½	34½	North Caucasian	26½	26½
Burmah	48x	4½	Roumanian Cons.	14½	14½
Lobitos	37½	30½x	Royal Dutch (100 gulden)	47x	47½
Maikop Combine (10s.) ..	2½	2½	Shell	5½x	5½x
Maikop Pipeline	3½	3½	Spies (10/-)	15½	15½
Mexican Eagle	34½	1½	Ural Caspian	14½	33½x
Anglo-Java Rub. (2/-) ..	5½x	5½x	Malayalam Lt.	30½x	30½x
Anglo-Malay 2/-	11½x	11½x	Meritau 2/-	5½	5½
Ayer Kuning Lt.	34½	33½	Pataling 2/-	34½	33½x
Bukit Mertajam 2/-	4½x	4½x	Port Dickson 2/-	3½	3½
Bukit Sembawang 2/- ..	3½	3½x	Rubber Trust Lt.	23½	23½
Carey United Lt.	35½	35½	Sapumalkande Lt.	23½	23½
Glen Bervie Lt.	47½	47½	Selangor United 2/-	2½	2½x
Grand Central Lt.	25½	25½	Sialang Lt.	68½	68½
Gula Kalumpung Lt.	24½	29½	Singapore Para 2/-	4½	4½ x
Highlands Lt.	53½	53½	Sungei Buaya Lt.	3½	3½
Java Para Lt.	29½	30½	Taping 2/-	3½	3½x
Johore Rubber Lands Lt.	27½x	27½	Tanjong Malim Lt.	25½	25½
Langen Java Lt.	46½x	46½x	United Serdeng 2/-	12½	12½x
Linggi 2/-	20½	20½	United Temang 2/-	3½	3½x
London Asiatic 2/-	7½	7½	Vallambrosa 2/-	16½	17½x
Malacca Lt.	48	48	De Beers dfd. (£2 10s.) ..	11½	11½x
Abbottiakoon (10/-)	74½	7½	East Rand	14½	15½
Brakpan	48	48x	Gt. Boulder (2/-)	13½	12½x
Broken Hill Prop. (8/-) ..	60½	60½	Meyer & Charlton	5½	5½
Cam & Motor	14½	14½	Modder "B"	6½	6½x
Central Mining (£12)	6½	6½	" Do. Deep	6½	6½x
Chartered	13½	13½x	New Modder (£4)	17	17½
City Deep	38½	38½	Rand Mines (5/-)	3½	3½x
Cons. Gold Fields	18½	18½	Rio Tinto (£5)	61	62
Cons. Langlaagte	18½	18½	Van Ryn Deep	3½	3½
Crown Mines (10/-)	24½	24½			

tory, and the success of the Commonwealth loan helped to brighten investment securities. Consols have risen to 60½, and the 4½ per cent. War Loan is up to 93½, and the 3½ per cent. to 89½. Business was not quite so brisk in Colonial Government securities, but the majority of the changes shown were favourable. The Commonwealth loan was dealt in at par to ¼ premium on the news that the underwriters would not be called upon. Amongst Foreign Government bonds the French War Loan fluctuated in a quiet fashion, and eventually finished 1

LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

SUGAR.—Small available supplies pass readily into consumption at unchanged rates. Favourable weather conditions have been experienced recently for the growing Cuban crop. Stocks in the three chief ports of the U.K. amount to 48,000 tons, against 92,000 same time last year.

COFFEE.—The market on spot continued steady for suitable home-trade qualities, and for which moderate support was forthcoming. Otherwise a quiet tone ensued. Terminal market generally dull, and rates weaker. September delivery sold, 46s. 4½d., 46s.; December, 47s. 6d., 47s.; March, 48s.

COCOA.—Prices in this market continue to steadily decline, marked reserve being apparent on the part of manufacturers, while available stocks remain abnormally heavy. In addition, consignments from Accra are obtainable at comparatively very low figures, and which fact also exercises a baneful influence. In auction, of 5,950 bags offered, about two-thirds found buyers at from 1s. 6d. to 4s. per cwt. reduction.

TEA.—General weakness was again apparent in this market, prices being mostly ½d.-¾d. per lb. down again, and the decline was only partly accounted for by inferiority of quality. During the week 16,700 packages Indian, 27,000 packages Ceylon, and 5,000 packages Java were offered.

SPICE.—Quiet trading was in force though rates moved steadily, as sellers were not inclined to press for business. Black Singapore pepper, afloat, sold, 7½d.; white ditto, August-October, 9½d.; and Muntok, 9½d. Fair Zanzibar cloves, spot, sold, 6½d. Tapioca quietly steady.

RICE. remained without improvement, rates being more or less nominal. There was scarcely any inquiry with regard to Rangoon beans.

FIBRES.—Jute market again indolent, and there was not sufficient trade stirring to establish reliable quotations. The market for Manila hemp moved upward, owing to holders adopting reserve in face of the Mexican situation, and moderate transactions were effected. Fair, August-October, sold £53; medium, £52; and coarse, £49, £50 10s., and £50. New Zealand was scarcely mentioned.

SHELLAC. steady, though general business proved quiet. Fair T.N., spot, 95s., and A.C. garnet, free, 91s. T.N., August, sold 95s. 6d.

RUBBER. maintained a generally steady tone, but trade lacked activity. Plantation spot, crepe, sold 2s. 4½d., 2s. 4½d., and 2s. 4d.; October-December, 2s. 6d., 2s. 5½d., 2s. 6d., and 2s. 5d.; ribbed smoked sheet, spot, sold 2s. 4d., 2s. 4½d., and 2s. 3½d. Fine hard Para, spot and near, 2s. 7½d. to 2s. 8d.; soft, 2s. 5d.; ball, 1s. 9½d.

COPRA improved, particularly to Marseilles, and a better inquiry was reservedly met.

METALS.—Copper: With less pressure to sell and a better demand, the standard market exhibited an upward tendency until the middle of the week, which made further progress at Thursday's session, when cash delivery settled down at £104, and three months £100. Tin continued an irregular market, dealings being on a fair scale. Selling desire until Tuesday led to a downward movement, standard, cash, receding to £171 10s., and three months £172. Prices rallied until Thursday's session, cash being finally fixed at £173 15s., and three months £174 5s. Spelter rather lower. G.O.B., June, £65; September, £55. Lead steady. Soft foreign, June to September, £29 5s. to £28 5s. Quicksilver, £16 12s. 6d. to £16 15s.

CORN (Mark Lane).—A few sections of the market presented an upward tendency since last Monday under less pressure to sell, but buyers manifested the same reluctance to embark in much fresh business, the general tone being somewhat irregular. Wheat: English whites and reds, delivered up, range to 50s. per qr. (504 lbs.). Imported grade, No. 1 Northern Manitoba, 50s. 3d., ex ship. Flour: American first spring patents, 42s. upwards, landed. Oats: La Plata, 29s. upwards, landed. Grinding barley: American, 40s.; and La Plata, 42s. 6d., both ex quay. Maize: La Plata (sound), 45s., landed.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—The situation in the market during the past week has not shown any distinct change, and a quiet feeling has prevailed in all quarters. There are no signs at the moment of buyers being more prepared to place large lines, and there seems to be a disposition to adopt a waiting policy pending further developments in the position of affairs. As is usual at this time of the year the advices relating to the American crop are very mixed, but on the whole it is believed that the growth is doing well. The official acreage estimate of the Government is due at the end of this week, and the figures may clear the air somewhat. The inquiry in piece goods for export has not been at all important. Scarcely any sellers have been able to secure orders of weight. Rather more inquiry is mentioned in shirtings for Calcutta, and dhooties have also been in request, but much difficulty is experienced in arranging terms of fresh contracts. The recent improvement in the advices from China has not resulted in more business being done, and most of the bids are quite unworkable. Cloths suitable for finishing, printing, and dyeing have moved off more freely than grey staples. Fancies have been in fair request for some of the South American outlets. Buying for Egypt is rather fitful. The depression amongst Blackburn manufacturers is still very acute. The home trade is not particularly active at the present time in the way of fresh orders being placed with manufacturers, but particulars against old contracts are coming in fairly freely. American yarns for home use have moved off slowly from day to day, and spinners, if anything, rather tend to lose ground. This sort of thing is chiefly being felt amongst producers of coarse counts. All along the line, however, stocks in first hands are practically unknown. No improvement can be recorded in the

export yarn section, the demand for both India and the Continent being flat. Bolton spinnings have not attracted much attention, but most producers are independent, and full rates have had to be paid for anything wanted.

CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING JUNE 30, 1916.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
Sugar —per cwt., duty 14½, 98% polarisation	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Wool —per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tate's Cubes No. 1	2 7 1½	2 7 1½	Australian	10½-3 6½	10½-3 6½
Ditto, H.T.S.	2 6 7½	2 6 7½	Scoured Merino	9½-3 1	9½-3 1
Fine granulated	nom.	nom.	Scoured Cr'ssbr'd	11-2 4	11-2 4
Lyle's granulated	47 7½-42 1½	47 7½-42 1½	Greasy Merino	11-2 4	11-2 4
Foreign granulated, first marks	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	11-2 4	11-2 4
C.O.B., spot	nom.	nom.	New Zealand (scoured) Merino	10-3 2½	10-3 2½
German Cubes C.O.B.	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	11-2 4	11-2 4
French Cube	nom.	nom.	Cape snow white	6-3 1½	6-3 1½
Crystallised, West India	nom.	nom.	Indiarubber p. lb.		
Best, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Plantation, Spot	0 2 4½	0 2 3½
Tea —per lb., duty 7½ lb.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Crepe		
Indian Pekoe	0 10½-1 1	0 10-1 0½	Coal —per ton.		
Broken ..	0 10½-1 1½	0 10-1 1½	Durham, best	nom.	nom.
Orange ..	0 11½-1 1½	0 10½-1 1	Seconds ..	nom.	nom.
Broken ..	0 11½-1 2½	0 10½-1 2½	East Hartlepool ..	nom.	nom.
Pekoe Souchong	0 10½-1 1½	0 9½-0 11½	Seconds ..	nom.	nom.
Ceylon Pekoe	0 10½-1 0½	0 9½-0 11½	Steamers, best	50½	50½
Broken ..	0 10½-1 0½	0 9½-0 11½	Seconds ..	45½	45½
Orange ..	0 11½-1 2	0 10½-1 1½	Lead —per ton.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Broken ..	0 11½-1 2	0 10½-1 1½	English Pig ..	30 15 0	30 5 0
Pekoe Souchong	0 10½-1 1½	0 9½-0 11½	Foreign soft ..	29 10 0	28 15 0
Cocoa —per cwt., duty 6d. per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Quicksilver —per bottle first hand	£ 16½-£ 16½	£ 16½-£ 16½
Trinidad—per cwt.	86 0-90 0	86 0-87 0	Tin —per ton	£	£
Grenada ..	78 0-85 6	76 0-82 0	English Ingots	179 180	178-179
West Africa ..	74 0-78 6	nom.	Do. bars	180-181	179-180
Ceylon Plantation	78 0-95 0	76 0-92 0	Standard cash ..	£ 176 0 0	£ 174 0 0
Guayaquil Arriba ..	102 0-107 0	98 0-105 0	Tin Plates, per box	35½-35½	35½-35½
Coffee —per cwt., duty 42½ per cwt.			Copper —per ton.		
East India ..	67 0-95 0	67 0-95 0	English, Tough	nom.	nom.
Jamaica ..	62 0-120 6	62 0-120 6	per ton ..	£ 132-£ 126	£ 132-£ 128
Costa Rica ..	62 0-85 0	62 0-85 0	Best Selected ..	£ 160	£ 156
Provisions —			Sheets ..	£ 98 0 0	£ 103 10 0
Butter, per cwt.			Standard ..		
Australian finest	156½-160½	158½-162½	Jute —per ton.		
Irish Creameries	158½-164½	160½-166½	Native firsts for shipmt. August	£ 32 0 0	£ 30 0 0
Dutch ditto ..	nom.	162½-164½	Oils ..	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Russian finest ..	134½-140½	134½-140½	Linseed, per ton ..	£ 33-£ 34	£ 33½-£ 34½
Normandy baskets	nom.	nom.	Rape, ref. English, barrels ..	£ 48-£ 50	£ 48-£ 50
Danish finest ..	174½-178½	172½-176½	Brown English, naked ..	nom.	nom.
Brittany rolls ..	14½-17½	14½-17½	Cott'n Seed, crude	£ 42 0 0	£ 42 0 0
Bacon —per cwt.			Ditto, refined ..	£ 47-£ 54	£ 44½-£ 56½
Irish ..	104 0-110 0	104 0-110 0	Petroleum Oil, per 8 lbs.	1/1	1/1
Continental ..	96 0-110 0	96 0-110 0	Water White ..	1/1	1/1
Canadian ..	94 0-100 0	94 0-100 0	Oil Seeds, Linseed		
American ..	81 0-88 0	81 0-88 0	Calcutta—per 40 lbs., June-July	3 7 0	3 7 6
Hams —per cwt.			Rape, Toria ..	6½	6½
Irish ..	140-148½	138½-148½	Iron —per ton	nom.	nom.
Canadian ..	99 0-100 0	99-100½	Cleveland Cash ..	nom.	nom.
American ..	67 6-94 0	64 0-93 6	Tobacco —per duty 5/6 to 6/2½ per lb.		
Cheese —per cwt.			Maryland & Ohio, per lb. bond	0 6-0 10	0 6-0 10
Edam ..	nom.	nom.	Virginia leaf ..	0 5½-1 6	0 5½-1 6
Canadian ..	98 0-102 0	94 0-98 0	Kentucky leaf ..	0 6-0 10	0 6-0 10
Gouda ..	nom.	nom.	Latakia ..	0 4½-1 0	0 4½-1 0
English Cheddar	106 0-110 0	106 0-112 0	Havana ..	1 0-6 0	1 0-6 0
Wilts loaf ..	nom.	nom.	Manilla ..	0 6-2 0	0 6-2 0
New Zealand ..	99 0 106 0	96 0-102 0	Cigars, duty 10/6 per lb.	2 0	2 0
Rice —per cwt.			Timber —Wood.		
Garden Siam	17 3-17 6	17 6	Dantsig and Memel fir, per load ..	130½-150½	130½-150½
Rangoon 2 stars ..	16 0-16 3	16 0-16 3	Indian Teak	280½-600½	280½-600½
Eggs —per 120.			Flour —per sack.		
English ..	18 0-19 0	18 0-18 6	Town households, official ..	4½	4½
Irish ..	16 6-17 0	16 6-17 0	American, 1st patents	43/6 upds	42/
Danish ..	17 6-19 6	17 6-19 0	Turpentine —		
Copra —			American Spot ..	1 19 3	1 18 7½
Malabar, London	33 10 0	33 10 0	Spelter—		
Ceylon, London	34 0 0	34 15 0	G.O.B. as to position ..	£ 66-£ 56	£ 61-£ 53
South Sea ..	31 0 0	31 5 0			
F.M.S. ..	31 0 0	31 10 0			

Monte Video Water Works.—Gross revenue for April, £16,837; increase, £2,045. Aggregate for January 1, £71,329; increase, £8,874.

VIROL, LTD.—In its year closed March 31 last the company earned gross £16,761 more at £80,180, and £4,750 more at £27,764, including the balance brought forward, is available after paying all current charges, which were £12,129 higher at £69,383, and paying directors' fees and debenture interest. Out of the balance of profits, a dividend of 12½ per cent. is again paid, and £7,500, as compared with £5,000 a year ago, is added to the reserve, leaving £12,263 to be carried forward. Notwithstanding the restrictions and difficulties incident to export business, the overseas trade of the company "has shown very satisfactory expansion," which is good news in the circumstances. Shareholders are warned that the higher costs in manufacturing charges which fell upon the business last year will rule during the current 12 months. Plant, leasehold premises, &c., stand at £85,140 in a total capital of £166,675. The reserve fund, however, will now be £35,000.

Tea, Oil and Rubber.

A quieter tone has pervaded the Rubber market this week, and the commodity has not been able to get far away from the 2s. 4d. level for spot crêpe. It is significant, however, that forward sales are made at higher prices, and that there is quite a keen demand for deliveries up to the end of next year. Whether this can be regarded as a reflection of legitimate trade is doubtful; genuine consumers do not usually look quite so far ahead as that, especially in such an erratic market as rubber has proved itself to be, and we are afraid a good deal of this forward business is merely entered into with a view to influencing the market. Shares, on the whole, keep steady, and there has been a better demand during the past few days, owing to a further batch of satisfactory reports and dividends, so that there has been little movement on balance. There has been a recrudescence of the agitation against the excess profits duty as it applies to the younger rubber plantations, and a suggestion is put forward that a better plan would be to charge 1d. per lb. duty on the whole output. It is at least worthy of consideration by the authorities, as the incidence of the present tax certainly presses hardly on companies which are only beginning to produce on a large scale.

Everything was not plain sailing for the Royal Dutch Petroleum Co. in 1915, and the report just issued gives a long account of the difficulties and obstacles that had to be faced. Nevertheless, the total receipts were 30,419,000 fl., or only 972,000 fl. less than in 1914, which may be regarded as entirely satisfactory in the circumstances. Most of the revenue is derived from associated companies, and the principal, the Bataafsche Petroleum Co., maintained its dividend at 21,000,000 fl., while the returns from various other concerns were 930,000 fl. higher at 3,063,000 fl. On the other hand, the dividend received from the "Shell" Co. fell 70,000 fl. to 920,000 fl., and that from the Anglo-Saxon Petroleum was 905,000 fl. lower at 4,022,000 fl., while there was a drop in interest, &c., of 1,160,000 fl. at 725,000 fl., but miscellaneous receipts were 227,000 fl. higher at 689,000 fl. Dutch income-tax absorbed 538,600 fl., an increase of 147,500 fl., and 250,000 fl. against 120,000 fl. is written off for depreciation of investments, leaving the nett profit 534,000 fl. down at 29,440,000 fl. The dividend is maintained at 49 per cent., and after minor adjustments there remains 201,300 fl. to be carried forward, or 609,000 fl. less than last time. Investments stand at 154,431,000 fl., an increase of 32,912,000 fl., mainly owing to the purchase of interests in Oklahoma and Californian concerns, but it is worth noting that 47,729,000 fl., or about 31 per cent., has been written off the original cost from time to time. One of the chief difficulties with which the company had to contend was the shortage of ocean tonnage, and this greatly retarded developments in several directions, in spite of the fact that the associated companies possess considerable fleets of their own. But for this fact the business would have been brought practically to a standstill in several markets. As it was, the problem of regulating distribution was at times impossible of satisfactory solution, especially as the company's hold on the Far Eastern markets had to be most carefully nursed and guarded, while European consumers were clamouring for increased supplies. It may be mentioned that in Mexico oil had actually to be sold at about 1s. per ton owing to the impossibility of moving it to places where it would fetch a more remunerative price. Like the Burmah Co., the Royal Dutch follows the wise policy of avoiding putting up prices wherever possible, and in some cases this has necessitated taking steps to restrict consumption. The company controls a fine organisation, and there is no reason to doubt that it can work at least as remuneratively in peace times as during the inflated war period with all its attendant difficulties.

More fortunate than its associate, the Royal Dutch, the "Shell" Transport and Trading Co., Ltd., is able to show a somewhat larger revenue for 1915 than for the previous year. Including £436,795, or £110,000

more, brought forward, there is an increase of £163,000 at £2,164,696 to the credit of profit and loss, a decrease of £23,000 in interest on investments being more than offset by an increase of £94,000 in dividends from allied companies. After providing £17,400 more for depreciation of investments, the balance is £145,000 higher at £2,109,318, but £100,000, against nil, is placed to reserve fund (raising it to a round £4,000,000), and £60,000 profit on exchange, realised owing to special circumstances, is placed to an exchange adjustment account, so that when the dividend of 35 per cent. for the year is repeated, there is £16,500 less to be carried forward at £420,302. Costs of drilling and geological surveys have, as usual, been charged to working expenses. A sum of 2,000,000 guilders, against 740,000 guilders, has been added by the Bataafsche Co. to the insurance fund, which now stands at £1,000,000, an increase of £167,000. The various subsidiary companies have been charged with war risk insurance premiums, and the fund held by the Bataafsche is now doubled at £500,000. As usual, a summarised balance-sheet of this company is appended to the report, but that of the Anglo-Saxon Petroleum Co., Ltd., is omitted, as it has not been able to complete its accounts. It is stated, however, that this company has set aside £685,000 for depreciation, and since the inception of the companies in 1907 no less than £7,820,000 has been written off for depreciation, an increase of £1,046,000 as compared with last year. In the "Shell" balance-sheet a new item of £1,793,000 appears as a loan from the Anglo-Saxon Co. On the other hand, shares acquired during 1915 figure at £2,072,530, against £1,224,000 in 1914, investments are £593,000 higher at £1,645,500, mainly owing to the purchase of 4½ per cent. War Loan, and fixed deposits are up £200,000 at £600,000, while dividends not received are £237,000 lower at £920,212, and amounts owing by the Bataafsche and Anglo-Saxon companies on current account are reduced by £407,000 to £116,000. We must await the meeting for detailed information about the company's operations, but it is quite evident that they continue to be conducted with the enterprise and ability which has always characterised them.

The Straits Settlements (Bertam) Rubber Co. again did very well in the year ended March 31, and was able to realise its estimate, in spite of tapping having been suspended for 14 days in February owing to a shortage of water at the factory. The output was 148,479 lbs. larger than that of the previous year at 900,400 lbs., and the price rose by 5.12d. to 2s. 6.5d., but a reduction of .55d. in the f.o.b. cost was converted into a small increase in the all-in cost at 1s. 0.92d. by the heavier transport and insurance expenses. Nett profits, including £1,892 brought in, were £27,707 up at £69,599, and, in addition to doubling the dividend at 25 per cent., the directors set aside £18,104, or £3,104 more than a year ago. Of this, however, £7,500 is against excess profits duty, while £5,000 goes to create an extensions reserve, and £5,604, or £9,396 less, is added to the general reserve, while the balance carried forward is reduced by £396 to £1,496. Capital expenditure, including £2,165 on extensions, amounted to about £7,500, making the total cost to date £254,965, and it is estimated that a further £13,000 will be required in the current year owing to the necessity of making substantial additions to the factory and drying sheds. The crop for 1916-17 is expected to reach 1,125,000 lbs.

The output of the Bukit Mertajam Rubber Co. is growing steadily, and amounted in the year ended March 31 to 578,439 lbs., or an increase of 183,592 lbs. In the matter of price, too, the company did very well with a gain of 6.70d. at 2s. 8.23d., while the all-in cost, less .06d. for profit on sundry sales, compared with .30d. a year ago, was 1.49d. smaller at 1s. 1.08d. After providing £1,797 for depreciation and adding £1,439, or £656 less, brought forward, the nett profit was £28,679 larger at £46,760, out of which the dividend is raised from 9 per cent. to 25 per cent., £1,000 more at £4,500 is written off preliminary expenses,

clearing off that item, and £6,257, or £4,818 more, is carried forward. During the year the issued capital was increased by £5,826 to £164,673, through the exercise of options, and the company also received a further £7,667 as deposit on 77,251 shares called. Capital expenditure was moderate at £2,466, making the total cost of the estate £135,680, exclusive of £10,514 for buildings, machinery, &c., and in addition to a new entry of £4,991 for investments, cash balances are £16,197 up at £32,455. Another big jump to 780,000 lbs. is expected in the crop for this year, of which 105,286 lbs. were obtained in the first two months, and the f.o.b. cost is estimated at a shade over 7d.

Weather conditions appear to have been much more favourable for the Java Para Rubber Estates in 1915 than in the previous years, and the estimate of 10,000 piculs of coffee, which the directors put forward with some hesitation a year ago, was exceeded by 1,227 piculs. The average price realised was £3 7s. 1d. per picul, and the cost, including a proportion of administration expenses, &c., was £1 4s. 1½d. Rubber also yielded more than was expected, and was 98,886 lbs. above the previous year's crop at 139,075 lbs., while the price improved by 5½d. to 2s. 7½d. and the all-in cost was low at 1s. 1 1½d. Receipts from all sources were £34,128 up at £54,366, and the actual cost of production in Java only rose by £7,663, leaving the gross profit £26,465 better at £35,204. After charging the whole of the London expenses, compared with only 50 per cent. a year ago, and providing for debenture interest, the nett balance, including £677 for profit on exchange, amounted to £33,066, of which £4,756, or £1,564 more, is written off underwriting commission, preliminary and debenture issue expenses, &c., eliminating these items. Adding £16,695 brought in the total available is £24,681 up at £45,005, and the directors pay a dividend of 15 per cent., compared with nothing last time and 2½ per cent. for 1913. The balance left to carry forward is £5,768 up at £22,462, but is subject to managers' commission and excess profits duty. A further £5,590 of debenture stock was purchased at prices slightly under par and cancelled, the profit being applied in reducing the issue expenses. Since the close of the year the options held by underwriters have been exercised, and 27,500 shares have been allotted at par. Out of the proceeds £10,990 has been applied in the purchase at par of the company's debenture stock, £8,000 has been used to purchase that amount of first mortgage debenture stock in the South Preanger Co., and the balance has been temporarily invested in Treasury bills. The crops for the current year are estimated at 250,000 lbs. rubber and 12,000 piculs coffee, and by the end of May 96,110 lbs. of rubber and over 1,300 piculs of coffee had been obtained. Forward contracts have been made for the whole of the coffee at an average of £4 15s. 8d. per picul, or £1 15s. 7d. more than was secured last year, and the outlook therefore looks very promising.

In the year ended December 31 the Dolok Rubber Estates increased its output of rubber by 77,466 lbs. to 217,468 lbs., but the coffee crop was 160 cwts. smaller at 4,475 cwts., owing to the thinning out of the old Liberia trees and the removal of 25 per cent. of the Robusta trees, in order to give light and air to the rubber. Prices for rubber rose by 7d. to 2s. 9½d. for Hevea and 9½d. to 2s. 8½d. for Rambong, against which the "all in" cost was ½d. up at 1s. 1½d., owing to higher freight and insurance. Coffee prices were also better, and the nett profit, after charging 30 per cent. of the estate costs to capital and writing off £502 for loss on exchange, show an increase of £6,205 at £18,467, out of which a dividend of 5 per cent. is paid, against nothing, and £8,467 is carried forward. Out of last year's surplus £6,948 was written off preliminary expenses and £10,480 off underwriting and brokerage, clearing these two items from the balance-sheet, while £1,201 was applied in reduction of recruiting expenses, and bonuses to the manager and assistants absorbed £920. For the current year the coffee production is estimated at 450 piculs Liberia and

2,000 to 2,500 piculs Robusta, of which 596 piculs Liberia and 1,447 piculs Robusta had been harvested by the end of May. The rubber crop is expected to reach 350,000 lbs.

The Empire of India and Ceylon Tea Co. did exceedingly well on both its Assam and Dooars properties in 1915, but weather conditions in Ceylon were less favourable to large yields owing to high winds and wet days having prevailed to an unusual extent. The Assam crop was 579,883 lbs. larger at 4,413,965 lbs., and the Dooars crop 332,014 lbs. larger at 2,561,277 lbs., but the Ceylon output fell off by 121,625 lbs. to 546,226 lbs. Prices showed gains ranging from .76d. in Assam to 2.05d. in Ceylon, but in the case of the last-named the rise was accompanied by an increase of 1.24d. to 6.86d. in the cost, while in Dooars the cost was a shade higher at 4.42d., and in Assam there was a reduction of .44d. to 4.77d. Including £17,865, or £1,354 more brought forward, the divisible surplus was £23,426 higher at £124,641, but the directors seem nervous about the excess profits duty and only increase the dividend by another 2½ per cent. to 22½ per cent., which, however, is a comfortable-looking return. They also omit to transfer anything to reserve or to set aside anything towards cost of new machinery, compared with £15,000 and £5,000 respectively devoted to those purposes last year, but carry forward £41,451 more at £60,816.

FEDERATED (SELANGOR) RUBBER.—A satisfactory increase of 86,530 lbs. to 346,267 lbs. in the crop for the 12 months ended March 31 was accompanied by a further reduction of .87d. to 1s. 0.01d. in the "all-in" cost, while the average price was 6.29d. better at 2s. 7.89d. Nett profits consequently showed an improvement of no less than £15,405 at £29,149, and with £3,120 or £456 less brought in, the available surplus was £14,949 up at £32,269. The dividend is doubled at 100 per cent., and after transferring £1,500 more at £2,500 to reserve, making that fund £7,500, the balance carried forward is increased by £249 to £3,369. The crop for the current year is estimated at 345,000 lbs.

JAVA RUBBER AND PRODUCE.—After again writing off £1,000 for depreciation, the nett profits for 1915 amounted to £11,377, or an increase of £11,045, and with £332 brought forward, gave a disposable total of £11,708. Out of this a dividend of 15 per cent. is paid on all shares issued up to December 31, and £4,683, or £4,352 more, is carried forward. The rubber crop exceeded the estimate by 42,000 lbs., and the previous output by 90,216 lbs. at 207,272 lbs., and realised 2s. 6½d. gross, compared with 1s. 11½d. in 1914. The coffee crop was 1,014 cwts., or 468 cwts. over the estimate, and 455 cwts. more than in 1914, and was sold in Java at 46s. 3d. per cwt. For the current year the crops are estimated at 240,000 lbs. rubber and 1,600 cwts. coffee, of which 134,618 lbs. of rubber had been harvested by the end of May.

MENDARIS (SUMATRA) RUBBER AND PRODUCE.—Although this company has 5,117 acres under Hevea rubber, exclusive of that interplanted with tea, only a very small proportion has yet reached the producing stage. An increase of 2,614 lbs. in the output of Hevea for 1915 was largely offset by a reduction of 1,872 lbs. in Rambong, so that the total crop of 23,088 lbs. was only 742 lbs. up, and the all-in cost was 3.10d. heavier at 1s. 2.13d. The gross price, however, rose by 7.52d. to 2s. 8.06d., and as there was no loss on tapioca to be provided for this time, the nett result of the year's working was a profit of £1,871 compared with a deficiency of £272 a year ago. Deducting the debit of £733 brought forward, a balance of £1,138 is left, which the directors write off underwriting commission. The development of the property is proceeding steadily, and during the year £43,355 was spent under this head, making with £1,124 for proportion of London office charges, and £5,960 for interest on loan, a total of £271,977. The issued capital being only £200,500, the company has had to depend upon borrowing for the necessary funds, and the loan account was increased by £44,450 to £120,450. Underwriting commission and preliminary expenses appear in the balance-sheet for £12,335, and tapioca plant and machinery £6,846 is another asset which will have to be written off as soon as possible seeing that the cultivation has been abandoned. As regards tea, of which there are now 992 acres, partly interplanted with rubber, the directors state that owing to the failure of a certain percentage of the areas planted in 1914 and 1915 they have decided to restrict the upkeep to about 492 acres. About 200 acres of this, as well as 200 acres of the 1913 planting, will also require to be supplied this year, but the visiting agent considers that with due care the tea areas will turn out to be a satisfactory cultivation.

NIRMALA (JAVA) PLANTATIONS AND LANDS.—Nett profits for 1915 were £6,362 larger at £16,235, but £1,722 less at £1,123 was brought in, giving £17,358, or £4,640 more, to be dealt with. Of this, £2,500 is transferred to depreciation fund and £5,000 to reserve and development account, compared with £2,000 and £2,500 respectively a year ago, and the dividend

is increased from 3 per cent. to 4, leaving £2,018 to be carried forward. The tea crop was 34,636 lbs. larger at 1,025,006 lbs., and the selling price rose by 2.44d. to 11.37d. (London equivalent), while the f.o.b. cost Batavia was .31d. higher at 4.98d. For the current year a crop of 1,100,000 lbs. is expected, and has been sold forward at the equivalent of about 10½d. in London. Tapping was begun on the rubber property towards the end of the year, and about 7,000 trees are at present being tapped, the estimated output for 1916 being 17,000 lbs.

CHANGKAT SALAK RUBBER AND TIN.—Very good progress was made in 1915, when the crop of rubber amounted to 550,000 lbs., or 210,000 lbs. more than in the previous year, and 76,000 lbs. in excess of the estimate. The all-in cost showed a substantial reduction of 2.74d., mainly in the f.o.b. charges, bringing it down to 13.39d., and at the same time there was a satisfactory increase of 5.77d. to 2s. 7.16d. in the gross price realised. Including £2,488 brought in, the nett profits were £26,392 up at £45,929, and the dividends are increased by 2½ per cent. to 40 per cent. on the preferred ordinary shares and 30 per cent. on the deferred ordinary. The allowance for depreciation is the same at £2,500, but an extra £3,000 at £7,000 is transferred to reserve, and £7,485, or £4,997 more, is carried forward. During the year a further £3,780 was received on deferred ordinary shares, together with £2,496 for premiums, making the paid-up capital £84,015, and the premium account £22,485. An output of 630,000 lbs. is expected this year, of which 278,500 lbs. were secured in the first five months, and forward sales have been made of 132 tons, being 46.93 per cent. of the estimated crop, at 2s. 5.11d. London terms.

TRAVANCORE RUBBER.—Owing to exceptionally bad weather the crop for 1915 was considerably under the estimate, and only exceeded the previous year's output by 13,300 lbs. at 231,674 lbs. The gross price, however, was 10d. up at 2s. 11d., and although the f.o.b. cost rose by 2¾d. to 1s. 3¼d., chiefly because of the increased expenditure on cultivation, the nett profits, after providing £704 for depreciation, were £6,683 better at £15,211. Out of this a dividend of 15 per cent., less tax, is paid, as against 5 per cent. last time, but instead of repeating the appropriation of £2,000 to reserve, or writing off anything, compared with £1,027 for amalgamation expenses, the balance carried forward is increased by £3,970 to £6,244 in order to provide for excess profits duty. A crop of 331,645 lbs. is expected this year.

SEMPAH RUBBER.—In the year ended March 31 a crop of 222,904 lbs. was harvested, or 22,900 lbs. over the estimate and 62,123 lbs. more than the previous year's output, while the price rose by 5.3d. to 2s. 7.6d. Owing to the uprooting of the trees on certain fields, the coconut crop was considerably below expectations, and 92,252 nuts less than in 1914-15 at 131,663 nuts, and the price was 3s. 8d. smaller at £3 6s. 4d. per 1,000 nuts. Profits nevertheless showed a substantial improvement of £9,347 at £18,070, of which £6,000 is reserved for contingencies and £1,000 or double last year's amount is written off for depreciation, leaving the surplus available, including £1,036 more at £2,656 brought in, £3,883 up at £13,726. Out of this the dividend is increased from 8 per cent. to 12½ per cent., £2,000 or £500 more is transferred to general reserve, and £2,595 is carried forward. The crops for the current year are estimated at 275,000 lbs. rubber, and 125,000 coconuts, and the output of rubber for the first two months was 37,764 lbs.

TEEKOY RUBBER.—Although this company's financial year ends on March 31, tapping operations were again only carried on until January 31, but the crop for that period was 75,097 lbs. larger at 165,056 lbs. The gross price realised was 2s. 9½d. against an "all-in" cost 1s. 5d., and the first profit and loss is now submitted showing a net profit of £9,946. Of this £3,302 is written off preliminary and debenture issue expenses, £1,000 is put to debenture redemption reserve, and a dividend of 10 per cent. is paid, leaving £645 to be carried forward. The crop for 1916-17 is estimated at 205,000 lbs.

JASIN (MALACCA) RUBBER.—Good progress was made in 1915, the crop being 54,728 lbs. larger at 132,970 lbs., and the "all-in" cost 2.70d. down at 1s. 6.19d., while the gross price rose by 5.02d. to 2s. 6.94d. Nett profits showed an increase of 5,425 at £7,064, and after providing for debenture interest the balance, including £1,035 brought in, was £6,382 up at £7,417. Out of this a maiden dividend of 10 per cent. is paid, leaving £2,887, or £1,852 more, to be carried forward.

HAYOEP (DUTCH BORNEO) RUBBER.—This is another company which was able to enter the dividend-paying list as the result of its operations in 1915. An increase of 84,332 lbs. to 346,681 lbs. in the crop was accompanied by a reduction of 2.32d. to 1s. 4.59d. in the "all-in" cost, and as the gross price was 7.92d. better at 2s. 10.03d., the profits rose by £17,329 to £25,193. After adding £4,478, or £1,632 more brought forward, and again writing £6,232 off preliminary expenses, extinguishing that item, the nett balance was £20,039 up at £23,439, out of which a dividend of 10 per cent. is paid and £3,939 is carried forward. The crop for the current year is estimated at 451,000 lbs., of which 205,337 lbs. had been harvested by the end of May, and a further substantial reduction in the cost may therefore be expected.

KENNY (SELANGOR) RUBBER.—This company has purchased as from January 1, 1916, an estate of 600 acres at a cost of £2,250, which is to be paid in shares. At the date of purchase 315 acres had been cleared ready for planting, and these have since been planted with Para rubber, while a further area of 155 acres is being felled for planting about October next, and the balance will, it is hoped, be planted early next year. When that is

done the company will have 1,656 acres under rubber, which the directors estimate will be brought into bearing at a capital cost of about £30 per acre. Rubber is now being produced on the original estate at the rate of 7,000 to 8,000 lbs. per month, and there is still available for development uncalled capital to the extent of 2s. 6d. per share on 28,000 shares. In addition the directors will exercise their option of taking up and paying in cash for the 4,000 shares reserved to them in place of directors' remuneration. This will provide £4,000, and in view of the company's position it is thought that the money thus available will go far to complete the development of both estates, so that it will not be necessary at present to provide any further capital.

SCOTTISH ASSAM TEA.—The output for the year ended December 31 showed a further increase of 181,120 lbs. at 910,960, and with an improvement of ¾d. to 10½d. in the price, the total revenue was £8,435 larger. Expenditure, however, rose by £7,659, so that the free balance, including £758 brought in, was only £952 better at £7,855, but the directors again increase the dividend by 1 per cent. to 7 per cent. They then transfer £1,000, or double last year's amount, to reserve, but instead of writing anything off new buildings, &c., compared with £500 a year ago, they carry forward £2,027 or £531 more. The crop for the current year is estimated at 904,000 lbs., or an average of about 620 lbs. per acre from the present tea-yielding area.

MOABUND TEA.—Better fortunes attended the operations in 1915 than in the previous year, the crop being 419,801 lbs. larger at 3,196,059 lbs., and the price 1.65d. up at 11.59d. The proceeds showed an increase of £36,216 at £149,712, while expenses only rose by £13,397, and after providing £4,161, or £1,865 more, for commissions, and setting aside £2,518 for excess profits duty in 1914, the nett balance, including £3,677 brought forward, is £18,758 better at £49,834. The dividend on the ordinary shares is raised from 20 per cent. to 30, and the allowance of £1,000 for depreciation is repeated, but only £2,000, as against £3,000, is transferred to reserve, and £10,178 more at £13,855 is carried forward, subject to excess profits duty.

MAJULI TEA.—This company, which is under the same control as the Moabund, also showed improvement in the year ended December 31. To an increase of 282,137 lbs. to 2,804,516 lbs. in the crop was added an advance of 1.30d. to 11.18d. in price, with the result that receipts were £26,408 better at £127,998. Expenses, including £2,834, or £1,150 more, for commissions to directors and staff, were £13,361 up, and £2,485 was written off for excess profits duty for 1914, leaving £30,555, or £8,575 more, available. With £2,985 brought in, the surplus, after making sundry adjustments, was £9,565 better at £33,645, and the dividend is increased from 15 per cent. to 22½ per cent. Nothing, however, is transferred to reserve, compared with £3,000 a year ago, and the allowance for depreciation is halved at £1,000, but a bonus of £1,000 has been paid to the late manager's widow, and £8,852, or £5,868 more, is carried forward.

BORELLI TEA.—A third member of the Williamson group, this company likewise did well in 1915, and was able to increase the dividend on its ordinary shares from 10 per cent. to 15. The output rose by 221,077 lbs. to 1,612,388 lbs., and the price by 1.08d. to 11.18d., giving a gross income of £73,240, or £15,457 more. Expenses were £8,504 up at £53,262, and after providing for commissions and writing off £932 for excess profits duty for 1914 the nett balance, including £2,034 brought in, was £6,605 up at £19,840. Of this, £2,979, or a few pounds less than last year, is transferred to reserve, making that fund £10,000, and the dividend is raised to 15 per cent. as noted, leaving £2,717 more at £4,751 to be carried forward.

Answers to Correspondents.

* A Key to these Answers will be posted early each week for a subscription of ONE GUINEA per annum, 11s. for six months, or 5s. 9d. for three months.

Deposits against future queries may be lodged with the Publisher.

R. T.—If you can sell without loss, we think you should do so, as the company is too heavily capitalised to have much chance of success.

Per.—Intrinsically, perhaps, the shares are high enough, but they have risen since you wrote, and are probably going higher, from all we can hear, but they are not things to be held long when you see a profit.

Cork.—A bonus is talked of, and you might hold a little longer. We gather your price is very high, and fear you will not see all your money back.

G. C. M.—There does not seem to be any reason for acting at once. Your view of the prospects is, we fear, correct, and until there are signs of some recovery we do not think you should increase your stake in the company.

B. A. S.—The company has done so extraordinarily well that we think you might hold on for a little longer.

B. E. F.—It is difficult to say, but we think about £420.
Javalin.—Unless you are prepared to take up the shares, there is not much chance of any great rise before the time expires.

Senex.—The report is encouraging, and we see no reason to sell at present.

S. H. W.—The property is a good one, but there is much wisdom in the saying, "No man has been ruined by taking a profit." Why not sell at least half? You could then look on with equanimity.

M. R.—They are not on the list yet, but they may be, as the bonds due in 1949 are now included. If you see yours added, you should sell; meanwhile you need do nothing.

Peruvian.—You should average to a modest extent in both stocks, we think. Prices are now low, and the present tiff will pass off.

M. J.—The prices given you are too high. (1) Might be worth buying 2s. cheaper. (2) These may go up, although the future is obscure. (3) Quite high enough, in our view. (4) The best of the four, perhaps, but offer 1s. less.

A. B. Z.—You should not sell all, especially amongst the second group. In the first, however, we think that Nos. 2 and 3 ought to be parted with, probably No. 1 also, because its life is rather short, and the price is not likely to rise. Nos. 4 and 5 should be kept for the present. In the second category the companies you are interested in are nearly all good and worth keeping, so the course you had best follow is to part with those that (1) give you a profit; (2) return most money. You should not sell Nos. 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10, but No. 11 does not promise very much, and might be sold. No. 12 keep, as the shares are at a discount, No. 13 because they may go higher, No. 14 unless you want the money, in which case sell. No. 15 might perhaps be sold, and also Nos. 16 and 17. The next two, Nos. 18 and 19, are not worth selling at present; the latter especially is only at the beginning of its life. No. 20 we have a poor opinion of, and cannot get a price for it. Probably it had best be left alone.

The Week in Mines.

Although business has been rather quiet in the Mining markets this week, a number of interesting movements have developed: For instance, Burma Corporation shares had a further sharp spurt on active buying effected in anticipation of what the report, to be issued next week, will show. Copper shares were depressed by the heavy fall in the price of the metal and the unfavourable Mexican situation, but the American descriptions made a good recovery on some excellent dividend statements. Interest in British East Africa Corporation revived on the news of General Smuts' successes and on talk of the company having made good profits on supplying the troops. The company, it may be pointed out, has multifarious activities, including cotton and rubber cultivation, a commercial and financial business, and an exploration department.

SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

The continued demand for Diamond shares was the chief incident in the South African market. Buying of stones, especially in America, is on a good scale, and the diamond industry is in a better condition than it has been for a long time past. A further payment of 40 per cent. on account of accrued dividends on De Beers preference shares is announced, representing the dividend for the year 1915. The preference shares and the deferreds are both $\frac{1}{8}$ higher at 15 $\frac{1}{8}$ and 11 $\frac{1}{8}$ respectively. Rand Mining shares were rather dull at first, the buying from the Cape having apparently dried up, but towards the end of the week markets developed more activity and a firmer tone. On balance, however, movements in prices were mostly downwards. Gedulds fell 2s. to 40s. 6d., Daggafonteins 1s. 6d. to 14s., African Farms 1s. to 9s., Crowns $\frac{1}{8}$ to 2 $\frac{1}{8}$, Brakpans $\frac{1}{8}$ to 4s., and Johannesburg Consolidated Investments 9d. to 17s. 9d. Among Rhodesian shares Chartered relapsed to 13s. 3d. on profit-taking, and Tanganyikas fell 5-32 to 2-17-32 owing to the fall in copper. Zambesias are 1s. down at 16s. 6d.

Of the West African Abossoes have been in demand at 10s. 6d., Taquahs at 18s. 9d., and Gold Coast Amalgamateds at 15s. 9d.

COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Copper shares recovered from an early depression caused by the Mexican trouble and the fall in the metal owing to the excellent dividends declared by some of the American producers, the quarterly Anaconda dividend being raised 50 cents to \$2 a share. Anacondas fell to 16 $\frac{1}{2}$, but then rallied to 17 $\frac{1}{2}$, while Utahs recovered $\frac{1}{4}$ to 16 $\frac{1}{2}$. Rio Tintos are unaltered on balance at 61, but Hampdens have been weak with a fall of 3s. to 38s. 9d. The feature among Tin shares was the strength of Pahangs, which advanced to 11s. 3d. on news of the picking up of the old lode assaying up to 10 per cent. tin. Tekkas rose $\frac{1}{8}$ to 3 $\frac{1}{8}$. Among Broken Hill shares Sulphides and Zinc Corporations improved to 27s. 3d. and 16s. respectively, the latter being supported on the failure of the agitation at the meeting. Amalgamated Zincs have been bought up to 32s. 3d. on the report.

Mexican shares have weakened, Santa Gertrudis falling 1s. 3d. to 12s. 3d., and Mexico of El Oro $\frac{1}{8}$ to 3 $\frac{1}{8}$. Alaska Treadwells have lost $\frac{1}{4}$ at 5 $\frac{1}{2}$. Russians are easier, but Lake View and Oroya have recovered $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$. Strong buying of Burma Corporations lifted the price 13-32 to 37-32. Ooregums rose 1s. to 23s. on the dividend announcement.

MINING NEWS.

RHODESIAN MINERAL OUTPUT.—The production of gold in Southern Rhodesia in May amounted to £323,783, an increase of £4,885 on May, 1915. The following table shows the production since January, 1912:—

MONTH.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916
January	£ 214,918	£ 220,776	£ 249,032	£ 293,133	£ 318,586
February	209,744	208,744	259,888	286,779	313,769
March	215,102	257,797	273,236	299,686	335,368
April	221,476	241,098	295,907	315,541	339,386
May	234,407	242,452	290,062	318,898	323,783
June	226,867	241,393	306,421	322,473	—
July	240,514	249,391	320,070	336,365	—
August	239,077	250,576	316,972	344,493	—
September	230,573	250,429	309,398	321,085	—
October	230,072	247,068	337,241	339,997	—
November	225,957	239,036	311,711	313,160	—
December	218,661	251,697	309,669	331,376	—
Totals	2,707,368	2,993,267	3,580,207	3,823,166	1,630,892

The number of producers was 211 as against 227; and the output of other metals was 17,345 ounces of silver, 37,808 tons of coal 317 tons of copper, 5,139 tons of chrome ore, 551 tons of asbestos, and 162 carats of diamonds.

WEST AFRICAN GOLD OUTPUT.—The production of gold in Maad amounted to £132,976, a decrease of £3,000 as compared with April and a decrease of £9,147 on May last year. The following table shows the monthly production since January, 1912:—

MONTH.	1916.	1915.	1914.	1913.	1912.
Jan. ..	£ 140,579	£ 143,049	£ 123,862	£ 144,262	£ 107,262
Feb. ..	137,739	144,034	123,169	137,938	102,270
Mar. ..	150,987	153,770	131,392	150,669	111,376
April ..	135,976	149,978	131,697	149,220	114,796
May ..	132,976	142,123	145,227	142,617	115,078
June ..	—	135,289	147,289	125,764	114,997
July ..	—	140,290	151,923	132,936	127,300
Aug. ..	—	139,304	150,386	126,090	136,407
Sept. ..	—	135,744	154,316	132,394	142,397
Oct. ..	—	141,771	159,410	137,153	142,414
Nov. ..	—	122,138	154,674	132,694	137,700
Dec. ..	—	158,323	147,699	127,472	144,342
Totals ..	698,257	1,706,473	1,727,044	1,634,700	1,497,179

ST. JOHN DEL REY.—Once again the results of this company have established a fresh record. The bullion produced in the year to February 29 realised £12,809 more than that of the previous year, due partly to a slight increase in the tonnage worked, but mainly to an improvement in the yield. The amount recovered per ton was 48s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., as compared with 47s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Profits amounted to £159,076, an increase of £14,984. A final dividend of 1s. 3d. a share, less tax, is proposed, making 10 per cent. for the year, the same as for 1914-15. After making provision for increased taxation in respect of income-tax and excess profits duty, amounting to £32,363 against £12,791, £10,000 is again placed to reserve, and £50,000 is again added to capital works account. During the past three years no less than £135,000 has been placed to this account out of profits. The carry-forward is reduced from £8,174 to £7,574. Apparently the company has sold its Argentine railway stocks, and put all its money into British Government securities, which total £142,000.

LAKE VIEW AND STAR.—The report for the year to February 29 states that, after a series of successful years, the results last year were less favourable, owing partly to war conditions and lower values in the stopes. The profits amounted to £16,602, as compared with £37,137. With £6,438 brought in and £10,000 taken from reserve, three dividends amounting to 15 per cent. have been paid, against 16 per cent., and £1,040 is carried forward. The general managers estimate the ore reserves at 353,527 tons, as compared with 426,301 tons, the value being 25s. 9d. per ton, a decrease of 1s. per ton.

AMALGAMATED ZINC.—The report for the half-year ended December 31 states that 161,043 tons of material produced 48,195 tons of zinc concentrates and 710 tons of lead concentrates. Following the usual practice, the zinc concentrates have been valued on an average spelter price of £21 a ton. On this basis the working profit was £183,032. Included in this figure is £142,306—the increase in profit in respect of 15,934 tons of zinc concentrates shipped during the half-year, as compared with the value placed upon them in the previous half-year. The net profit was £168,078, as against £22,000 in the first half of 1915. An amount of £8,071 has been written off for repairs and replacements, £11,474 has been placed to depreciation reserve, and £20,000 has been set aside as a general taxation reserve. Since the close of the half-year a dividend of 3s. per share has been paid. The company is making investigations regarding certain processes now in operation in America for the electrolytic treatment of zinc concentrates and the production of high-grade spelter. Arrangements have been made to erect works in Tasmania when all the details have been satisfactorily settled.

Alabama Power Co.—Operating results for May, \$75,136 nett; increase, \$27,283. Twelve months ended May 31, 1916, \$750,008 nett.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

A. and F. Pears.—The dividends on the 6 per cent. preference and 12 per cent. preferred ordinary shares for half-year ending June 30 will be posted.

A. and S. Henry and Co.—Interim on the ordinary at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum for half-year ended May 31, against 6 per cent.

Australian Pastoral.—Interim of 3 per cent. on the consolidated ordinary, same as a year ago.

Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.—2½ per cent. on the common, payable Sept. 1, same as a year ago.

Batu Caves Rubber.—First interim of 35 per cent. (less tax).

Bidor Rubber.—Final of 35 per cent. (actual, less tax) in respect of year ended March 31 last, making 50 per cent. for year, against 25 per cent.

C. and E. Morton.—At the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the ordinary for half-year ending June 30, 1916, same as a year ago.

Carron Grove Paper.—10s. per share, free tax, on the ordinary. No distribution was made at the corresponding date of last year.

Delhi, Umballa, Kalka Railway.—Interim for half-year ended March 31 of 4 per cent., plus a bonus of 1 per cent., or 5 per cent. in all, on the ordinary, free of Indian, but subject to English tax, payable July 24, same as a year ago.

Haenton Steam Shipping.—At the rate of 20 per cent. per annum (1s. per share), free tax, for quarter ending June 30, payable July 10.

Hayoeep (Dutch Borneo) Rubber.—10 per cent., less tax, in respect of 1915, payable June 29.

Henderson's Transvaal Estates.—5 per cent., less tax, for year ended March 31, calculated on the amounts for the time being paid up or credited as paid up on the shares other than amounts paid in advance of calls.

Highlands and Lowlands Para Rubber.—Interim on account of year ending Dec. 31, 1916, of 6 per cent., less tax, payable July 21, against 5 per cent.

Indemnity Mutual Marine Assurance.—Interim of 8s. per share, less tax, payable Aug. 1, against 7s. per share.

J. F. and H. Roberts.—Interim of 7½ per cent., same as last year.

John Knight.—Usual interim on the ordinary at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum for half-year ended May 31, payable 15th prox., same as a year ago.

Kinta Kellas Rubber.—Balance of 7½ per cent., making 12½ per cent. for year ended March 31 last, placing £9,000 to capital reserve, with £4,000 forward; for the preceding year 7 per cent. was paid.

Kuala Selangor Rubber.—First interim on account of 1916 of 7½d. per share, payable, less tax, July 29.

Manchester Corn Exchange.—Interim of 5s. per share, same as last year.

Meppadi Wynaad Tea.—Interim of 3 per cent. (actual) in respect of year ending Sept. 30, 1916, payable July 7, 1916, less tax at 4s., same as a year ago.

Mexican Eagle Oil.—First of 8 per cent. on the ordinary in respect of year ending June 30, against 4 per cent.

Mysore Gold Mining.—Interim of 3s. per share (less tax at 4s. 6d.) on account of year ending Dec. 31, 1916, payable July 20, against 3s. 6d.

North's Navigation Collieries.—Interim of 1s. per share on the ordinary on account of current year, being at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, payable July 10, same as a year ago.

Ooregum Gold Mining of India.—Interim of 9d. per share on the ordinary, less tax, at the rate of 4s. 6d. in the pound, same as a year ago.

Parke's Drug Stores.—Interim on ordinary for half-year ended March 31 at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, less tax.

Pennsylvania Railroad.—Quarterly of 75c. per share, payable Aug. 31, same as a year ago.

Port Dickson-Lukut (F.M.S.) Rubber.—10 per cent. (actual) for year ended March 31, placing £15,000 to reserve, with £4,096 forward.

Second Industrial Trust.—On the ordinary at the rate of 4 per cent. for year to June 15, less tax, same as a year ago; forward £5,396, against £4,371.

Telegraph Construction and Maintenance.—Interim of 5 per cent. (12s. per share), same as a year ago.

Toronto Railway.—2 per cent. for quarter to June 30, being at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, payable July 3, same as a year ago.

Tronoh South.—6d. per share, less tax at 4s. 6d., payable July 15, same as a year ago.

Trustees', Executors', and Securities Insurance.—On the ordinary at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, less tax, for half-year to May 31 last, making 5 per cent., less tax, for year, with £42,544 forward, same as a year ago, with £36,941 forward.

Vallambrosa Rubber.—Final of 1s. 6d. per share, less tax, making 100 per cent. for the year, £5,000 to reserve, and £7,000 forward.

Mississippi River Power.—Operating results for May, \$114,459 nett; increase, \$4,291 nett.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

THE CENTRAL MINING AND INVESTMENT CORPORATION, LTD.

SIR LIONEL PHILLIPS ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN MINING INDUSTRY.

REDUCTION OF CAPITAL AND RESUMPTION OF DIVIDENDS.

The eleventh ordinary general meeting of the Central Mining and Investment Corporation, Ltd., was held in the board room at No. 1, London Wall Buildings, E.C., on Thursday, June 29, 1916. Sir Lionel Phillips, Bt., presided.

The Secretary, Mr. L. Bluen, having read the notice convening the meeting, and also the auditors' report, the Chairman addressed the meeting as follows:—

Gentlemen,—I do not think it will be necessary for me to detain you at any great length in reviewing the operations of the company for the past year. The policy of strengthening our financial position has been consistently followed, as will be seen by a comparison between the accounts now under review and those of the previous year.

LIABILITIES AND LIQUID ASSETS.

Our liabilities are considerably more than covered by liquid assets without taking into account cash or securities in enemy countries or with enemy banks. Shareholders may wonder why the item under the last-named heading has risen by about £20,000 in the accounts now before you. This is accounted for by Bulgarian Treasury bills, which, of course, we held before the outbreak of war. Our holding in British Government securities has been very greatly increased during the year, while the amount under "head office loans" has very materially fallen. The £339,000 "at call and at short notice" is placed with London banks and bill-brokers. Advances to "brokers and others against securities" are sound. The sum "subject to emergency rules" has been reduced from £476,000 to £94,000, omitting minor figures, as shown in the accounts, and to-day only remains at about £65,000. Turning to the profit and loss account, the balance carried forward to appropriation account exceeded that of the previous year by £35,000. Holding in view the stagnant condition of general business, this will no doubt be regarded as satisfactory. I regret that it should have been necessary to use this sum for the purpose of meeting depreciation.

THE SCHEME FOR REDUCTION OF CAPITAL.

While upon this subject you will perhaps permit me now to refer to the special resolution submitted for your consideration to-day. I do not think I can usefully add much to the circular sent to you with the annual report. The recommendation to reduce the capital has only been made after the most earnest consideration, and I am sure the adoption of the proposal will prove beneficial to shareholders. The assets of the company have been valued with scrupulous care and with a prudent recognition of the times. The writing down of our share capital naturally has no real bearing upon the value of our possessions, because whatever our assets may realise, and whatever profits we may succeed in making are divisible amongst us all on equal terms since participating directors' rights have disappeared. There is no manner of doubt that by reducing the capital to-day there is a far better prospect of the intrinsic worth of our shares reaching in time their present nominal value than by waiting to liquidate the depreciation gradually by the absorption of profits. I feel justified in saying that if you pass the necessary resolution to-day we shall, after securing the sanction of the Court, be in a position to resume the payment of regular dividends as well as to make provision for the redemption of wasting assets.

THE WAR AND MINING OPERATIONS.

Owing to resignations from the board, which were brought about through the war, I found my hands very full until the beginning of the present year, when I was able to find time for a flying visit to South Africa, where we have such important interests. Mr. Marriott, the company's consulting engineer in London, accompanied me. My general impression of the goldmining industry is satisfactory, though I am bound to say that the war is having a greater effect upon it than is generally supposed. It would be ungenerous not to recognise the hearty support received from the Imperial and the Union Governments and from the High Commissioner for the Union of South Africa in London in the prosecution of our work. Thanks to their assistance, the requisite supplies and spare parts for maintaining machinery are being obtained, although their cost is considerably higher than in normal times. But the cost of supplies, &c., is not the only direction in which the industry is suffering. A great many of our best men have

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joined the active forces in South Africa and in England, and a good many of our most efficient mechanics are engaged over here in the manufacture of munitions with loss to the mining industry, which is not to be expressed in figures. The number of white men available for carrying on operations is inadequate for the most efficient working. In most departments, therefore, I think we must admit that the work is not quite as well done as it is in normal times. Reference to the cost sheets shows that working costs in 1913 were 19s. 2d. per ton, or 1s. per ton below 1912. In 1914 they were 17s. 10½d. per ton, or 1s. 3½d. per ton below 1913. In 1915 they were 18s. 3d. per ton, or 4½d. per ton above 1914. The average for the first five months of this year is 19s. 3d. per ton, which is a further increase of 1s. per ton above 1915. But I may repeat that these figures do not, in my opinion, complete the picture, because there are many directions, besides that of working costs, in which the profits may be affected, such as less competency in the extraction and development of clean ore. The cost of realising gold was greater, and the emergency taxation imposed by the Union Government put a burden of an extra £500,000 upon the mining industry. The increased taxation on our mines amounted to 6d. a ton.

MINERS' PHTHISIS—PREVENTIVE MEASURES.

The death-rate on the mines, though slightly higher than in 1914, shows, I am glad to say, a considerable decrease on former years, and there appears every prospect in time of very considerably reducing, if not entirely eradicating, the disease of miners' phthisis. The Select Committee of the Union House of Parliament has taken evidence and reported upon the subject of preventive measures and compensation payable to sufferers, and their recommendations have been adopted by the House. They will certainly involve additional outlay, but owing to the precautions now taken in mines and the additional steps which are now to be taken for combating the trouble, I believe in a very few years the amount of suffering and the great outlay involved may be reduced to quite small proportions.

THE GOLD OUTPUT.

It is not possible for me to speak in detail upon all the properties with which your corporation is associated, and I would refer those of you who are interested in particular mines to the reports and speeches of chairmen at the annual meetings. Some of the properties we are largely interested in have been giving unsatisfactory, others particularly favourable, results. As a matter of general interest, I may say that the gold output of the world in 1915 was £97,000,000, of which the Transvaal contributed £38,627,000, or about 40 per cent. The mines with which your corporation is associated produced gold to the value of £14,840,000, equal to 38½ per cent. of the whole Transvaal output. This is the same proportion as for last year. Our contribution towards the dividends of the Witwatersrand goldfields amounted to 50 per cent. of the whole.

THE CROWN MINES.

I will now touch upon a few points in connection with working and recent development of some of the mines in which you are interested:—The Crown Mines has been much in the public eye during the past few years. While the tonnage mined has consistently increased during the past five years, the gross revenue has kept more or less stationary, being the result of a yearly reduction in the average value of the ore reserves. This reduction has taken place as the higher grade deposits in the upper eastern part of the mine have been worked out. Development in the central and western sections of the mine has exposed ore of lower value. An increase of gross profit was expected to result from the greater tonnage crushed, but this has been largely absorbed by other costs which did not enter into the calculations when the original estimates were made, such as cost of additional mining regulations, sandfilling and other safety measures, rise in outlay on labour, stores and development. Owing to the abnormally large supply of hand labour available, an experiment upon an extensive scale was recently undertaken to determine whether by mining narrower widths, and possibly leaving behind very low-grade bands of reef, a better return could be secured. The results of the experiment under the conditions upon which it had to be conducted were entirely unsatisfactory in that working costs rose to a far greater extent than the value of the ore sent to the mill. The old system of stoping with machines has therefore been resorted to, but it must necessarily take a few months to revert to this system, more particularly as so many white miners have joined the colours. During the experiment it may also be observed it was impossible to keep the mills fully supplied, which was a contributory cause of increased cost and decreased profit. The experiment has, however, been of

great value in demonstrating the most profitable system of working this property, taking into consideration lay-out, appliances, and the class of labour available. Raw natives, for instance, of whom a great many had to be used in a large experiment, are scarcely a criterion of what results could be anticipated with trained labour. As it is obvious, however, that the mines of the Witwatersrand are usually dependent upon a considerable percentage of raw boys, it follows that only a moderate amount of stoping by hand labour can be profitably undertaken in most cases.

THE QUESTION OF VALUES AT DEPTH.

The speculative value of the property lies to the south of the South Rand dyke, but I have no definite evidence to-day upon which I should be justified in making a valuation of this section of the country. I do feel able to say, however, that where rich levels give place in depth to a number of poor levels our experience of the Witwatersrand leads us to expect a recurrence of higher values sooner or later. This I have no doubt may prove to be the case at some point south of the South Rand dyke. It may interest shareholders to know, if they have not read his admirable papers, that Dr. Mellor, the Government geologist, does not support the theory of gradual impoverishment of the beds of the Witwatersrand, although he appears to think that at greater depths the gold may be more concentrated in special channels. I should also perhaps point out, as the chairman of the company did in his exhaustive address, that the unworked ground on the western side of the property, which forms by far the larger reserve of ore north of the dyke, tends to show rather a higher value in development than was anticipated.

CITY DEEP, BANTJES, AND VILLAGE DEEP MINES.

On the City Deep the ore reserves have been valued at over 40s. per ton for the last three years. The profit has increased by 5s. a ton in the last two years. The deepest drives, &c., throughout the present mine have exposed ore of excellent value. The crushings on this mine have been at the rate of 56,000 tons per month. An addition to the plant now being made will gradually increase its capacity to 80,000 tons per month. The profits will improve as the extra tonnage is treated. This mine, with its proven widespread deposit of rich ore in a locality once estimated to be of very little value, is a striking instance of high values at considerable depth. I will now mention a less important mine in which we have a substantial interest, the Bantjes Consolidated. This mine has been worked chiefly on the South Reef, on which the results of development have been for some time past on the down grade. Latterly the drives on the Main Reef Leader have shown improvement, and development work has therefore been pushed on this reef. These new developments represent between 300,000 and 400,000 tons of ore not yet blocked out, of a value of about 6 dwts. per ton. Somewhat over half of the total development done on this reef is giving payable results. The Village Deep, in common with the mines above it, has in the course of mining operations passed through zones of varying grades. Some of the deepest workings at 4,000 feet vertical depth have now opened up ore equal to the best grade that has been worked in the upper levels. This promises well for future developments.

EAST RAND PROPRIETARY AND, MODDERFONTEIN PROPERTIES.

East Rand Proprietary Mines.—The annual report of this company gives explicit information which I cannot usefully add to. I may observe, however, that the water dyke has proved a great obstacle to development. A courageous programme to open up areas at lower levels is being undertaken, as the result of which I hope that ore of a better grade than that exposed for some time past may be found. In Modderfontein B the reserves have increased in value as development has progressed, and the profit per ton has consistently increased each year since the commencement of crushing in 1911. The prospect of maintaining its high rate of profit is very good. The New Modderfontein still holds its position for great stability as a mining venture. While the reserves have been largely increased in amount, they have held their grade, and the profit per ton has been nearly doubled during the last five years. The crushings last year averaged 51,000 tons per month. An addition to the reduction plant is in course of construction which, when completed, will bring the capacity for treatment up to a total of 90,000 tons per month. Some of the ore dealt with by the increased plant will be of a lower grade than that at present being mined, but the results of the surrounding properties indicate a maintenance of the general average of values throughout the life of the mine. I do not think it necessary to refer to other mines, as in those cases either the smallness of our interest or the normal outlook renders it unnecessary to detain you.

ROBINSON DEEP AND BOOYSENS—THE AMALGAMATION.

Robinson Deep—Booyens.—Your corporation is, as you know, largely interested in the Booyens Block, comprising some 342 claims south of the Robinson Deep. The project of amalgamation between the two concerns had been under consideration for some years. From a technical point of view there are few cases in which the advantages of amalgamation are so obvious. The Robinson Deep owns two shafts, large reduction works, and the appertaining general surface equipment, but for the prolongation of its life needs additional mining ground. Booyens owns such mining ground, in the most favourable relative position, but is without reduction plant, surface equipment, and shafts. The problem of the amalgamation, however, offered some difficulties, because the assets of the Robinson Deep could, on account of the far advanced stage of development, be estimated with a considerable degree of accuracy, while the value of the practically virgin Booyens ground is a quantity unknown; indeed, the estimates of the engineers concerned differed widely. The problem has, however, been solved, I think, in a very satisfactory manner. The Robinson Deep shareholders have been allotted preferential shares, called "A" shares, in a new Robinson Deep Company, by which the full return of all benefits which could possibly accrue to them has been safeguarded. Booyens, on the other side, have been granted "B" shares, which will enter into the dividend-paying stage some four years hence; the amount of the dividends payable to them will to a very great extent depend on the value of their own ground, which can now be worked under very favourable conditions, as the fresh capital required for exploration purposes will be reduced to a minimum. The Consolidated Goldfields, however, and our corporation have undertaken to advance jointly up to £300,000 for such exploration purposes if and when required, so that no restriction of development is to be anticipated for want of funds. The sinking of a large new vertical shaft on Booyens Block has in the meantime been started. An option over 100,000 "B" shares at par has, in consideration of the facilities offered, been granted by the new Robinson Deep Company. The principal advantage of the whole transaction consists in the conversion of assets, which have for a long time been dormant, into negotiable securities.

DAGGAFONTEIN.

As stated in the report, we have taken a hand in the exploration of the mining rights on the farm Daggafontein, situated on the Far Eastern Rand, and adjoining the farm Rietfontein, on which the mining rights of Springs Mines, Ltd., are situated. The initial amount of working capital provided for amounts to £300,000, and may go far towards testing and opening up the ground, especially as there is one large deep-level shaft down to the reef already, apart from a fair amount of surface equipment. The shaft has, in the meantime, been unwatered and development operations started. Re-sampling of the shaft confirmed the good values already reported. Given favourable results, the scheme underlying the formation of the new Daggafontein Company provides for sufficient funds to bring the mine to the producing stage.

Purchase of Claims on Vogelstruisbult.—You will have seen in the report a reference to our joint purchase with the Rand Mines of 862.38 claims, for which we paid a comparatively small sum of money.

FAR EASTERN RAND.

Having regard to the great risk involved in opening up ground on the Far Eastern Rand, I am bound to say that I regard the value of virgin soil as of very small moment compared with the large outlay required for testing it. According to the latest scientific information, we may expect to find in that region sections of highly payable ground, and sections almost if not entirely barren. A great deal of that country is overlain by dolomite formation, which, as everyone knows, harbours large reservoirs of water. The cost of sinking shafts there on that account may be much higher than on the Central Rand. Generally speaking, it may be said that from £800,000 to £1,000,000 has to be spent there upon a given property before any definite knowledge is secured to indicate final success or failure. Before we joined in the enterprise with regard to Daggafontein we had the advantage at least of the information supplied by one deep-level shaft which had encountered the reef at a payable point. It would be folly, however, to shut our eyes to the speculative nature of deep-level enterprise in that locality, good as the results have been in some instances, notably those of the Modderfontein, Brakpan, and Springs areas. But there are in the neighbourhood also mines upon which large capital outlay has been incurred and the reefs encountered without encouraging results. I men-

tion these dormant areas now because I think it is to be regretted that the Union Parliament closed its session without amending the present law under which there does not seem much likelihood of placing them. As deep-level blocks take years to bring to the producing stage, the sooner the work of sinking shafts begins the better for the country.

STATE MINING.

Some local agitation by those who advocate State industrialism has arisen in favour of the Government undertaking the work itself. I see that the Minister of Mines announced that the Government is considering the appointment of a commission to investigate during the recess the feasibility of State mining. If the Union Parliament after inquiry sanctioned such a course of action, we should watch its operations as large taxpayers with attention, anxious interest, and whole-hearted good wishes for its success. I think that such ventures are best left to private enterprise, but the point is that about five years are required to find out whether a prize or a blank is drawn, and it is hence advisable to get a move on. I venture to point out, however, that the revenues of the State are far more benefited by the active working of mines—in Customs, railway revenues, &c., from mining machinery, supplies, and the wants of the population—than from any direct profit State ownership could bring. Moreover, private enterprise has to shoulder the burden of possible failure. The best method of dealing with such property is, I think, to get substantial people to take the risk and to do the work, naturally with an economy in their own interest not always agreeable to the advocates of State enterprise. In the event of success the State might reasonably allow them a preferential charge upon profits to cover interest on actual outlay, and then divide, in proportions to be agreed upon, any surplus profits. Unless these areas contribute there will be a serious decline in the gold output, with adverse consequences in the sphere of employment and in the annual exports and revenue of the country.

THE BEWAARPLAATSEN QUESTION.

The House of Assembly has adjourned without having dealt with the Bewaarplaatsen question in which this corporation is interested. The Union Government is pledged to a settlement of the question in terms of the Esselen Commission's report, but has shelved the question over several sessions for political considerations, a course of procedure that is hardly dignified or good for the credit of the country. Large sums of money are accumulating from the working of some of the areas concerned. The moral title by freeholders to half of the proceeds is not open to question, and the longer the matter is deferred the more embarrassing to the financial situation. In the face of the available evidence, and the findings of the special Commission appointed to inquire into all the circumstances, which presented its exhaustive report as far back as February, 1910, the procrastination is no less surprising than it is disquieting. The state of internal politics may provide a justification for deferring action in directions where racial considerations may be deemed to have a bearing, but in a case of ordinary equity such considerations should not and cannot honourably be allowed to intrude.

THE "VESTING ORDERS" AND ENEMY SHAREHOLDERS.

A cause of anxiety for the directorates of South African gold mining companies arose during the year in connection with the Vesting Orders made by the English High Court (pursuant to Section 4 of the Trading with the Enemy Amendment Act, 1914), which conferred on the English custodian power to transfer shares registered in the names of enemies. There may be some misunderstanding as to the basis upon which the custodian would give an order for the transfer of shares. Such an order is only given as the result of an application to the High Court by a creditor in this country against an enemy shareholder, and I give this explanation in order to dispel the idea that the provisions are in any sense a step in the direction of confiscation. The companies registered in South Africa are naturally subject to the jurisdiction of the Courts in that country, and, if they had obeyed such Vesting Orders without being protected by corresponding legislation in the Union, they would have been liable to have been successfully sued in South African Courts by enemy shareholders after the war. An action to test the validity of these Orders so far as they affected South African companies, and to help to define the scope of legislation required in South Africa, was, therefore, commenced, the Modderfontein B. Gold Mines, Ltd., being the defendants. In the meantime an Enemy Trading Bill was introduced in the Union Parliament, and the High Commissioner was good enough to cable out, for the consideration of his Government, certain amendments which I submitted to him.

These were accepted by the Union Government and incorporated in a revised Bill, which has now been passed. A copy of the Union Act has not yet been received, but I understand that the companies are perpetually indemnified in respect of moneys representing dividends due to enemies which were paid over to the Public Trustee prior to the commencement of the Act, and are also authorised to register and act upon the Vesting Orders made by the English Court. I gladly take this opportunity of acknowledging the readiness with which our representations were received and acted upon by the High Commissioner for the Union of South Africa and by the Government of that country.

SUDAN PLANTATIONS SYNDICATE, LTD.

The Corporation's interest in the Sudan Plantations Syndicate remains practically unchanged. The prospects of the Syndicate may be considered satisfactory, but the negotiations with the Sudan Government in connection with the development of the Gezira Plain remain in abeyance. Through the lamented death of Lord Kitchener, who was greatly interested in the development of the cotton-growing industry in the Sudan, and whose efforts towards improving the conditions of the native population were eminently successful, that province, unfortunately, has lost a sincere friend and a staunch supporter. Perhaps before I pass on I may say that I believe the negotiations with the Sudan Government will shortly be resumed on this very important matter concerning the development of the Gezira.

STANDARD ALCOHOL CO.

The investigation into the affairs of the Standard Alcohol Co., to which I referred last year, has not shown encouraging results. For this reason your corporation and the other London stockholders refused to provide further funds, and the company had to be put into the hands of receivers. Although at one time it was feared that the whole of the capital sunk in the enterprise would be lost, a scheme of reconstruction was eventually evolved which received the sanction of a majority of the shareholders, and bids fair to preserve existing interests, although in a considerably attenuated form.

TRINIDAD LEASEHOLDS—THE SUPPLY OF FUEL OIL.

The development operations of Trinidad Leaseholds, Ltd., in which your corporation is largely interested, continue to show gratifying results. Work is at present being concentrated on the Forest Reserve property, and in addition to the production obtained from the upper strata high-grade oil has been encountered in the lower tertiary series, where a gusher recently yielded some 20,000 barrels of oil in 30 hours, all of which was safely collected. The pipeline from this field to Point-à-Pierre, a distance of approximately 30 miles, was completed in the spring of this year, and is working satisfactorily. An island jetty has been constructed about a mile from the shore where vessels of deep draught can safely anchor and receive the supplies of oil through a submerged pipeline connected with the main pipeline. Closed storage tanks have also been erected both on the field and at Point-à-Pierre. A refining plant designed to take off the lighter constituents of the oil was ordered in this country some few months ago, and it is anticipated it will be in commission before the end of the year. When this plant is erected and running, the company will be in a position to supply fuel oil to the Admiralty specification. In the meantime contracts have been secured over a considerable period from two sugar refineries in the island, from the municipal council of the Port of Spain, and others, and deliveries are now being made under these contracts from oil accumulated in open reservoirs. A small bunkering business is also being done.

THE ADMIRALTY AND THE COMPANY.

The Government, recognising the excellent work already performed by the company, and the Admiralty having received favourable reports as to the quality of the oil, have purchased a cargo of crude oil, and have arranged to send a tanker to Point-à-Pierre next month to take delivery. I have the permission of the Trinidad Leaseholds to make this announcement to you. A sufficient number of wells has now been sunk to secure an output of 1,000 tons per week, but this quantity could, if necessary, be very largely increased in a few months at comparatively small expense. Owing to the war it has been necessary for the company to raise additional loans to enable it to carry on its operations to the self-supporting stage which is expected to be reached by the end of this year. Your Corporation, in view of the encouraging prospects, had no hesitation in providing the bulk of the money required. Having regard to the good work which has been done and is being carried on by Trinidad Leaseholds, and its national importance, there seems every reason to hope that the Imperial

and Trinidad Governments will do everything in their power to foster this promising industry.

THE WAR AND A "REGENERATION OF INDUSTRIAL METHODS."

I do not think it is necessary to delve further into the affairs of the Corporation, but I may perhaps profitably say a word about future policy. During the war we have conceived it to be our duty to pursue a very conservative policy, having for its aim the strengthening of the financial position, and in that direction we have made some strides. I have no doubt when peace is restored there will be plenty of openings for safe and profitable business, in which we shall hope to share, but we shall proceed with caution because it is very difficult to foresee what effect the enormous consumption of capital and piling up of debt by the belligerent countries is going to have. An inevitable outcome will be a change in commercial conditions. It would be profitless for me to speculate upon the radical changes in commerce which may result from fiscal changes, but I feel bound to reiterate what is common knowledge among men of affairs, that the stress of life is bound to be more severe than hitherto. Changes will no doubt demand a regeneration of industrial methods, habits, and practices, and this will have an effect upon us all from the top to the bottom. But for the restoration of pre-war prosperity two paramount duties will be demanded from us all—thoroughness and hard work. Those are watchwords for all who hope to lead their fellow-men.

NEW DIRECTORS.

I referred in the earlier part of my speech to resignations from the board. I am happy to tell you that we have succeeded in securing the services of two new directors, the confirmation of whose election comes before you to-day. Mr. H. Ross Skinner is well known to all who have been connected with the Witwatersrand. Sir Sothorn Holland was well known in South Africa as the British Trade Commissioner. Both he and Mr. Ross Skinner have been rendering valuable service at the Ministry of Munitions. Mr. Ross Skinner, I am glad to say, has so far completed his work in that department that he has been able for some time to give us a portion of his time, and will shortly cease to have any connection with the department. It is his intention to proceed to South Africa early next month, where he will stay as resident director. Sir Sothorn Holland is still needed by the department, but I am hoping that he will also be free to give us all his time by the end of the present year. Besides the services of these two gentlemen, I may add that our consulting engineer, Mr. Hugh Marriott, was also for a considerable time engaged in organisation work in the same department. Many of our associates are serving at the front, and some of them, alas! have been killed and wounded. Colonel Madge, who was manager of the Transvaal Consolidated Land Co., and had seen a good deal of service in South Africa, joined the forces here, and was unfortunately killed in France. In the loss of this gallant officer I have also to deplore the loss of a personal friend. I will not close without paying a tribute to the managers of the Corporation both here and in South Africa, and to the staffs who have given us good and loyal service under very trying conditions, owing to the shortness of men consequent upon numerous enlistments. I now beg formally to move the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. Georges Rouliot: I have much pleasure in seconding that.

The Chairman having invited discussion, and no questions having been asked, the motion was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The Chairman: It gives me great pleasure now to move that Sir R. Sothorn Holland and Mr. H. Ross Skinner, who were elected directors on December 31, 1915, and who retire in accordance with the articles of association, be and they are hereby re-elected directors of the Corporation.

Mr. Charles Pakeman seconded the resolution, which was unanimously adopted.

The Chairman: I also move that Mr. Octave Homberg and Mr. Raymond W. Schumacher, who retire by rotation, be and they are hereby re-elected directors of the Corporation.

Mr. Otto Beit seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. Frank Robinow, seconded by Mr. Pakeman, Messrs. Cooper, Brothers and Co. were reappointed auditors of the Corporation.

RESOLUTION FOR REDUCTION OF THE CAPITAL.

The Chairman: I now come to a very important resolution—viz., that with reference to the reduction of the capital, and will move:—

"That the capital of the company be reduced from £5,100,000, divided into 425,000 shares of £12 each, to £3,400,000, divided

into 425,000 shares of £8 each, and that such reduction be effected by cancelling paid-up capital which has been lost, or is unrepresented by available assets, to the extent of £4 per share upon each of the 425,000 shares which have been issued and are outstanding, and by reducing the nominal value of such shares to £8."

Mr. T. J. Milner seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman: I should like to mention that the special resolution which has just been passed will be submitted for confirmation to an extraordinary general meeting to be held on Friday, July 14, 1916. I may add that this meeting is a very representative one, and that we have an even larger representation this year than we had last.

Mr. F. J. Dormer, in moving a vote of thanks to the chair, referred to the strain imposed upon directors in these anxious times. "When things are going well," he said, "directors scarcely require the assurance that they have the full support and confidence of their shareholders, but in times like these such an assurance is valuable to them." He then moved the vote of thanks, and commended the excellent manner in which the business of the Corporation had been conducted during the past 12 months.

Mr. F. A. Robinson seconded the vote of thanks, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman having expressed his appreciation of the compliment, the proceedings then terminated.

ZINC CORPORATION.

The fifth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Zinc Corporation, Ltd., was held on Monday at Salisbury House, London Wall, Mr. F. A. Govett (the chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. F. A. Crew, A.C.I.S.) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman said: It may interest you to learn the result of the proxies. We have received in favour of the board proxies representing 385,000 votes, and those in favour of Mr. Auld number 143,000, less revocations which are still coming in. I have received a communication from Mr. Moreing, who absolutely disclaims all connection with the circulars which have been received by the shareholders from Mr. Leonard and Mr. Auld. He states that Mr. Auld had no authority to obtain proxies in his name, and that his proxies will be used in support of the board and against the election of Mr. Leonard's nominees. I want you clearly to grasp the history of the company since the war. The facts are these. This company does not produce either lead or zinc; it produces lead concentrates and zinc concentrates, out of which the respective metals are smelted and distilled. Our work stops at concentration, the products being sold to smelters. Before the war our lead concentrates were sold to the Broken Hill Proprietary; that contract was suspended by the Proprietary on the outbreak of the war, quite unjustifiably, but we saved the position by our participation in Broken Hill Associated Smelters, which purchased the Proprietary Co.'s works and business. Since then that company smelts our lead concentrates and sells the lead on our behalf, this by right of our participation in that company, and out of this have come the profits of the year. In view of our large interest in that company, you will like to know that the smelters are making good. When taken over, the efficiency must have been very poor; and temporarily efficiency had to give way to output, in order to supply the Empire's urgent need for lead; but efficiency is not forgotten; the best experts have been engaged to put the works on the finest lines of modern practice, the works themselves are being extended, and when completed this will be the largest lead smelting plant in the world, and I hope the most efficient. The lead produced has been devoted, with the exception of an allotment for the East, entirely to the needs of the Empire and the Allies. We have been working in close communication with the Government. The output has been at their absolute disposal; the immediate extension of the works is made to meet their wants, and we believe that our action and assistance are well appreciated. I can only hope that this appreciation will later take substantial form in the protection for our industry which we demand as absolutely essential. With the expansion of the works, the capital is being increased by £250,000, of which our share would be £50,000. It may be desirable, even if not necessary, that we should take it; but this, I think, could be financed without our being compelled again to draw on our revenue. The zinc concentrates before the war were sold under a long-term contract to German smelters, they being the only available purchasers at the time when this business was first started at Broken Hill, and consequently the price of spelter

might go to a thousand pounds a ton, and we could not produce or sell a ton of spelter, as we have no smelter of our own. I hope that is clearly understood; our business is only to make the smelters' raw material, the concentrates. On the outbreak of war, as I told you last year, we found ourselves with our financial resources tied up, and with our wealth unrealisable, and therefore we could not go on producing and piling up zinc concentrates, which then we could not sell. We immediately tackled the question of erecting smelters for ourselves in England, and within a month from the outbreak of war in August, 1914, we were round at the Board of Trade with a definite proposal to the Government on lines almost identical with the present Imperial scheme. If the Government then had grasped the importance of the situation, had seen fit seriously to entertain our offer, we should now be actually producing spelter here in England, but, of course, they did not realise the necessities until too late. On the other hand, we believed the market for lead would hold, that, in spite of the suspension of our contract, lead must be produced, and our lead concentrates would be sold. We therefore continued our operations in the production of lead concentrates. Our view of the position for a long period was right, for it was not till nine months after the war began that the first sale of zinc concentrates to American smelters was announced. For a long time we have been in negotiation with the leading American smelters, and had actually proposed to Melbourne that we should negotiate sales on behalf of all the zinc concentrate producers jointly. This was as far back as October, 1914, when Mr. Theodore Hoover was in the United States; but nothing came of the suggestion. However, we were never able to obtain what we regarded as fair terms, and later, when we renewed negotiations, after the Americans had learnt the value of these Broken Hill concentrates, the invariable answer was that Australian concentrates were offering on much cheaper terms. That was the trouble, the ruinous competition of the other companies. But for this competition we ought all to have been making large profits. Again, in August, 1915, we had another try to stop it, and we put up to Melbourne a definite recommendation for combination with the other companies, coupled with a complete formula for sales, which would have assured the concentrates-producing companies a fair share of the smelters' profits; that is to say, roughly, half of the total profit of the production of the metal from the tailings, the cost of smelting setting off against the cost of concentration, and the transport halved. Nothing happened for the next six months, while the competition still continued, until in March this year Melbourne "stole our thunder," and came back at us with the Zinc Producers' Association without acknowledgment of any sort that this was our proposal. The basic idea of the association was that of co-operation. This Mr. Hughes combined with his plan of production of spelter within the Empire, which raised the question of building smelters. The idea was this: to build sufficient smelters in England and Australia to provide the spelter requirements of the Empire. This is a laudable ambition in which we wished personally to associate ourselves. The possibility of erection of British or Australian smelters on any important scale simply depends on whether the Imperial Government can be brought to face the fact that the industry to be established must be protected by bounty and by preferential tariff. Mr. Hughes stated that his conception of the association was that it must be based on sound commercial principles, and that we need be under no apprehension of any sort; no pressure of any sort has been used, and under the articles of association, and the contract which was presented for our approval, we appeared to have the safeguard that we could erect smelters for ourselves. Those points assured we joined the association, which amounts in effect to this, that we joined a combination for selling concentrates, and our position is safeguarded by the condition that, failing a co-operative scheme between the companies for smelter erection, which I suggested as the proper course, we could erect smelters for ourselves. Our scheme covered proposals jointly to erect smelting works in England and Australia, and steps to ensure the exclusion of German spelter after the war; it provided for preferential treatment of the Empire's products, and allowed a fair share of the raw materials to France and Belgium. In connection with the proposed Australian plant, electrolytic production seems to be getting near an accomplished fact. The Anaconda Company are spending \$1,000,000 on plant after prolonged experiment. The Amalgamated Zinc, and now the Producers' Association, subject to the result of investigations in America, contemplate the erection, first, of a trial plant, and then a hydro-electric installation on a large scale in Tasmania; and we shall have the opportunity of taking our share in the company which has already been registered for this purpose, while we, jointly with the Burma Corporation, are completing a small experimental plant at Newcastle. At this conference mention was made of a new group, willing, on terms, to undertake the English portion of the scheme, leaving our companies to handle the Australian end. We met this body, and after three long sittings and some further negotiations, as an intermediate step, we have actually made a contract for a sale of 100,000 to 150,000 tons on good remunerative terms; the concentrates to supply the requirements of English smelters. We are much indebted to Mr. Hughes. It is owing to his intervention that the producing companies are at last in combination, the first result of which is that the lion's share of profits will no longer be presented to the buyer. A second indirect result is this intermediate contract, which I hope will be the commencement of continuous operation, and lead to the ultimate acceptance of our proposal to the Government.

The Chairman then proceeded to deal with the circular of Mr. Auld, and traversed all the statements made in it.

Mr. Auld suggested that there should be a committee of inquiry. It was put to the meeting by the chairman whether the shareholders desired an investigation, with the result that they almost unanimously negatived the proposal.

The report was then adopted.

The Chairman proposed that a dividend of 1s. per share, less income-tax, on both preference and ordinary shares be declared, payable on September 30, 1916, being a final dividend out of the surplus profits in respect of the year 1915.

The motion, which was seconded by Mr. H. C. Hoover, was adopted.

In connection with the retirement of directors, the Chairman said that when Mr. H. C. Hoover tendered his resignation, he (the chairman), after having urged Mr Hoover to reconsider the matter—the resignation having been tendered on the ground that Mr Hoover's duties as president of the Belgian Relief Commission prevented his giving sufficient time to the affairs of the company—put the letter aside; but they were advised that the resignation took effect from the time when it was handed in. Mr. Hoover, therefore, having already retired, under the articles of association, Mr. W. C. C. Romaine retired by rotation, and, with himself (the chairman), now offered himself for re-election.

Mr. Tyndale White proposed the re-election of Messrs Govett and Romaine, which was seconded by Mr H. W. Pelham-Clinton, and adopted, the names being separately submitted to the meeting.

The auditors (Messrs. Monkhouse, Stoneham and Co.) were re-appointed, and a vote of thanks to the chairman and directors concluded the proceedings.

J. G. WHITE AND CO.

The 17th ordinary general meeting of J. G. White and Co., Ltd., was held on Thursday at the offices, 9, Cloak Lane, Cannon Street, E.C., Mr. William C. Burton presiding.

The secretary (Mr. E. A. Borel) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: The effect of the war, as we told you a year ago, has been largely to stop all business of the character which we are equipped to carry on—namely, engineering constructional works in all parts of the world. The raising of new capital for such enterprises is not only impossible, from the intrinsic conditions, but has been officially prohibited, and, therefore, any new work we can secure is necessarily extremely limited. On the whole, a company in our position is fortunate in having been able to meet all its expenses, and to show a nett profit sufficient to cover 6 per cent. on its capital, with a comfortable margin, even though this figure is small compared with what the company has done in the past and what it should do again under approximately similar conditions. Our expenses were reduced drastically at the beginning of the war, and they still remain much below the pre-war standard, although the reduction is now rather due to the reduced numbers of the staff available or required to carry on the business of the company than to reduction in rates of salaries, by which means the prompt economies were made when our business first fell off. The work of looking after the operation of various foreign public utility companies which we supervise from this office has been increased by the war, and the difficulty of securing the necessary supplies for these companies is now great. As you know, the company has for some time had more of its resources invested, and consequently, under present conditions, tied up, than is desirable. You will see, however, from the report that we have been able to maintain a comfortable position as to cash in hand and that our current accounts outstanding are small. The profit for the year to date amounts to £17,380, as against £19,722 last year, a small and not serious reduction under the circumstances, and, with the amount brought forward from last year, we have a total balance to the credit of profit and loss now to be dealt with of £46,939, out of which we are recommending a dividend of 6 per cent. upon both classes of shares. With our large reserves, it might appear that we could pay a larger dividend, but our resources are not, in the present situation, sufficiently liquid, and, therefore, this would not be desirable. Our basis of valuation of investments has not been altered, as in the better times before the war they were so conservatively valued that, even with the heavy depreciation which has taken place in securities of the class we are generally interested in, it is believed that the present figure is a fair one. With a business such as we are interested in, future development depends upon there being a supply of capital available for new constructional enterprises, and this can only be expected after the restoration of normal peace conditions. In the meantime, we must husband our resources, keep together, so far as possible, the essential elements of our staff, and be in a position to take prompt advantage of the first opportunities. We are also endeavouring to develop new channels in which our experience can be utilised, more particularly by increasing and broadening the scope of our commission purchasing department, and, in connection with J. G. White and Co., Inc., of New York, securing business with those American interests who are now for the first time giving serious attention to foreign business in South America and elsewhere.

Lord Arthur Bulteel seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

MORTGAGE AND DEBENTURE.

The ordinary general meeting of the Mortgage and Debenture Co., Ltd., was held on Thursday, at the office, 7, Moor-gate Street, E.C., Mr. W. B. Close (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. J. A. Robertson) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: The directors' report and statement of accounts for the company's financial year ended on March 31 last have been circulated among the shareholders, and with your permission we will take them as read. You will notice that the profits of the year amount to £19,600 1s. 3d., as against a profit of £20,438 7s. 6d., a decrease of about £800. This is not a matter that we need be alarmed at, and has resulted from the fact that there was a period, which we can trace to the results of the great war that is now being waged, when the matter of the reinvestment of capital has not been quite so easy as in the preceding years. The decrease is not serious, and we are informed that matters are in a sound condition, so that we, the directors, after careful consideration, have thought it unnecessary to discontinue the extra $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. that has now been paid for some years on the preference shares. We consider that the reserve fund, which amounts to about £60,000, is ample for the safeguarding of the interests of the company. We cannot yet say what the influence of the enormous amount of money that has been poured into America will have on the rate of interest received on mortgages, but I think it is not likely that the rate on money invested in farm mortgages, when it is necessarily loaned as it is by our company, will be reduced to any great extent. The money is lent in small quantities to a large number of farmers, and the expense of making the loan entails the payment of a somewhat high rate of interest in order to make it worth while to lend money. The matter would be different if money loaned involved only one examination for a large amount of money loaned; that this is not the case in our business is shown by the fact that the first mortgage loans represent a total investment of £605,000 secured upon property appraised at the value of £2,185,861, and—which is particularly important—spread over 2,484 different loans covering an amount of 413,831 acres. This gives an average of £232 3s. 6d. for each loan, and the examination for each loan is just as stringent as if it were for ten times that amount. The average rate of interest received on these loans by our company is just over 6.52 per cent., and the amount loaned represented only 26.23 per cent. of the appraised value of the security. You will thus see how the money is laid out, and the risk is spread among a large amount of farm loans, with a very large margin of safety. Turning to the accounts, to the result of the year's profit of £19,600 1s. 3d. must be added the sum of £1,306 2s. 9d. carried forward from last year, making a total amount available for distribution of £20,906 4s. The dividend for the year on the preference shares at the rate of 5 per cent. absorbs £15,000, and we propose to pay the usual 10 per cent. dividend on the paid-up capital of the ordinary shares, which absorbs £2,000, leaving £3,906 4s. still to be dealt with. We recommend that £3,000 thereof be divided as bonus equally between the preference shares and the ordinary shares, in accordance with the articles of association. This involves payment to the directors of an additional £50 each, leaving a balance of £706 4s. to be carried forward to next year. I now beg to move: "That the report and accounts presented to the meeting be received and adopted."

Mr. C. E. Keyser seconded the resolution, which, in the absence of questions, was carried unanimously.

NITRATE PRODUCERS' STEAMSHIP.

The annual general meeting of shareholders of the Nitrate Producers' Steamship Co., Ltd., was held on Tuesday at 20, Billiter Buildings, E.C., Mr. John Latta (the chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. John A. Walker) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman, in the course of his address, said: Our profits appear large, but are more apparent than real. Sixty per cent. of the surplus over normal times goes to the Exchequer, and 5s. in the £ income-tax on our total profit, as well as 3s. 6d. in the £ super-tax on a considerable portion of it. To meet a condition of things forced on the shipowner by national necessity, old-fashioned yet sound principles of economy have been sacrificed. Working expenses in every branch without exception have attained records that simply appal the most experienced managers. While freights maintain their present high level all is well, but immediately peace is declared rates must have an unexampled slump. Experience has taught us that working costs do not slump; we have, therefore, every reason to fear that the surplus over normal earnings remaining after the Government has been satisfied will prove altogether inadequate to meet the heavy burdens which the aftermath of this war will leave with us. All may be well if we have any justification for assuming that our shipowners and shipbuilders are likely to be able to retain their pre-war world's ascendancy. Many cogent reasons can be advanced in support of the view that they will not, and I fear that already the keen competition we will have to face is in a well-advanced stage of incubation. The foreign shipbuilder has been quick to profit from our difficulties, and is seriously attacking our shipbuilding and ship-owning supremacy. It seems to me essential that if we are to regain what we have lost, and maintain our proud mercantile supremacy of the past, we must be in a position to economically meet foreign competition when the war is over, as it is vital

that we should then be able to construct as cheaply as America, or any other country. If not, the difficulties in overcoming the start which these foreigners have now secured will be immeasurably increased. There will be a strong prejudice after the war against allowing German ships to have the freedom of our ports as in pre-war times. We are also likely to strenuously oppose Germany dumping her surplus steel and other manufactures over here. If we are successful, the effect will be to reduce German foreign trade, but will stimulate her efforts at home at a crucial time for us, and may result in the transposing of that surplus material into cheap ships for themselves and neutrals to compete against us in open markets, so that altogether the question is very complex, and demands the attention of our Government and of the best business brains available. Whether you agree with my rough reasoning or not, I feel sure you will approve of our having created a deferred building fund, the proceeds to be utilised when the outlook becomes clearer. The Chairman, after referring to the skill and courage of the company's commodore, Captain Parslow, who was killed during a successful effort to save the s.s. Anglo-Californian from a German submarine, moved the adoption of the report and accounts, and the declaration of a final dividend of 10 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the last six months, with a bonus of 15 per cent., both free of income-tax, the transfer of £100,000 to depreciation, &c., £200,000 to a special reserve for excess profits duty, income-tax, &c., and £30,000 to insurance fund, with £10,327 carried forward.

Mr. Gamble North seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

ANGLO-JAVA RUBBER AND PRODUCE CO.

The sixth annual general meeting of the Anglo-Java Rubber and Produce Co., Ltd., was held on Tuesday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, Mr. E. H. Parry presiding.

Mr. A. H. Doherty, representing the secretaries (Messrs. Lintner and Co., Limited), read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the reorganisation of the capital, having been sanctioned by the Court, had been carried into effect, and the directors had been able to pay an interim dividend of 5 per cent. in respect of the year 1915. They now recommended a final dividend of 15 per cent., making 20 per cent. for the year. The position to-day was extremely satisfactory, and compensated to a large extent for the several years of enforced patience borne by the shareholders with so much fortitude and goodwill. The gross revenue for the year amounted to £143,177, against £43,451 in 1914, while the gross estate expenditure was £59,418, as compared with £25,068. The nett profit amounted to £70,538, and with the balance brought forward they had an available total of £90,274. After making provision for debenture sinking fund, £13,500, and paying the dividend of 20 per cent., they were carrying forward £27,710, equivalent to nearly 10 per cent. on the issued capital of the company. This balance was subject to income-tax (if any), excess profit duty (if any), and additional remuneration of directors. At the close of the year their cash resources, including stocks on hand, were over £69,000. The total area of the property was 12,380 acres, of which 7,826 were under Hevea rubber partly interplanted with Robusta coffee, 825 acres under tea, and 100 under Robusta, separately. The directors hoped to replant the whole, or part, of the 2,000 acres of Ficus Elastica and Hevea rubber. At the beginning of the year some 1,420 acres of rubber were in bearing, and at the close the trees on approximately 3,500 acres were being tapped, the average productive area for the year being 2,263 acres, while their Eastern advisers indicated that during the current year the tapping area would be increased to 4,700 acres—about three-fifths of the total area planted with Hevea. The monthly outputs continued to improve, the excellent figure of 150,000 lb. of rubber having been reached for last month, and in view of the constant additions to the tapping areas the returns should continue to increase. The crop harvested in the past year was 747,657 lbs., as against an estimate of 750,000 lbs., being just over 322 lbs. per acre. They were led to believe, from the reports of the visiting agents, that in the current year this yield would be maintained; indeed, it was expected that a large proportion of the tappable area would produce at the rate of not less than 400 lbs. per acre. The estimate for the current year forecasted a production of 1,600,000 lbs. of rubber, 210,000 of tea, and 21,918 cwt. of coffee. They had sold 242 tons of rubber forward for delivery in the East during the current year at prices averaging 2s. 11.76d. per lb., f.o.b., which at present rates of freight, &c., could be compared with a London price of 3s. 2d. The f.o.b. cost for 1915 was 9.91d. per lb., and the total cost of production was 11.51d., including depreciation, or about 1.4d. per lb. lower than for the previous year. The nett realisation for the crop averaged 2s. 5.27d., the nett profit being 1s. 5.76d. The cost of production should be steadily lowered, not only as the trees increased their yield, but by economy on the estates. The whole of the current year's crop of coffee had been sold forward at an average price of 72s. per cwt. Java, which almost constituted a record, and should add to their revenue the very handsome sum of about £70,000. The cost of harvesting, preparing, and marketing the coffee would not exceed 15s. per cwt. At the same time, coffee must be looked upon as a rapidly diminishing asset, but they had the consolation of knowing that the increasing

productiveness of their rubber area should suffice for all their needs.

Mr. H. L. Coghlan seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

LOBITOS OILFIELDS.

The eighth annual ordinary general meeting of the Lobitos Oilfields, Ltd., was held on Tuesday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Sir Archibald Williamson, Bart., M.P. (chairman of the company), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. James Rennie, A.C.I.S.) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman, in the course of his address, said: This is the eighth annual report of the company, and it is a pleasure to me to call your attention to the fact that it is of a satisfactory and progressive character. During the first two or three years of the company's existence we did our best to bring the undertaking to the dividend-paying stage. Since that stage was reached we have endeavoured to make solid the financial position of the company and to proceed with due caution on a policy of expansion. The original property of the company in Peru was about 11,170 acres. It is now 29,249 acres. We have thus been able to more than double the area of the property without asking the shareholders to subscribe further capital. As against the depletion which naturally takes place as oil is taken out of the property, a reserve account is gradually being built up, which, when the accounts and recommendations of the directors are passed to-day, will amount to £75,000. The total nett profit for the year amounts to £80,557, as compared with £50,005 for 1914. During the year an interim dividend of 5 per cent. was paid, and the directors now recommend an additional dividend of 10 per cent., making 15 per cent. for the year. They propose that the sum of £15,000 should be added to reserve and the considerably increased balance of £32,447 be carried forward. Out of this balance the company will make what payment is due in respect of excess profits tax. Our production establishes a new record. At the beginning of 1915 there were 115 wells producing oil, and during the year 14 new wells were finished. Of these, four got into difficulties or were dry wells, and were abandoned. The remaining ten are producers, and, added to the 115 wells, make 125 wells. It has, however, been necessary to abandon six old wells which had become dry. Thus at December 31, 1915, there were 119 producing wells. Of these, 107 were being pumped and 12 were flowing. On December 31 there were 13 wells in process of drilling. The total depth drilled during the year was 34,744 ft., which compares with 28,480 ft. in 1914 and 31,642 ft. in 1913. The development of the new field at Punta Restin, about 12 miles north of Lobitos, has continued satisfactorily, and we hope soon considerably to increase the production in that area. A new under-sea pipeline has been laid at Punta Restin, and we are now able to load steamers there, as well as at Lobitos. The production for the first five months of the present year was 35,372 tons, as compared with 37,193 and 32,964 tons in the corresponding periods of 1915 and 1914. During the year newspaper reports similar to those to which reference was made when I last addressed you have continued to appear from time to time regarding alleged intentions of one or other of the large oil corporations to buy your property. The board know nothing of these intentions, and I will at once say to you frankly that no proposals of any kind have been made to us. It is the directors' intention to continue a policy of development and progress which has been successful so far and opens prospects of greater success in the future. There is, therefore, no occasion to look for buyers of the property. Our belief is that, however valuable to-day, it will be more valuable later on. If, however, proposals are made which, in the opinion of the board, it would be to the advantage of the shareholders to accept, they will be brought before you.

Mr. H. W. Sillem (managing director) seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

BOOTS CASH CHEMISTS (EASTERN).

The twenty-fourth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of Boots Cash Chemists (Eastern), Ltd., was held on Wednesday at the Midland Grand Hotel, St. Pancras, Sir Jesse Boot, J.P., Chairman and Managing Director, presiding.

The Chairman said: Not only are we able to bring forward a balance-sheet this year showing increased profits, but we can also feel a gratification in the fact that we have played a useful part in supplying to the troops comforts of a medicinal and sanatory nature which no other firm could have provided. Ever since the training of the new armies commenced our shops in military areas have been veritable hives of business. In view of these business conditions we propose to pay, as last year, a dividend of 10 per cent., free of income-tax, for it seems preferable to maintain our dividend at a steady rate rather than to pay one annual dividend at, say, 14 per cent., and a year or so later pay only some 6 per cent. It is really a matter of no little thankfulness that we are able to do this, and at the same time to strengthen our resources. The wisdom of providing adequate reserves is manifest; and should there be that severe trade reaction which many expect, we may still hope to continue a satisfactory dividend. On this point, however, I may observe that we have been carefully considering the case of our many thousands of smaller shareholders, and have decided

during the ensuing year to pay dividend at the rate of 12½ per cent., but the shareholders themselves will then be called upon to pay income-tax upon the dividends. This will benefit all our shareholders whose income is less than £2,000 per annum. At present we pay upon our taxed profits at a uniform rate of 5s., a rate which will apply in the case of individual shareholders only to those in receipt of more than £2,000 a year. As I have mentioned on previous occasions, many of the shareholders of this company hold shares also in Boots Pure Drug Co. and the other allied companies. Last year it was my privilege to announce that the parent company had commenced the manufacture, on a considerable scale, of fine chemicals previously imported from Germany. Many difficulties have been encountered in this connection during the past 12 months, but many successes have attended our efforts. Large sums have been spent in chemical apparatus and machinery, as well as in research work; and, frankly, I think that, without boasting, I may fairly claim that we have made more progress than any other firm in supplying for pharmaceutical use synthetic organic chemicals not previously manufactured in this country. During the last 22 months we have expended some £11,000, in supplementing the Army pay of those of our employees who in the early stages of the war volunteered for active service. Whereas a year ago I said that 1,200 had left our various staffs to join His Majesty's forces, this year I am able to announce that, before compulsory service was established, the number of those who had left us to join the colours had increased to nearly 1,900.

Mr. T. S. Ratcliffe seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

MARCONI'S WIRELESS TELEGRAPH CO.

The annual ordinary general meeting of Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Company, Limited, was held on Friday at the Hotel Cecil, Strand, W.C., Mr. Godfrey C. Isaacs presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. Henry W. Allen, F.C.I.S.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in the course of moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: Turning to the profit and loss account, the balance of contracts, sales, and trading account shows an increase of some £210,000 over the preceding year, and the net profit of £377,817 12s. 1d. is an improvement over the preceding year of some £145,000. I have no doubt you will all consider these figures in the circumstances as highly satisfactory, particularly when one bears in mind that there are many substantial items not yet settled with the Government which are therefore not included in the figures of last year, and in addition we have written off the sum of £53,000 in respect of depreciation of exchanges and investments. But this item, it must be borne in mind, does not at the present moment represent a loss, inasmuch as no actual loss has been incurred in exchange as it has not been necessary to bring home from abroad the moneys which are lying at banks upon interest, nor has it been necessary for us to sell the investments which, had they been realised on December 31, 1915, would have resulted in a loss. There is every reason to suppose that before it will be necessary for us to bring home our moneys from abroad exchanges will have become normal or thereabouts, and before we require to realise our securities, which are with one exception gilt-edged securities, it is possible that we shall realise not only the cost price, but perhaps a substantial profit. The one exception to which I have referred showed a loss on December 31 of some £13,000. This investment was certainly not what is termed a gilt-edged security, but it is one of an absolutely sound nature, and was made for the purpose of assisting our business. The price at December 31 last was a nominal one, but it was the only guide which we had. If we had to deal with the figures to-day instead of at December 31 last not only would that £13,000 loss have disappeared, but there would be a profit upon the shares, and as time goes on we are confident that that profit will increase. We have therefore every hope that the item of £53,000 will appear as a profit in a future account. There is only one thing that I perhaps might add, and that is, had we not treated this sum as a loss as at December 31, 1915, our profit and loss account for this year would have been the record in the history of the company.

Our business during the year under review has certainly not been normal. There is considerable work in certain parts of the world which we should have been doing, but which it has been impossible to do in consequence of the war; on the other hand, we have had some compensation by having many additional orders at home and from Allied countries. In particular we have done considerable business with the Admiralty, and nothing could have been more agreeable than the relations between the company and that Department.

Our associated companies have not been able, in consequence of the war, to make the progress which they otherwise would have done. This applies particularly to our Spanish and Argentine Companies, to the Relay Automatic Telephone Company, and to a considerable degree also to the American Company. The new direct Transatlantic service with New York, which was ready to open when war broke out, and to which we both have attached the very first importance, has continued in enforced idleness, the stations on this side having remained in the service of the Government. For this we hope we shall receive some compensation. As soon as the war comes to an end we are confident that this new Transatlantic service should be productive of very considerable revenue to our American company—besides to our own—which, added to the profits which they are now making, should soon place them in a

position to pay substantial dividends. Independently, however, of this, we have in view, in conjunction with our American company, a new and very considerable programme, which, I am afraid, it would be inexpedient for me to divulge at the present moment.

I have for some time intended taking the first opportunity of visiting New York in respect of these matters, and had booked my passage for the steamer leaving this coming week. Unfortunately, however, there are so many matters of importance which demand my presence here that I am bound to defer for a little my visit. Others, however, will go in my stead; I shall follow at the earliest opportunity and so soon as I can dispose of pressing matters, to one of which at least I think you will attach some importance, and that is the distribution of a bonus, to which I will refer a little later. Our Belgian company, whose business Captain Sankey and I, as director of that company, have assisted to direct, has been unable again to make up any balance-sheet, and I am consequently unable to give you any information with regard to the results, and we have therefore also received no dividends. Our programme in respect of the Canadian company has also been obliged to remain in abeyance meantime. The French company has continued to do a satisfactory business, and has paid dividends equivalent to those of the preceding year. The Marconi International Marine Communication Co., notwithstanding its considerable losses, has shown an increased profit and is making excellent headway, and I am glad to be able to say that in the case of this company it has been able to pay an increased dividend.

Our Russian company has continued to be extremely busy, and has declared a dividend for the past year at the rate of 15 per cent., with which we have every reason to be well satisfied. The Spanish and General Trust has suffered very naturally in consequence of the war, but I hope ere long part of the programme of that company will be realised, and I may be able to add its name to those from which we are receiving revenue in the shape of dividends. The Wireless Press, which all of you must have observed has been very prominent in all the daily papers, has developed an excellent business under the able management of Mr. H. W. Allen, who is mainly responsible for its successful development.

We have continued to do an important business with the Italian Government through our Italian agency under the energetic and able management of the Marquis Solari, who represents the company in Italy. His unswerving loyalty to the company and able manner in which he conducts its affairs are deeply appreciated by the directors.

I now come to matters in respect of which I am sure you will expect to hear something from me. We have had an excellent year, and having £447,315 os. 7d. to the credit of profit and loss account, we are distributing only a small proportion of this amount, carrying forward £307,546 4s. 7d., and you will no doubt want to know why we are adopting this course. I do not think I can do better than remind you of what I said upon this subject last year. I then told you, after having described to you the nature of the competition with which the company had had to contend in the past and the many difficulties with which they have been confronted from time to time, that I had given you that information in order that you should better understand the reasons for the conservative policy which the board had determined to follow, and I added that we contemplated that when this war is over, in consequence of the great utility which wireless telegraphy has proved itself to be, there will be a very considerable business to be done with a great many foreign countries, and that in consequence of the financial position which may then obtain it was in our view essential that we should be in the strongest possible position to undertake business in all parts of the world without the necessity of requiring immediate payment therefor. That position has not changed to-day, except perhaps to be more accentuated. In harbouring our resources, therefore, we are satisfied that we are unquestionably acting in the best interests of the company. Had we known our position with regard to the several matters in respect of which we have to receive payments from the Government, we should have been able to be more generous in the distribution which we are recommending. Until we know a little more of our position in this direction it is better for us to act conservatively.

There are, as we have told you in our report, four heads under which considerable sums are payable by the Government to the company, in respect of which also you will no doubt look to me to give you more information than is furnished you in the report. The first of these, the remuneration and compensation which is due to us from the Post Office, acting on behalf of itself and other Government Departments, in respect of the use of the company's high-power stations since the beginning of the war, the staffing and management of these stations and other services in connection therewith. The remuneration to which we think we are entitled is certainly a considerable sum. The services which we have rendered I cannot go into in detail, but I do not suppose there is a single member of the public which has not some appreciation of their magnitude. To the end of December, 1915, we handled foreign messages in transmission, reception, and delivery which represented in the aggregate a total of, in round figures, over twenty million words. As regards compensation, you are aware that we had just completed the construction of our Carnarvon and Town Stations, and also in America the American Company had just erected its New Brunswick and Belmar Stations—all

of which represented a very considerable outlay—for the purpose of opening a direct telegraph service between Europe and America. Traffics during the period of the war have shown very considerable increase, and there is no doubt whatsoever that the business we should have done would have been on a very large scale indeed, and the profit which we have every reason to expect we should have realised each year since the outbreak of war would have, in our estimation, run well into five figures. We are of opinion that we should receive a substantial sum to compensate us for this loss, and we have every hope that the Government will appreciate the value which our stations and our services have been to the nation and remunerate and compensate us fairly if not generously.

Under item (2) of the report is our right under the Patents and Designs Act, 1907, to receive payment from the Admiralty in respect of the use of our patents since the expiration of the agreement on March 31, 1914. We have supplied the Admiralty with a very considerable number of installations since the outbreak of war under contract, and the royalty in each of these cases has been defined and paid; but there have been infinitely more installations which were already fitted, and others which have been constructed by the Admiralty themselves in respect of each of which a substantial sum is payable to us. We have every reason to believe that a fair and equitable settlement of these matters will be made at the earliest possible moment.

Under Number (3) of the report there is a similar claim upon the War Office. Since the war the use of the company's patents has been very considerable indeed. There has been an immense number of installations supplied to the War Office from outside sources, and a very large number also manufactured in the factories of the War Office, all of which come under our patents. As we have informed you in our report, this matter is now being referred to the Treasury, and we hope that ere long this matter will be disposed of.

The Chairman dealt at length with the fourth item, namely, payment from the Post Office for compensation in respect of their withdrawal from the contract for the Imperial chain of stations. He went in detail into all the circumstances prior to the offer of the Government to reinstate the contract and the board's refusal to accede to this, and intimated that the claim for compensation might be pursued in the Courts.

In conclusion, he announced at the general meeting of the Marconi International Marine Communication Co., that in the very near future Mr. Marconi would introduce a new independent and very simple installation, to be worked from the bridge of a ship, which would put an end to all danger of collision at sea in darkness or in fog. (Applause.) This represented but a part of Mr. Marconi's latest work. It was his belief that the new inventions would prove as epoch-making in the progress of the art of wireless telegraphy as was in 1900 the now world-famous patent known as the four sevens. (Applause.)

Captain Sankey, in seconding the resolution, said shareholders usually expected important information at the annual meeting, and this year they had not been disappointed. They had also had some sort of indication of the difficulties that the directors, and particularly the managing director, had had in working the affairs of the company, and he would like to express his great admiration for the chairman's great strength and absolute honesty of purpose as well as the straightforward way in which he dealt with every matter. Shareholders could absolutely rely upon the way in which the business was conducted. The fact that 20,000,000 words had been conveyed by their company since the beginning of the war was a very great achievement.

The report was unanimously adopted after some complimentary speeches from shareholders.

TREDEGAR IRON AND COAL CO.

The ordinary general meeting of the Tredegar Iron and Coal Co., Ltd., was held at the offices of the company, 60, Fenchurch Street, E.C., on Friday, Lord Aberconway (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. H. O. Monkley) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: The figures of the balance-sheet and report present much the same figures as last year, with the exception of an extra 2½ per cent. bonus, which the shareholders get out of the extra profits, and there is also an increase in the amount carried forward. Among the general features of the year, perhaps the most remarkable is the decrease in output, amounting to something like 132,000 tons. When you consider that covers not only the old Tredegar but the Oakdale and Markham Collieries, you will see how vitally the coal trade has been affected for the worse by the conditions of the war. There has first been a large reduction in the output owing to the absence of the men in the Army. The company has lost many thousands of good coal-getters, and, on the other hand, we have voluntarily paid no less than £24,000 to the dependents of the men who have gone to the front. Then we have had to meet the increased cost of stores. Pitwood has become a very costly item. The increased costs of stores and pitwood alone cost £61,000 for the year, and this is something like a 53 per cent. increase on the previous cost. In addition to that, we

have had to advance the wages, and with the war bonus this comes to a total of £116,000 for the year, and I might remind you that the wages are now double those of the old standard rate. The Government recently, as the result of an agitation among the men, came down and conceded the most recent demands of the men, without consulting employers, and in absolute defiance of the old agreement granted an extra 15 per cent. to the men. As you know, we are under very heavy obligations as to the excess profits tax; and although none of us dispute the fairness of the principle that nobody ought to make profits out of the war, we, like all other concerns more or less, are suffering from this fact that there is less and less incentive to keep costs on a low scale when the greater part of our excess earnings are taken by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Then we have had, of course, to meet great difficulties in the sales department, and perhaps the outstanding feature of the year is the interference and control over sales and prices exercised by the Government. In the first place, we have had the licensing of shipments. For many months we have not been able to ship away coal abroad without special licence from the Board of Trade, and that interferes very largely with merchant business. Thus we have had the intervention of the Government between collieries and their customers under the Limitation of Coal Prices Act—an Act of which I thoroughly approve, and which we have now had for many months in operation. It restricts the price to home consumers, and at the same time leaves a fair margin of profit to the collieries. This has been followed by restrictions of coke prices, which have been imposed by the Munitions Ministry in order to enable makers of pig-iron to turn out their produce at a reasonable profit. This has been followed by a restriction of price for the French markets, and the price of coal to Italy has also been settled by the Government under the control of the Admiralty, and I should not be surprised if in the next few days a further control is put into force, and that the Government will appropriate all the excess, the difference between the limited price of coal as allowed in this country and the prices which we are getting from the foreigner, whether a neutral or Ally. To give you an idea of some of the difficulties with which our sales department has to contend, and to show the fluctuations of freight and tonnage as well as of coal prices—I say tonnage because it is very difficult sometimes to know whether we can fix a ship at all, as sometimes ships come in in plenty and sometimes it is almost impossible to get a ship even at a high freight. With regard to the price of coal, large coal has varied during the past year from 23s. to 38s. nett at the pit and smalls have varied from 8s. 4d. to 19s. 6d. I defy any man to say from day to day what the price of coal is going to be three months hence. When you turn to freights we have had rates to Genoa of 100s., which was against an average of 8s. 8d. before the war began. The freight to Port Said was 112s. against 6s. 2d., which was the average rate before the war, and freights to Gibraltar have been 62s. against 7s. before the war, and, of course, there have been wide fluctuations between these limits in almost every case. In spite of these difficulties, I am glad to say that our sales have been most successfully controlled by Mr. McNeil at Cardiff and Mr. Monkley in London, and I think we have nothing but praise for the way in which these gentlemen have met the situation, and I may say also that Mr. Tallis and the colliery managers have certainly earned the gratitude of the shareholders for the way they have handled the difficult questions which have constantly arisen between ourselves and the men. We have spared no reasonable outlay to ensure good future results, and we can regard the future of the company with the greatest confidence. We hope that what we have done will enable us to largely increase the output after the war.

Sir A. Markham seconded the adoption of the report.

SAN PATRICIO NITRATE CO., LTD.—This little company did not reopen its oficina until September 20, yet the gross profits of £5,101 for the year ended December 31 were only £1,267 below those of the previous year. Adding £3,144, or £1,200 more brought forward, the total was within £67 of the 1914 figures, but expenses were heavier owing mainly to stoppage and reopening costs having risen by £953 to £3,634, and the balance carried out is consequently reduced by £411 to £2,683. As it was impossible to meet the amortisation of the outstanding debentures the redemption was further postponed until November 15, 1916, according to the arrangement made a year ago, but the directors promise that on or before that date the requisite number of bonds will be purchased.

SANTA RITA NITRATE CO., LTD.—This undertaking is in the same hands as the San Patricio company, and, like it, only reopened its oficina on September 30. Trading profits showed a small decrease of £673 at £7,977, but outgoings, including £224 more at £2,248 for stoppage and reopening expenses, were reduced by £734 to £4,989, and the nett balance, including £10,956 brought in, was £3,364 up at £13,944. In view of the uncertainty as to the future of the nitrate market the directors transfer £9,496 to reserve, leaving £6,132 less at £4,448 to be carried forward. Current liabilities are £14,263 up at £20,105, but, on the other hand, stocks of nitrate are £9,493 higher at £24,417, stores are valued at £12,160, or £3,075 more, and cash has risen by £2,055 to £3,252.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA, LIMITED.

(Registered in the Transvaal.)

(With which are incorporated the Bank of Africa, Ltd., Established 1879, and the National Bank of the Orange River Colony, Ltd., Established 1877, and the Natal Bank, Limited, Established 1854.)

Bankers to the Union Government in the Transvaal, the Orange Free State, and Natal, and to the Imperial Government.

Subscribed Capital	£2,788,040	Paid-up Capital	£2,788,040
With power to increase to	£4,000,000	Reserve Fund	£528,000

HEAD OFFICE PRETORIA.

London Offices: Circus Place, London Wall, E.C.; 117, Cannon Street, E.C. New York Office: 6, Wall Street, New York.

BALANCE SHEET, 31st March, 1916.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Subscribed Capital—	£ s d	Cash on hand and with Bankers, £3,358,595 5s 2d; Remittances	£ s d
278,804 Shares of £10 each (fully paid)	2,788,040 0 0	in Transit, £1,054,661 17s 1d; Native Gold on hand and in	
Reserve Fund	528,000 0 0	Transit, £108,746 3s 6d	4,522,003 5 9
Notes in Circulation	1,246,283 0 0	Money in London at call and short notice against securities ..	1,510,574 13 11
Deposit, Current and other Accounts	23,157,243 18 1	British and Colonial Government and other Securities (in-	
Drafts issued on Branches and Agents, and Acceptances		cluding Stock lodged with the Government of the Union of	
outstanding at date	1,048,958 15 1	South Africa)	3,299,549 17 4
Rebate on Bills not yet due	36,994 3 1	Bills of Exchange	4,462,933 10 9
Bills Receivable on Account of Customers	3,310,167 9 9	Bank Premises and other properties in South Africa	818,008 2 0
Profit and Loss Account—Balance undivided at 31st March,		Bills Discounted, Loans, etc.	14,227,831 19 6
1915, £30,585 8s 2d; Net Profit year ended 31st March,		Bank Furniture and Fittings, Stationery and Stamps	99,553 8 3
1916, £190,990 17s 1d.—£221,576 5s 3d; Less Interim Dividend		Bills for Collection	3,310,167 9 9
declared 25th November, 1915, £83,641 4s 0d.	137,935 1 3		
Contingent liability in respect of Loans guaranteed and		Loans guaranteed and secured (as per contra)	220,675 15 1
secured	220,675 15 1		
	£32,471,298 2 4		£32,471,298 2 4

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

	£ s d		£ s d
Rebate on Bills not yet due	36,994 3 1	Gross Profits (including Balance undivided at 31st March, 1915,	
Expenditure, including Rents, Rates, Salaries, Remunera-		p. £30,585 8s 2d), after deducting Interest due on Fixed De-	
tion to Directors and Auditors, and all other expenses at		posits, Income Tax, Duty on Note Circulation, other Govern-	
Head Office and Branches	510,350 18 8	ment Taxes, Appropriation to Bank Premises, Furniture and	
Balance carried forward	221,576 5 3	Fittings, and Stationery, making provision for losses & conting-	
	£768,921 7 0	encies, & depreciation in the value of Investment Securities	768,921 7 0
			£768,921 7 0

We hereby certify that all our requirements as Auditors have been complied with and that we have examined the above Balance Sheet and have found same correct according to the Head Office Books and the certified Returns received from the Branches and Agencies of the Bank. We have also examined certified statements showing the securities representing the Investments of the Bank, and find that they agree with the Balance Sheet. We are of opinion that the above is a full and fair Balance Sheet properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Bank's affairs as shown by the said Books and returns.

Pretoria, 30th May, 1916.

ROBERT BAIKIE, Incorporated Accountant } Auditors.
JOHN DOUGALL, Incorporated Accountant }

APPROPRIATION.

	£ s d		£ s d
Dividend of 6 per cent. (of which the Interim Dividend paid for		Balance of Profit and Loss Account	221,576 5 3
the 6 months ended 30th September, 1915, absorbed			
£83,641 4s.)	167,282 8 0		
Pension Fund	10,000 0 0		
Balance to be carried forward	44,293 17 3		
	£221,576 5 3		£221,576 5 3

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1916, and June 24, 1916:—

	Estimate for the Year 1916-1917.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1916, to June 24, 1916.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1915, to June 26, 1915.
Balances in Exchequer on April 1—	£	£	£
Bank of England	—	25,111,065	81,898,728
Bank of Ireland	—	463,941	1,552,224
REVENUE.		25,575,006	83,450,952
Customs	—	15,137,000	9,481,000
Excise	—	11,360,000	13,231,000
Estate, &c., Duties	—	7,093,000	8,858,000
Stamps	—	1,555,000	1,292,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	—	300,000	310,000
Property and Income Tax and Super Tax	—	19,338,000	10,569,000
Excess Profits Duty	—	5,404,000	—
Land Value Duties	—	60,000	40,000
Post Office	—	6,000,000	5,600,000
Crown Lands	—	110,000	110,000
Receipts from Suez Canal	—	—	—
Shares and Sundry Loans ..	—	13,389	5,000
Miscellaneous	—	1,592,239	770,599
Revenue	—	67,962,628	50,266,599
Total, including Balance	—	93,537,634	133,717,551
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion	—	1,000,000	180,000
For War Loan, 1925-1928	—	—	35,300,000
For 3% Exchequer Bonds, 1920	—	—	242,345
For War Loan, 1925-1945	—	424	—
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919	—	17,153,000	—
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920	—	75,391,000	—
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1921	—	22,826,600	—
For War Expenditure Certificates	—	8,821,000	—
For other Debt created under the War Loan Act, 1915	—	13,050,000	—
Temporary Advances—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills)	—	—	—
£209,974,000 in 1916-1917 and £199,713,000 in 1915-1916	—	239,974,000	199,713,000
Total	—	471,753,653	369,152,896

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Estimate for the Year 1916-17.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1916, to June 24, 1916.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1915, to June 26, 1915.
EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£
Permanent Charge of Debt ..	—	6,426,674	7,618,382
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	—	34,182,574	394,637
Road Improvement Fund	—	—	2,111,638
Payments to Local Taxation, Accounts, &c.	—	1,012,294	1,025,550
Other Consolidated Fund	—	—	—
Services	—	329,064	429,424
Supply Services	—	366,594,560	238,255,207
Expenditure	—	408,545,106	248,004,266
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion	—	1,340,000	320,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	—	30,457	30,457
For Treasury Bills (net amount)	—	32,565,000	26,565,000
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan (Redemption) Act, 1910	—	—	16,395,500
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913	—	130,000	700,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913	—	50,000	—
Under Housing Act, 1914	—	—	250,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8 issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1903	—	10,000	27,000
Old Sinking Fund—1910-1911	—	—	—
Issued under the Finance Act, 1911—			
Section 16 (1) (b)	—	20,000	30,000
Temporary Advances repaid—Ways and Means	—	3,000,000	—
		445,690,563	292,322,253
Balances in Exchequer—			
Bank of England	24,682,407	75,857,281	—
Bank of Ireland	1,380,688	973,362	—
Total		26,063,095	76,830,643
		471,753,658	369,152,896
MEMO.—Treasury Bills outstanding on June 24, 1916			£743,666,000.
* Includes £289,000 the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the Account.			
Treasury, June 26, 1916.			

Subscriptions to THE INVESTORS' REVIEW will be received in Canada by

Messrs. Sells, Ltd.,
302, Shaughnessy Buildings,
McGill St., Montreal.

The Investors' Review

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[Registered as a
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SATURDAY, JULY 8, 1916.

[Price 6d.]

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THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.

(Registered in Japan.)

ESTABLISHED 1880.

Subscribed Capital	Yen 48,000,000
Capital Paid Up	.. ..	Yen 30,000,000
Reserve Fund	.. ..	Yen 20,400,000

Head Office: YOKOHAMA.

Branches and Agencies at

Antung-Halen.	Harbin.	Nagasaki.	Shanghai.
Bombay.	Honolulu.	Newchang.	Sydney.
Calcutta.	Hong Kong.	New York.	Tientsin.
Changchun.	Kobe.	Osaka.	Tientsin.
Dairen (Dalny).	Liaoyang.	Peking.	Tokyo.
Fengtien (Mukden).	Los Angeles.	Ryojun (Port Arthur)	Tsinanfu.
Hankow.	Lyons.	San Francisco.	Tsingtau.

The Bank buys and receives for collection Bills of Exchange, issues Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit on above places and elsewhere, and transacts General Banking Business.

Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be obtained on application.

London Office: 7, BISHOPSGATE, E.C.

K. TATSUMI, Manager.

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LTD.

Head Office: 15, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.

Capital Authorised	... ..	£1,500,000
Capital Issued	... ..	1,125,000
Capital Paid Up	... ..	562,500
Reserve Fund	... ..	550,000

Branches:

INDIA, BURMAH, CEYLON, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS
CHINA. AND PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS.

The Bank buys and sells Bills of Exchange, issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, and transacts banking and agency business in connection with the East, on terms to be had on application.

DEPOSITS received for one year at 5 per cent. per annum. Rates for other periods on application.

On current accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on daily balances.

BANK OF MONTREAL.

ESTABLISHED IN
1817.

Capital Paid-up, \$16,000,000. Reserve Fund, \$16,000,000.
Undivided Profits, \$1,321,193.

President H. V. MEREDITH, Esq.

Head Office and Board of Directors MONTREAL.

General Manager Sir FREDERICK WILLIAMS-TAYLOR, LL.D.

Assistant General Manager A. D. BRAITHWAITE.

Branches and Agencies throughout Canada and Newfoundland; also at New York, Chicago and Spokane in the United States.

London Offices: 47, Threadneedle Street, E.C.,

and 9, WATERLOO PLACE, Pall Mall, S.W.

Committee: Sir THOMAS SKINNER, Bart. A. MACNIDER, Esq.

GEORGE CYRIL CASSELS, Manager.

Financial Agents of the Government of the Dominion of Canada.

The Bank undertakes Monetary Business with all Allied and Neutral countries, and with its numerous branches offers exceptional facilities for the transaction of a general banking business in Canada, Newfoundland and the United States.

TRUSTEES EXECUTORS & SECURITIES INSURANCE CORPORATION, LTD.

CAPITAL - - £1,050,000.



The first Corporation founded in the United Kingdom to act as Executor and Trustee of Wills and Settlements.

Trustees for Debenture Issues.

Agents for Foreign, Colonial and Municipal Loans.

Bonds granted to Receivers and Administrators.

Leasehold and Sinking Fund Policies issued.

Safe Deposit and Halls for Meetings at Winchester House.

Pamphlet sent on application to the Secretary at the Head Office.

WINCHESTER HOUSE, OLD BROAD ST., LONDON, E.C.

Liverpool Branch and Safe Deposit: 2, Exchange Street East.

THE LONDON & RIVER PLATE BANK (LIMITED).

ESTABLISHED 1862.

Authorised Capital	£4,000,000
Paid-up Capital	1,800,000
Reserve Fund	2,000,000

BRANCHES—

ARGENTINE.—Buenos Aires, Rosario, Mendoza, Concordia, Bahia Blanca, Córdoba, Tucumán, Paraná, Barracas (Buenos Aires), Once (Buenos Aires), Boca (Buenos Aires), Calle Santa Fé (Buenos Aires), Calle B de Irigoyen (Buenos Aires). URUGUAY.—Montevideo, Montevideo Agency (Calle Rio Negro), Paysandu (Agency), Salto (Agency). BRAZIL.—Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Santos, Pernambuco, Para, Bahia, Victoria, Curitiba, Manaus (Agency). CHILE—Valparaiso. FRANCE—Paris (16 Rue Halévy). Agency in New York and Agents throughout the world.

Letters of Credit, Drafts, and Cable Transfers issued. Bills negotiated, advanced upon or sent for collection.—7, Princes Street, E.C.

SCOTTISH AMICABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

(Established 1826.)

A MUTUAL PROFIT-SHARING OFFICE.
COMPOUND BONUSES.

Last Rate of Bonus £1 15s. per cent. to £4 12s. per cent.
according to duration.

Head Office
London Office

35, ST. VINCENT PLACE, GLASGOW
1, THREADNEEDLE STREET, E.C.

BANKS.

STANDARD BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA, LTD.

Bankers to the Government of the Union of South Africa in Cape Province, to the Imperial Government in South Africa, and to the Administration of Rhodesia.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	£6,194,100
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The Investors' Review.

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Passing Events.

Lord Joicey is reported to have said in the House of Lords, on Tuesday, that "the policy of creating small holdings throughout the country had not been successful," and that "the produce of the soil was more likely to be increased on large farms than on small ones." Perhaps from a wealthy colliery proprietor this is the opinion to be expected, but it is not consonant with experience, nor yet a view likely to be useful to perplexed reformers and worried politicians, before whose eyes ever flits the vision of a returned army demanding the land, and the *right*, not the *favour*, to live upon it and by it. How wrong Lord Joicey is, how dangerous for our future domestic peace the acceptance of his views would be, can be partly guessed by what Mr. A. H. D. Acland says and quotes in his general introduction to the rural report of the Land Enquiry Committee. Mr. Acland is probably a greater authority on rural England even than Lord Joicey is on coal mining, and he endorses the statement that "land which a few years ago was producing at the outside £10 worth of foodstuffs to the acre when cultivated in large farms is now producing anything up to £100 worth." It stands to reason that this should be so. Land varies in quality doubtless, and some land may not be worth subjecting to intensive cultivation, but large areas are so, and the day is near when, cultivated to their utmost capacity, they may be. We may even have to neglect coal mining to grow our own food. Why cannot our wise men look the land question squarely in the face, and accept the one and only remedy? Grants from the State will be only wasted, allotments, cottages with plots, small holdings on—temporary—easy tenure, all nostrums of that kind are of no avail. The feudal landowner must come down from his pedestal and assent to the parcelment of his estate, if it should be a too large estate, or to a partnership on equitable terms between himself as former privileged owner of the soil and the farmers and labourers as cultivators thereof. If the landowner will not do that then he stands in great danger of becoming the first victim of the revolution he is doing his best by his obstinacy and pride of privilege to provoke. For the diminishing rural population of England will not resume the dreary, prospectless life our land system

has condemned them to for centuries when this war is over.

Our Post Office Department has come very well out of the war strain. Not only did it nett a profit of £3,300,000 in the year closed March 31 last, but it did a fine investment business for behoof of the Treasury, and organised and carried out a mail and parcels service for the troops in the field that must have made said troops the envy of their Allies. Satisfactory also was the yield of the new taxation at all points except telephones. Instead of producing an extra £205,000, the extra penny levied upon telephone messages gave only £115,000. Therefore, that penny will have to come off. In other directions though Mr. McKenna has done well and shrewdly. As Mr. J. A. Pease explained, the total additional charges imposed last autumn were estimated to yield £928,000, and they actually gave over £1,000,000, notwithstanding the failure of the telephones. Long may the elasticity continue, for the money will all be required, fine the Germans as we may.

Some improvement is shown in the finances of South Australia, but they are still far from satisfactory. Revenue for the year to June 30 amounted to £4,355,000, an increase of £382,000, but, nevertheless, the deficit is almost £400,000, against £470,000 for the previous 12 months. That is a heavy difference for a comparatively small population to face, and piling up debt in the way indicated merely postpones the evil day of reckoning. Surely it ought to be possible for the people to cut their coat more in accordance with their cloth, and they are only creating trouble for themselves by neglecting the commonest dictates of prudence. It is said that the deficiency is mainly due to the shortage of railway revenue, caused by limited freight, which means that a large quantity of wheat has not yet been carried to the seaboard. This ought to prove a useful asset in the course of the next few months, and as the prospects for the coming year are said to be much brighter all round, we can only hope that the position will very materially improve before long. New South Wales had a revenue of £19,623,000, an increase of £595,000 over the previous year, but the

cabled summary does not mention the expenditure, and we cannot say at present how the budget balances. Queensland obtained an increase of £503,000 in revenue, which amounted to £7,706,000, but expenditure was £471,000 higher at £7,671,000, and the surplus comes out at £35,000, against £3,000 last year. That is all to the good, but we shall have to go into the figures more closely when the complete returns are available.

A circular has been issued to its shareholders by the New Zealand Shipping Co. stating that it is proposed to amalgamate with the P. and O. on the basis of an exchange of each £10 ordinary share of the New Zealand Co. for £10 of P. and O. deferred stock. As the current price of the latter is about £33, this means that the value put upon the assets of the New Zealand Co. is over three times the nominal capital, and the news was promptly followed by a rise of over £11 in the price of the New Zealand shares to that level. The P. and O. stock to be given in exchange for the shares will rank *pari passu* with the existing deferred stock for the final dividend which will be declared early in December, but will not participate in the interim dividend already paid, and it is stated that the New Zealand Co. will not declare any further dividend pending the completion of the transfer. In recent years the New Zealand Co. has paid 8 per cent. on its ordinary shares, while for the year ended September 30 last the P. and O. paid 10 per cent. and a bonus of 5 per cent., tax free, and the interim payment in April last was raised from 10 per cent. to 12 per cent. Owing to many of their vessels having been taken by the Government early in the war neither company has participated in the sensational increase in profits shown by most shipping undertakings. Both, however, are substantial undertakings with good records, and the amalgamation should prove of mutual advantage.

On more than one occasion we have called attention to the large amounts Japan has expended recently in paying off her external debt, and another operation of the same kind has just been completed. In 1913 she issued 200 million francs (£8,000,000) of Exchequer bonds in Paris, and during the past few weeks more than half the outstanding amount has been bought up and cancelled. The deal has evidently been carried out partly in connection with the French Government's scheme for mobilising all securities realisable abroad, and it has no doubt contributed to the improvement in the Paris cheque, so that it has achieved a double purpose. Since the splendidly organised reduction of the German stronghold at Kiao-Chow Japan has had no active participation in the war, except in the way of providing munitions to Russia, and that has proved greatly to her material and financial advantage. But she has helped indirectly in other ways, and especially by redeeming loans when the money is so urgently required in other directions.

Cables both from New York and Shanghai speak of fairly large loans being arranged between American financiers and China, but although the United States has for a long time desired to secure a larger share in the development of what used to be called the Celestial Empire, it may be doubted whether any definite agreements have yet been arrived at, or are likely to be, in the immediate future. For one thing, the times are not propitious for such operations. Conditions in China are apparently improving, but they are still very unsettled, with the power of the Central Government very much restricted, if not actually in abeyance, and it is difficult to see what security could be given at present for fresh loans. When our hands are less full we shall doubtless try to straighten things out a bit, and we are not surprised to hear that the Americans are desirous of British participation in the projected loans, but we are afraid they must wait till a more favourable season.

By a vote of 67 to 25, the House of Commons refused, on the second reading of the South-Eastern and Chatham Railway Co.'s Bill, to permit of £167,000 being spent on repairing Charing Cross bridge. Mr. John Burns, who made one of his rare public appearances in these days, led the opposition to the Bill mainly on the ground that the bridge is a "disfiguring monstrosity," and the sooner it can be wiped out of existence the better, in order to make room for a more æsthetic structure. If a large sum of money were spent in patching it up any improvement would be indefinitely postponed. A fine scheme was suggested for rebuilding the bridge and, at the same time, shifting Charing Cross Station—whose only redeeming feature, according to Mr. Burns, emerged when it fell down—to the south side of the river and linking it up with the present terminus of the South-Western at Waterloo. It would be a fine object to achieve, but we are afraid that conditions in the money market will prevent such a costly undertaking from being realised for many years to come, and, in the meantime, we can only hope that no accident will happen owing to the weakness of the existing structure, under the strain of the extra war traffic which it has to carry.

An excellent report is issued by the General Electric Co. for the year ended March 31, although the company has had to work under great difficulties. No less than 1,500 experienced members of its staff are serving at the front and had to be replaced by untrained substitutes, while the difficulty in obtaining new machinery, or of adapting existing plant to the production of new articles required for war purposes, caused a certain amount of disorganisation. Notwithstanding these drawbacks, however, the nett profits were increased by £31,397 to £196,275, and after providing for debenture interest and writing off £19,260, or £8,405 more, for depreciation, the disposable surplus, including £36,701 brought in, was £67,694 up at £205,716. The dividend on the ordinary shares is kept at 10 per cent., but £40,000 is transferred to reserve, compared with £20,000 put to that fund and £13,821 written off for balance of expenses of new issue a year ago. Grants to dependents of men on active service took £12,962, or £5,480 more than in the previous year, and the balance carried forward is £11,352 higher at £48,053. Capital expenditure on the freehold land and buildings, less depreciation, amounted to £11,507, making a total of £208,266, while £13,173 was spent on the Kingsway site and building, increasing the cost to £52,794. Fixed plant and machinery is £30,746 up on balance at £102,362, and the Carbon Works extensions account £22,078 up at £34,776. Debtors owe £572,959, or £28,128 more, and stocks are £51,173 larger at £492,083, against an increase of £136,298 to £406,009 in sundry creditors. Cash has been reduced by £56,560 to £115,160, but the holding of Government securities has risen by £68,379 to £252,523, and trade investments are £23,654 up at £357,835. Loose plant, fixtures and installations, and goodwill and patents were written down some years ago to the nominal figure of £1 each, and the company's position is decidedly good. Some particulars are given of the various undertakings included in the item of trade investments, and it is very satisfactory to note that any shares allotted to the company for consideration other than cash have not been included in the balance-sheet.

An important fusion of interests in the Welsh coal trade is announced. The Consolidated Cambrian, Ltd., acting in conjunction with Lord Rhondda and Mr. A. Mitchelson, of Cardiff and London, has secured a controlling interest in D. Davis and Sons, Ltd., by purchase of the principal holdings, and now offers to buy out the whole of the remaining shares at 47s. 6d. apiece. It is stated that the sum involved is approximately £2,000,000. Under normal conditions the joint production of the Cambrian and Davis collieries amounts to about 5,000,000 tons of steam coal per

annum, and it is hoped that the elimination of competition coupled with the advantages resulting from a uniform sales policy will be to the benefit of both concerns. Mr. Frederick L. Davis, who has been chairman of Davis and Sons, Ltd., for many years, retires along with four other directors; Lord Rhondda will take his place, and the other new directors are Messrs. F. S. Cartwright, Leonard W. Llewellyn, A. Mitchelson, and Peter H. Thomas. Lord Rhondda denies that the new combine is in any way aimed against the Triple Industrial Alliance, and no shipping interests are associated with it. We may mention that Davis and Sons, Ltd., formed in 1890, has an issued capital of £787,500 ordinary and £100,000 preference shares, and has paid 10 per cent. dividends for many years. The Cambrian was established in 1913, and has an issued capital of £1,791,200, on which the dividend last year was 15 per cent. This process of trustification, we suppose, must go on, and may be all to the good if it leads to increased efficiency.

A very substantial expansion in profits is shown by the British Thomson-Houston Co. for 1915, part of which, however, would seem to be due to exceptional circumstances. At the end of last year it was impossible to take an inventory at the Rugby main factory owing to the depletion of the staff, and the stocks were taken at the book value, which the directors stated was probably below the actual value. On this occasion, however, the usual inventory has been taken, and the figures show a considerable increase over the book value which has, of course, gone to swell the profit balance. Nett profits consequently show an improvement of no less than £131,493 at £262,361, and after providing for debenture and other interest and adding £13,798, or £854 more, brought forward, the available total was £131,129 larger at £218,236. The company, however, is so heavily over-capitalised that even with this decided progress the directors do not yet feel able to resume the payment of dividends on the preference shares, which have received nothing since February, 1904. Instead of making a distribution, the position of the company is strengthened by writing £30,718, or £10,906 more, off goodwill, patents and licences, £60,000, or £29,560 more, off plant, and £9,742, or £5,393 more, off apparatus supplies, &c., together with slightly larger amounts off investments and furniture. In addition £25,000 is set aside as reserve against raw materials, making altogether £144,878 stowed away as against £73,309 in the previous year, and the balance carried forward is increased by £59,561 to £73,359 in order to provide for excess profits duty. Goodwill, patents and licences have now been brought down to the round £100,000, but the nett reduction in the cost of factories is only £5,727 at £892,273, while apparatus supplies, meters, &c., have risen by £53,796 to £605,314. Shares and debentures held, including at par value certain shares received in payment of contracts, have been reduced by £13,000 to £95,000, but sundry debtors, retention moneys, &c., come to £674,372, or £198,203 more, and cash is £8,463 higher at £63,668. On the other hand, the debt due to the General Electric Co. of New York has risen by £85,225 to £1,051,880, and current liabilities are £73,253 up at £300,685, but the loan secured on part of the shares held has been reduced by £10,000 to £20,000. A further £4,240 of the 4½ per cent. debenture stock was paid off during the year, and since the closing of the books another £4,240 has been redeemed, leaving the nett amount outstanding at £177,735.

In many respects the reports issued by American companies give more information than is usually furnished by similar ventures here, but when it comes down to essentials we often find that the former manage to say just nothing at inordinate length. For instance, the report of the Cuban Telephone Co. for 1915 occupies ten pages, without reckoning the

accounts, but we search in vain for any reference to some sop for the preferred and common stockholders or any mention of the suggested compromise with regard to preferred arrears of dividend which the holders rejected some time ago. When we turn back to the 1914 report we find that a dividend was paid on both the preferred and common stocks, but although business improved last year, not a word is said as to why no distribution can be made on this occasion. It is true that, instead, we get a lengthy disquisition on the general economic progress of Cuba and the development of the telephone service, which we have found interesting and informative, but we are not sure that we should look at it with the same amount of detached patience if we were stockholders. Moreover, it would take more time than it seems to be worth to agree the essential figures quoted in the body of the report with those given in the condensed statement of income and profit. Discrepancies appear at every turn, and we do not propose to try to disentangle them, so we give the comparisons in our own way. Gross operating revenue was \$127,300 higher at \$1,254,069, and other income improved \$45,500 to \$121,833. Operating expenses increased \$7,160 and interest required \$58,000 more, with the result that the nett income for the year after minor adjustments comes out at \$349,455, an increase of \$105,000. This added to the previous surplus makes a total of \$1,197,040, from which expenses in connection with the issue of preferred capital and uncollectable accounts, amounting to \$301,390, are written off, leaving a final surplus of \$895,650, or \$146,500 more than at the end of the previous year. In 1914, however, \$122,500 was paid away in dividends on the preferred and common stocks, and adjustments of \$64,188 were allowed for, after which there was a balance of \$98,000 to add to the accumulated surplus, raising it to \$749,165, but a note was appended stating that no portion of the dis-



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count and expenses on securities sold had been charged against the income for the year. So far as outsiders can judge the company did better all round in 1915 than in 1914, and the attempt to get the preferred stockholders to accept a compromise in respect of arrears of dividend appears to be particularly mean. Until American business men learn to run straight—as one of their own publicists was urging them to do the other day—they have no more chance of seriously challenging Britain's financial supremacy, war or no war, than of flying to the moon. A shame-faced statement is made that during the year nearly \$450,000 (against \$700,000 in 1914) of the company's accumulated cash surplus was used for construction work required to be done under its concessions, but there is not a word of explanation or apology for withholding the dividend to which the preferred stockholders are entitled. Faugh!

That the law is sometimes "a hass" is rather forcibly illustrated in the case of the Continental Tyre and Rubber Co., Ltd., against the Daimler Co., Ltd. The Continental Co. has a capital of £25,000, in £1 shares, of which 24,999 are held by persons residing in Germany. Bills in respect of goods sold to the Daimler Co. before the outbreak of the war became due after hostilities had begun between this country and Germany, and the Daimler Co. very naturally declined to hand over the money to enemy aliens. In the court of first instance the view was taken that the Continental Co., being a registered English company, was entitled to recover, and this decision was upheld by five judges in the Court of Appeal, that sound commercial lawyer, Lord Justice Buckley (as he then was), alone dissenting. So the case had to be brought before eight Law Lords, who, fortunately, had no difficulty in brushing aside quibbling technicalities. Lord Halsbury, in the course of a vigorous judgment, said that the whole discussion was solved by the simple proposition that in our law, when the object to be obtained was unlawful, the indirectness of the means by which it was to be obtained would not get rid of the unlawfulness. In this case all the shares, with one solitary exception, belonged to enemy aliens, and to pay them money, or have dealings with them, was illegal. To the plain man that is such obvious commonsense that any other view is incomprehensible, but it seems very hard on the Daimler Co. that it should have had to incur heavy costs, which may prove irrecoverable, because six judges out of fifteen regarded a legal quibble as more important than the interests of the country.

When the Treasury decided that during the war no new issues of capital should be made without its sanction, there were a good many people who doubted the wisdom of the step, although everybody agreed that it was necessary to conserve the resources of the country as much as possible. But few could have imagined that Treasury supervision would prove such a lamentable fiasco. One of the first public issues sanctioned was that of the Bleriot Manufacturing Aircraft Co., Ltd., which was allowed to offer £100,000 for public subscription in June last year. The Bleriot machine was well known by name to the public, and the need for aircraft was urgent, so there was no difficulty in getting nearly the whole of the capital subscribed, especially with such names on the "front page" as those of the Duke of Manchester, Admiral the Hon. Sir Edmund Fremantle, and Sir A. Guinness, Bart. Very little investigation, however, would have shown that the real wire-puller behind the scenes was Mr. Harry J. Lawson, whose company promotions have been notorious for many years past, and who has never had the good fortune to sponsor a successful venture. In the result, M. Bleriot (an innocent partner in the deal) refused to complete the sale of his rights, and the company is now in process of being compulsorily wound-up. The Official Receiver's report makes interesting and instructive reading, and the shareholders have only Mr. Casson's dogged pertinacity to thank that they will get

back a substantial proportion of their subscriptions—a first payment of 10s. in the £ is already announced. But the incident is not calculated to increase the public's respect for official interference in business affairs of which even the Treasury is profoundly ignorant.

Some disappointment was caused by the Kynoch dividend for the year ended March 31, which is reduced from 20 per cent. to 15 per cent. by halving the bonus, and is also to be paid subject to income-tax instead of tax free. From this announcement it might be concluded that there was a considerable shrinkage in profits, but it is impossible that such can have been the case in present conditions, and the cause of the reduction must be sought elsewhere. A year ago the directors offered as an excuse for their generosity in raising the distribution from 5 per cent. to 20 per cent. the plea that they had been influenced by the fact that for many years the ordinary shares had received no dividend, and for the last two years only a small one, although profits had improved substantially. At that time, too, the directors knew nothing of the excess profits tax, which was not imposed until later in the year, and it will probably be found when the report is issued that very substantial provision has had to be made to meet the tax for the two years.

A remark about a huge fortune having been made out of an originally comparatively small holding of shares in Samuel Courtauld and Co., Ltd., led us to look back into the past history of the concern. It was registered in April, 1891, with a capital of £400,000 in £100 shares, all issued as fully paid. It was re-registered in 1894, with just half the capital, and there was then also £100,000 in debentures. Records of the company are not available between 1899 and 1905, but, in the interval, the capital had been changed to £500,000 in £5 shares, half preference and half ordinary, £200,000 of each class being subscribed and paid up. There was also £200,000 in 4½ per cent. debenture stock. Dividends of 6 per cent. were paid for 1904, 1905, and 1906, but only 3 per cent. for 1907. In 1908, however, there was an improvement, and the shares received 12 per cent.; for 1909, 10 per cent.; for 1910, 20 per cent.; for 1911, 30 per cent.; and for 1912, 50 per cent. In April, 1913, the company was reconstructed under the title of Courtaulds, Ltd., and the capital authorised was £2,500,000 in £1 shares issued as fully paid, each old £5 share being exchanged for 50 new shares. Since the reconstruction the £1 shares have been as high as £7, or over, so that the market value of an old £5 share would, at the present time, be multiplied by 70. At the same time, it will be seen that in the three years 1910-12 alone the whole of the capital was repaid in dividends, and the fortunate holder who got in early undoubtedly had a gorgeous investment.

The indications of an improvement in Canadian affairs afforded by the railroad traffics during the past six months receive confirmation from the quarterly statement of land sales made by the Hudson's Bay Co. Sales of farm lands in the three months ended June 30 amounted to 45,100 acres, as against 8,600 acres in the corresponding period of 1915, and although the price per acre seems to have been rather lower, the total came to £147,600, compared with £31,100. The growing prosperity evidently extended also to the urban districts, as the town lots sold increased in value from £2,060 to £5,500. The total receipts from the land department rose from £43,400 to £76,500.

By dint of holding on, the Lake Copais Co., Ltd., seems to be gradually working into a position of comparative hopefulness, if not actual prosperity, and in 1915 its revenue rose to £52,210, of which £51,185 was profit made in Greece. The money was distributed amongst the prior lien debentures, London ex-

penses, investment depreciation, the reserve, and in making contributions to the "A" and "B" stockholders' interest account. To the "B" stockholders £8,549 more at £14,220 was assigned, and after all a balance of £17,950 remains to be transferred to a bondholders' suspense account pending consideration of resolutions to be submitted on the 27th inst. to holders of the several classes of bonds and debenture stock. Meanwhile, interest on the "A" and "B" debenture stock is paid, partly in cash, partly in paper—that is to say, the "A" debenture stock is to get 4 per cent., subject to tax, in cash, and the "B" debenture stock 6 per cent., as compared with 2½ per cent. for the previous year, but of this last payment 2 per cent. will be distributed in fully-paid 6 per cent. prior lien bonds at par, and the balance only in cash, subject to tax. Fractions of £5 of second prior lien bonds will be paid in cash. Of more interest as regards the future is the account of the work done, and it is encouraging to find the irrigation and drainage works established helping to increase the cultivated area. It was no less than 9,514 acres larger last year than in 1914, making a total of 40,187 acres, mostly the product of the new irrigation and drainage works. Moreover, only 1,170 acres of crops failed last year, whereas in the previous year weather conditions destroyed the crops on 4,743 acres. The destruction last year occurred in land planted with maize where no provision existed for irrigation. Naturally high prices helped to swell the profits, but if the irrigation works prove all that was expected of them, there ought to be a much more cheerful view for this company than it has hitherto been able to look forward to.

The difficulties under which the Neuchatel Asphalte Co. laboured in 1914 were even more apparent in the year ended December 31 last, but it nevertheless was able to show an improvement of £6,854 at £34,299 in its nett profit. A balance of £32,029, or £6,948 more, was brought forward, making a total of £66,328 to be dealt with, but, owing chiefly to the heavy fall in exchanges, the ordinary shares have to go without even the small dividend of 2½ per cent. which was paid for the previous 12 months. The fall in exchanges has been a very serious matter, but the directors face the situation squarely and write off £42,438 on this account, so that after paying the preference dividend the balance carried forward is £18,139 down at £13,890. Landed property and buildings at mines and agencies have been reduced by £3,102 to £66,543, and stocks are £24,078 down at £81,151. Investments in kindred trading companies are £7,559 smaller at £73,814, but bonds of municipalities held are brought into the account at £24,736, or £3,386 more, thanks to the repayment of £13,033 of bank advances secured thereon. A municipal loan accepted in payment for work executed shows a decrease of £18,329 at £10,949, and debtors and bills receivable come to £14,385 less at £212,105, while cash is £4,567 higher at £94,224. On the other hand, there are small decreases of £3,146 to £65,298 in sundry creditors, and £3,954 to £56,051 in bank overdrafts. The general reserve remains at £126,607, but the reserve for maintenance of streets has been reduced by £26,928 to £110,862.

In the 12 months to May 31, Brooke, Bond and Co., the old-established tea distributors, did a most prosperous business, in spite of high prices and the probability of reduced consumption on that account. Nett profits for the year amounted to £26,605, an increase of £6,115, and out of this the usual dividend of 10 per cent. per annum is paid, leaving £8,457, or £3,060 more, to be carried forward. The principal changes in the balance-sheet are an increase of £257,000 in stocks, which now stand at £656,620, and a corresponding increase of £220,000 in sundry creditors, but loans from bankers have been reduced by £34,700 to £107,600. The company is in an exceedingly strong position, with a reserve fund equal to the amount of the paid-up

capital, while goodwill, which originally stood at £100,000, has been completely written off. No doubt the company did an excellent stroke of business for itself last year, when, on the increase in the tea duty, it announced by broadcast advertisements that all the packet tea in retailers' hands—and that represents the great bulk of the company's business—must be sold to the public at the price marked without any addition for the increased duty. Many less shrewd or scrupulous firms probably made a nice harvest out of raising the price immediately, but doubtless the other policy pays best in the long run.

A quite satisfactory business was done in its year ended March 31 last by the Cardiff Channel Dry Docks and Pontoon Co., Limited. Nett profit for the year is shown at £38,945, which is £4,592 up, but that is after deducting not only interest and redemption on the debentures and debenture stock, but setting aside a sum for excess profits tax. The dividend is again made up to 8 per cent. for the year—that is to say, the interim was 3 per cent. against 2½, and the final 5 per cent. against 5½. As the balance brought forward was £9,271 better at £98,078, it results that there is £13,954 more left to carry forward at £112,031. Probably the directors feel warranted in concealing the actual amount set aside for profits tax, but it is a pity that greater uniformity is not exhibited in profit and loss statements. We have no such statements accompanying this report, because what figures as the profit and loss account is merely a revenue and dividend exhibit. In the balance-sheet, however, the reserve appears to be increased by £20,000 to £90,000, and including the fund for the redemption of "B" debentures and the balance left to carry forward after paying the dividend, the company has altogether £236,973 of means in hand or laid by. Its investments have risen by £204,119 to £363,193, this amount including the securities deposited with the National Provincial Bank of England to secure advances from it amounting to £152,638. What this money has been wanted for will probably be explained to the shareholders at the meeting. There was only £2,051 spent on the property last year, raising its book value to £436,624, and other increases, whether in stock or in money due the company, were comparatively insignificant.

Naturally, at present nothing can be done to further construction of the Channel Tunnel, but the company is alive, and is spending no money. On the contrary, its accounts for 1915 show that, after meeting expenditure, which, including £210 of directors' fees, was only £350, there was £470 left to add to the accumulation on capital account. By and by, when this devastation of war is over, interest in the project is certain to revive in a practical and urgent fashion, because the more closely the United Kingdom and France, Belgium, all the sub-Rhine countries, as well as Italy, Switzerland, Holland, and Denmark, are linked together, the greater will be the guarantee the civilised world will possess for a durable peace.

For some time "the financial position of the Frank Jones Brewing Co., Ltd., has been engaging the special consideration of the board," says the report just issued for the year closed February 29 last. It is not surprising, for, in spite of all, this once well-varnished and large business continues to shrink. After meeting prior lien debenture interest, there was a debit balance of £992. This is £5,314 less than the debit balance of the previous year, but added to the previous shortage, makes the company £20,215 in all to the bad, and there is little hope of a material change for the better. Sales were again down, but profits were augmented by lower cost of brewing materials and further economies in working the business. The business of the "True Jones Brewing Co." has proved satisfactory. It remains true, none the less, that the profits during recent

years have, with one exception, been insufficient to meet the debenture and prior lien interest and redemption fund, and, consequently, the working capital of the company has become very much depleted. In order to secure new trade more capital should be available, and a scheme has been put before the debenture-holders involving a reduction of their interest for three years from 5 per cent. to 3, on the understanding that the remaining 2 per cent. will be made up out of the earnings of future years when available. By this means about £30,000 will be provided to develop the business. But how much of this kind of patching and shoring up has been indulged in before with no substantial result? The fact is that £992,607, at which the property stands even to-day is an extravagant total that the intrinsic quality of the business never warranted, and cooper and gild as it may, the board will never, we fear, get out of that initial difficulty.

In view of the meetings of debenture-holders in Spiers and Pond, Ltd., which Mr. Justice Astbury directed to be convened to appoint a receiver and manager, Col. Goer and Messrs. John Gretton, G. Murray-Smith, and E. Sebag-Montefiore have issued a circular in which they say: "In our view, it is clearly to the interest of the first debenture-holders that an independent receiver and manager should be appointed. The security includes hotels and valuable contracts with railway companies and others, and if the goodwill of the company's business is to be maintained, it is essential that fresh arrangements should be made upon sound lines for the continuance of the business under a different policy from that which has brought it to its present position. It is clear that the unprofitable elements of the business must be got rid of, and for this purpose we consider that an independent mind must be brought to bear upon the situation. We trust, therefore, that when you receive notice of the meeting you will send in your proxy in favour of the appointment of Mr. Whinney, if it is not convenient to you to attend the meeting and support him in person. We may mention that up to the present first debenture-holders, representing an amount exceeding £80,000, have replied to our letter of June 23, and expressed their desire to support the appointment of Mr. Whinney." It would certainly seem to be desirable to have an outsider in preference to the gentleman who has acted as auditor of the company, and we hope Mr. Whinney will secure the appointment.

The Shipping Situation.

It is a commonplace of current talk that shipping is extraordinarily prosperous at present, that freights are outrageously high, and that the fortunate shipowners are lining their pockets with gold wrung from the necessities of a long-suffering nation. We make bold to say that a crude picture of that sort does not tell the whole truth. It emphasises certain aspects of the situation. It eliminates others, and gives a wrong perspective to the whole. Some shrewd shipowners are the first to acknowledge that the *régime* of high freights and short tonnage through which we are passing is unhealthy and dangerous, and that the feverish state of things induced by the war will, unless carefully treated, leave, as fevers always do, weakness and lassitude behind. Let us take a long view of the situation.

How do things stand at present? More than half the British mercantile marine is working under Government charter or requisition. We are maintaining great expeditionary forces abroad, not only in France and Flanders, but in Salonika, Mesopotamia, Egypt, and East Africa. All these armies must be fed and supplied with munitions. We are affording sustenance and outfit to the gallant forces of Belgium and Serbia, which by our aid are still in the field against the Central Powers. We are helping our Allies France,

Russia, and Italy with our shipping. That makes a tremendous tax on our resources of ships; but the shipowner is not reaping in these directions the enormous overblown freights which bring forth denunciations from his critics in and out of Parliament. For such services the shipowner receives "blue book rates," no doubt moderately profitable, but not enormous. In other directions we see a check placed on the high level of freights. Only a week or two ago Mr. Runciman called together coalowners, coal exporters, and shipowners at the Board of Trade, and laid before them the necessity of giving France a systematic and adequate supply of coal at more moderate cost than had been at the command of her industrial and domestic consumers. The tact and commonsense displayed by the Minister and the appeal which he made to the patriotic instincts of the various interests concerned culminated in a voluntary arrangement to restrict prices, freights, and commissions. All these circumstances are sufficient to show that a very large proportion of British merchant ships are not participating in the extreme freights which are recorded in the daily papers.

There are other significant factors. We have had to withdraw ships which in normal times are engaged in trading voyages abroad. The Government were compelled by the supreme necessities at home to do so. We have had war losses and marine losses. Our war losses, in spite of the much-heralded German submarine atrocities, are much below the estimates which several competent authorities made before the war as likely to occur in a struggle with a strong naval Power. It would be quite an exaggeration to say that these losses, sensible as they are, have crippled the British mercantile marine. For the time being the difficulty has lain in the impossibility of making good these losses because the full energies and resources of the shipyards have been required by the Admiralty for naval purposes. In recent months, however, a certain amount of mercantile building has been scheduled as war work. So far as the free tonnage of this country is concerned, we have not enough for our needs. It is here that the neutral vessels have come in. They have been free to carry goods for us or not as they pleased. They are not liable to requisition. The trade routes abroad have been open to them. They have been able to refuse or accept charters as they liked. If we wanted their services, we had to pay them exorbitantly. It has been the untrammelled neutral that has set the pace in freights, and a portion of British tonnage has participated in them. But the difference is this: the neutral has kept all his excess war profits. The British shipowner has had to hand over large amounts to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

In approaching the question of shipping profits, this distinction should not be lost sight of. The taxation of them on the British war scale alters the magnitude of them completely, as Mr. McKenna has shown once or twice in the House of Commons. We observed recently that his attention was directed to a Cardiff fleet of steamers, which, it was said, had made £3,000,000 as a result of the war. If these were excess profits, the Chancellor pointed out, the State took £1,800,000 as excess profits duty, £300,000 as income-tax, and £200,000 in super-tax, leaving £700,000 for profits and for replacements and additions—an important matter in shipping concerns. In spite of these attentions on the part of the Government and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, shipping companies have been paying increased dividends in many instances. That is to say, they are higher than were those of last year. But, take the industry over a period of years. It is subject to violent fluctuations, and the lean years which follow the fat years often devour anything in the nature of abnormal profits. Ought not the prudent shipowner to be looking ahead to the years that succeed the war? Will he not have new competition to meet? Will he not have to overhaul and repair his ships, and replace many which have undergone extraordinarily severe wear and tear during the war?

Germany will no doubt for a considerable time be crippled very gravely in the carrying trade of the world. It is devoutly to be hoped that she will be compelled to make amends actually in the form of ships for those which her submarines have sunk in their brutal and illegitimate warfare. But what of neutrals? What of the United States, of Holland, and the Scandinavian countries? What of the rôle which Japan will play in the sea-carrying trade? Neutrals have been waxing opulent on excessive freights. Take the case of Holland and the Scandinavian countries. Sir Archibald Williamson, M.P., told the Italian delegates at the Paris inter-Parliamentary Conference that it had been calculated that by the end of the present year the shipowners of Holland, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden would have accumulated since the commencement of the war profits in excess of their normal receipts amounting to no less than £80,000,000. He added that this "constitutes a direct menace to our mercantile marine. While British shipowners are making comparatively small accumulations, and are losing their vessels by the perils of the seas and the perils of war, neutrals are building up, and have built up, enormous reserves with which at the opportune time they can build great fleets of merchant tonnage and seriously threaten the future of the mercantile marines of all the Allies." Sir Owen Philipps has told the shareholders of Elder, Dempster and Co. of the dangers of future competition from the big reserve funds in the hands of neutral shipowners, and said that the matter warranted "serious consideration." Dutch and Scandinavian shipping, indeed, has had a rich harvest. The dividends for 1915 have been enormous. The Holland-Amerika line increases its distribution to 50 per cent. from 17 per cent. in 1914, the Nederlandsche-Lloyd to 25 per cent. from 9 per cent., the East Asiatic Co. of Copenhagen to 30 per cent. from 10 per cent. The dividends which many of the Dutch and Scandinavian concerns which run tramp steamers are still larger and more striking. These are paid often on the top of very considerable allocations to reserves, and in some cases new vessels have been bought out of revenue. Plainly there are some heavy clouds on the horizon of the British shipowner.

By-the-Way War Notes.

So grim is the conflict now raging in France that one could wish journalists to indulge in less "fine writing" about it. And yet, perhaps, that helps to keep up the spirits of those who remain at home in tense expectation, torn between hopes and fears, hopes of an early end to all the carnage, fears for the loved ones daily and hourly braving death that we may be free.

The last great offensive in the West has begun well. Evidently the high command of the Franco-British has learnt its lesson effectively during the past two years, and has bent all its efforts to solve the problem how best to slay without being slain. So far our casualties have been less, some accounts say much less, than were reckoned on and provided for. On the average we hope it will always be so, and with our powerful and perfected artillery the destruction of the doomed Empires ought to proceed methodically to the necessary finale. It is almost vain to try to speculate when the end will come. We thought the peoples involved in the ruin and obliteration of the two doomed Empires would have risen before now to assert their freedom, to throw down the idols they worship; but hitherto they have preferred death, extinction, to freedom, such is their intellectual perversion, their moral atrophy of soul.

But there is always the excuse made for the Germans that they have been so lied to, so deceived, as to be dupes still of their rulers. The excuse will no longer serve. Only minds essentially perverted, souls given over to conceit to a degree inconceivable by self-respecting and free men and women could have gone

on assimilating the falsehoods assiduously served out for their nourishment by their tyrants. Times without number the lie has been demonstrated, its grossness proclaimed by events; but the degraded people has not ceased to accept the falsehood as truth, because its enslavers continued to assure it that soon the world would lie at its feet subdued by the invincible might of German arms. The people, in short, have never wanted to know the truth, and are not even to-day in the least ready to accept it. Though short of food and without work, except in munition shops and gun factories, they still go on believing that victory, conquest, the wealth of the pirate will soon be theirs, and make them powerful, rich, and therefore happy for evermore.

What can be done with the inhabitants of an Empire thus degraded? Nothing can be done. We must resign ourselves to the loathsome duty they force upon us. They must be killed off, and killed and killed and killed, until either the disease from which they suffer is bled out of them or until their manhood is so completely swept away as to insure impotence and decadence for the race henceforth. The experience of German habits and German ways of thinking which the past two years has given us forbids us to entertain any more the idea of reaching peace by treaty. Neither in Austria nor in Germany is there anyone now with whom the Allies can treat, because there is no one to be trusted. Moreover, when the end comes no one will be left in either smashed-up Empire with power to keep any pact, however sacred. Therefore, the war has to be resolutely persevered in until the Allies are in a position to impose upon the enemy disarmament, restitution of stolen property, reparation for devastations committed, dismemberment, indemnities, and the dissolution of both the Habsburg and Hohenzollern Empires. Out of this conflict we hope to see a new freedom spring for the peoples within these Empires as elsewhere, and one of the bulwarks of that freedom must be the utter and final destruction of Prussian hegemony, the Habsburg superstition.

As the agony of the final great conflict draws to its climax we must be increasingly on our guard against deceptions. They will be of all kinds, and come from unlooked-for quarters. It would not surprise us in the least to learn that those seditious leaflets demanding the Kaiser's dethronement, which were so mysteriously scattered broadcast over Berlin the other day, came from the police. "Sedition in Germany," "Liebknecht the Real Ruler of Germany," "A Revolution Brewing: The Allies Need Not Hurry"—hints like these may be spread by the slave Press in hope of beguiling. Or it may have been merely a clumsy trick perpetrated with the view to divert the minds of a mob growing ever more hungry from broodings over the strange effects of the Kaiser's

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"Trafalgar," or raising questions on the strategy of a supreme headquarters staff as exhibited before Verdun. Whatever the motive, we may be sure that leaflet-scattering does not herald revolt and revolution in Germany. To the malformed and misinformed German intellect the British fleet will rest at the bottom of the sea, an unshakable conviction enduring until the last man dies eating his last sawdust and bran biscuit.

The latest demand—officially inspired no doubt—is for a resumption of submarine piracy, in a manner more energetic than ever. But where are the boats to do it with? Will the German Navy, perchance, come and borrow its own back from us? That such a demand should be raised after the ever-renowned German fleet's "victory" over us in the North Sea might teach an intelligent people that something must be amiss about said victory; but a disloyal notion of the sort can find no resting-place in the German brain. The Kaiser said "victory," and victory it remains to the Teuton.

To our inexpert musings and eyes untrained the present aspect of the war is full of encouragement. Many symptoms point to an early collapse of the enemy. We say this not to slacken but to quicken our offensive. It does not seem to us humanly possible that the two robber Empires—both now utterly insolvent—can keep the fight up for long—not on its present scale. Their concert has been leading them towards the bottomless pit from the outset, and now we behold them compelled to fight on the French and Belgian fronts, on the frontiers of Italy, in Macedonia, in Galicia and Baltic Russia, as well as in Asia Minor, Persia, and the Sinai Desert, not to speak of Arabia. That is the imperative necessity laid upon them after two years of strenuous battling, in the course of which several millions of their best fighting material have been swept away. Neither in men nor in munitions can the Germans and Austrians have the offensive, or defensive, staying power they had in 1914, or even six months ago. And, to crown the folly, the vanity of the ruling caste, whose faith is that in war and oppression alone is national prosperity to be found, leads them to continue the "bluff" in holocausts before Verdun at the very hour when every available man and murder appliance must be urgently required to help in stemming the onset of France, the United Kingdom, Russia, and Italy. Had the Kaiser's opponents arranged the blunders of his supreme command to make certain their own triumph they could hardly have done it better. It needs now but the move of General Sarrail at Salonica to make the ring fence complete around the doomed Empires, and then two, or, at most, three, months of stiff assault, unremitting, resolute, should see the backs of both of them broken.

Even so, the war will not necessarily end at once or soon, because, as explained above, we have nobody to end it with. Therefore, the beaten foe will simply have to be ejected from Belgium and France, from all the territory Italy claims—and has the right to—from all the Balkans and from all Poland. Constantinople also has to be delivered from the withering inertia of the Turk, and Asia Minor swept clear of his corrupt administration. It is a giant's labour, but face it we must, and go sternly on until we have completed it by giving all the submerged peoples, freed from hoary tyrannies, liberties they never came in sight of before.

Presently, however, insidious efforts to open negotiations will be renewed and attempts again furiously or furtively made to sow strife between or to separate the Allies. To all and every move of the enemy the Allies must oppose their solidarity in diplomacy, as on the battlefields. We have but one thing to do—to go steadily, methodically, on with the work in hand, never allowing a check or failure to discourage, never tempted to rashness by a brilliantly successful stroke, but in all soberness of spirit proceeding day by day with the work of destruction. "No light undertaking," you say, and certainly it is not. It is much heavier than

we originally looked for, but the hour is not now far off when it will begin to lighten.

With the despatches of Admiral Sir John Jellicoe and Vice-Admiral Sir David Beatty before us, we know all that we shall be allowed to know of the Battle of Jutland until it is considered desirable to clear up the few remaining points that are still in obscurity. They make a magnificent story of courage, skill, and perfect organisation, but withal there are grumblers who do not seem satisfied. The Fleet had no eyes but its own, they whimper; neither Admiral Jellicoe nor Admiral Beatty knew that the German Fleet was out; they had no watchers, submarine or other, to report the sally; it was just a piece of luck that the High Seas Fleet was doing a promenade when it stumbled against the Germans. All this and more to the same effect simply because the Admiralty very properly chooses to keep its mouth shut about certain things that are its own particular business and secrets. We are quite content at present with the story as it stands, for it displays our naval strategy at its very best, although the conditions were in some respects extraordinarily difficult and unfavourable. Sir David Beatty was out to look for the German Fleet, and when he found it his only thought was to give it battle. When he came in touch with the enemy's scouts he was in greatly superior force, but no one except a very "foolish person" would imagine that as he dashed ahead he did not expect to encounter a much larger body of the enemy. Presently he found the tables turned and his cruisers outclassed in everything but speed. It was optional for him to withdraw at any moment he chose, but he preferred to engage against heavy odds, and by clever manœuvring to cut off the German Grand Fleet from its base in order to give Sir John Jellicoe time to come up. Weather conditions were unfavourable, as they so often are in the North Sea, but even in clear weather a battleship is not a very conspicuous object at a distance of ten or fifteen miles from the firing point. It is evident, however, that it was not the British, but the German, fleet that was trapped, and when the latter found the full strength of the forces opposed to it Von Scheer's one thought was to escape. In this he was aided by his own manufactured smoke-clouds, by belts of impenetrable fog, and by the approach of nightfall, but not until heavy toll had been taken of his ships. Sir John Jellicoe puts the German losses at a "minimum" of 21 vessels, and, as a "competent naval authority" says, "it was a beaten and broken German fleet that escaped the trap. It had lost many of its units, its gunnery had gone to pieces, and no one can blame its discretion if it fairly ran for home and left the British fleet once more in undisputed command of the North Sea. That in a word was the result of the battle." Relative losses on the two sides are of little importance beside that dominant fact, and the Germans are welcome to scream about their wonderful "victory" as much as they like if it pleases them to do so. By the way, what a contrast there is between the plain, unvarnished narratives given by Sir John Jellicoe and Sir David Beatty and those issued by the German Admiralty! And the egregious Herr Ballin—has he arranged any more sailings yet?

It is announced that Lord Rhondda has recently joined the board of R. Martens and Co., Ltd., in which he holds a controlling interest. This firm acts as shipping agents to the Imperial Russian Marine, to the Russian Government Committee, and also as British Admiralty Agents at Archangel.

Spies Petroleum. — Production, including 12,150 poods from ambars, for week June 25, 133,750 poods, or about 2,157 tons. Total production for year from Jan. 14 to June 25, 4,045,515 poods, or about 65,250 tons, against 6,555,470 poods, or about 105,733 tons, for the corresponding period last year. Note.—As already reported, operations at Grozny were only fully resumed on June 22.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce has received the following cablegram from its head offices:—"Latest advices from Western Provinces state that, after several weeks of cool, wet weather, ideal for development of a strong root growth, there has now been a few days of warm weather, and crop conditions up to the present are ideal everywhere. Total acreage in crop is now estimated at about 90 per cent. of last year's acreage."

American Business Notes.

We are without any very reliable information with regard to the latest developments in the position between the United States and Mexico, and can only hope—without being too sanguine—that even at the eleventh hour prudent counsels may prevail. Carranza appears disposed at least to temporise, and President Wilson has been talking pacifically to the New York Press Club. When the President asked if the glory of America would be enhanced by war or the conquest of Mexico we are told that shouts of "No" came from all parts of the hall, and a similar response was made to the question whether it was America's duty "to carry self-defence to the point of dictation in the affairs of another people." Very nice soothing syrup for a situation that has been sadly mishandled from the start, but whether it will help to cure the trouble can only be conjectured. Meantime we note that the Committee of Ways and Means in Washington has reported favourably on a Revenue Bill which, among other things, authorises a bond issue, if one should be necessary, to meet the expenditure of the Mexican expedition. Also the Mexican Government has issued a memorandum in reply to Mr. Lansing which declares that the United States has no right to maintain armed forces on Mexican soil, accuses the United States of sending many overbearing Notes to Mexico, and challenges Washington to prove its assertion that Mexico protected the bandits who committed depredations on United States soil. All of which perhaps sounds more truculent than it is intended to be, and may be useful in letting off steam, although on both sides there is more manoeuvring for position than is altogether reassuring.

Responsible opinion in America is not apparently greatly enamoured with the Administration's new and "perfected" Ship Purchase Bill. Like the rest of the world, the United States are groaning under the increase in freights, and the American members of the International High Commission have pointed out that coal is selling in Buenos Aires at \$28 to \$30 per ton, nearly \$25 of which is represented by freight payments. They also allege that British merchants are enjoying rates 50 to 75 per cent. less than American manufacturers, and that important contracts have recently gone to Europe from South America, which would have been given to the United States but for the wide difference in freights. Without conceding the accuracy of these statements, it may be granted that the position is a serious one from the American point of view, but it is difficult to see how the Shipping Bill will cure it. The pressing need of the moment is more tonnage, not a mere transfer of ships from one register to another. Tonnage is not provided by Acts of the Legislature, but by shipyards, and the shipyards in the United States, it is said, are working to their fullest capacity. Unless the Government establishes shipyards of its own it is difficult to see how it can increase the number of vessels. The purchase of ships from private owners, and the regulation of their rates, would, of course, reduce freights on certain routes, but that would be counterbalanced by an increase in other directions, and nothing would be gained. A Shipping Board is to be established to regulate rates, but the thing cannot be done except to a very limited extent, because ships are not tied to their routes as railroads are, and they naturally gravitate to the most profitable market. However, the new Bill provides that the Government shall retire from the shipping business five years after the conclusion of the war, and it will doubtless learn a few useful lessons in the meantime.

According to the statistics compiled by the New York *Chronicle*, the acreage of cotton planted this year shows an increase of 4,426,000 acres, or fully 12½ per cent., the total area of 39,671,000 acres being the largest on record. Last year's crop fell below expectations, owing to adverse weather and other causes, while consumption has proved considerably larger than was

anticipated, and prices have ruled comparatively high. Consequently there has been a general tendency among farmers in the South to put in more cotton, especially as some of the other crops (wheat and oats particularly) failed to start off satisfactorily. So far as can be judged by present indications, the condition of the crop is better than at the corresponding period in either of the two previous years, and everything points to a bumper production, although owing to the restricted use of fertilisers and possible damage by boll weevils, it is too early yet to indulge in estimates of the total yield. The outlook, however, is regarded as encouraging, and as a big European demand is expected after the war it is satisfactory to be able to look forward to ample supplies.

Insurance News.

In accordance with the recommendations of the actuary, the directors of the Gresham Life Assurance have decided, in view of the prevailing conditions, to make no distribution to the policyholders of the balance of £279,353 shown in the valuation balance-sheet, but to treat it as a reserve against depreciation, and it is therefore carried to investment reserve. The directors are convinced in acting as they propose that they are consulting the permanent and greater interests of the society, and they hope that with a return to normal conditions the payment of dividends and bonuses will be resumed. The assets stand in the balance-sheet at £10,983,579, and the investment reserve at £399,353. A nett rate of interest of £4 1s. 10d. per cent. was realised on the funds. The decline in the volume of new business for the past year was much smaller than might have been expected, the figures showing that by comparison the society maintained its position among the first eight British offices doing ordinary life assurance business. The total number of policies was 2,751, assuring £1,278,952, which contrasted with 5,059 policies for £1,963,817 in 1914. The new premium income on purely British business was the largest in the history of the society. Expenses were reduced, the ratio on the premium income being at the rate of 19.04 against 22 per cent. in 1914.

The figures in the ordinary branch of the City Life Assurance Co. for 1915 were the largest recorded since 1910, the number of ordinary life policies issued being 1,473, assuring £257,125, at new annual premiums of £9,014. The premium income of the branch increased during the year by £4,896 to £63,895. A dividend of 3 per cent. on the preferred shares is declared.

An increase of £57,158 to £6,620,527 was shown in the total nett new business of the Australian Mutual Provident Society for 1915, although the number of policies issued was lower, namely, 22,019 as against 23,228 in 1914. Death claims in the ordinary branch were heavier at £1,390,750, including bonuses of £376,487; of this total £343,053 was due to claims arising from the war. By an addition of £1,578,121 the accumulated funds were raised to £34,809,877, or including the amount standing to the credit of investment fluctuation fund to £34,864,138. The report of the actuary shows that in the ordinary branch the cash surplus, including special reserves, was £983,718, out of which £838,718 is allotted for distribution, this sum providing reversionary bonuses amounting to nearly a million and a-half sterling. Sums of £26,533 and £4,272 are written off securities and premises account respectively.

The new nett life business of the Clerical, Medical and General Life Assurance Society for the financial year ending June 30 was £737,472, being an increase of £64,740 over that of last year, with new premiums of £25,792, showing an increase of £1,953. The amount of the claims was £300,341, being a decrease of £48,710 as compared with the previous year. Included in this amount is £54,148 paid for war claims.

In its year ended May 31 the Trustees, Executors and Securities Insurance Corporation, which owns

Winchester House, found its revenue from that property lower, owing partly to exceptional expenditure on repairs and partly to a reduction in rents and increased expenses attributable to the war. Its nett profits from all sources, after providing £26,430, or £2,479 less, for interest, were £3,892 down at £49,457, but £36,941, or £5,628 more, was brought forward, and the available balance was therefore £1,736 better at £86,399. The dividend on the ordinary stock is again made up to 5 per cent. by a final distribution at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, and as it is paid less income-tax, the amount carried forward, after transferring a further £2,500 to the staff pension fund, is increased by £5,602 to £45,544. Profit on realisation of securities has been directly applied to writing down the values at which certain investments stand in the books. For the second year in succession no revaluation has been made of the investments, as it is still impossible to obtain reliable quotations in many cases.

The Week in Mines.

After a short period of dulness and lessened activity, the mining markets have developed fresh liveliness this week. Some of the Rand shares advanced sharply, such as Gedulds, Brakpans, City Deep, and Jupiters, and the base metal descriptions became active and firmer. Copper shares made a partial recovery, and in the tin group the Cornish descriptions, including Dolcoaths, East Pools and South Croftys, rose sharply. Elsewhere Falcons were prominent, and the declaration of a maiden dividend on Nechi preference shares stimulated activity in this security, and in those of the parent concern, the Oroville Dredging.

SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

The South African market has developed a more cheerful tone on a resumption of buying on Cape account. Gedulds, which were bought on the statements made at the meeting regarding the increased profits which will be made when the new plant is in operation, recovered $\frac{1}{8}$ to 2 7-32. Crown Mines advanced $\frac{1}{8}$ to 3 $\frac{1}{8}$ on the new development programme outlined at the meeting, and Rand Mines advanced to 3 21-32 in sympathy. Brakpans have been in good request, and are 7-32 to the good at 4 7-32, and Springs have rallied to 2 23-32, a rise of 23-32. Daggafonteins have risen 1s. 3d. to 15s. 3d., and East Rand Mining Estates have jumped 2s. 9d. to 17s. In the Gold Fields group Gold Fields advanced $\frac{1}{8}$ to 1 $\frac{1}{8}$, and Jupiter rose 9d. to 7s. 9d. on the resumption of dividends. City Deep at 4, and Johannesburg Consolidated at 18s., have been active, while Van Ryns recovered 3-32 to 2 $\frac{1}{8}$. Henderson's improved to 5s. 3d. on the declaration of a maiden dividend. Among diamond shares, De Beers deferreds and prefs. reacted to 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ respectively on profit-taking. In the Rhodesian section Falcons were actively supported on a good quarterly statement, and rose 1s. 3d. to 16s., while Tanganyikas have recovered to 2 21-32. Among West African shares some interest has been taken in Presteas, which are 1s. higher at 10s. 6d., and in Taquahs, which have improved to 19s. 3d.

COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

In spite of a relapse of £6 in the price of copper, which is now quoted at about £96 $\frac{3}{4}$, copper shares have been moderately firm, thanks to better advices from the United States. Rio Tintos are $\frac{1}{4}$ up at 61 $\frac{3}{4}$, after having been as high as 62 $\frac{1}{4}$, while Anacondas have risen $\frac{1}{4}$ to 17 $\frac{3}{4}$ and Capes $\frac{1}{8}$ to 3 $\frac{3}{8}$. Tin shares have been a good market, especially the Cornish descriptions, though the market for the metal has been rather weaker. Dolcoaths have risen 1s. 6d. to 12s. 6d.; South Croftys 1s. 6d. to 17s. 3d.; and East Pools $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 $\frac{1}{8}$. In the Broken Hill group Amalgamated Zincs have risen 2s. 3d. to 34s. 6d., and British Props. 1s. 6d. to 25s. 6d. In the West-Australian section Lake View and Oroyas have risen 9d. to 10s. 9d., a good deal of business having been effected this week at a steadily rising price.

Mexican shares rallied on the better news from Washington. Santa Gertrudis have regained 1s. 3d. to 14s., Mexico of El Oros $\frac{1}{8}$ to 4, and Camp Birds 6d. to 9s. 3d. Russian shares have shown strength on the news from the Eastern front. Irtyshs have spurted 2s. 9d. to 43s. 9d., Russo-Asiatics $\frac{1}{4}$ to 5 $\frac{1}{2}$, and Tanalyks $\frac{1}{8}$ to 2 $\frac{1}{4}$. Before the issue of the report Burma Corporations were bought up to over 65s., but profit-taking ensued, and the shares are 5-32 lower on balance at 3 $\frac{1}{8}$. Mysore have been a good market, with a rise of 3-32 to 4, but Ooregums have been easier at 22s. 6d. Waihis have been in demand at about 37s. Nechi Prefs. and Oroville are both 1s. 6d. higher at 14s. 9d and 17s. 6d. respectively.

MINING NEWS.

RAND MINING DIVIDENDS.—According to statistics supplied from Johannesburg, the dividends declared by the Rand mining concerns for the first half of this year total £3,634,795, a decrease of £210,053 as compared with 1915. Also, it should be

noted that the distributions for the first half of 1915 were about £200,000 less than for the first half of 1914, when the Robinson distributed its big bonus of £275,000. The decrease recorded this year has been caused by the default of the Randfontein Central and the poor returns made by the East Rand, Crown Mines, and Rand Mines. In the Gold Fields group a pleasant surprise was forthcoming in the shape of a dividend of 5 per cent. on Jupiter shares, the first since December, 1912, when 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. was distributed. The Simmer and Jack, however, has failed to maintain the former rate of 5 per cent.

CROWN MINES.—At the recent meeting Mr. Samuel Evans, the chairman, had a good deal of information to give the shareholders concerning the development of the mine. Unpayable zones had been encountered in the past two years, particularly on the south reef in the eastern section. A satisfactory feature, however, was the improvement in value in depth of ore which was being opened up in the western section of the property, more especially in the old Langlaage Deep ground. Ore exposed below the 13th level was of higher grade than that above it. This was important, because the greater portion of the unworked ground was in the western section. Towards the close of last year hand stoping was substituted for machine stoping, but the result was disappointing, an improvement of $\frac{1}{2}$ dwt. in grade being more than counterbalanced by a heavy addition to costs and a considerable loss of tonnage. The former method of working had therefore been reverted to. Since the amalgamation the Crown Mines had distributed in dividends £6,252,000, or 33 per cent. of the gold produced, as compared with a distribution by the constituent companies prior to the amalgamation of £6,654,000, or 33.5 per cent. of the yield. That portion of the mining ground north of the South Rand dyke was estimated to have a life of 12 years. A plan had been drawn up for developing the southern portion of the property, which totalled 1,278 unworked claims. That would involve an expenditure of about £100,000 per annum for about 15 years. The chairman emphasised his belief that the company's troubles were largely of a transitory character.

BURMA CORPORATION.—The shares of this company have lately been rising very persistently, mainly in intelligent anticipation that the report for 1915 would show a marked increase in the ore reserve position. That expectation is confirmed, for the document issued this week estimates the proved and probable tonnage at 2,300,000, valued at 25.4 ozs. of silver, 27.5 per cent. lead, and 22.2 per cent. zinc. The tonnage shows an increase of one million tons as compared with the end of 1914, and the silver and lead contents are slightly higher. During the current year developments have added another 300,000 tons to the proven ore. In view of the high prices ruling for metals, every effort has been made to obtain the maximum output. Last year's output totalled 14,000 tons of hard lead, containing 17 to 36 ozs. of silver per ton. The Tiger tunnel is expected to be finished in October. The Corporation has advanced to the Burma Mines £150,000 out of the £300,000 it has agreed to lend it.

OROYA LINKS.—The report for 1915 states that, after charging £5,202 for plant depreciation and £8,500 for development redemption, the accounts show a credit balance of £366, which raises the amount carried forward from £3,846 to £4,212. There were treated during the year 141,300 tons of ore, which yielded £147,555, an average of 20s. 10d. per ton. At the Eclipse Mine the ore reserves are estimated at 15,622 tons, valued at 24s. 3d. per ton, besides a large tonnage of probable ore not yet completely blocked out.

SIAMSE TIN SYNDICATE.—The report for the nine months ended December 31 shows a profit of £20,633, after writing off £8,173 for depreciation. For the twelve months ended March 31, 1915, the profit was £21,629, after allowing £6,096 for depreciation. Dividends amounting to 20 per cent. have been paid, leaving £4,207, against £7,574, to be carried forward. Since December 31 the profits have been satisfactory, and the directors have therefore decided to pay an interim dividend of 10 per cent. on July 14. Tin ore won amounted to 724 tons, which realised \$662,729. The gross working profit was \$301,586, or 6.59d. per cubic yard treated. A start has been made in opening up the Bandon Mine, which is expected to produce on a small scale this month.

Mr. David Richards has been appointed chairman and managing director of the Sons of Gwalia.

KAMINISTQUIA POWER.—Nett earnings for May, \$26,983; increase, \$2,731. Aggregate from Nov., \$190,043; increase, \$5,895.

WM. MOWAT AND SONS, LTD.—Just how this small business of tanners and leather merchants fared in the year ended May 31 cannot be gathered from the accounts, as the figures are only given after providing for excess profits duty for 1914-15. Including £3,007, or £1,006 more, brought forward, the amount available as disclosed is £3,055 larger at £16,569, and the directors again pay a dividend of 20 per cent. on the ordinary shares. Nothing, however, is transferred to the dividend equalisation fund, compared with £2,500 set aside last time, and the appropriation to general reserve is reduced from £3,000 to £1,000, leaving £10,992, or £7,985 more, to be carried forward, subject to excess profits duty for the past year. Except for a new item of £20,924 for investments and accrued interest, the changes in the balance-sheet are of the usual character and need not be detailed.

AMERICAN DOLLAR SECURITIES COMMITTEE.

CONSOLIDATION OF FIRST, SECOND, AND THIRD LISTS

OF

SECURITIES WHICH THE TREASURY IS PREPARED TO PURCHASE AND WHICH WILL BE SUBJECT TO SPECIAL INCOME TAX,

EXEMPTION WILL BE GRANTED IN RESPECT OF THOSE SECURITIES WHICH ARE LENT TO THE TREASURY UNDER THE DEPOSIT SCHEME.

FURTHER LISTS

of the Securities in respect of which Holders will be liable to the Special Income Tax of 2s. in the £ will be issued from time to time.

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| 266 Alabama Gt. Southern R.Rd. 1st Cons. Mort. 5 p.c., 1943. | 272 Beech Creek R.Rd. 2nd Mort. 5 p.c., 1936. |
| 163 Alabama Gt. Southern R.Rd. General Mortgage 5 p.c. Sterling, 1927. | 273 Beech Creek R.Rd. 4 p.c. Guaranteed Stock. |
| 164 Alabama Midland Rly. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1928. | 159 Bell Telephone Co. of Canada 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1925. |
| 386 Albany and Susquehanna R.R. 1st Mort. Conv. $3\frac{1}{2}$ p.c., 1946. | 419 Bethlehem Steel Corporation 1st Extension Mtge. S.F. 5 p.c., 1926. |
| 387 Albany and Susquehanna R.R. Guaranteed Stock. | 420 Bethlehem Steel Corporation 1st Lien and Refunding Mortgage 5 p.c., 1942, Series "A." |
| 388 American Agricultural Chemical Co. 1st. Mortgage Convertible S.F. 5 p.c., 1928. | 421 Bethlehem Steel Corporation 7 p.c. Non-Cum. Preferred. |
| 389 American Agricultural Chemical Co. Convertible Debenture 5 p.c., 1924. | 422 Boston and Albany R.R. Equipment $4\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Notes. |
| 390 American Agricultural Chemical Co. 6 p.c. Cum. Preferred | 274 Brooklyn Rapid Transit 1st Refunding 4 p.c., 2002. |
| 391 American Bank Note Co. 6 p.c. Cum. Preferred. | 275 Brooklyn Rapid Transit 6 Year 5 p.c. Gold Notes, 1918. |
| ■ American Beet Sugar Co. 6 p.c., Non-Cum. Preferred. | 276 Brooklyn Rapid Transit 5 p.c. Mortgage, 1945. |
| ■ American Co. Debentures 5 p.c., 1928. | 277 Brooklyn Union Elevated R.Rd. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1950. |
| 394 American Can Co., 7 p.c. Cum. Preferred. | 218 Buffalo Rochester and Pittsburgh Rly. Genl. Mort. 5 p.c., 1937. |
| 395 American Car and Foundry Co. 7 p.c. Non-Cum. Preferred. | 219 Buffalo Rochester and Pittsburgh Rly. Consd. Mort. $4\frac{1}{2}$ p.c., 1957. |
| 396 American Cotton Oil Co. Debentures 5 p.c., 1931. | 278 Burlington Cedar Rapids and Northern Rly. Cons. 1st Mort. and Coll. 5 p.c., 1934. |
| 397 American Cotton Oil Co. 6 p.c. Non-Cum. Preferred. | 279 Butte Electric and Power 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1951. |
| 398 American Dock and Improvement Co. 1st Mort. Guar. 5 p.c., 1921. | 13 Canadian Pacific Rly. 6 p.c. Notes, 1924. |
| 399 American Hide and Leather Co. 1st Mortgage 6 p.c., 1919. | 119 Canada Southern Rly. Consd. Gtd. 5 p.c., 1962. |
| 400 American Locomotive Co. 7 p.c. Cum. Preferred. | 120 Carolina Clinchfield and Ohio Rly. 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1938. |
| 401 American Power and Light Co. 6 p.c. Notes, 1921. | 423 Carolina Clinchfield and Ohio Rly. (Elkhorn Extension) 1st Mortgage 5 p.c. Notes, 1917. |
| 402 American Smelting and Refining Co. 7 p.c. Cum. Preferred. | 167 Carthage and Adirondack R.Rd. 1st Mort. 4 p.c., 1981. |
| ■ American Sugar Refining Co. 7 p.c. Cum. Preferred. | 424 Cedar Rapids Iowa Falls and North-Western Rly. Gtd. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1921. |
| 1 American Telephone and Telegraph Coll. Trust 4 p.c., 1929. | 425 Central District Telephone Co. 1st Mort. S.F. 5 p.p., 1943. |
| 2 American Telephone and Telegraph Conv. 4 p.c., 1936. | 426 Central Leather Co. 1st Lien 5 p.c., 1925. |
| ■ American Telephone and Telegraph Conv. $4\frac{1}{2}$ p.c., 1933. | 427 Central Leather Co. 7 p.c. Cum. Preferred. |
| 263 American Thread Co. 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1919. | 428 Central New England Rly. 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1961. |
| 404 American Tobacco Co. Bonds 6 p.c., 1944. | 429 Central of Georgia Rly., Chattanooga Division, Purchase Money Mortgage 4 p.c., 1951. |
| 405 American Tobacco Co. Bonds 4 p.c., 1951. | 75 Central of Georgia Rly. Consd. Mortgage 5 p.c., 1945. |
| 406 American Tobacco Co. 6 p.c. Cum. Preferred. | 280 Central of Georgia Rly. 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1945. |
| 407 American Tobacco Co. New Preferred. | 430 Central of Georgia Rly., Macon and Northern Division, 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1946. |
| 408 American Woollen Co. 7 p.c. Cum. Preferred. | 431 Central of Georgia Rly., Middle Georgia and Atlantic Division 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1947. |
| 267 Armour and Co. 1st Real Estate Mtg. $4\frac{1}{2}$ p.c., 1939. | 432 Central of Georgia Rly., Mobile Division, 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1946. |
| 5 Atchison Topeka and Santa Fe Rly. Adjustment 4 p.c., 1905. | 15 Central R.Rd. of New Jersey Genl. Mortgage 5 p.c., 1987. |
| 73 Atchison Topeka and Santa Fe Rly. (California Arizona Lines) 1st and Refdg. Mortgage $4\frac{1}{2}$ p.c., 1962. | 433 Central Ohio R.R. Reorganization 1st Mortgage $4\frac{1}{2}$ p.c., 1930. |
| 6 Atchison Topeka and Santa Fe Rly. Convertible 4 p.c., 1955. | 80 Central Pacific Rly. Mortgage $3\frac{1}{2}$ p.c., 1929. |
| 7 Atchison Topeka and Santa Fe Rly. Convertible 4 p.c., 1960. | 14 Central Pacific Rly. 1st Refunding 4 p.c., 1949. |
| 4 Atchison Topeka and Santa Fe Rly. General Mortgage 4 p.c., 1905. | 79 Central Pacific Rly. (Through Short Line) 1st Mort. Gtd. 4 p.c., 1954. |
| 268 Atchison Topeka and Santa Fe Rly. East Oklahoma Div. 1st Mort. 4 p.c., 1928. | 281 Central R.R. and Banking Co. of Georgia Coll. 5 p.c., 1937. |
| 165 Atchison Topeka and Santa Fe Rly. 10 Year Convertible 5 p.c., 1917. | 18 Chesapeake and Ohio Rly. Convertible $4\frac{1}{2}$ p.c., 1930. |
| 214 Atchison Topeka and Santa Fe Rly. (Transcontinental Short Line) 1st Mort. 4 p.c., 1958. | 435 Chesapeake and Ohio Rly. Craig Valley Branch 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1940. |
| 56 Atchison Topeka and Santa Fe Rly. 5 p.c. Non-Cum. Preferred. | 16 Chesapeake and Ohio Rly. 1st Consolidated Mortgage 5 p.c., 1939. |
| 55 Atchison Topeka and Santa Fe Rly. Common. | 17 Chesapeake and Ohio Rly. General Mortgage $4\frac{1}{2}$ p.c., 1992. |
| 409 Atlanta and Charlotte Air Line Rly. 1st Mort. $4\frac{1}{2}$ p.c., 1944, Series "A." | 434 Chesapeake and Ohio Rly. Gen. Refund. and Impvt. Mort. 5 p.c., 1929. |
| 410 Atlanta and Charlotte Air Line Rly. Guaranteed Stock. | 436 Chesapeake and Ohio Rly. Richmond and Allegheny Division 1st Cons. Mtge. 4 p.c., 1989. |
| 411 Atlanta Gas Light Co. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1947. | 437 Chesapeake and Ohio Rly. Richmond and Allegheny Division 2nd Cons. Mtge. 4 p.c., 1989. |
| 269 Atlanta Knoxville and Northern Rly. 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1940. | 438 Chesapeake and Ohio Rly. Warm Springs Valley Branch 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1941. |
| 264 Atlantic Coast Line R.Rd. General Unified $4\frac{1}{2}$ p.c., 1964. | 282 Chicago and Erie R.Rd. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1982. |
| 118 Atlantic Coast Line R.Rd. 1st Cons. Mort 4 p.c., 1952. | 128 Chicago and North-Western Rly. Genl. Mortgage 4 p.c., 1987. |
| 74 Atlantic Coast Line R.Rd. Louisville and Nashville Collat. Trust 4 p.c., 1952. | 439 Chicago and North-Western Rly. S.F. 6 p.c., 1929. |
| 270 Atlantic Coast Line R.Rd. Unified 4 p.c., 1959. | 440 Chicago and North-Western Rly. S.F. 5 p.c., 1929. |
| 412 Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Common. | 441 Chicago and North-Western Rly. Debentures 5 p.c., 1921. |
| 413 Atlas Portland Cement Co. 1st Mortgage 6 p.c., 1925. | 442 Chicago and North-Western Rly. General Mortgage 5 p.c., 1987. |
| 414 Austin and Northwestern R.R. 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1941. | 127 Chicago and North-Western Rly. General Mortgage $3\frac{1}{2}$ p.c., 1987. |
| 415 Baldwin Locomotive Works 1st Mortgage S.F. 5 p.c., 1940. | 221 Chicago and North-Western Rly. S.F. Debs. 5 p.c., 1933. |
| 416 Baldwin Locomotive Works 7 p.c. Cum. Preferred. | 289 Chicago and North-Western Rly. 7 p.c. Non-Cum. Preferred. |
| 9 Baltimore and Ohio R.Rd. 1st Mortgage 4 per cent. 1948. | 265 Chicago and North-Western Railway Co. Common. |
| 11 Baltimore and Ohio R.Rd. Convertible $4\frac{1}{2}$ p.c., 1933. | 132 Chicago and Western Indiana R.Rd. Consd. Mortgage 4 p.c., 1952. |
| 417 Baltimore and Ohio R.Rd. $4\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Equipment Notes. | 171 Chicago and Western Indiana R.Rd. General Mortgage 6 p.c., 1932. |
| 271 Baltimore and Ohio R.Rd., Pittsburg Junction and Middle Div. 1st Mort. $3\frac{1}{2}$ p.c., 1925. | 121 Chicago Burlington and Quincy R.R. (Nebraska Ext.) S.F. 4 p.c., 1927. |
| 12 Baltimore and Ohio R.Rd. P.L.E. and W. Vir. Sys. Refunding 4 p.c., 1941. | 443 Chicago Burlington and Quincy R.R. Denver Exten. S.F. 4 p.c., 1922. |
| 8 Baltimore and Ohio R.Rd. Prior Lien Mortgage $3\frac{1}{2}$ p.c., 1925. | 76 Chicago Burlington and Quincy R.R. Gen. Mort. 4 p.c., 1958. |
| 10 Baltimore and Ohio R.Rd. S.W.Divn. 1st Mortgage $3\frac{1}{2}$ p.c., 1925. | 78 Chicago Burlington and Quincy R.R. Illinois Div. 4 p.c., 1949. |
| 58 Baltimore and Ohio R.Rd. 4 p.c. Non-Cum. Preferred. | 77 Chicago Burlington and Quincy R.R. Illinois Div. $3\frac{1}{2}$ p.c., 1949. |
| 57 Baltimore and Ohio R.Rd. Common. | 444 Chicago Burlington and Quincy R.R. Iowa Div. S.F. 5 p.c., 1919. |
| 418 Bay State Street Rly. 5 p.c. Serial Coupon Notes. | |
| 217 Beech Creek R.Rd. 1st Mort. 4 p.c., 1936. | |

- 445 Chicago Burlington and Quincy R.R. Iowa Div. S.F. 4 p.c., 1919.
 446 Chicago Burlington and Quincy R.R. Sth-West. Div. S.F. 4 p.c., 1921.
 447 Chicago Burlington and Quincy R.R. Capital Stock.
 448 Chicago Hammond and Western R.R. 1st Mortgage 6 p.c., 1927.
 449 Chicago Indiana and Southern R.R. 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1950.
 283 Chicago Indianapolis and Louisville Rly. Refund. Mtge. 6 p.c., 1947.
 284 Chicago Indianapolis and Louisville Rly. Refund. Mtge. 5 p.c., 1947.
 285 Chicago Lake Shore and Eastern Rly. 1st Mortgage 4½ p.c., 1909.
 82 Chicago Milwaukee and Puget Sound Rly. 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1949.
 124 Chicago Milwaukee and St. Paul Rly. (Chic. and Pac. West Div.) 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1921.
 21 Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Rly. Conv. 4½ p.c., 1932.
 19 Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Rly. Gen. Mortgage 4 p.c., 1980.
 125 Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Rly. Gen. Mortgage 4½ p.c., 1989.
 126 Chicago Milwaukee and St. Paul Rly. General and Refunding Mortgage 4½ p.c., 2014, Series "A."
 169 Chicago Milwaukee and St. Paul Rly., Chicago and Lake Superior Div., 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1921.
 286 Chicago Milwaukee and St. Paul Rly., Chicago and Missouri River Div. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1926.
 287 Chicago Milwaukee and St. Paul Rly., Dubuque Div., 1st Mtge. 6 p.c., 1920.
 220 Chicago Milwaukee and St. Paul Rly., La Crosse and Davenport Div., 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1919.
 168 Chicago Milwaukee and St. Paul Rly., Wisconsin and Minn. Div., 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1921.
 288 Chicago Milwaukee and St. Paul Rly., Wisconsin Valley Div., 1st Mortgage S.F. 6 p.c., 1920.
 20 Chicago Milwaukee and St. Paul Rly. 25 Year Deb. 4 p.c., 1934.
 60 Chicago Milwaukee and St. Paul Rly. Pref. (7 p.c. Min. Non-Cum.).
 59 Chicago Milwaukee and St. Paul Rly. Common.
 450 Chicago Railways Co. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1927.
 129 Chicago Rock Island and Pacific Rly. General Mortgage 4 p.c., 1988.
 130 Chicago Rock Island and Pacific Rly. Refdg. Mortgage 4 p.c., 1934.
 451 Chicago Rock Island and Pacific Rly. 1st Mortgage 6 p.c., 1917.
 22 Chicago St. Louis and New Orleans Rly. Consd. 5 p.c., 1951.
 170 Chicago St. Louis and New Orleans Rly., Memphis Div., 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1951.
 290 Chicago St. Paul and Minn. Rly. 1st Mortgage 6 p.c., 1918.
 291 Chicago St. Paul Minneapolis and Omaha Rly. Consols 6 p.c., 1930.
 292 Chicago St. Paul Minneapolis and Omaha Rly. Consols 3½ p.c., 1930.
 131 Chicago St. Paul Minneapolis and Omaha Rly. Debs. 5 p.c., 1930.
 293 Chicago St. Paul Minneapolis and Omaha Rly. 7 p.c. Non-Cum. Pref.
 294 Chicago Telephone Co. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1923.
 452 Choctaw Oklahoma and Gulf R.R. General Mortgage 5 p.c., 1919.
 453 Choctaw Oklahoma and Gulf R.R. Cons. Mortgage 5 p.c., 1952.
 454 Cincinnati Indianapolis St. Louis and Chicago Rly. 1st Cons. 6 p.c., 1920.
 455 Cincinnati Indianapolis St. Louis and Chicago Rly. General 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1930.
 295 Cities Services Co. Convertible 7 p.c. Notes, 1918.
 456 Cleveland Akron and Columbus Rly. 1st Cons. Gtd. 4 p.c., 1940.
 457 Cleveland Akron and Columbus Rly. General Gold 5 p.c., 1927.
 175 Cleveland and Marietta Rly. 1st Mortgage 4½ p.c., 1935.
 176 Cleveland and Pittsburgh R.R. Gen. Mort. S.F. 4½ p.c., 1942, Series "A."
 299 Cleveland and Pittsburgh R.R. Gen. Mort. S.F. 4½ p.c., 1942, Series "B."
 300 Cleveland and Pittsburgh R.R. General Mortgage S.F. 4½ p.c., 1942, Series "B."
 301 Cleveland and Pittsburgh R.R. General Mortgage S.F. 3½ p.c., 1948, Series "C."
 302 Cleveland and Pittsburgh R.R. General Mortgage S.F. 3½ p.c., 1950, Series "D."
 257 Cleveland and Pittsburgh R.R. Guaranteed 7 p.c. (by Penn. R.R.).
 460 Cleveland and Pittsburgh R.R. Guaranteed Betterment Stock.
 173 Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago, and St. Louis Rly. (Cairo Vin. and Chic. Divn.) 1st Mort. 4 p.c., 1939.
 88 Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago, and St. Louis Rly. General Mort. 4 p.c., 1933.
 458 Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago, and St. Louis Rly. (Cin., Wabash and Michigan Div.) Mortgage 4 p.c., 1991.
 298 Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago, and St. Louis Rly. Debs. 4½ p.c., 1931.
 174 Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Rly. (St. Louis Divn.) 1st Coll. 4 p.c., 1990.
 459 Cleveland Columbus Cincinnati and Indianapolis Rly. Gen. Cons. Mtge. 6 p.c., 1934.
 297 Cleveland Lorain and Wheeling Rly. Cons. Refunding 4½ p.c., 1930.
 298 Cleveland Lorain and Wheeling Rly. Cons. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1933.
 461 Cleveland Short Line Guaranteed 1st Mortgage 4½ p.c., 1901.
 462 Cluett Peabody and Co. Inc. 7 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
 134 Colorado and Southern Rly. Refunding and Ext. Mortgage 4½ p.c., 1935.
 133 Colorado and Southern Rly. 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1929.
 463 Colorado Fuel and Iron Co. General Mortgage 5 p.c., 1943.
 464 Commonwealth Edison Co. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1943.
 465 Commonwealth Electric Co. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1943.
 303 Consolidated Gas Co. of Baltimore General Mortgage 4½ p.c., 1954.
 222 Consolidated Gas Electric Light and Power Co. of Baltimore Gen. Mtge. 4½ p.c., 1955.
 466 Consolidated Gas Electric Light and Power Co. of Baltimore 6 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
 304 Consolidated Gas of New York 6 p.c. Convertible Debentures, 1920.
 468 Consolidation Coal Co. 1st and Refunding Mortgage 5 p.c., 1950.
 467 Consolidation Coal Co. 10 Year Convertible 6 p.c., 1923.
 305 Cuban-American Sugar Co. Collateral Trust 6 p.c., 1918.
 469 Cuban-American Sugar Co. 7 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
 160 Cumberland Telephone and Telegraph Co. 1st and General Mortgage 5 p.c., 1937.
 470 Delaware and Hudson Co. Conv. 5 p.c., 1935.
 306 Delaware and Hudson Co. 1st Lien Equipment S.F. 4½ p.c., 1922.
 135 Delaware and Hudson Co. 1st and Refunding Mortgage 4 p.c., 1943.
 471 Delaware and Hudson Co. Pennsylvania Div. 1st Mort. 7 p.c., 1917.
 472 Delaware and Hudson Co. Capital Stock.
 84 Denver and Rio Grande R.R. 1st Consolidated Mortgage 4 p.c., 1936.
 223 Denver and Rio Grande R.R. Improvement Mortgage 5 p.c., 1928.
 307 Des Plaines Valley Rly. 1st Mortgage 4½ p.c., 1947.
 308 Detroit and Mackinac Rly. 1st Lien 4 p.c., 1995.
 473 Detroit Grand Haven and Milwaukee Rly. Cons. Mortgage 6 p.c., 1918.
 474 Detroit Grand Haven and Milwaukee Rly. Equipment Mort. 6 p.c., 1918.
 85 Detroit Terminal and Tunnel 1st Mortgage 4½ p.c., 1901.
 475 Duluth and Iron Range R.R. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1937.
 476 Duluth Missabe and Northern Rly. General Mortgage 5 p.c., 1941.
 477 Duluth Short Line R.R. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1910.
 309 Duluth South Shore and Atlantic Rly. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1937.
 310 Duluth Street Rly. Co. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1930.
 813 Eastman Kodak Co. 6 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
 478 East Ohio Gas Co. 1st Lien 5 p.c., 1939.
 311 East Tennessee Virginia and Georgia Rly. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1930.
 312 East Tennessee Virginia and Georgia Rly. Consd. Mortgage 5 p.c., 1956.
 479 Edison Electric Co. of New Orleans 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1920.
 480 Edison Electric Illum. Co. of New York 1st Cons. Mtge. 5 p.c., 1995.
 481 Edison Electric Illum. Co. (Brooklyn) 1st Cons. Mortgage 4 p.c., 1939.
 224 Elgin Joliet and Eastern Rly. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1941.
 482 Equitable Gas Light Co. of New York 1st Cons. Mtge. 5 p.c., 1932.
 483 Erie and Pittsburgh R.R. General Mortgage 3½ p.c., 1940, Series B and C.
 815 Erie and Pittsburgh R.R. Common Guaranteed.
 814 Erie and Pittsburgh R.R. Special Guaranteed.
 136 Erie Railroad Consolidated Mortgage 7 p.c., 1920.
 24 Erie Railroad Consolidated General Lien 4 p.c., 1996.
 177 Erie Railroad 50 Year Convertible 4 p.c., Series A, 1933.
 23 Erie Railroad 1st Consolidated Prior Lien 4 p.c., 1996.
 137 Erie R.R. Pennsylvania Coal Collateral Trust 4 p.c., 1951.
 225 Florida East Coast Rly. 1st Mortgage 4½ p.c., 1959.
 484 Fremont Elkhorn and Missouri Valley Railway Cons. Mtge. 6 p.c., 1933.
 485 General Electric Co. Debentures 3½ p.c., 1942.
 25 General Electric Co. 5 p.c. Debentures, 1952.
 486 General Electric Co. Capital Stock.
 316 Gila Valley Globe and Northern Rly. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1924.
 487 Gouverneur and Oswegatchie Rly. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1942.
 178 Grand Rapids and Indiana Rly. Co. 1st Ext. Mortgage 4½ p.c., 1941.
 88 Great Northern Rly. (U.S.A.) 1st and Refunding Mortgage 4½ p.c., 1961, Series "A."
 61 Great Northern Rly. Co. (U.S.A.) Preferred.
 488 Havana Electric Rly. Cons. Mortgage 5 p.c., 1952.
 87 Hocking Valley Rly. 1st Cons. Mortgage 4½ p.c., 1999.
 489 Hocking Valley Railway Common.
 490 Houston Electric Co. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1925.
 491 Houston and Texas Central R.R. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1937.
 492 Houston and Texas Central R.R. General Mortgage 4 p.c., 1921.
 493 Hudson County Gas Co. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1949.
 90 Illinois Central R.R. (Cairo Bridge) 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1950.
 180 Illinois Central—Chicago St. Louis and New Orleans Jr. 5 p.c., 1963.
 26 Illinois Central R.R. Collateral Trust, 4 p.c., 1952.
 27 Illinois Central R.R. Collateral Trust 4 p.c., 1953.
 317 Illinois Central R.R. Extended 1st Mortgage 3½ p.c., 1951.
 179 Illinois Central R.R. 1st Mortgage 2½ p.c., 1951.
 89 Illinois Central R.R. Louisville Div. and Term. 1st Mort. 3½ p.c., 1958.
 494 Illinois Central R.R. Purchased Lines 1st Mortgage 3½ p.c., 1952.
 88 Illinois Central R.R. Refunding Mortgage 4 p.c., 1955.
 318 Illinois Central R.R. St. Louis Div. and Term. 1st Mort. 3½ p.c., 1951.
 495 Illinois Central R.R. Western Lines 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1951.
 208 Illinois Central R.R. Leased Lines 4 p.c.
 62 Illinois Central R.R. Common.
 496 Illinois Steel Co. Debentures 4½ p.c., 1940.
 497 Indiana Illinois and Iowa R.R. 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1950.
 498 Indiana Steel Co. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1952.
 319 Ingersoll-Rand Co. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1935.
 320 Ingersoll-Rand Co. 6 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
 91 Interborough Rapid Transit Co. 1st and Refdg. Mtge. 5 p.c., 1966.
 321 International and Great Northern R.R. 1st Mortgage 6 p.c., 1919.
 499 International Harvester Co. of New Jersey 7 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
 500 International Harvester Corporation 7 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
 322 Jamestown Franklin and Clearfield R.R. 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1959.
 501 Jefferson and Clearfield Coal and Iron Co. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1926.
 502 Jefferson and Clearfield Coal and Iron Co. 2nd Mortgage 5 p.c., 1928.
 323 Kansas City Fort Scott and Memphis Rly. Consd. 6 p.c., 1928.
 181 Kansas City, Southern Rly. Refdg. and Improv. Mort. 5 p.c., 1950.
 324 Kansas City Terminal Rly. 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1960.
 325 Lackawanna Steel 1st Consd. Mortgage "A" Conv. 5 p.c., 1950.
 324 Lackawanna Steel 1st Mortgage Convertible 5 p.c., 1923.
 326 Lake Erie and Western R.R. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1937.
 327 Lake Erie and Western R.R. 2nd Mortgage 5 p.c., 1941.
 92 Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Rly. 1st Mortgage 3½ p.c., 1997.
 30 Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Rly. 4 p.c., 1931.
 29 Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Rly. 25 Year Deb. 4 p.c., 1928.
 328 Lehigh Valley Coal Co. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1933.
 329 Lehigh Valley Coal Co. 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1933.
 93 Lehigh Valley R.R. 1st Mortgage 4½ p.c., 1940.
 139 Lehigh Valley R.R. General Consolidated Mortgage 4 p.c., 2003.
 140 Lehigh Valley R.R. General Consolidated Mortgage 4½ p.c., 2003.
 503 Lehigh Valley R.R. Common.
 330 Liggett and Myers Tobacco Co. 7 p.c. Debentures, 1944.
 331 Liggett and Myers Tobacco Co., 5 p.c. Debentures, 1951.
 332 Liggett and Myers Tobacco Co. 7 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
 333 Long Dock Co. Consd. 1st Mortgage 6 p.c., 1955.
 226 Long Island R.R. Consolidated Mortgage 5 p.c., 1931.
 227 Long Island R.R. Debentures 5 per cent., 1934.
 504 Long Island R.R. 1st Cons. Mortgage 4 p.c., 1931.
 505 Long Island R.R. Unified Mortgage 4 p.c., 1949.
 506 Long Island R.R. North Shore Branch 1st Cons. Mortgage 5 p.c., 1932.
 334 Long Island R.R. General Mortgage 4 p.c., 1938.
 31 Long Island R.R. Refunding Mortgage 4 p.c., 1949.
 335 Lorillard (P.) Co. 7 p.c. Debentures, 1944.
 336 Lorillard (P.) Co. 5 p.c. Debentures, 1951.
 337 Lorillard (P.) Co. 7 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
 183 Louisville and Nashville R.R. 1st Coll. Trust 5 p.c., 1931.
 94 Louisville and Nashville R.R. Atlanta Knoxville and Cin. Div. Mortgage 4 p.c., 1955.
 508 Louisville and Nashville R.R. Evansville and Henderson and Nashville Div. 1st Mortgage S.F. 6 p.c., 1919.
 507 Louisville and Nashville R.R. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1937.
 142 Louisville and Nashville R.R. General Mortgage S.F. 6 p.c., 1930.
 509 Louisville and Nashville R.R. Mobile and Montgomery Div. 1st Mortgage 4½ p.c., 1945.
 184 Louisville and Nashville R.R., New Orleans and Mobile Div., 1st Mortgage 6 p.c., 1930.
 510 Louisville and Nashville R.R., New Orleans and Mobile Div. 2nd Mortgage 6 p.c., 1930.
 511 Louisville and Nashville R.R., Paducah and Memphis Div. 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1946.
 512 Louisville and Nashville R.R., South-East and St. Louis Div. 1st Mortgage 6 p.c., 1921.
 32 Louisville and Nashville R.R. Unified Mortgage 4 p.c., 1940.
 63 Louisville and Nashville R.R. Capital Stock.
 338 Lynn and Boston R.R. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1924.
 339 Manhattan Rly. Co. 7 p.c. Gtd. Capital Stock.
 95 Manhattan Railway Consolidated Mortgage 4 p.c., 1990.
 513 Memphis Union Station Co. 1st Guaranteed 5 p.c., 1959.
 96 Michigan Central R.R. Gold Debentures 4 p.c., 1929.
 97 Michigan Central R.R. 1st Mortgage 3½ p.c., 1952.
 514 Michigan State Telephone Co. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1924.
 340 Milwaukee Lake Shore and West. Rly. Cons. 1st Mtge. 6 p.c., 1921.
 341 Milwaukee Lake Shore and West. Rly. Ext. and Imp. Mtge. S.F. 5 p.c., 1929.
 228 Milwaukee Sparta and North-Western R.R. 1st Mtge. Gtd. 4 p.c., 1947.
 518 Minnesota and Ontario Power Co. 1st Serial 6 p.c., 1927.
 515 Minneapolis and St. Louis R.R. 1st Mortgage 7 p.c., 1927.
 516 Minneapolis and St. Louis R.R. 1st Cons. Mortgage 5 p.c., 1934.
 517 Minneapolis and St. Louis R.R. Pacific Ext 1st Mtge. 6 p.c., 1921.
 33 Minneapolis St. Paul and Sault Ste Marie Rly. Cons. Mtge. 4 p.c., 1938.
 210 Minneapolis St. Paul and Sault Ste Marie Rly. 7 p.c. Non-Cum. Pref.
 209 Minneapolis St. Paul and Sault Ste Marie Rly. Common.
 34 Minneapolis Sault Ste Marie and Atlantic Rly. 1st Mtge. 4 p.c., 1926.
 342 Mobile and Birmingham R.R. Prior Lien Mortgage 5 p.c., 1945.
 519 Mobile and Ohio R.R. 1st Ext. Mortgage 6 p.c., 1927.
 520 Mobile and Ohio R.R. 1st Guaranteed Mortgage 6 p.c., 1927.
 343 Mobile and Ohio R.R. Montgomery Div. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1947.
 229 Mohawk and Malone R.R. 1st Mortgage Guaranteed 4 p.c., 1991.
 521 Monongahela River R.R. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1919.
 522 Montana Power Co. 1st and Refdg. S.F. Mortgage 5 p.c., 1943.
 523 Montreal Light, Heat, and Power Co. 1st Mtge. and Coll. Trust, 4½ p.c., 1932.
 524 Morris and Essex R.R. 1st Refunding Mortgage 3½ p.c., 2000.
 525 Morris and Essex R.R. Guar. 7 p.c. (by the D.L. and W.R.R.).
 344 Nashville Chattanooga and St. Louis Rly. 1st Cons. Mort. 5 p.c., 1928.
 345 Nashville Florence and Sheffield Rly. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1937.
 526 Nashville Railway and Light Co. 1st Cons. 5 p.c., 1953.

- 625 Nashville Railway and Light Co. Refunding and Extension Mortgage 5 p.c., 1958.
- 527 National Biscuit Co. 7 p.c., Cum. Preferred.
- 528 National Lead Co. 1 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
- 346 National Tube Co. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1932.
- 529 Newark Cons. Gas Co. Cons. Mortgage 5 p.c., 1948.
- 530 Newark Passenger Railway 1st Cons. 5 p.c., 1930.
- 347 New York Air Brake Co. 1st Mortgage Conv. 6 p.c., 1928.
- 531 New York and Harlem R.R. Refunding Mortgage 3½ p.c., 2000.
- 532 New York and Jersey R.R. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1932.
- 189 New York and Putnam R.R. 1st Consolidated Mortgage 4 p.c., 1993.
- 533 New York and Rockaway Beach Railway 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1927.
- 547 New York and Westchester Lighting Co. 5 p.c. Debentures, 1954.
- 548 New York and Westchester Lighting Co. General Mortgage 4 p.c., 2004.
- 534 New York Brooklyn and Manhattan Beach Railway 1st Cons. Mtge. 5 p.c., 1935.
- 36 New York Central and Hudson River R.R. Deb. 4 p.c., 1934.
- 35 New York Central and Hudson River R.R. 1st Mortgage 3½ p.c., 1997.
- 99 New York Central and Hudson River R.R. (Lake Shore Collat. Trust) 3½ p.c. (Non Assented).
- 98 New York Central and Hudson River R.R. (Michigan Central Collat. Trust) 3½ p.c., 1998.
- 349 New York Central and Hudson River R.R. Debentures 4 p.c., 1942.
- 348 New York Central and Hudson River R.R. Refunding and Improvement Mortgage 4½ p.c., 2013, Series "A."
- 64 New York Central and Hudson River R.R. Capital Stock.
- 260 New York Central Consolidation Mortgage 4 p.c., 1998.
- 234 New York Central Lines Equipment Trust 4½ p.c., 1917.
- 235 New York Central Lines Equipment Trust 4½ p.c., 1918.
- 236 New York Central Lines Equipment Trust 4½ p.c., 1919.
- 237 New York Central Lines Equipment Trust 4½ p.c., 1920.
- 238 New York Central Lines Equipment Trust 4½ p.c., 1921.
- 239 New York Central Lines Equipment Trust 4½ p.c., 1922.
- 240 New York Central Lines Equipment Trust 4½ p.c., 1923.
- 241 New York Central Lines Equipment Trust 4½ p.c., 1924.
- 242 New York Central Lines Equipment Trust 4½ p.c., 1925.
- 243 New York Central Lines Equipment Trust 4½ p.c., 1926.
- 244 New York Central Lines Equipment Trust 4½ p.c., 1927.
- 245 New York Central Lines Equipment Trust 4½ p.c., 1928.
- 535 New York Central Lines Equipment Trust 5 p.c. (1907).
- 101 New York, Chicago and St. Louis R.R. 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1937.
- 350 New York, Chicago and St. Louis R.R. Debentures 4 p.c., 1931.
- 231 New York (City of) 4½ p.c., 1930-60.
- 187 New York (City of) 4½ p.c., 1957.
- 290 New York (City of) 4 p.c., 1959.
- 232 New York (City of) 4½ p.c., 1940.
- 233 New York (City of) 4½ p.c., 1963.
- 536 New York City Bonds (other than those mentioned above).
- 351 New York Connecting R.R. 1st Mortgage 4½ p.c., 1953, Series "A."
- 353 New York Gas Electric Light Heat and Power Co. Purchase Money Mortgage 4 p.c., 1949.
- 352 New York Gas Electric Light Heat and Power Co. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1943.
- 538 New York Lackawanna and Western R.R. Construction Mortgage 5 p.c., 1923.
- 537 New York Lackawanna and Western R.R. 1st Mort 6 p.c., 1921.
- 539 New York Lackawanna and Western R.R. Term. and Imp. Mort. 4 p.c., 1923.
- 540 New York Lackawanna and Western R.R. Guaranteed Stock.
- 541 New York Lake Erie and Western Dock and Imp. Co. 1st Ext. Mort. 5 p.c., 1943.
- 188 New York Lake Erie and Western Rly. 1st Cons. Mortgage Funded Coupon 7 p.c. 1920.
- 542 New York, New Haven and Hartford R.R. Conv. Debs. 6 p.c., 1948.
- 246 New York, New Haven and Hartford R.R. Non Conv. Debentures 4 p.c., 1955.
- 247 New York, New Haven and Hartford R.R. Non Conv. Debentures, 4 p.c., 1956.
- 102 New York Ontario and Western Rly. Refunding 1st Mort. 4 p.c., 1992.
- 543 New York Providence and Boston R.R. Gen. Mort. 4 p.c., 1942.
- 544 New York State Railways 1st Cons. 4½ p.c., 1962, Series "A."
- 545 New York, Susquehanna and Western R.R. 1st Mort. Ref. 5 p.c., 1937.
- 546 New York, Susquehanna and West. R.R. Term. Mort. 5 p.c., 1943.
- 37 New York Telephone 1st and General Mortgage 4½ p.c., 1939.
- 248 New York, Westchester and Boston Rly. 1st Mortgage 4½ p.c., 1946.
- 143 Norfolk and Western Rly. Div. 1st Lien and General Mort. 4 p.c., 1944.
- 142 Norfolk and Western Rly. 1st Consolidated Mort. 4 p.c., 1990.
- 259 Norfolk and Western Rly. 4 p.c. Adjustment Preferred.
- 103 Norfolk and Western Rly. General Mortgage 6 p.c., 1931.
- 104 Norfolk and Western Rly. Improvement and Ext. Mort. 6 p.c., 1934.
- 190 Norfolk and Western Rly. Conv. 4 p.c., 1932.
- 191 Norfolk and Western Rly. Conv. 4½ p.c., 1938.
- 854 Norfolk and Western Rly. New River R.R. Div. 1st Mort. 6 p.c., 1932.
- 144 Norfolk and Western Rly. Pocahontas Jt. 1st Mort. 4 p.c., 1941.
- 65 Norfolk and Western Rly. Common.
- 40 Northern Pacific—Gt. Northern Jt. C.B. and Q. Coll. 4 p.c., 1921.
- 38 Northern Pacific Rly. Prior Lien Mortgage 4 p.c., 1997.
- 102 Northern Pacific Rly. Refunding and Improvement, 4½ p.c., 2047.
- 355 Northern Pacific Rly. St. Paul-Duluth Div. Mortgage 4 p.c., 1996.
- 60 Northern Pacific Rly. Capital Stock.
- 549 Ohio River R.R. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1936.
- 560 Ohio River R.R. General Mortgage 5 p.c., 1927.
- 105 Oregon and California R.R. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1927.
- 106 Oregon R.R. and Navigation Co. Consd. Mortgage 4 p.c., 1946.
- 145 Oregon Short Line R.R. Cons. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1946.
- 41 Oregon Short Line R.R. Refunding Mortgage 4 p.c., 1929.
- 356 Oregon Short Line Rly. 1st Mortgage 6 p.c., 1922.
- 42 Oregon Washington R.R. and Navigation Co. 4 p.c., 1961.
- 551 Pacific R.R. of Missouri 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1938.
- 552 Pacific R.R. of Missouri 2nd Mortgage 5 p.c., 1938.
- 161 Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Co. 1st Mortgage Collateral Trust S.F. 5 p.c., 1937.
- 146 Pennsylvania Co. Coll. Trust (15-25 yrs.) Gold Certs. 4 p.c., 1921-31.
- 44 Pennsylvania Co. Guaranteed 4½ p.c., 1921.
- 357 Pennsylvania Co. Trust Certs. Guar. 3½ p.c., 1937, Series "A."
- 358 Pennsylvania Co. Trust Certs. Guar. 3½ p.c., 1941, Series "B."
- 147 Pennsylvania Co. Trust Certs. Guar. 3½ p.c., 1942 and 1944, Series "C" and "D."
- 359 Pennsylvania Co. Trust Certs. Guar. 4 p.c., 1952, Series "E."
- 43 Pennsylvania R.R. Allegheny Valley Genl. Mortgage 4 p.c., 1942.
- 193 Pennsylvania R.R. Consolidated Mortgage 4 p.c., 1943.
- 67 Pennsylvania R.R. Capital Stock.
- 553 People's Gas Light and Coke Co. 1st Cons. Mort. 6 p.c., 1943.
- 554 People's Gas Light and Coke Co. Refunding Mort. 5 p.c., 1947.
- 249 Perkiomen R.R. 2nd Series 5 p.c., 1918.
- 194 Philadelphia and Erie R.R. General Mortgage 6 p.c., 1920.
- 107 Philadelphia and Reading R.R. Improvement Mortgage 4 p.c., 1947.
- 555 Philadelphia Co. 1st Mortgage and Collateral Trust 5 p.c., 1949.
- 108 Pittsburg, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Rly. Cons. Mortgage 4½ p.c. (Series "A" and "B"), 1940-2.
- 360 Pittsburg, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Rly. Cons. Mortgage 4½ p.c., 1942, Series "C."
- 361 Pittsburg, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Rly. Cons. Mortgage 4 p.c., 1945, Series "D."
- 362 Pittsburg, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Rly. Cons. Mortgage 3½ p.c., 1949, Series "E."
- 363 Pittsburg, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Rly. Cons. Mortgage 4 p.c., 1953, Series "F."
- 364 Pittsburg, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Rly. Cons. Mortgage 4 p.c., 1957, Series "G."
- 365 Pittsburg, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Rly. Cons. Mortgage 4 p.c., 1960, Series "H."
- 366 Pittsburg, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Rly. Cons. Mortgage 4½ p.c., 1963, Series "I."
- 367 Pittsburg, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Rly. Cons. Mortgage 4½ p.c., 1964, Series "J."
- 556 Pittsburg Coal Co. of Pennsylvania 5 p.c. Debentures, 1931.
- 211 Pittsburg, Fort Wayne, and Chicago Rly. Gtd. 7 p.c. (by Penn. R.R.).
- 368 Pittsburg, Fort Wayne and Chicago Rly. Special Guaranteed Stock.
- 557 Puget Sound Traction Light and Power Co. 6 p.c. Notes, 1919.
- 45 Reading Co. General Mortgage 4 p.c., 1997.
- 195 Reading Co. Jersey Central Collateral Trust 4 p.c., 1951.
- 212 Reading Co. 4 p.c. Non-Cum. 1st Preferred.
- 213 Reading Co. 4 p.c. Non-Cum. 2nd Preferred.
- 68 Reading Co. Common.
- 250 Rio Grande Junction Rly. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1939.
- 567 Savannah Florida and Western Rly. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1934.
- 568 Savannah Florida and Western Rly. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1934.
- 201 Scioto Valley and New England R.R. Co. 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1989.
- 152 Seaboard Air Line Rly. 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1950.
- 109 South and North Alabama R.R. Consd. Mortgage 5 p.c., 1936.
- 371 South and North Alabama R.R. Genl. Consd. Gtd. Mort. 5 p.c., 1963.
- 569 Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Co. of New York 1st Mortgage S.F. 5 p.c., 1941.
- 47 Southern Pacific Co. Collateral Trust 4 p.c., 1949.
- 48 Southern Pacific Co. Convertible 4 p.c., 1929.
- 49 Southern Pacific Co. Convertible 5 p.c., 1934.
- 164 Southern Pacific Co. (San Francisco Terminal) 1st Mtge. 4 p.c., 1950.
- 69 Southern Pacific Co. Common.
- 570 Southern Pacific R.R. 1st Cons. Mortgage 5 p.c., 1937.
- 50 Southern Pacific R.R. 1st Refdg. Mortgage 4 p.c., 1955.
- 155 Southern Railway Development and General Mortgage 4 p.c., 1956.
- 251 Southern Railway East Tennessee Reorganization 5 p.c., 1938.
- 46 Southern Railway 1st Consolidated Mortgage 5 p.c., 1994.
- 372 Southern Rly. Memphis Div. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1996.
- 110 Southern Rly. St. Louis Div. 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1951.
- 197 St. Louis Bridge Co. 1st Mortgage 7 p.c., 1929.
- 369 St. Louis Iron Mountain and Southern R.R. General Cons. Rly. and Land Grant Mortgage 5 p.c., 1931.
- 198 St. Louis Merchants Bridge Terminal Rly. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1930.
- 559 St. Louis Springfield and Peoria R.R. 1st and Refunding Mortgage 5 p.c., 1939.
- 558 St. Louis Springfield and Peoria R.R. (St. Louis and Springfield Rly.) 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1933.
- 199 St. Louis Southwestern Rly. 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1989.
- 562 St. Paul and Duluth R.R. 1st Cons. Mortgage 4 p.c., 1968.
- 560 St. Paul and Duluth R.R. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1931.
- 561 St. Paul and Duluth R.R. 2nd Mortgage 5 p.c., 1917.
- 563 St. Paul and Northern Pacific R.R. General Mortgage 6 p.c., 1923.
- 564 St. Paul and Sioux City R.R. 1st Mortgage 6 p.c., 1919.
- 565 St. Paul City Railway Cable Cons. Mortgage 5 p.c., 1937.
- 148 St. Paul Minneapolis and Manitoba R.R. 1st Cons. Mort. 6 p.c., 1933.
- 149 St. Paul Minneapolis and Manitoba R.R. 1st Cons. Mort. 4½ p.c., 1933.
- 150 St. Paul Minneapolis and Manitoba R.R. 1st Cons. Mort. 4 p.c., 1933.
- 370 St. Paul Minneapolis and Manitoba R.R. Montana Ext. Mort. 4 p.c., 1937.
- 200 St. Paul Minneapolis and Manitoba R.R. (Pacific Ext.) Stig. 4 p.c., 1940.
- 566 St. Paul Union Stock Yards Co. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1916.
- 373 Swift and Co. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1944.
- 113 Terminal R.R. Assn. of St. Louis 1st Mortgage 4½ p.c., 1939.
- 112 Terminal R.R. Assn. of St. Louis 1st Consd. Mortgage 5 p.c., 1944.
- 111 Terminal R.R. Assn. of St. Louis Gen. Mtge. Refdg. 4 p.c., 1953.
- 202 Texas and Pacific Railway 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 2000.
- 571 Third Avenue Railway 1st Mtge. 5 p.c., 1937.
- 572 Toledo and Ohio Central Railway 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1935.
- 573 Toledo and Ohio Central Railway General Mortgage 5 p.c., 1935.
- 252 Toledo and Ohio Central Rly. (Western Divn.) 1st Mtge. 5 p.c., 1935.
- 114 Toledo St. Louis and Western R.R. Prior Lien 3½ p.c., 1925.
- 253 Toledo Walhonding Valley and Ohio R.R. 1st Mtge. 4½ p.c., 1931 and 1933.
- 374 Toledo Walhonding Valley and Ohio R.R. 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1942, Series "C."
- 574 Tri-City Railway and Light Co. Collateral Trust 1st Lien 5 p.c., 1923.
- 575 Tri-City Railway and Light Co. 1st and Refunding 5 p.c., 1930.
- 54 Union Pacific R.R. Convertible 4 p.c., 1927.
- 53 Union Pacific R.R. 1st Lien and Refunding Mortgage 4 p.c., 2008.
- 52 Union Pacific R.R. 1st Mortgage Rly. and Land Grant 4 p.c., 1947.
- 71 Union Pacific R.R. 4 p.c., Non-Cum. Preferred.
- 70 Union Pacific R.R. Common.
- 375 United Fruit Co. 4 Year 5 p.c. Notes, 1918.
- 376 United Fruit Co. 4½ p.c. Bonds, 1925.
- 261 United Fruit Co. S.F. Gold Debs. 4½ p.c., 1923.
- 377 United New Jersey R.R. and Canal Co. General Mort. 4 p.c., 1923.
- 203 United New Jersey R.R. and Canal Co. Gen. Mort. 4 p.c., 1929.
- 204 United New Jersey R.R. and Canal Co. General Mort. 4 p.c., 1944.
- 576 United States Govt. Cons. 2 p.c., Bonds, 1930.
- 578 United States Govt. 4 p.c. Bonds, 1925.
- 577 United States Govt. 10-20 year 3 p.c., Bonds, 1918.
- 51 United States Steel Corporation S. F. Coll. Trust 2nd 5 p.c., 1963.
- 72 United States Steel Corporation 7 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
- 156 Vandalia R.R. Consd. Mortgage 4 p.c., 1955, Series "A."
- 157 Vandalia R.R. Consd. Mortgage 4 p.c., 1957, Series "B."
- 580 Virginia-Carolina Chemical Co. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1923.
- 579 Virginia-Carolina Chemical Co. S.F. Conv. Debenture 6 p.c., 1924.
- 115 Virginian Railway Co. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1962.
- 378 Wabash R.R. 1st Lien and Equipment 5 p.c., 1921.
- 205 Wabash R.R. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1939.
- 116 Washington Terminal Co. 1st Mortgage 3½ p.c., 1945.
- 379 Washington Terminal Co. 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1945.
- 380 Western Electric Co. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1922.
- 381 Western New York and Pennsylvania Rly. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1937.
- 382 Western New York and Pennsylvania Rly. General Mort. 4 p.c., 1943.
- 254 Western Pennsylvania R.R. Consolidated Mortgage 4 p.c., 1928.
- 383 Western Union Telegraph Co. Collateral Trust 50 Year 5 p.c., 1938.
- 162 Western Union Telegraph Co. Fund and Real Estate 50 Year 4½ p.c., 1950.
- 582 Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Co. Conv. S.F. 5 p.c., 1931.
- 581 Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Co. 10-Yr. Coll. Notes 5 p.c., 1917.
- 583 Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Co. 7 p.c. Cum. Participating Preferred.
- 117 West Shore R.R. 1st Mortgage Guaranteed 4 p.c., 2361.
- 206 West Virginia and Pittsburg R.R. 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1990.
- 584 Wheeling and Lake Erie R.R. Extension and Impvt. 1st Mtge. 5 p.c., 1930.
- 585 Wheeling and Lake Erie R.R. Lake Erie Div. 1st Mtge. 5 p.c., 1926.
- 584 Wheeling and Lake Erie R.R. Wheeling Div. 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1928.
- 255 Wilmar and Sioux Falls Rly. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1938.
- 385 Winston-Salem Southbound Rly. 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1960.
- 158 Wisconsin Central Rly. 1st General Mortgage 4 p.c., 1949.
- 256 Wisconsin Central Rly. Superior and Duluth Div. and Term. 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1936.

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The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 5 PER CENT. (Reduced August 6 to 6 per cent., and to 5 per cent. August 8, 1914.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

The turn of the month brought the usual additions to floating balances in the Money market through the payment of interest coupons and dividends. Supplies of credit have consequently been abundant all the week, and although the margin of surplus may perhaps have become narrower towards the end there were ample funds available throughout to meet all demands. The clearing banks hold loyally to their arrangement to charge $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for weekly fixtures, but borrowers claimed to have been able to secure part of their requirements in other quarters at $4\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. Day-to-day loans cost $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., when it was a question of renewing standing arrangements, but some business in new money was done at $4\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., and on most days there have been the usual offerings of balances overnight at rates ranging down to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. In these circumstances it goes without saying that several small amounts which fell due at the Bank during the week were easily repaid.

In the discount market business has been mainly confined to dealings in short-dated Treasury bills for which there was a good inquiry on the part of the joint stock banks. July maturities changed hands at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., August at $4\frac{3}{8}$ per cent., and September at $4\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., and in addition there was a big demand for new Treasury bills, chiefly for the three months at the Bank of England. Dealings in ordinary remitted paper were on too small a scale to affect quotations, but the abundance of money was reflected in an easier tendency, and the working rate for three months' bills was no better than $5\frac{1}{8}$ – $5\frac{3}{8}$ per cent. The six months' bill being now a January maturity was called firmer at $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., but business was done in them at $5\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.

A good demand was experienced for the £750,000 Birmingham Corporation yearling bills offered on Wednesday, and the total applications amounted to £1,148,000. Tenders at £94 14s. 10d. received about

54 per cent. and above in full, the average rate being £5 4s. 6.90d. per cent.

On Monday next £735,000 Canadian Northern Railway bills mature, and will be paid off. They were secured by the deposit of debentures of the company guaranteed by the Dominion Government and could have been renewed here without the slightest difficulty. The company, however, was able to obtain the money in New York, and the transaction has the advantage of being of some little assistance in the efforts now being made to keep the American exchange steady.

In the foreign exchange market the arrangements made for banking credits on British and French account in Norway were reflected in an advance to 16.50 in the Scandinavian rates, and although there was a temporary set-back to 16.37½ it was followed by a new upward movement to 16.60. The Paris cheque has been steady round about 28.13½, and Holland, after fluctuating within very narrow limits, has hardened again to 11.48. Spain has moved against this country, and Petrograd has shown a slightly easier tendency at 155½. The New York cable rate has remained very steady at 4.76¾, and in the South American group there has been a substantial advance to 12½d in the Rio exchange.

The market was disappointed to find that the Bank return showed a loss of £1,058,000 in the stocks of coin and bullion, notwithstanding the receipt of £988,000 from abroad. No doubt the end of the half-year requirements had something to do with the decrease, but their effect in view of the very restricted use of gold in the country must have been small, and it was suggested that the movement might be connected with American demands. An expansion of £467,000 in the note circulation left the reserve £1,525,000 down, and the proportion is 2.1 per cent. lower at 26.1 per cent. Public Deposits rose by £9,670,000, and as this was after payment of the quarterly dividends the movement points to good buying of Treasury bills and Exchequer bonds. Most of the addition came from an increase of £8,494,000 in "Other" Securities, and "Other" Deposits were only £2,764,000 lower.

According to the official statement for the week ended July 5, currency notes amounting to £3,836,768 in £1 and £1,204,360 in 10s. notes were issued, against which £2,371,683 in £1 and £921,358 10s. in 10s. notes were cancelled. There was therefore an increase of £1,748,086 10s. in the amount outstanding at a total of £114,097,364 10s., made up of £86,757,785 in £1 notes and £27,339,579 10s. in 10s. notes. During the same period no currency note certificates were issued, but £30,000 were cancelled, so that the amount outstanding was reduced to £9,720,000. There is also an investment reserve account of £1,948,555 1s. 1d. Against these £28,500,000 is held in gold, £91,730,790 3s. 7d. in Government securities, and £5,395,219 7s. 6d. at the Bank of England, while £104,000 has been advanced to bankers other than Scottish and Irish banks of issue, and £36,000 to the Trustee Savings Bank.

SILVER.

Offerings of silver from America have been on a rather larger scale this week, and in addition India has been inclined to sell. On the other hand, the only demand for the metal has been for coinage purposes, and as competition for this purpose has been eliminated the price has been allowed to fall to 30- $\frac{3}{8}$ d. per oz.

Applications for the Rs. 30,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 2,50,000 in bills, Rs. 1,14,20,000 in deferred telegraphic transfers, and Rs. 1,62,50,000 in immediate telegraphic transfers. Of these Rs. 15,000 were allotted in bills, Rs. 14,71,000 in deferred transfers, and Rs. 15,14,000 in telegraphic transfers, tenders for bills and deferred transfers at 1s. 4- $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and for immediate transfers at 1s. 4-3- $\frac{1}{2}$ d., receiving about 5 per cent. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is again Rs. 30,00,000. Between April 1 and July 4 the total sales were Rs. 6,22,30,566, realising £4,174,855.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, July 5, 1916.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued	£ 76,772,510	Government Debt	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion	58,322,510
		Silver Bullion	—
	£76,772,510		£76,772,510

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities	£ 42,187,454
Reserve	3,260,758	Other Securities	95,806,787
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts)	58,949,045	Notes	40,406,325
Other Deposits	103,606,994	Gold and Silver Coin	1,999,257
Seven Day and other Bills	30,026		
	£180,399,823		£180,399,823

Dated July 6, 1916.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year.

Last year, July 7.		June 28, 1916.	July 5, 1916.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,235,733	Rest	3,199,878	3,260,758	60,880	—
67,898,980	Pub. Deposits	49,278,577	58,949,045	9,670,468	—
139,859,352	Other do.	106,371,462	103,606,994	—	2,764,468
55,745	7 Day Bills	27,797	30,026	2,229	—
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
51,043,491	Gov. Securities	42,187,454	42,187,454	—	—
137,918,307	Other do.	87,312,762	95,806,787	8,494,025	—
36,641,072	Total Reserve	43,930,498	42,405,582	1,524,916	—
				11,258,493	11,258,493
				Increase.	Decrease.
£	Note Circulation	£ 35,899,230	£ 36,366,185	466,955	—
35,073,135	Coin and Bullion	61,379,728	60,321,767	—	1,057,961
53,264,147	Proportion	28.2 p.c.	26.1 p.c.	—	2.1 p.c.
178 p.c.	Bank Rate	5 ..	5 ..	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week £98,000 in.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1916.	1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
January	1,071,948,000	918,685,000	153,263,000	—
February	1,107,055,000	960,743,000	146,312,000	—
March	1,364,599,000	1,231,392,000	133,207,000	—
April	1,090,356,000	976,264,000	114,092,000	—
May	1,447,416,000	1,164,194,000	283,222,000	—
June	296,965,000	231,525,000	65,440,000	—
" 7	290,373,000	225,460,000	64,913,000	—
" 14	275,677,000	236,435,000	39,242,000	—
" 21	284,615,000	266,789,000	17,826,000	—
July	340,561,000	300,466,000	40,095,000	—
Total ..	7,570,165,000	6,511,953,000	1,058,212,000	—

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue:—

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Monday—Bars	Friday—U.S.A.
Wednesday—Bars	
" Egypt (released)	
Friday—	Nett Influx
	£1,143,000

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	July 1, 1916.	June 24, 1916.	June 17, 1916.	July 3, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Loans	657,840,000	659,826,000	664,940,000	593,236,000
Reserve held in own Vaults	90,266,000	89,180,000	84,616,000	89,904,000
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk.	31,802,000	32,172,000	31,804,000	25,562,000
Reserve held in Other Depos.	11,836,000	11,942,000	12,038,000	5,964,000
Nett Demand Deposits	652,482,000	653,528,000	654,286,000	496,316,000
Nett Time Deposits	35,118,000	35,346,000	35,490,000	27,724,000
Circulation	6,318,000	6,332,000	6,312,000	7,576,000
Excess Lawful Reserve	21,714,000	20,894,000	16,002,000	35,668,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits.

NEW YORK STATE BANKS & TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.).

	July 1, 1916.	June 24, 1916.	June 17, 1916.	July 3, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Loans	145,666,000	145,300,000	144,814,000	117,772,000
Specie	11,952,000	11,954,000	11,910,000	9,796,000
Deposits	152,504,000	151,738,000	150,912,000	120,474,000
Legal Tenders	1,840,000	1,808,000	1,836,000	1,892,000

FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	June 16, 1916.	June 9, 1916.	June 2, 1916.
	£	£	£
Gold coin and certificates	52,410,400	51,088,800	48,450,600
Gold Redemption Fund	366,600	340,670	358,600
Gold Settlement Fund	20,820,200	20,696,200	20,466,200
Legal tender notes, silver, &c.	2,724,400	3,611,000	2,771,000
Total reserves	76,321,600	75,735,600	72,046,400
10-day bills and loans	2,410,000	2,006,000	2,321,400
30-day bills and loans	3,710,200	4,212,200	3,845,400
60-day bills and loans	5,745,400	4,862,000	4,818,800
90-day bills and loans	4,286,800	5,778,000	2,916,000
Maturities over 90 days	922,600	810,400	775,400
Total	17,075,000	15,663,600	14,677,400
Investments—			
U.S. Bonds	10,575,000	10,438,200	10,398,200
One year U.S. Treasury notes	838,000	838,000	838,000
Municipal Warrants	4,503,400	4,619,000	7,326,600
Federal Reserve notes—nett.	4,883,800	4,784,600	4,816,400
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—nett.	4,273,000	3,550,000	3,060,000
All other assets	1,107,600	1,123,200	1,786,400
Total assets	119,577,400	116,758,200	114,949,400
Paid-up capital	10,972,800	10,972,800	10,971,600
Government Deposits	11,150,200	10,315,600	10,000,000
Reserve deposits—nett.	95,456,600	93,556,000	92,084,400
Note circulation—nett.	1,600,600	1,518,600	1,502,400
Fed. Res. notes in circulation	345,200	346,000	346,200
All other liabilities	52,000	49,400	44,800
Total liabilities	119,577,400	116,758,200	114,949,400
Gold reserve against nett liabilities	70.8%	70.8%	68.9%
Cash reserve against nett liabilities	73.4%	74.4%	71.7%

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.
(For 6 days ended June 30.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE
Customs	£ 1,025,000
Excise	211,000
Estate, &c., Duties	500,000
Stamps	80,000
Land Tax and House Duty	—
Property and Income Tax	865,000
Excess Profits Tax	815,000
Land Values	10,000
Post Office	1,000,000
Crown Lands	—
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	—
Miscellaneous	214,370
Bullion advances repaid	200,000
For Treasury Bills (nett amt.)	—
War Loan, 1925-8	—
War Loan, 1925-45	—
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919	2,128,000
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920	700,000
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1921	4,732,000
War Expenditure Certificates	1,311,600
Other Debts created under	—
War Loan Act, 1915	900,000
Telegraph Money Act, 1913	—
Under Post Office Rly. Act, 1913	—
Under Military Works Acts, 1897-1903	—
Under Housing Act	—
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920	—
East Africa Protectorate	—
Loan repayments	—
Cunard Loan—repayment on account of principal	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares	—
China Indemnity	—
Ways and Means Advances	21,000,000
Decrease in Exchequer balances	—
	£35,691,970
	£35,691,970

* Decrease.

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	July 6, 1916.	June 29, 1916.	June 22, 1916.	July 8, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold in hand	190,788,040	190,530,280	190,276,760	157,799,450
Silver in hand	13,757,960	13,758,160	13,824,120	14,766,360
Bills discounted	16,430,500	17,915,880	15,883,240	10,442,600
Advances	48,574,760	48,241,240	49,115,040	24,598,640
Note circulation	641,848,440	632,226,200	629,369,280	493,129,600
Public deposits	1,683,480	1,531,080	1,281,200	2,654,040
Private deposits	84,927,680	90,905,680	82,179,680	95,356,360
Foreign Bills	73,640	70,480	58,680	68,760

Proportion between bullion and circulation 31.86 per cent., against 32.31 per cent. last week. Advances to the State £324,000,000, increase £8,000,000. The adjourned payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium amounted to £26,735,800, decrease £174,520, and at the branches to £31,587,480, decrease £254,960.

SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	June 23, 1916.	June 15, 1916.	June 7, 1916.	June 23, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold and silver	12,495,468	12,450,060	12,442,288	11,759,228
Bills	7,812,528	6,992,360	6,236,568	5,024,360
Note circulation	16,235,788	16,255,724	16,580,980	15,377,572
Current and deposit accounts	6,474,068	5,833,420	4,953,532	3,011,864

NETHERLANDS BANK (12 Florins to the £).

	June 3, 1916.	May 27, 1916.	May 20, 1916.	June 5, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	45,241,122	45,002,530	44,857,143	26,826,496
Silver	495,611	373,869	192,038	219,327
Bills discounted, &c.	9,338,198	8,786,289	9,054,604	18,098,649
Note circulation	53,790,326	53,081,877	52,929,532	40,459,818
Deposits	5,116,628	4,667,177	4,350,413	4,011,410

IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	June 29, 1916	June 21, 1916.	June 14, 1916.	June 29, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Notes in reserve ..	8,900,000	10,760,000	11,840,000	8,743,100
Gold	154,030,000	153,830,000	153,990,000	157,719,200
Gold in reserve abroad	158,860,000	149,390,000	149,370,000	10,858,700
Treasury Bonds ..	379,520,000	384,320,000	367,930,000	—
Circulation note issue	644,310,000	641,040,000	637,950,000	367,000,000
Treasury deposits ..	20,020,000	20,920,000	20,430,000	34,729,700

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	June 30, 1916.	June 23, 1916.	June 15, 1916.	June 30, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Total Coin & Bullion	124,838,200	125,001,950	125,049,350	121,717,200
Treasury Notes ..	31,464,050	16,739,550	14,091,600	22,009,000
Bills discounted ..	330,510,600	306,241,300	289,192,300	245,887,650
Advances	565,500	543,700	615,300	782,950
Note circulation ..	362,026,600	331,707,150	331,825,950	292,016,700
Deposits	118,535,850	117,901,650	91,427,550	89,964,800

Clearing House returns during June, £257,755,660 against £276,664,805 in May.

BANK OF SWEDEN.

	June 23, 1916.	June 17, 1916.	June 10, 1916.	June 26, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	9,229,000	9,233,000	9,235,000	6,302,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	8,622,000	8,667,000	8,750,000	4,533,000
Swedish and Foreign Govt. Securities ..	4,347,000	4,369,000	4,377,000	2,769,000
Discounts and Loans	2,648,000	2,674,000	2,804,000	7,479,000
Notes in circulation	17,971,000	18,119,000	18,330,000	15,073,000
Deposits at notice ..	5,703,000	5,739,000	5,522,000	4,367,000

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	June 24, 1916	June 17, 1916	June 10, 1916	June 26, 1915
	£	£	£	£
Gold	41,278,225	41,151,058	41,085,145	27,582,547
Silver	30,680,631	30,603,528	30,517,504	29,884,627
Foreign Bills ..	3,906,197	3,977,536	4,003,337	4,938,710
Discounts and Short Bills ..	23,306,440	23,466,225	23,542,672	27,070,339
Treasury Account, &c. ..	30,940,879	31,268,350	30,772,617	32,540,154
Notes in Circulation ..	86,072,163	86,248,062	86,681,799	79,679,911
Current Accounts, Deposits	30,470,785	30,563,212	30,618,387	26,916,681
Dividends, Interests, &c. ..	1,310,716	1,395,627	1,050,241	1,439,761
Government Securities ..	2,733,165	2,701,068	2,350,971	5,417,643

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	June 10, 1916	May 31, 1916	May 20, 1916	June 10, 1915
	£	£	£	£
Total cash	45,231,720	45,573,920	45,669,520	55,228,600
Inland Bills	16,726,800	16,749,800	17,091,520	36,524,160
Foreign Bills	834,360	836,120	833,480	835,360
Advances	8,325,400	8,989,400	8,715,200	8,698,440
Government securities	8,334,360	8,345,320	7,410,480	8,305,360
Circulation	126,598,560	123,563,000	120,248,800	115,363,280
Deposits at notice ..	13,674,880	12,342,200	11,798,840	12,561,480
Current accounts ..	18,332,280	18,374,600	16,873,800	18,976,800

BANK OF NORWAY.

	June 22, 1916.	June 15, 1916.	June 7, 1916.	June 22, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	6,639,000	6,547,000	6,536,000	3,411,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	5,243,000	5,276,000	5,320,000	3,163,000
Gov't Securities ..	762,000	762,000	762,000	638,000
Discounts & Loans ..	5,207,000	5,212,000	5,358,000	4,217,000
Notes in Circulation	11,646,000	11,658,000	11,701,000	7,614,000
Deposits at notice ..	3,743,000	3,716,000	3,782,000	1,347,000

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.
Paris	chqs.	28.13 $\frac{1}{2}$	28.13 $\frac{1}{2}$	Antwerp	short	—	—
Brussels	chqs.	—	—	Italy	sight	30.35	30.37 $\frac{1}{2}$
Amsterdam	sight	11.47 $\frac{1}{2}$	11.48	Constantinople	3 mths	—	—
Berlin	chqs.	—	—	Rio de Janeiro.	90 dys	12.7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	12.11d.
Hamburg	chqs.	—	—	Buenos Aires ..	90 dys	4.8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	4.61 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
Vienna	sight	—	—	Calcutta	T.T.	1/4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	1/4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
Petrograd	3 mths	155 $\frac{1}{2}$	155 $\frac{1}{2}$	Bombay	T.T.	1/4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	1/4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
New York	cable	4.76 $\frac{1}{2}$	4.76 $\frac{1}{2}$	Hong Kong	T.T.	2/11d.	2/10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
Lisbon	sight	35	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	Shanghai	T.T.	2/11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	2/10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
Madrid	sight	23.47	23.47 $\frac{1}{2}$	Singapore	T.T.	2/4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	2/4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
				Yokohama	4 mths	2/2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	2/2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	July 4, 1916.		July 6, 1916.	
		Sellers.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Buyers.
Amsterdam ..	Cable transfers ..	11.47	11.50	11.50	11.48
	Three months' bills ..	11.63	11.68	11.68	11.64
Paris	Cable transfers ..	28.11	28.16	28.15	28.11
	Three months' bills ..	28.50	28.60	28.55	28.50
Marseilles ..	Three months' bills ..	28.50	28.60	28.55	28.50
Switzerland ..	Cable transfers ..	25.15	25.25	25.30	25.20
	Three months' bills ..	25.55	25.65	25.70	25.60
Petrograd ..	Cable transfers ..	155	155 $\frac{1}{2}$	155 $\frac{1}{2}$	154 $\frac{1}{2}$
Genoa, &c. ..	Cable transfers ..	30.30	30.40	30.42	30.32
	Three months' bills ..	30.78	30.85	30.90	30.75
Spain	Cable transfers ..	23.35	23.45	23.53	23.43
	Three months' bills ..	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	48 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lisbon and Oporto	Cable transfers ..	35	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	34 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Three months' bills ..	—	—	nom.	nom.
Scandinavia ..	Cable transfers ..	16.35	16.50	16.65	16.50

* Nomina

TREASURY BILLS.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months ..	5 ..	5 ..
Six months ..	5 ..	5 ..
Nine months ..	5 ..	5 ..
Twelve months ..	5 ..	5 ..

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	This week	Last week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted	5 ..	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ —5
Three months ..	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ —5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$..
Four months ..	5 $\frac{1}{2}$..	5 $\frac{1}{2}$..
Six months ..	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ —5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ —5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Three months fine inland bills	5 $\frac{1}{2}$..	5 $\frac{1}{2}$..
Four months ..	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ —5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ —5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Six months ..	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ —6	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ —6

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Last week	This week
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	5 ..	5 ..
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	5 $\frac{1}{2}$..	5 $\frac{1}{2}$..
Bankers' deposit rate (call) ..	4 ..	4 ..
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call) ..	4 $\frac{1}{2}$..	4 $\frac{1}{2}$..
Current rates for 7 day loans ..	4 $\frac{1}{2}$..	4 $\frac{1}{2}$..
for call loans ..	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ —4 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ —4 $\frac{1}{2}$

The Week's Stock Markets.

With the removal of the last batch of minimum prices the Stock Exchange has now practically a free market in all departments. By a happy accident the date chosen for this event coincided with the news of the great Franco-British offensive movement on the Western frontier, and as this had proved eminently successful members were in a very cheerful mood. As had been anticipated, there was no selling pressure of any kind, and, indeed, bargain-hunters rapidly absorbed the small amount of stock that came on offer. A basis of 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 per cent. was established as the general level of new valuations, with exceptions in cases where redemption or other circumstances had to be taken into consideration. Of course, prices showed a very considerable drop from the fixed minima, Local Loans falling 13, Transvaal 3 per cents. 18, County Council 3 per cents. 13, Metropolitan 3 per cents. 10; and so on; but at these prices holders were evidently disinclined to realise. Indeed, the only complaint of dealers is that there is not enough stock available to meet demands, and in illustration of this it may be mentioned that in the sale list of a prominent firm in the Consol market circulated among brokers only nine Colonial Trustee stocks were mentioned of an aggregate nominal value of £40,000, which in normal times would be a mere mouthful. Home Railway prior charges and several other sections are in a similarly sold-out condition, and if it were feasible the Government might easily take advantage of this position to float another War Loan. However, as long as the heavy war expenditure can be financed by short bonds, it would be ruinous to fund the debt at a much higher rate of interest than will probably be necessary a few months hence. There has been a keen demand for certain Scandinavian and Danish bonds, several of which have received substantial support, and the theory is that wealthy Germans who have been able to escape from their own country to avoid bread and butter tickets are buying these stocks as the only opening they have for investment.

Members are already discussing the prospects of business after the war and the conditions under which it will have to be conducted, and the Committee is being urged to commence a systematic consideration of the whole problem. It is perfectly certain that the old régime cannot be restored in its entirety, and the modifications necessary will have to be most carefully considered in all their bearings. Probably the Committee is fully alive to the desirability of crystallising the best opinions at the earliest possible time, and, at any rate, it is to be hoped that the question will not be left over until it becomes urgent when normal conditions are restored.

The Treasury has now issued a consolidated list of the American dollar securities which it is prepared to buy or accept on loan in connection with the regulation of the New York exchange, and those holders who do not surrender their stocks will be penalised with an

additional tax of 2s. in the £. It is also announced that the Treasury is desirous of purchasing Province of Manitoba 4 per cents. and Province of Saskatchewan 4 per cents., the price offered being 80 in each case, plus accrued interest to the date of transfer to the Treasury. In this case failure to respond to the Treasury's offer will not entail liability to the additional income-tax.

	Last Week	This Week		Last Week	This Week
Consols.....	60½	61½	N.S.W. 4½% 1922-7	95½	96
War Loan 3½%	89½	89½	" 5% 1921-3	100	100
India 3½%	96½	97	New Zealand 4%	89	89½
" 3½%	69½	69½	Queensland 4%	85	86
Australian 5½% 1920-22	80½	73½	" 4½% new	96½	97
Canada 4% 1940-60	86½	87½	Union of S. Africa 4½%	94½	94½
" 4½% 1920-5	95½	95½	1920-5	96	96
N.S.W. 4%	86½	86½	Victoria 4½% 1920-5	83	83
" 4½% 5 yr. b	98	98	Westn. Aus. 4%		
Belgian 3%	62½	63	French War Loan, 5% ..	87	89½
Brazil, 1913	67½	67½	Japan 4½% (1st)	93½	93½
" New Funding	81	81½	" (2nd)	93½	93½
Chinese 1896	94½	94½	Russia 4%	72½	72½
" 1913	79½	79½	" 4½%	80	81½
Egypt Unified 4%	79	79½	" 5%	90½	91
Brighton defd.	64½	65½	London and S.W. dfd.	25½	26½
Caledonian defd.	104	104½	Do. new pf.	100	100
Chatham ord.	94	94½	Metropolitan	27½	27½
Gt. Central pf.	17½	18	Do. 5% New pf.	91	91
" dfd.	8½	8½	Met. District	109	109½
Gt. Eastern	39½	40½	Midland dfd.	63½	64½
Gt. Northern dfd.	99½	100	Nth. British dfd.	168	17½
Gt. Western	99½	102½	Nth. Eastern	108	108
Lancs. and Yorks.	75½	76½	Nth. Western	108	109½
			Stn. Eastern dfd.	28	29½
Canadian Pacific	184½	190½	Chesapeake	64	66½
Do. 6% Notes	108½	108½	Erie	37½	39
B. Indian Guar. 4½% debs.	91½	92½	Milwaukee	100½	103½
Grand Trunk ord.	112½	12½	N. Y. Central	108	110½
Do. 3rd pf.	27½	28½	Southern	23½	25½
Do. 5½% 3-7% Notes	100	100	Southern Pacific	101½	103½
Do. 5½% 5-yr. "	109	108½	Union Pacific	148½	146½
Atchafson	91½	93½	U. S. Steel	88½	91½
Baltimore	91½	93½			
Antofagasta dfd.	126½	129	Cent. Argentine ord.	77½	80½
Do. 6% Notes	100½	100½	Do. 5% Notes ..	98	98
Brazil Common	8	8	Do. 6% " ..	101	101
B. A. & Pacific	46½	47½	Leopoldina	38½	39
B. A. Gt. Southern	83½	84	Mexican ord.	16	17
B. A. Western	86	89	San Paulo (Brazilian) ..	194	195
			United of Havana	84	84½
Bank of Australasia	118½	119	London City & Midland ..	8½	8½
Barclay & Co. "A"	8½	8½	London County & West ..	16½	16½
Do. "B"	11½	11½	London Joint Stock	23½	24
Capital & Counties	23½	24	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (£100 pd)	29	29
Chartered of India	59½	59½	Do. (£12 pd)	33½	33½
Hongkong & Shanghai	86½	86½	Parr's	31	32
Lloyds	25½	25½	Standard of S.A.	102	10½
London & Provincial	17½	17½	Union & Smiths	25	25½
London & S.W.	12½	12½			
Apollinaris ord.	1½	1½	Forestral Land	50½x	51½x
Armstrong, Whitworth ..	37½	37½	Furness, Withy	48½	50½
Associated Cement	36	38	Hudson's Bay	7½	7½
Birmingham Small Arms ..	45½	45½	Imperial Tobacco pf. ord	22½	22½
Borax dfd.	32½	32½	Do. dfd. "A"	36½	33½
Bovril	20½	20½	Kynochs	33½	33½
Brazil Traction	61½	63½	Lever Bros. "C" pf.	21½x	21½x
British Amer. Tobacco ..	88½	89½	Lyons, J.	49½x	49½x
Brown (John), & Co.	33½x	33½x	Marconi	39½	39½
Brunner, Mond	4½	4½	Maypole Dairy dfd.	23½	23½
Cammell-Laird	6½	6½	Mond Nickel ord.	38	37½
Castner-Kellner	38	38	National Steam Car	15½	16½
Coats	6½	6½	Pears, A. & F.	1½x	1½x
Cunard	85½	83½	P. & O. dfd.	328	333
Dennis Bros.	32½	33½	Royal Mail	110½	125
Dorman, Long	30½	31½	South Durham Steel ..	32½	32½
Eastmans	8½	7½	Underground Inc. Bds.	87½	88½
English Sewing Cotton ..	40½	41½	Vickers	37½	37½
Fine Cotton Spinners	29½	28½			
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	7½	6½	Mexican Eagle pf.	1½x	1½x
Baku (ros.)	3½x	3½x	North Caucasian	26½	27½
Burmah	4½x	4½	Roumanian Cons.	14½	14½
Loobitos	30½x	36½	Royal Dutch (100 gulden)	47½	47½
Maikop Combine (ros.) ..	2½	2½	Shell	5½x	5½x
Maikop Pipeline	3½	3½	Spies (10/-)	15½	15½
Mexican Eagle	1½	1½x	Ural Caspian	33½x	34½x
Anglo-Java Rub. (2/-)	5½x	5½x	Malayalam £1	30½x	30½x
Anglo-Malay 2/-	11½	11½	Merlimau 2/-	5½	5½
Ayer Kuning £1	33½	33½	Pataling 2/-	33½x	33½x
Bukit Mertajam 2/-	4½x	4½x	Port Dickson 2/-	3½	3½
Bukit Sembawang 2/- ..	3½x	3½x	Rubber Trust £1	23½	22½
Carey United £1	35½	35½	Sapumalkande £1	23½	22½
Glen Bervie £1	47½	47½	Selangor United 2/- ..	2½x	2½x
Grand Central £1	25½	25½	Sialang £1	68½	66½
Gula Kalumpung £1	29½	2½	Singapore Para 2/-	4½	3½x
Highlands £1	53½	52½	Singapore United 2/- ..	3½	3½
Java Para £1	30½	30½	Sungei Buaya £1	46½	46½
Johore Rubber Lands £1 ..	27½	27½	Taipung 2/-	3½x	3½x
Langen Java £1	46½x	45½	Tanjong Malim £1	25½	25½
Linggi 2/-	20½	20½	United Serdang 2/-	12½x	12½
London Asiatic 2/-	7½	7½	United Temiang 2/-	3½x	3½x
Malacca £1	48	48	Vallambrosa 2/-	17½x	17½x
Abbottiakoon (10/-)	7½	7½	De Beers dfd. (£2 10s.) ..	11½x	11½x
Brakpan	4½x	4½x	East Rand	15½	15½
Broken Hill Prop. (8/-) ..	60½	60½	Gt. Boulder (2/-)	12½x	13½x
Cam & Motor	14½	14½	Meyer & Charlton	5½	5½
Central Mining (£12)	6½x	6½x	Modder "B"	6½x	6½x
Chartered	13½x	13½x	Do. Deep	6½x	6½x
City Deep	3½x	4	New Modder (£4)	17½	17½
Cons. Gold Fields	1½x	1½	Rand Mines (5/-)	3½x	3½x
Cons. Langlaagte	1½x	1½x	Rio Tinto (£5)	62	61½
Crown Mines (10/-)	2½	3½	Van Ryn Deep	3½	3½

The news of the successful start that had been made with the offensive on the Western front caused Stock markets to reopen after their holiday in a very cheerful mood, and the time could not have been more opportune for the removal of the last of the minimum prices. Quotations of the securities involved were, of course, scaled down heavily, but there was a

complete absence of any pressure to sell at the new levels, and in a number of cases there was a prompt improvement. After the orders which had accumulated over the week-end had been dealt with, markets became quieter, but prices remained firm, as buyers find a marked scarcity of stock. Consols improved to 61½, and the 4½ per cent. loan to 97, but the 3½ per cent. issue, after touching 87½, finished with a gain of ½ only at 89½. A demand sprang up for some of the Metropolitan issues, and the L.C.C. 3 per cents. rose to 64, while Metropolitan 3½ per cent. improved to 75, and Water Board "B" to 63½. Port of London Authority 3½ per cent. was also marked up 1½, to 71½. In Colonial Government issues the new Commonwealth Loan £20 paid was dealt in at 20½-¼, and the Nigerian Loan £22½ paid at 22½-¾. A large number of improvements were again shown by the loans of the various Australasian States. In Foreign Government securities the principal event has been a sharp gain of 2½ to 89½ in the French War Loan. Russian stocks improved, the 4 per cent. of 1909 rising to 81½ and the 5 per cent. 1906 to 91, while several of the Railway issues put on ½ to 1. Japanese issues were generally ½ to ¾ better, but Chinese showed very little change. Brazilian issues were higher on the improvement in the Rio exchange.

In the Home Railway market there was a continued inquiry for stocks, and the heavies show substantial advances under the lead of Great Western, which put on 3. Great Eastern, Great Northern preferred, Brighton, Chatham, and South-Eastern deferred, and South-Western were all substantially higher. Canadian Pacific shares were sought after on the good traffic, and jumped to 190½, and Grand Trunk stocks were also helped by their statement, the ordinary and third preference rising ½ each, and the first and second preferences 2 and 2½. American Railroad shares have been somewhat irregular, but, on the whole, the movement in New York was upwards, and the adjustment to parities on this side left prices higher. A substantial recovery has taken place in the Argentine Railways, Central Argentine being ¾ up, and Buenos Ayres Great, Southern and Buenos Ayres Western 2½ up. Elsewhere in this market there was not much doing, but San Paulo put on 1 and Leopoldina ½, while Mexican Railway stocks were marked up sharply on the better political news.

Expectations of satisfactory dividends for the past half-year again caused a demand for Bank shares, and most of the London group were ¼ to ½ higher, while Parr's rose 1. Amongst Foreign and Colonial descriptions changes were small but favourable. In Shipping shares P. and O. deferred improved to 333, and New Zealand jumped to 33 on the proposed amalgamation of the two companies. Royal Mail were in demand and advanced to 125, and Furness, Withy again improved, but Cunard fell back to 83s. 6d. Marconi shares came in for renewed support, and a big business has been done at improving prices. Hudson's Bay shares rose to 7½ on the quarterly statement, but a little profit-taking followed, and they have gone back to 7½. British North Borneo shares were supported on the dividend, and Pekin Syndicate also met with some attention. Cities Services were again prominent, and at one time were as high as 400, but they dropped back and finished at 390. Brazilian Traction shares improved to 63½ on the exchange, and a little buying of Imperial Continental Gas sent the price to 93. An active business was again done in British Oil and Cake Mills, though the best price was not maintained, but Salt Union and Associated Cement were inquired for. Armament shares were firm without much business, but a demand sprang up for Colliery shares on the amalgamation of D. Davis and Sons and the Consolidated Cambrian. Meat things were firm, and amongst Catering shares Lyons hardened to 4½. Courtaulds were lifted at one time to 7½, but have since reacted on profit-taking to 6½. Textile things were steady.

In the Oil share market an inquiry sprang up for "Shell" after the report came out, and the price improved to 58½, while Royal Dutch rose to 47½. Anglo-Egyptian "B" were sold on the report and relapsed to 6s., but rallied to 6s. 9d. A fair business was done in North Caucasian on the news that the strike at Grozny had been settled, and both Spies and Ural Caspian were a shade better. Mexican Eagle issues were firm, with a gain of 90½ xd. in the bonds, but Eagle Transport preference fell back a little. The Rubber share market has been very much quieter, and prices have tended to sag in sympathy with the drop in the commodity. Highlands and Lowlands, Linggi, Tandjong, and Consolidated Malay were all rather easier, but Bukit Mertajam, Bukit Sembawang, and Straits Bertam met with fair support. There was some inquiry for Java descriptions, and most of them show small gains, but amongst Ceylon issues Dalkeith have relapsed to 31s. 9d.

EDINBURGH EVENING NEWS, LTD.—The restriction in the supply of paper and the heavily increased cost made the past year a most trying one for newspapers generally, but this company was so far successful in economising in other directions that its profit for the twelve months ended May 31 showed a small increase of £441 at £14,174. A balance of £9,186, or £4,011 more, was brought forward, making a total of £23,360, out of which £2,418 is written off heritable properties, and the ordinary shares again receive a dividend of 2½ per cent., leaving £13,442, or £4,256 more, to be carried forward. With regard to the coming year, the directors say that the prospects are far from bright, as during the last few months the price of paper has risen enormously, and there seems no immediate prospect of any drop.

LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

SUGAR.—Prices remained at previous level, and there is a good steady demand for the comparatively small supplies available with regard to all white descriptions. Stocks in the three chief ports of the United Kingdom amount to 41,370 tons, against 91,000 same time last year.

COFFEE.—General course of business proved very quiet, but importers refrain from pressing their sales, and this helps to keep rates at a steady level. Costa Rica good to fine bold color, sold, 76s., 84s. The terminal market assumed a firmer tone. September delivery, sold, 47s. 3d., 47s., and 48s.; December, 48s. 3d., 48s., and 49s. 3d.

COCOA.—In the absence of public sales this week, business by private treaty was of retail proportions. Manufacturing demand is still measured by wants of immediate necessity. Sales resulted in Ceylon at 84s.

TEA.—This market continued in a generally weak condition, prices in several instances marking a further depreciation, though generally good buying ensued at the reduction. During the week 11,000 packages Indian, 25,500 packages Ceylon, and 5,000 packages Java were offered.

SPICE.—Actual transactions in most directions were confined to a moderate compass, though rates proved steady in the absence of any undue pressure to sell. Black Singapore, September-November steamer, sold 7½d.; white, 9½d.; and Muntok, 9½d. Fair Zanzibar cloves, August-October delivery, done 6½d. Tapioca firm, and flake, June-August, sold 3 5-32d.

FRUIT.—There was not much trade stirring, but recent quotations were upheld in most cases.

RICE.—Market dull, with only retail dealings during the week. Rangoon beans on passage again lower, owing to pressure from second-hand sellers. Sales resulted at £15s 5s.

FIBRES.—Hemp firm, but by no means active, as sellers adopted certain reserve, while declining later. Coarse, July-September, sold, £49 10s. to £48 10s. Jute very quiet in London, and native first marks, August, new crop, offered at £29 without business. Spot parcels in Dundee were steady, and tops of native first marks changed hands at £33 5s.

SHELLAC.—Moderate spot sales on the basis of 93s.-94s., for fair second orange, and 91s., fair free A.C. garnet. Futures quiet. August, sold, 94s. 6d., 96s. 6d.; and October, 96s. to 98s. 6d. Block Gambier, 36s., c.f. and i. terms.

RUBBER.—Without new feature, buyers being rather reticent and trend of values weak. Plantation, spot, crepe, sold, 2s. 3½d., 2s. 2½d. and 2s. 3d.; October-December, 2s. 4½d., 2s. 4d. Ribbed standard smoked sheet, spot, done, 2s. 3½d., 2s. 2½d., and 2s. 2½d. Fine hard Para, spot and near, sold, 2s. 8d.; and forward, 2s. 7½d. Ball, spot, 1s. 10½d.; and forward, 1s. 9½d.

COPRA.—Nothing new crept into the situation, business being quite restricted and rates largely nominal.

METALS.—Copper: Statistics for half of past month show an increase in the total visible supplies of 1,560 tons. In the standard market, free offerings at intervals led to a downward movement until the middle of the week, cash delivery relapsing to £97 and three months to £95. Rates were nominal at Thursday's session, in absence of dealings, cash closing at £97 and three months £95 5s. Tin: Visible supplies for the past month show an increase of 5,640 tons. Shipments from the East during the same period, 6,210 tons, namely, to the United Kingdom, 3,665; Continent, 845; and American, 1,700 tons. Selling pressure during the early part of the week caused a break in prices of standard, which, after irregularity, settled down at £170 10s. cash, £171 three months. Sellers exercised greater reserve since, while by Thursday cash left off at £173 and three months at £173 5s. Lead maintained. English, £29 10s.; foreign, July to October, £28 10s. to £27 15s. Spelter easier, but the downward tendency was arrested on Thursday. G.O.B., July, £46 10s.; October, £43 10s. Quicksilver, £16 12s. 6d. to £16 15s.

CORN (Mark Lane).—Market conditions were distinctly better this week, and higher prices were established in most of the principal staples, without, however, leading to any expansion of business. The all-round tone closes good. Wheat, English: Scarcity continues to make itself felt, and even at a higher range sellers are somewhat retiring. Whites, delivered up, range to 53s. and reds to 52s. 6d. per qr. (504 lbs.). Of imported grades, No. 1 Northern Manitoba, 53s. 6d., ex ship, and 54s. 6d., landed. Flour: American first spring patents 42s. upwards, and Canadian patents 41s. to 42s., both landed. Oats: La Plata 30s. 6d. upwards, landed. Grinding barley: La Plata, on sample, 41s. to 42s., and American 40s., both ex quay. Maize: La Plata (sound), 48s., ex quay.

CORRO. (from our Manchester correspondent).—The demand in the market during the past week has been of a very limited character, and all along the line producers have met with a discouraging state of affairs. There seems to be a belief in some quarters that more favourable opportunities for buying will transpire in the near future. Certainly we are receiving more encouraging advices relating to future supplies in the raw material, the reports relating to the American and Egyptian crops being generally favourable. Under the circumstances our customers seem disposed to purchase sorting up lots and not in any way to anticipate future wants. The inquiry in cloth for export has been of fair extent, but most of the offers have been a long way out. For India a few more attempts have taken place at operations in low shirtings for Calcutta, but only small sales have been reported. The bids in dhooties for the same outlet have been quite unworkable. Some telegrams from China are rather more hopeful, and odd sales have occurred in bleaching cloths, but on the whole prices here seem to be out of the reach of dealers in Shanghai. A steady demand has been reported for Egypt, chiefly in cloths suit-

able for dyeing. No weight of trade has been done for South America. In home trade circles distribution continues fairly healthy, and now and again fair lines are put through in fancies and specialties. In American yarns for home consumption buying has been of retail dimensions. Spinners have rather tended to lose ground, although stocks in first hands are practically non-existent. Only small lots have been sold in yarns suitable for shipment abroad, demand for both India and the Continent being poor. Egyptian yarns do not show much change in price, but demand has not been at all active.

CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING JULY 7, 1916.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
Sugar —per cwt.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Wool —per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
duty 14½, 98%			Australian		
polarisation			Scoured Merino 1	104-3 6½	104-3 6½
Tate's Cubes No.1	2 7 1½	2 7 1½	Scoured Cr'ssbr'd 1	92-3 1	92-3 1
Ditto, H.T.S.	2 6 7½	2 6 7½	Greasy Merino .. 10	11-2 4 0	11-2 4 0
Fine granulated..	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred 1	1½-2 0 1	1½-2 0 1
Lyle's granulated 41	7½-42 1½	7½-42 1½	New Zealand		
Foreign granulated	nom.	nom.	(scoured) Merino 2	10-3 2½	10-3 2½
first marks	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred 1	4-1 7½	4-1 7½
f.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	Cape snow white 2	6-3 1½	6-3 1½
German Cubes f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Indiarubber —lb		
French Cube	nom.	nom.	Plantation, Spot		
prompt	nom.	nom.	Crepe	0 2 3½	0 2 3½
Crystallised, West	nom.	nom.	Coal —per ton.		
India	nom.	nom.	Durham, best ..	nom.	nom.
Beet, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Tea —per lb., duty	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	East Hartlepool..	nom.	nom.
1½ lb.			Seconds	nom.	nom.
Indian Pekoe ..	0 10-1 0½	0 9½-1 4½	Steams, best ..	50/-	50/-
Broken	0 10-1 1½	0 9½-1 5½	Seconds	45/-	45/-
Orange	0 10½-1 1	0 10-1 7½	Lead —per ton.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Broken	0 10½-1 2½	0 10½-1 0½	English Pig.. ..	30 5 0	29 5 0
Pekoe Souchong	0 9½-1 1½	0 9-1 1½	Foreign soft.. ..	28 15 0	27-£28
Ceylon Pekoe ..	0 9½-1 1½	0 8½-1 1½	Quicksilver —per		
Broken	0 9½-1 0½	0 9½-1 0	bottle firsthand	£168-£163	£178-£173
Orange	0 10½-1 1½	0 10½-1 1½	Tin —per ton	£	£
Broken	0 10½-1 1½	0 10½-1 1½	English Ingots ..	179-179	177-178
Pekoe Souchong	0 9½-1 1½	0 9-1 10	Do. bars	179-180	179-179
Cocoa —per cwt.	s. s.	s. s.	Standard cash ..	£174 0 0	£173 0 0
duty 6d. per lb.			Tin Plates, per box	35/0-35/6	33/0-33/6
Trinidad—per cwt.	86 0-87 0	83 0-87 0	Copper —per ton.		
Grenada	76 0-82 0	76 0-82 0	English, Tough	nom.	nom.
West Africa ..	nom.	nom.	per ton	nom.	nom.
Ceylon Plantation	76 0-92 0	76 0-90 0	Best Selected ..	£132-£128	£128-£124
Guayaquil Arriba..	98 0-105 0	102 0-107 0	Sheets	£156	£150
Coffee —per cwt.			Standard	£103 10 0	£91 0 0
duty 42/- per cwt.			Jute —per ton.		
East India	67 0-95 0	67 0-95 0	Native firsts for		
Jamaica	62 0-120 6	62 0-120 6	sh'pmt. August	£50 0 0	£28 10 0
Costa Rica	62 0-85 0	62 0-85 0	Oils —per ton.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Provisions —			Linseed, per ton..	£338-£348	£348-£350
Butter , per cwt.			Rape, ref. English,		
Australian finest	158/-162/-	158/-162/-	barrels	£48-£50	£48-£50
Irish Creameries	160/-166/-	158/-164/-	Brown English,		
Dutch ditto	162/-164/-	nom.	naked	nom.	nom.
Russian finest ..	nom.	nom.	Cott'n Seed, crude	£42 0 0	£41 0 0
Normandy baskets	nom.	nom.	Ditto, refined ..	£448-£568	£448-£568
Danish finest ..	172/-176/-	170/-176/-	Petroleum Oil, per		
Brittany rolls ..	14/6-17/6	14/6-17/6	8 lbs.	1/-	1/-
doz. lb.			Water White ..	1/1	1/1
Bacon —per cwt.			Oil Seeds, Linseed		
Irish	104 0-110 0	104 0-110 0	Calcutta—per 410		
Continental ..	96 0-110 0	96 0-110 0	lbs., June-July	3 7 6	3 8 0
Canadian	84 0-100/-	84 0-100 0	Rape, Toria ..	6/1	6/2
American	81 0-88 0	79 0-87 0	Iron —per ton		
Hams —per cwt.			Cleveland Cash ..	nom.	nom.
Irish	138/-148/-	136/-148/-	Tobacco —duty		
Canadian	99/-100/-	84 0-100 0	unmanufactured		
American	64 0-93 6	79 0-87 0	5/6 to 6/2½ per lb.		
Cheese —per cwt.			Maryland & Ohio		
Edam	nom.	nom.	per lb. bond ..	0 6-0 10	0 6-0 10
Canadian	94 0-98 0	92 0-94 0	Virginia leaf ..	0 5½-1 6	0 5½-1 6
Gouda	nom.	nom.	Kentucky leaf ..	0 6-0 10	0 6-0 10
English Cheddar	106 0-112 0	100 0-108 0	Latakia	0 4½-1 0	0 4½-1 0
Wilts loaf	nom.	nom.	Havana	0 1-0 6	0 1-0 6
New Zealand ..	96 0-102 0	94 0-100 0	Manila	0 6-2 0	0 6-2 0
Rice —per cwt.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Cigars, duty 10/6		
Garden Siam ..	17 6	17 6	per lb.	2 0	2 0
spot	16 0-16 3	16 0	Timber —Wood.		
Rangoon 2 stars ..	16 0-16 3	16 0	Dantzig and		
Eggs —per 120.			Memel Fir, per		
English	18 0-18 6	17 0-18 0	load	130/-150/-	130/-150/-
Irish	16 6-17 0	17 0-17 6	Indian Teak ..	130/-600/-	230/-650/-
Danish	17 6-19 0	18 0-19 6	Flour —per sack.		
Copra —			Town households		
Malabar, London	33 10 0	33 10 0	official	42/-	43/-
June-July	32 15 0	32 12 6	American, 1st		
Ceylon, London	31 5 0	31 5 0	patents	42/-	42/6 upds.
South Sea	31 10 0	31 10 0	Turpentine —		
F.M.S.			American Spot ..	1 13 7½	2 0 0
			Spelter —		
			G.O.B. as to position	£61-£53	£44-£41

HALL AND CO., CROYDON, LTD.—Including £11,578 brought forward, the available profit was £27,511 in the year ended March 31 last. Depreciation, however, on the company's investments are more than can be dealt with out of this sum, and the directors have therefore taken £12,000 from the reserve to meet this depreciation, and then return £3,500 to the reserve out of the year's profits, so that it will now stand at £30,000, or £8,500 less than before the shifting about took place. There is still enough left to enable the board to give the ordinary shares their 5 per cent. dividend, plus 2½ per cent. bonus, and to provide £6,375 for income-tax at the rate of 3s. in the £. A balance of £11,180 remains at the end of it all to be carried forward.

Letters to the Editor.

SIR,—I am obliged to you for allowing my letter to appear, though you seem unwilling to accept either the Board of Trade statistic or my personal knowledge of the amount of poverty in Ulster.

Also you do not seem to know that under the Ashbourne and Wyndham Acts close on three-quarters of the land has passed into the hands of the former tenants, and by this time practically the whole of it would have been sold by the landlords if Mr. Birrell had not stopped land purchase by raising the tenants' annuity, so he got little advantage in buying, and lowering the amount of purchase money, increasing the loss the landlord made in selling. This was done at the dictation of Mr. Dillon and the Nationalists, who did not desire a contented Ireland. It was like so many of Mr. Birrell's acts, an act of criminal cowardice. May I say the late Lord Londonderry sold all his agricultural property, most of it about 1895. In County Down nearly all the great estates have been sold to the tenants; in fact, nearly all the landowners in the county have sold. I regret you should base your statements on Ireland "on seeing some of the places a good many years ago."

May I recommend to your notice a little book by Mr. Charles Adeane, "The Land Retort." I read the report of the Land Enquiry, and a more misleading piece of special pleading was never issued. Mr. Arthur Acland should no doubt have knowledge of country life, and his preface was written to give a little weight to the report. But though an excellent and conscientious man, he is hopelessly prejudiced on the land question. I have been as intimately acquainted all my life with rural life as he is, and can only hope you will not dogmatise on Ireland from being there long ago, or on English country life from an admittedly party report.

Yours, &c.,

CHARLES DUNBAR-BULLER.

Tea, Oil and Rubber.

It is decidedly unkind of the rubber market, but the commodity persists in drifting the wrong way, to the confusion of most of the experts and the consternation of investors who accepted their assurances that the average price during the war, and perhaps for a long time after, would probably be nearer 4s. than 3s. 6d. per lb. This week it has been below 2s. 3d., and although a slight rally followed, there is no certainty that bottom has yet been touched. Consumers have either filled their requirements a long way ahead or they are quite content to buy from hand-to-mouth—the latter being the more likely explanation. We are more than ever convinced that the reports of forward purchases extending to the end of next year, at higher prices than those recently ruling, are either purely fictitious or are arranged by gamblers with a view to influencing the share market. Not that we have in the least lost faith in the future of the industry, which seems to be assured beyond all doubt, but as we have repeatedly urged, the sooner it comes down to a strictly commercial basis the better. It will do harm, not good, if the price can be maintained at a fancy level long after the experimental stage is passed, apart from exceptional conditions (such as the war may have created), for it is quite foolish to imagine that a reproductive commodity capable of being grown over practically unlimited areas can continue indefinitely to yield profits ranging from 100 to 300 per cent. on the cost of production. Anyhow, the recent fall in the price of the raw material has dislodged a good deal of stock. When the enthusiasm was at its height investors perhaps bought more than they could conveniently pay for, and there were many purchasers who did not intend to hold, but to sell out as quickly as possible at a profit. Both classes have had to let go at a time when the buying movement had nearly exhausted itself, with the result that quotations have

been steadily dwindling in the majority of cases. There has been nothing in the nature of a slump, and there is not likely to be, because the public, generally speaking, are most reluctant to cut a loss, especially when the scrip is in their possession. But unless the commodity market can be stimulated into another frenzied advance most of the existing valuations will have to suffer a further process of pruning.

So far as its Ceylon interests were concerned, the Anglo-Ceylon and General Estates Co. did fairly well in the year ended March 31. The tea crop was only slightly larger at 3,479,809 lbs., but the price improved by 2.02d. to 11.85d., while the cocoa crop was 785 cwt. up at 5,904 cwt., and the price 3s. 8d. better at 80s. 3d. Rubber also yielded 53,574 lbs. more at 137,126 lbs., and realised 9d. more at 3s. 0½d., with the result that the total receipts from these properties rose by £24,327 to £172,333. Unfortunately, matters were much less favourable in Mauritius, where the sugar crop fell off by 5,522 tons to 15,108 tons, and produced £40,173 less at £226,204. Including £35,626, or £7,509 more, brought forward, and £19,040 from interest, dividends, &c., the total income was £453,204, or a decrease of £4,085. Expenses in Ceylon rose by £12,657, against a reduction of £16,465 in Mauritius, but it was necessary to provide £35,935 for excess profits duty for 1914-15, and after meeting other charges, the nett balance was £33,496 smaller at £117,130. Out of this a dividend of 25 per cent. is paid, as against 20 per cent. and a bonus of 10 per cent. a year ago, but nothing is set aside, compared with £25,000 for improved sugar machinery and £15,000 to reserve a year ago, and although the balance of £54,630 carried forward is £19,004 up, this includes provision for excess profits tax for 1915-16. Property account in Ceylon was increased by £11,652 to £262,907, but the Mauritius sugar estates remain within a few hundreds of last year's figure, and the interests in other companies are all unchanged. Cash has been reduced by £63,510 to £53,745, and investments are £12,339 down at £90,684, but the company has put £122,997 into Treasury bills.

The Sialang Rubber Estates again brought a large new area into tapping in the year ended January 31, making a total of 2,604 acres in bearing. Notwithstanding this the average yield per acre appears to have been much better than was expected at 315½ lbs., or 41½ lbs. more, with the result that the crop exceeded the estimate by 116,500 lbs., and was no less than 336,880 lbs. larger than the previous year's output at 821,454 lbs. The price was 3.58d. better at 2s. 6.42d., and, at the same time, there was a further reduction of 1.59d. to 1s. 0.03d. in the "all-in" cost, giving a very satisfactory profit of 1s. 0.639d. per lb., and the nett profits increased by £36,101 to £63,707. As, however, £7,869 less, at £5,314, was brought forward, the free balance was only £28,232 up at £69,021, but the gain is substantial enough to permit of the dividend being made up to 22 per cent., as against 12 per cent. in the previous year. Development reserve again gets £10,000, but nothing is written off, compared with £1,275 for expenses of the issue of new shares, and the surplus carried forward, subject to excess profits duty, is £9,507 up at £15,021. Although no new planting has been undertaken since 1913, the outlay on development for the year amounted to £15,023, bringing the cost up to £201,260, against which the development reserve now stands at £20,000. For the current year a crop of 1,060,000 lbs. is expected.

The benefit of the thinning out of poorly developed trees in the closely-planted areas which has been carried on for some time by the Lankat Rubber Co. was felt in the year ended March 31, when the crop obtained exceeded the estimate by 63,500 lbs. and the previous output by 95,474 lbs. at 496,021 lbs. A very satisfactory increase of 8.35d. to 2s. 10.51d. in the gross price was accompanied by a reduction of .35d. to 1s. 1.20d. in the all-in cost, and the nett profits were £23,036 larger at £44,766. With £4,830, or £3,668 less, brought forward, the divisible surplus was £19,368 up, and the dividend is nominally doubled at 30 per

cent. The actual increase in the distribution, however, is less, as the payment is this time subject to income-tax, whereas last year it was tax free. Out of the balance £5,000, or half last year's amount, is transferred to reserve, and £9,492 more at £14,322 is carried forward. In the current year a crop of 600,000 lbs. is expected.

The Mooply Valley Rubber Co. made very good progress in the year ended December 31, and increased its crop by 86,621 lbs. to 212,631 lbs., while the gross price was 7.44d. better at 2s. 9.09d., and the cost of production was reduced by 2.61d. to 1s. 0.11d., giving a profit of 1s. 8.98d. per lb. Nett profits, including £11,590, or £5,422 more brought in, amounted to £28,635, or an increase of £17,045, and had the directors chosen they could have brought the company into the dividend-paying list. They, however, prefer to strengthen the position, and in order to provide for all expenditure incurred to the end of 1915 in the development of the property in excess of the subscribed capital, transfer £22,000 to a development reserve, leaving £6,635 to be carried forward. Capital expenditure, including 71.5 per cent. of general charges, amounted to £14,650, bringing the total cost up to £201,922, against the issued capital of £180,000, and the company has had to obtain a loan of £10,000 from the Cochin Government on the security of its properties in that State. It has been decided to change the financial year from December 31 to March 31, as the trees cease yielding entirely from about the end of January to the end of March, so that the next accounts to be submitted will cover a period of 15 months. The crop for the year to March 31, 1917, is estimated at 406,384 lbs., of which 54 tons of first quality rubber have been sold at an average price equivalent to 2s. 8d. per lb., London.

In its year ended March 31, the Perak Rubber Plantations obtained a crop of 479,355 lbs., or an increase of 59,088 lbs. The gross price was 8.81d. better at 2s. 10.06d., and the "all-in" cost was reduced by 0.63d. to 1s. 0.32d., giving a nett profit of £41,084, or £18,558 more. Out of this dividends aggregating 8½d. per 2s. share have been paid, compared with 22½ per cent. last time, and the appropriation to reserve is doubled at £4,000, leaving £12,966 to be carried forward, as against £8,329 brought in. Capital expenditure amounted to £2,652, but after deducting depreciation the total is only £1,641 up at £111,075. Cash has been reduced by £7,427 to £4,608, but the decrease is more than accounted for by an addition of £14,801 to £21,800 in the Treasury bills held. The crop for the current year is estimated at 500,000 lbs.

The report of the Java United Plantations for 1915 proved disappointing, in spite of the increase in the dividend from 2 per cent. to 5. At present the company depends almost entirely on coffee for its revenue, and as the drought of 1914 caused more damage to this crop than had been expected, the output was considerably under the estimate. It, however, exceeded the previous crop by 466 piculs at 10,616 piculs, and the nett price realised was F. 6.56 better at F. 36.35 per picul, so that the profit from this source rose by £6,601 to £32,158. Rubber gave £3,458, but the cost of cultivation, &c., was £6,303 heavier, and after providing for London office charges, the nett surplus was only £3,357 up at £8,790. A much smaller balance of £4,349 was brought forward, giving £13,139, or £5,200 less, to be dealt with, and in order to pay the increased dividend, the directors make no appropriations corresponding to the £5,000 transferred to contingencies fund and the similar sum written off buildings, &c. The £1,000 set aside for depreciation is repeated, leaving £4,639, or £290 more, to be carried forward. The coffee crop for 1916 is estimated at 13,000 piculs, of which 4,000 piculs have been sold under forward contract at F. 37, and the balance of the assorted crop at F. 60 per picul.

Except on two divisions, where heavy floods caused a serious loss in the early part of the season, the yield from the Imperial Tea Co.'s properties in 1915 showed

a substantial increase, and on three of the estates the outturn exceeded 1,000,000 lbs. The total crop was 1,158,049 lbs. larger at 7,270,197 lbs., and both in London and Calcutta the average prices realised were about 1d. higher. Expenses were heavier, owing partly to the advance in the cost of materials and in freight and insurance charges, but nett profits, nevertheless, showed a gain of £35,576 at £110,409. Income-tax took nearly double the previous year's amount, and managers' commissions absorbed £2,646 more, while £407 was written off for excess profits duty for 1914. Out of the balance £2,000 is again written off for depreciation of machinery and £20,000, as against £16,000, is added to the reserve, bringing that fund up to £80,000, after which the dividend on the ordinary shares is increased by a modest 2½ per cent. to 12½ per cent., leaving £23,462, or £20,164 more than was brought in, to be carried forward subject to excess profits tax. The company is still expanding its planted area, and now has 13,311 acres under cultivation, while the cost has risen by £19,345 to £636,882.

For some time past there has been a good deal of quiet buying of Dalkeith (Ceylon) Rubber and Tea Estates shares, and the report for 1915 just issued would appear to justify the confidence shown. Owing to unfavourable weather and, to some extent, to thinning out of the trees, the crop failed to reach the estimate, but it was 100,307 lbs. larger than that of 1914 at 319,975 lbs., while the price improved by 8.09d. to 2s. 7.71d. In spite of the great increase in freight and insurance charges, and of the imposition of an export tax of 1¼d. per lb. as from October 1, the "all-in" cost was reduced by 1.58d. to 1s. 0.79d., and the nett profits were £14,332 better at £24,394. Adding £5,712, or £2,922 more, brought forward, and deducting £2,244 for balance of preliminary expenses written off, the available surplus was £21,742 larger at £27,862. The company, therefore, is able to enter the dividend-paying list with a distribution of 12 per cent., and still to leave £10,662 more at £16,374 to be carried forward. A crop of 400,000 lbs. is expected in the current year, of which 122,800 lbs. had been harvested up to May 31, and it is expected that further savings will be effected in the "all-in" cost. Inclusive of buildings, machinery and plant, the cost of the property works out at the very low figure of £58 8s. 8d., or an increase of only 6s. 1d. compared with a year ago.

For some years past the Jokai (Assam) Tea Co. has given special attention to the manuring and cultivation of its gardens, which were consequently in good condition to benefit by the favourable weather conditions in 1915. The average yield per acre rose by 186 lbs. to 847 lbs., with the result that the output showed the remarkable increase of 2,009,416 lbs. at 8,346,919 lbs., while the cost of production was brought down by 1.38d. to 6.71d. At the same time, the price realised rose by .98d. to 10.82d., giving a profit of £124,183, or £83,628 more, to which were added £3,002 from interest on investments and £4,168 brought forward. After writing off £8,494 for depreciation on investments, £5,505 for income-tax, and £2,125 for excess profits duty for 1914, the nett balance was £115,123, or £68,955 up, but it is estimated that the excess profits duty for 1915 will require about £50,000, and the ordinary shareholders have, therefore, to be content with a dividend of 17 per cent., as against 12 per cent. a year ago. Of the surplus, £10,000 is transferred to reserve, compared with £2,500 to that fund and a like sum written off cost of extensions last year, and £1,000 is again put to the staff provident fund, while the balance carried forward, subject to excess profits tax, is £51,455 up at £55,623. A crop of 7,280,000 lbs. is expected this season.

No satisfactory progress is shown in the report of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields, Ltd., for 1915. Output of oil for the year was only 34,960 tons, against 101,910 tons in 1914, and developments do not give much encouragement for hope of an improvement in the near future. Efforts to recover the production of two

Gemsah wells have given only intermittent results, and there has been trouble with sand in the Hurghada field. Several new wells have been started in these districts, but none have yet reached a productive stage, while south of Hurghada granite was reached, and it has been decided not to drill further in this territory at present. Oil proceeds and value of stock figure at £98,420, a decrease of £86,000, but £12,000 was saved on exploration and general expenses. Not enough oil was produced to keep the refinery fully employed, but crude oil was obtained from other sources for distillation, and a revenue of £31,988 was received from this source, an increase of £7,700 over the previous year. Nevertheless the refinery shows a loss of £19,116, which, however, is £14,600 less than last year. The final result is a nett loss of £12,815 as against a working profit of about £38,200 in 1914, and the debit balance is increased by that amount to £95,724. Paid-up capital is £62,500 higher, and the debt to the Anglo-Saxon Co. is reduced by £26,000 to £7,000. Stocks are £30,000 up, while debtors have been reduced by £51,000 to £19,858; otherwise there is nothing in the balance-sheet to call for comment.

BUKIT IJOK (SELANGOR) RUBBER.—During the year ended December 31 the whole of the area in bearing was brought into daily tapping, and the crop increased by 55,104 lbs. to 245,000 lbs. The price obtained was 7.19d. better at 2s. 10.56d., while the "all-in" cost showed the substantial reduction of 5.79d. at 12.74d., and the nett profits, after providing for depreciation, were £15,337 up at £22,695. After providing for managers' commission, which took £1,589, or £1,074 more, the dividend is increased from 10 per cent. to 3¼ per cent., less tax, and £8,935 is carried forward, compared with £2,274 brought in. For the current year a crop of 280,000 lbs. is expected.

KUALA-NAL KELANTAN RUBBER.—In the year ended December 31 a crop of 120,997 lbs. of rubber was obtained, which cost 1s. 2.36d., and realised 2s. 5d. Profits, including interest and sundry receipts, amounted to £7,819, and £200 was brought in, giving a total of £8,019, out of which £600 is written off for balance of preliminary expenses, and a dividend of 10 per cent. is paid, leaving £1,919 to be carried forward. The crop for 1916 is estimated at 210,000 lbs., of which 66,500 lbs. were obtained during the first five months.

RUPAI TEA.—Like most of the Indian tea companies, this undertaking found its estimate for the year ended December 31 very wide of the mark, owing to the abnormally fine weather. A crop of 800,000 lbs. had been expected, but the actual outturn was 1,158,118 lbs., or 417,707 lbs. more than in the previous year. The average price was a shade lower at 11 13-16d., but there was a substantial reduction of 2.78d. to 7.33d. in the cost, and the profits rose by £16,356 to £21,913. After providing for debenture interest and income-tax, and writing off £1,848 for excess profits duty on account of 1914, the available balance, including £1,957 brought forward, was £16,115 up at £21,072. The dividend is doubled at 15 per cent., and the balance carried forward is increased by £13,115 to £15,072, but this is subject to excess profits duty on account of 1915, which it is estimated will take about £9,000. For the current year a crop of 920,000 lbs. is expected.

RAJMAI TEA CO.—While the crop for 1915 showed an increase of 208,416 lbs. to 1,785,054 lbs., the price rose by 1.78d. to 11.46d., and the nett profits, after providing for commissions, were £10,904 up at £21,300. Including the balance brought forward, the available surplus, after making sundry adjustments, was £10,126 better at £27,675, and out of this £2,400 is written off investments. The dividend is then increased from 20 per cent. to 30, and the bonus of 1½ per cent., tax free, is repeated, leaving £7,635, or £2,126 more, to be carried forward, subject to excess profits duty.

LONGAI VALLEY TEA.—Heavy floods in June and July followed by mosquito blight caused the crop for 1915 to fall short of the estimate, and it was a trifle under last year's output at 1,230,533 lbs. With a small increase of .30d. to 8.98d. the nett profits were £2,637 up at £18,459, while the balance brought in, after deducting £899 for excess profits tax, was £782 larger at £9,561. After providing for income-tax, commission and depreciation the nett surplus was £25,080, or £2,510 more, out of which a dividend of 17½ per cent. is again paid on the ordinary shares, and as nothing is written off so far, compared with £1,000 for depreciation of investments a year ago, the amount carried forward is increased by £4,206 to £14,774, subject to excess profits duty. The crop for the current year is estimated at 1,344,000 lbs. to cost 5.29d. laid down in London as against 4.77d. last year.

JAIPUR TEA.—Favourable weather conditions enabled this company to increase its output in 1915 by 244,380 lbs. to 684,444 lbs., and at the same time the price realised was .66d. better at 12.54d. The crop of tea seed was also 146 maunds larger at 395 maunds, and with £625 more at £2,020 nett from this source, the profits were £10,221 up at £13,995. Adding £954, or £364 less, brought forward, the total available was £14,949, out of which a dividend of 10 per cent. is paid, as

against 7½ per cent. a year ago, £3,000 more at £5,000 is transferred to reserve, and the balance carried forward is increased by £4,805 to £5,760 to provide for excess profits duty. The crops for the current season are estimated at 608,000 lbs. of tea and 200 maunds of seed.

DEJOO TEA.—Thanks to the favourable weather experienced in 1915 the crop showed an increase of 104,480 lbs. at 832,000 lbs., and although the cost laid down in London was slightly higher at 7.68d., this was more than offset by a rise of 1.01d. to 10.85d. in the price. Nett profits, including £343 brought in, were £3,370 up at £11,674, and after again transferring £1,500 to general reserve, together with £1,000, or half last year's amount, to the dividend equalisation fund, £726 is written off for excess profits duty for 1914. The shareholders then get a bonus of 1½ per cent. in addition to their usual dividend of 10 per cent. and £3,094 more at £3,437 is carried forward. A crop of 800,000 lbs. is expected in the current year.

DERBY TEA.—Compared with the great majority of tea undertakings, this company was very unfortunate in 1915. Not only was the crop well below the estimate, but it fell short of the previous output by about 100,000 lbs. at 943,448 lbs., and although the price was .66d. better at 9.45d. the gross profits were only £310 better at £16,094. Manager's commission and income-tax absorbed £2,418 or £811 more, and the nett balance, including £5,323 brought in, and £378 from interest on investments, was £469 down at £19,378. The dividend is reduced from 60 per cent. to 50 per cent., £1,000 is again set aside for depreciation, and £2,011 more at £8,927 is carried forward. The output for the current year is estimated at 1,020,000 lbs., and the cost at 5.27d. laid down in London.

MERLIMAU.—1916 crop sold to date, 312,254 lbs. at nett average price of 2s. 3.94d. F.o.b. contracts still outstanding 60 tons, at 2s. 6½d. London equivalent.

DENNISTOWN.—1916 crop sold to date, 81,109 lbs. at nett average price of 2s. 4.29d. F.o.b. contracts still outstanding 48 tons, at 2s. 9½d. London equivalent.

SUNGKI BULO.—Of the 1916 outturn there has been sold to date 58,364 lbs. at a gross average of 2s. 10.59d. The company has made a contract for two tons of smoked ribbed sheet for forward delivery monthly, July to December, 1916, at 3s. 8½d. per lb.

The attention of the Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields, Ltd., has been called to a paragraph which appeared in numerous newspapers to the effect that the Central Roumanian Petroleum Co. in Roumania has received orders immediately to discontinue the export of petroleum to Germany and Austria-Hungary. The Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields, Ltd., wishes to point out that it acquired over three years ago the undertaking of the Central Roumanian Petroleum Co., and that there is no foundation whatever for the statement so published in the Press. The Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields, Ltd., has during the war neither sold nor exported any portion of its output to any enemy country.

MUNDAKAYAM VALLEY RUBBER.—In addition to an increase of 35,385 lbs., to 183,910 lbs., in the crop of the Kutikul

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WAR LOAN 4½%		cluding redemption.
(Above are subject to Stockbrokers' Commission).		
TREASURY BILLS, repayable in 3, 6, 9, or 12 months ; £1,000 and upwards		Yield 5 - 5½% (about)
EXCHEQUER BONDS, 5% repayable 1919, 1920, or 1921 ; £5 and upwards		Yield 5%
WAR EXPENDITURE CERTIFICATES, repayable in 2 years ; £100 and upwards		Yield 5½% (about)
WAR SAVINGS CERTIFICATES, repayable in 5 years ; £1 to £500 at 15/6 per £		Yield 5% compound, free of tax.

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Holders of American securities may apply to have them exchanged for cash, or for any of the above-named investments ; or may deposit their securities with the Government and receive ½% extra interest.

War Savings Accounts are opened, and Bearer Bonds accepted for safe custody, at any of the Offices of the Bank.

MANCHESTER.

July 1st, 1916.

estate, 13,565 lbs., or 7,356 lbs. more, were obtained from Vailamullay, and the nett prices were respectively 7.04d. and 6.18d. up at 2s. 8.28d. and 2s. 4.76d. The "all-in" cost on the two estates was .55d. higher at 1s. 4.74d., owing to the expenditure on immature fields having been all charged to revenue, and although there was a small loss of £422 on Vailamullay, the balance of profit was £7,183 better at £12,790. Adding £1,648, or £680 more, brought forward, there is £14,438 to be dealt with, out of which the dividend is increased from 10 per cent. to 17½, and £1,000 is again set aside for depreciation. Nothing, however, is transferred to reserve, compared with £1,000 last time, and £6,609 more, at £8,316, is carried forward to provide for excess profits duty.

BRUAS-PERAK RUBBER.—Only the smaller of the two properties owned by this company has reached the producing stage, and from this the output for the year ended February 29 amounted to 21,513 lbs., or an increase of 2,990 lbs. The average price showed the substantial improvement of 1s. 1½d., at 3s. 1½d., while the "all-in" cost, exclusive of interest, was ¾d. up at 1s. 4½d. Including £549 more, at £710, brought in, the available balance was £2,003, out of which £208 is written off for debenture issue expenses, and £1,795 is carried forward. Tapping is being started on the second property, and the crop from the two is estimated at 53,000 lbs.

BORDUBI TEA.—The crop for 1915 was 205,809 lbs. larger, at 1,057,644 lbs., and although the average price was only .09d. up at 11.70d., the gross receipts rose by £10,210, to £51,539. Expenses took £7,333 more, and after providing for staff commissions and adding £1,370 brought in, the available balance was £1,996 up at £12,365. The dividend is raised from 15 per cent. to 18, and £3,000 is again transferred to reserve, leaving £2,165, or £796 more, to be carried forward.

KACHARIGAO TEA.—For the year ended December 31 a crop of 738,903 lbs. was obtained, or 111,326 lbs. more than in 1914, and the price rose by 1.20d., to 11.08d. Gross receipts were £7,134 better at £32,959, while expenses were £3,308 up, and after providing for staff commissions and writing off £228 for excess profits duty for 1914, the nett balance, including £260 brought in, was £2,882 better at £9,746. Of this an extra £500, at £2,000, is transferred to reserve, and the dividend on the ordinary shares is then increased by 2½ per cent., to 20 per cent., leaving £1,940, or £1,680 more, to be carried forward.

DEAMOOLE TEA.—A good display is made for the year ended December 31. The crop amounted to 1,085,727 lbs., or 102,239 lbs. more than in 1914, and 126,000 lbs. over the estimate, and the cost was reduced by 1.01d., to 7.77d., while the price rose by ½d., to 1s. 0 1.32d. Including £14,113, or £3,625 more, brought forward, the profits were £14,369 better at £35,482, but £1,523 is deducted for excess profits duty for 1914 and £1,679 for income-tax. The dividend is maintained at 20 per cent., tax free, but in addition a bonus of 10 per cent. is paid, after which £6,500 is set aside to meet excess profits duty for the past year, and £1,000 is transferred to a permanent building fund, leaving £14,279 to be carried forward. The crop for 1916 is estimated at 1,008,000 lbs.

TARA TEA.—This company, which is under the same control as the Deamoolie, also did well in 1915. Its crop exceeded the estimate by 185,000 lbs., and the previous output by 212,692 lbs. at 769.154 lbs., and while the price realised was only ½d. higher at 11 27.32d., the cost showed the substantial reduction of 1.66d. at 8.14d. After charging £404 for expenditure on new cultivation to capital, the nett profits were £7,635 up at £12,316, and with £1,582 more brought in the surplus available was £9,217 better at £22,063. Of this £194 is deducted for 1914 excess profits duty, and £786 for income-tax, and in addition to increasing the dividend from 12½ per cent. to 15, the directors pay a bonus of 5 per cent., all tax free. They then set aside £4,000 to meet excess profits duty for 1915, and £1,500 to establish a permanent building fund, leaving £10,984, or £1,237 more, to be carried forward. A crop of 664,000 lbs. is expected in the current year.

RUNGAJAUN TEA.—With favourable weather conditions and a good market, the nett profits for 1915 showed an increase of £6,935 at £13,280, and after adding £7,543, or £1,156 more, brought in, and providing for commissions, &c., the surplus was £7,657 up at £19,171. Out of this the dividend on the ordinary shares is again increased by 4 per cent., making it 20 per cent., £2,000 is transferred to reserve, against nothing last time, and £5,256 more at £13,115 is carried forward. The output of 1,027,455 lbs. was 203,455 lbs. in excess of the estimate, and 156,857 lbs. above the yield for 1914, and the average price realised was 1.07d. better at 11.09d. A crop of 936,000 lbs. is expected for the current year at a cost of £30,859.

CHANDPORE TEA.—The output from the Chandpore estate in 1915 amounted to 772,769 lbs., or an increase of 97,480 lbs., and in addition 46,489 lbs. were obtained from the Parkul gardens. With an increase of .16d. to 9.37d. in the price realised for the Chandpore crop, the revenue was £5,863 larger at £31,785. Expenses took £2,977 more, and the nett profits, including £2,743 brought in, were £2,499 up at £12,619. The dividend of 10 per cent. and bonus of like amount are repeated, and £2,500 is transferred to reserve, against £1,000 last time, leaving £3,719, or £999 more, to be carried forward. Crops for the current season are estimated at 736,000 lbs. from Chandpore and 4,000 lbs. from Parkul at a cost of £19,450.

ENDOGRAM TEA.—An unevenly distributed rainfall and mosquito blight towards the end of the season prevented the crop for 1915 from reaching the estimate, but it was 64,506 lbs. larger than that of the previous year at 342,776 lbs. The price

rose by .64d. to 9.77d., and the cost was reduced by no less than 1.15d. to 8.13d., with the result that there was a nett profit of £2,398, compared with £24 last time. Deducting the small debit balance brought forward, income-tax and manager's commission, £2,165 was left, out of which £500 is transferred to reserve for the purchase of new machinery. A dividend of 3 per cent. is then paid, being the first distribution since the one of 4½ per cent. for 1911, and £625 is carried forward. The crop for the current year is estimated at 360,000 lbs. at a cost of 7.47d. laid down in London.

LOOKSAN TEA.—Conditions generally were favourable in the year ended December 31, and with an increase of 80,172 lbs. to 407,884 lbs. in the crop, the cost laid down in London was reduced by .52d. to 7.01d., while the price realised rose by .80d. to 9.78d. Profits, including £786, or £223 less, from dividends, were £2,454 up at £5,500, but £1,480 less at £1,225 was brought in, and after providing for income-tax and manager's commission, the nett balance was only £755 better at £6,306. The dividend is further increased from 8 per cent. to 12, making a jump of 100 per cent. in two years, but nothing is written off, compared with £2,006 off machinery, buildings, &c., and £3,164, or £2,045 more, is carried forward. The crop for 1916 is estimated at 392,000 lbs., to cost 7.07d. laid down in London.

What Balance Sheets Tell.

RHODESIA-KATANGA JUNCTION RAILWAY AND MINERAL CO., LTD.

Receipts for the year to September 30 last showed a decrease of £21,250 at £64,423, while the expenditure was £6,177 lower at £25,803, and the nett revenue of £38,620 is consequently £15,070 down. It is said that the falling off in the railway earnings is chiefly due to conditions which have arisen through the war, and the consequent decrease in the carriage of general goods, construction materials and passenger traffic, but coal and other mineral traffic showed an increase on the year. The line, which runs from Broken Hill to the Congo border, is leased to the Mashonaland Railway Co. at a rental of £44,000 a year, or sufficient to meet debenture interest, so that the lessee made a loss of about £5,400 last year, but in the previous 12 months there was a surplus of £9,700 to divide with the Rhodesia-Katanga Co. After paying office and other expenses, the debit balance of the latter is increased by £17,435 to £98,625, and the shares seem a long way from a dividend. As, however, they were issued as fully paid for a paper consideration, that does not matter so much, but it affects the status of the debenture-holders, who have nothing solid behind them except what has been expended out of their own money. There is nothing in the balance-sheet that need detain us.

THE MINT, BIRMINGHAM, LTD.

Gross profits for the year ended March 31 showed a further substantial advance of £55,987 at £132,720, but the outgoings under all heads were heavier, and after providing for depreciation the nett profits were only £44,087 up at £83,327. The company was declared a "controlled establishment" as from September 6, and substantial provision has to be made for the amount due to the Government under the Finance and Munitions of War Acts, so the directors have set aside £56,000 for this purpose. The balance brought forward was also reduced by £13,000 for excess profits duty on account of 1914-5, and the available surplus was therefore £11,173 smaller at £36,385. Out of this the dividend is again made up to 10 per cent., but the bonus is halved at 10s. per share, and is this time paid less income-tax instead of tax free. The sum of £10,000 is then transferred to reserve, against nothing a year ago, and £12,785, or £10,773 less, is carried forward. During the year the partial capitalisation of the reserve was carried out by the creation of £80,000 in preference shares; making the paid-up capital £160,000, and the reserve shows a corresponding reduction at £30,000. Current liabilities are £74,668 higher at £94,296, against which debtors owe £34,476 more at £87,146, and stocks are £26,041 larger at £72,945, but cash has been reduced by £7,168 to £27,476. Additions to property account, less depreciation, amounted to £10,980, making the total £110,431.

SECOND INDUSTRIAL TRUST, LTD.

A further small decrease of £1,555 to £25,645 is shown in the revenue for the 12 months ended June, 1915, but expenses were lighter, and the nett balance, including £4,371 brought forward, was only £585 down at £23,048. Out of this the ordinary shares again get a dividend of 4 per cent., less tax, and £5,397, or £1,019 more, is carried forward. The usual classification of the investments shows that securities in the United States have been reduced by 2.64 per cent. to 25.60 per cent., while those in Great Britain and in British Colonies and Dependencies have been increased by 2.31 per cent. to 36.30 per cent. A full list of the securities accompanies the report, but the directors have not considered it advisable to make a valuation in the present condition of the stock markets. The book value, however, is £20,940 down at £634,657, against which loans, advances, &c., have risen by £4,091 to £13,506, while, on the other hand, loans for £15,000 have been paid off.

MAURITIUS ESTATES AND ASSETS CO., LTD.

During the year ended March 31 the yield of canes showed a falling off owing to drought, and the output would also seem to have been reduced by the sale of one of the estates. The

average price was slightly higher at Rs. 11.83 per cental, but the gross income showed a decrease of £65,753 at £186,277. Most of this, however, was offset by a substantial reduction in working expenses, while the directors have decided to carry forward £9,000 of the expenditure on machinery and plant, so that the proportion charged to revenue was £10,916 smaller at £19,538, and the nett balance was consequently only £9,744 down at £21,442. With £1,254 brought forward, as compared with a debit of £7,617 a year ago, the surplus, after providing for debenture interest, was practically the same at £10,059, out of which the dividend of 10 per cent. on the ordinary stock is repeated, leaving £1,245 to be carried forward. During the year one of the estates was sold for £52,000, and new morcellement sales in excess of cancellations amounted to £3,113, making a total reduction of £55,113 to £338,468 in the property account. Against this £55,000 of the debenture stock was paid off, leaving £275,000 outstanding. Stocks of sugar are £15,542 down at £6,712, and, on the other hand, current liabilities are £7,825 lower at £5,971.

DUMONT COFFEE CO., LTD.

In the year ended December 31 there was a small increase of 1,120 cwt. to 85,533 cwt. in the crop, but, owing to market conditions, the gross price fell by 5s. 9d. to 50s. 7d. per cwt. Satisfactory reductions were effected in the cost of cultivation and picking, and some advantage was also derived from the lower rate of exchange, but these savings were largely offset by an increase of no less than 4s. 9d. to 6s. 8d. per cwt. in the freight charges, and the laying down cost in London was only 1s. 10d. lower at 41s. 8½d. Railway, stores and sundry profits yielded £1,210 more, but the total income from all sources was £15,322 down at £47,572, and as London charges, including £2,187 less at £479 for income-tax, were only reduced by £2,360, the nett balance, including £47,963, or £3,514 more, brought in, showed a decrease of £9,448 at £89,535. Debenture interest and preference dividend are met, but the ordinary shares again get nothing, and the balance carried forward is reduced to £38,514. Cash advances have been reduced by £18,080 to £1,729, but the company holds £9,929 in 4½ per cent. War Loan and £6,827 in Treasury bills. Picking of the current crop began on April 20, and by the end of June about 44,300 cwt. had been harvested.

AGUA SANTA COFFEE CO., LTD.

An excellent crop of 16,232 cwt. was obtained in 1915, or 4,232 cwt. over the estimate, and 9,684 cwt. more than in the previous year. The quality was fully maintained, and although the price fell by 8s. 9d. to 49s. 6d., owing to unfavourable market conditions, this was offset by the increased output, and the nett profits were £5,528 up at £10,667. Last year's surplus was a little short of the amount required to meet the final dividend on the preference shares, but this has now been met, together with the full dividend for 1916, and 2½ per cent. is paid on the ordinary shares. Of the balance £1,870 is written off preliminary expenses, and £1,561, or £953 less, carried forward. The manager reports that the trees have a thoroughly healthy and vigorous appearance, promising a big crop for 1917, but for the current year his estimate is only 9,000 to 9,500 cwt.

S. P. AUSTIN AND SON, LTD.

After providing an undisclosed amount for war taxation, the profits of this Sunderland shipbuilding company for the 12 months ended April 30 showed a small increase of £875 at £18,758. With £28,063, or £1,318 more, brought forward, the balance available, after providing for depreciation and debenture interest, was £2,170 up at £40,883, out of which the ordinary shares again get a dividend of 10 per cent., and the balance carried forward is increased to £30,233. Stocks, including work in progress, have risen by £25,335 to £39,524, but debtors owe £11,502 less at £20,307, and cash is £3,618 down at £47,275, while current liabilities have risen by £7,019 to £11,847.

BALANCE SHEET FACTS.

AFRICAN CITIES PROPERTIES TRUST, LTD.—Rents are said to have come in very well on the whole in 1915, although somewhat reduced by the numerous rebates granted during the worst periods of the year. Income-tax took £1,560 more, and, after providing for all charges, the nett profits, including £11,242 brought in, were £5,703 down at £33,547. Out of this the ordinary shares again get a dividend of 2½ per cent., but nothing is transferred to reserve, compared with £5,000 a year ago, and £703 less at £10,539 is carried forward. Balances due under contracts of sale are £8,537 smaller at £3,984, but cash is £6,295 up at £13,960, and the company has £10,000 in Treasury bills, while it owes £3,964 more at £8,264 to sundry creditors.

ALCOY AND GANDIA RAILWAY AND HARBOUR CO., LTD.—Gross receipts for the year ended December 31 fell off by £3,344, to £25,152, but working expenses were reduced by £1,135, notwithstanding the heavier cost of coal. Adding interest, &c., and £797 brought forward, a nett balance, after meeting interest on the prior lien debenture stock, income-tax, &c., was £1,829 down at £5,606. Out of this 1 per cent. is paid on the 4 per cent. first mortgage debentures, compared with 1½ per cent. last year, and £1,606, or £1,170 more, is carried forward.

DRAKE AND MOUNT, LTD.—This business of iron, coal, and building goods merchants, of Bracknell, worked under difficul-

ties in the year ended March 31 with over 60 per cent. of its clerical staff away serving their country. Its trade also seems to have suffered, as the nett profits, after providing for depreciation, &c., were £3,865 down at £6,196. The balance brought in was £1,586 larger at £1,883, making the total available £2,279 less at £8,078, and in addition to reducing the dividend on the ordinary shares from 7 per cent. to 5 the directors transfer £1,000, or half last year's amount, to reserve, and carry forward £1,703, or £179 less. Sundry debtors owe £5,978 less at £37,393, against a decrease of £4,506 to £25,003 in current liabilities, and cash is £551 down at £2,431, while stocks are only £404 larger at £20,678.

HEAD, WRIGHTSON, AND CO., LTD.—Under the Munitions of War Act, this company was declared a "controlled establishment" as from July 12, 1915, and in consequence of this and other financial measures the directors' report and balance-sheet will not be completed for presentation at the annual meeting which is to be held on July 8. The directors say, however, that being satisfied that the profits for the year ended April 30 will admit of a further payment of dividend in addition to the interim distribution of 4 per cent., they propose to pay 6 per cent., less tax, and a bonus of 2s. 6d. on each £5 ordinary share.

LONDON WOOLLEN CO., LTD.—Trading profits for the 12 months ended April 20 fell off by £3,661 to £6,374, and, in addition, the company unfortunately suffered a loss of £3,374 through fire in September, which has been written off. Including £748, or £536 more brought forward, the free balance was therefore £6,499 down at £3,749, and in addition to halving the dividend at 5 per cent. the directors set aside £3,700 less at £800 for depreciation, and reduce the sum carried forward by £299 to £449. Stocks are £1,631 smaller at £39,385, debtors owe £12,199 less at £29,605, and cash is £3,997 down at £4,669, but against these there is a decrease of £11,045 to £24,445 in sundry creditors, so that the financial position is comfortable enough.

ROYAL SARDINIAN RAILWAY CO.—In 1915 this Italian railway, as may be supposed, worked under considerable difficulties, not least in regard to expenses, the cost of coal alone having increased by about 100 per cent. Nett profit for the year was none the less sufficient to enable the board to give 141,600 lire to the 94,400 shares in circulation, and to complete the payment of the difference in the gold exchange calculated on the rates prevailing on January 1, 1915, and January 1, 1916. A coupon of 0.75 lire per share, drawn and undrawn, will accordingly be distributed next July. The profit for the past year, including 14,372 lire brought forward, was 1,555,237 lire, from which 1,332,850 lire was taken to pay the dividends due to the shareholders last July and January, and to redeem the shares drawn. Presumably this an English company, and it might be worth while to give its accounts in sterling.

"SANITAS" CO., LTD.—In the year ended March 31 last this company's available profit, including the balance brought forward, was £705 down at £18,142, and only £1,500 instead of £2,000 was placed to the reserve fund, while the sum set aside to the reserve for depreciation on investments was only £500 against £1,500. In this way, after making up the dividend, less tax, to 7½ per cent. for the year, the same as before, the balance of £3,376 left to carry forward is £307 higher. The reserve fund stands at £31,907, and the patents, goodwill, machinery, &c., increased by £3,247 to £146,746. These are the most interesting items in the accounts, and the reserve will now be raised to £32,400.

TAMPLIN AND SON'S BREWERY, BRIGHTON, LTD.—Gross profits for the year ended May 17 were £3,497 down at £72,537, and at the same time expenses were much heavier, with the result that the nett profit showed a decrease of £6,097 at £29,723. Adding £12,442 brought forward and deducting debenture interest, preference dividend, and an interim payment of 3 per cent. on the ordinary shares, the available surplus was £2,938 smaller at £16,128. Out of this a final dividend of 4 per cent., less tax, is paid on the ordinary shares, but nothing is transferred to general reserve compared with £1,000 a year ago, and the balance carried forward is reduced by £1,430 to £11,012. Cash has been reduced by £12,307 to £927, but stocks are £7,692 larger at £29,182, and the company has invested £4,744 in 4½ per cent. War Loan.

TEDCASTLE, MCCORMICK AND CO., LTD.—This Dublin ship-owning company shows a profit £500 larger at £9,721 for the year ended March 31 last, but that is after again writing £8,000 off leasehold premises, steamships, plant, machinery, &c., and placing £4,000 to reserve compared with £5,000 put aside for war risks a year ago, also after providing for excess profit duty. Including the balance of £3,211 brought forward, there is £12,932, or £554 more, available, and the directors increase the dividend to 6 per cent. for the year against 5, leaving £3,582 to be carried forward, or £371 more than was brought in. The accounts appear to be clean, and all the items of quite manageable dimensions.

WM. ROBERTS (TIPTON), LTD.—The operations for the year ended March 31 resulted in a loss of £2,176, compared with a profit of £9,007 for the previous 12 months, to which were added £482 for debenture interest and £700 for directors' fees. Deducting the total of £3,358 thus produced from the balance brought forward, there is a surplus of £1,607, of which £1,349 is applied in writing down investments and £348, or £4,707 less, is carried forward. A year ago the ordinary shares got a dividend of 10 per cent., tax free. Stocks are £15,027 up at £29,475, and debtors owe £2,188 more at £13,951, but investments have been reduced by £5,017 to £14,384, and the bank balance of £8,728 has given place to an overdraft of £11,005, while sundry creditors have risen by £4,319 to £13,342.

Six Months' Foreign Trade.

Our overseas trade for the first half of the year finishes up in quite brilliant fashion, so much so that we are almost inclined to indulge in sanguine expectations about the prospects after the war is finished that may not be justified. Dealing first of all with the returns for June, we find that the merchandise imports amounted to £87,036,350, an increase of £11,027,760, and the exports to £47,274,560, an increase of £14,041,000, but the re-exports were £477,645 lower at £8,872,700. Compared with June, 1914, the month before the war broke out, imports show an increase of £28,755,000, exports an increase of £7,402,000, and re-exports an increase of £119,000. Bullion and specie do not show up so well, but that is inevitable in

IMPORTS.

	June.			Inc. or Dec. as compared with 1915.
	1914.	1915.	1916.	
General Merchandise	£ 58,281,653	£ 76,008,588	£ 87,036,349	+ 11,027,761
Gold	6,023,604	810,532	105,141	- 705,391
Silver	779,377	929,698	1,208,774	+ 279,076
Total	65,084,634	77,748,818	88,350,264	+ 10,601,446

EXPORTS.

	£	£	£	£
Brit. & Irish Produce	39,872,976	33,233,568	47,274,563	+ 14,040,995
For. and Col. M'dse..	8,753,434	9,350,339	8,872,694	- 477,645
Gold	1,903,956	983,094	2,697,981	+ 1,734,885
Silver	959,235	522,668	803,314	+ 280,646
Total	51,489,601	44,069,669	59,648,552	+ 15,578,883

IMPORTS.

Six months ended June.				
	£	£	£	£
General Merchandise	375,903,057	428,859,882	474,201,166	+ 45,341,284
Gold	28,934,112	6,010,211	6,368,806	+ 3,358,685
Silver	5,960,871	5,275,215	6,359,795	+ 1,084,570
Total	410,798,040	440,145,308	486,929,847	+ 46,784,539

EXPORTS.

	£	£	£	£
Brit. & Irish Produce	255,457,611	183,622,888	241,807,881	+ 58,184,993
For. and Col. M'dse..	59,276,416	51,323,020	54,121,101	+ 2,798,081
Gold	22,364,842	5,530,544	22,337,377	+ 16,806,833
Silver	7,413,400	4,238,514	3,939,492	+ 299,055
Total	344,512,269	244,714,996	322,205,851	+ 77,490,852

VISIBLE BALANCE OF TRADE.

June.				
	£	£	£	£
Imports	65,084,634	77,748,818	88,350,264	+ 10,601,446
Exports	51,489,601	44,069,669	59,648,552	+ 15,578,883
Excess value of im- ports over exports	13,595,033	33,679,149	28,701,712	- 4,977,437
Six months ended June.				
	£	£	£	£
Imports	410,798,040	440,147,308	486,929,847	+ 46,784,539
Exports	344,512,269	244,714,996	322,205,851	+ 77,490,855
Excess value of im- ports over exports	66,285,771	195,432,312	164,723,996	- 30,706,316

the circumstances. Imports fell off £426,315 to £1,313,915, while exports were £3,501,295, or £2,015,533 higher. Everything included, imports for the month were £10,500,000 up, while exports increased £15,578,000, so that the visible balance of trade has improved to the extent of £4,978,000.

Coming to details, we find that the food and drink class of imports shows an advance of £5,498,825, grain contributing £2,637,500, and dutiable foodstuffs (chiefly sugar) £2,883,000. Imports of raw materials increased £3,896,600, wood and timber accounting for £1,917,000, and oil-seeds, &c., £2,791,000, while cotton was £613,000 lower, and wool dropped £525,000. Among manufactured articles, of which we purchased £1,688,000 more, the only prominent movement is an increase of £1,511,000 in chemicals, drugs, dyes, &c. Prices on the whole have not further advanced to any great extent. For instance, we took

11,770,000 cwts. of wheat, against 8,742,000 cwts., and they cost us £7,548,000, against £6,089,000, while flour was actually a little cheaper. On the other hand, we had to pay distinctly more for our beef, mutton, and bacon, and sugar also was dearer. Wood was decidedly higher, and so were cotton, wool, and other textiles, but in miscellaneous articles there was not very much difference, and it is often in our favour. On the export side there is an increase of £1,427,000 in coal, which is entirely accounted for by higher prices. Iron and steel manufactures are up £1,850,000, cotton fabrics £3,587,000, and woollen fabrics £1,361,000, while apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous articles all show substantial advances.

Turning to the figures for the six months, we find that the total imports of merchandise have been £474,201,000, an increase of £45,341,000, while the exports were £241,808,000, an increase of £58,185,000, and only £13,650,000 below the pre-war figures. Re-exports amounted to £54,121,000, an increase of £2,798,000 over last year but £5,155,000 below the pre-war standard, a better showing than might have been expected considering the shortage of shipping and high freights. We imported £25,058,000 more foodstuffs, £6,093,000 more raw materials, and £14,016,000 more manufactured articles, principally textiles and chemicals. On the other hand, exports show an advance of £2,426,000 in foodstuffs, £5,469,000 in raw materials (almost entirely coal), and no less than £46,863,000 in manufactures, iron and steel contributing £11,206,000, cotton £14,188,000, and wool £6,780,000. All the figures tend to emphasise the wonderful recuperative powers of our foreign trade, and when the enormous energy devoted to the output of munitions and other war supplies (which do not figure in the returns) is considered, it is quite marvellous how we have kept the flag flying in the way this record proves it has been.

Answers to Correspondents.

* A Key to these Answers will be posted early each week for a subscription of ONE GUINEA per annum, 11s. for six months, or 5s. 9d. for three months.

Deposits against future queries may be lodged with the Publisher.

Coolavin.—We fear there is not much prospect of any great appreciation in this stock under existing conditions.

Saint.—They are a purely speculative venture, but so far as we can learn the property is producing, and there seems a chance of a rise. If you buy, do not keep long, and be prepared to clear out if the market hangs.

F. P.—(1) Gas Light and Coke $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. maximum. (2) Borax Consolidated $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. debenture stock. (3) British American Tobacco preference.

C. H.—We have never liked this concern. Every now and then the market becomes active, principally on rumours that the neighbouring lodes have been struck. We think you should sell. A few shillings can be got at present.

A. R. W.—The company is reported to have made enormous profits, but we think you should take advantage of the present price and sell half.

K. D. E.—The premium is high, but the concern is wealthy, and has a fine business. We see no objection. Gas Light and Coke.

Brox.—If your Trust is running for a long time No. 2 is the better purchase. It gives a slightly better return meantime.

W. J. S.—You can get so little that they hardly seem worth selling, but the prospects do not look particularly brilliant.

Vulpus.—No transactions have been recorded since the minimum prices were cancelled, but it should be worth about 68-70 comparing it with similar stocks. It is worth holding we think, unless you can get about 72 or 73 for it.

F. R. L.—(1) (2) are paying good dividends, and are good investments of their kind. (3) has prospects and is a fair risk, as there is a likelihood of dividends before long.

Libitos Oilfields.—Production for June, 7,282 tons.

Consolidated Gas, Electric Light, and Power of Baltimore.—Nett earnings for May, \$276,824; increase, \$47,550. Aggregate nett earnings from July 1, \$3,201,082; increase, \$480,907.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

AUSTRALIAN ESTATES AND MORTGAGE CO.

BETTER RESULTS THAN ANTICIPATED.

DIVIDEND MAINTAINED AND RESERVE FUND INCREASED.

The annual ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Australian Estates and Mortgage Company, Limited, was held on Thursday at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., Mr. Andrew Williamson, the chairman, presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. A. W. Stevens, F.C.I.S.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—Before entering upon a review of the business of the past year I wish to express our sorrow at the loss by death of our esteemed colleague, Mr. Charles E. Bright, which is referred to in the report. Mr. Bright was present with us here at the last annual meeting in his usual health and vigour. As he was leaving the building he met with a deplorable accident, by which he fractured a thigh-bone. He appeared at first to be making an excellent recovery, but the shock proved too much for his strength, and he had a relapse and gradually sank, and passed away on July 17. Mr. Bright was a director of the company from its formation, and he possessed a wide experience of Australian business, and his colleagues deeply regret his death. The vacancy thus caused has been filled by the appointment of Mr. Stanley Boulter, whom I am glad to see with us to-day, and whose wide experience of business in the City will, I am sure, be of much value to his colleagues on the board.

THE PAST YEAR'S WORKING: ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS.

The directors' report and statement of accounts for the year ended December 31st last, which has been issued to all the shareholders, is now in your hands, and I assume that it is your wish that it should be taken as read. I have no doubt it has been gratifying to you, as it has been to myself and my colleagues, that the operations of the company during the past year (in a period of drought as well as of war) have enabled us to maintain the dividend at 6 per cent., after carrying £25,000 to the credit of the reserve fund. This is a more favourable result than appeared at all probable when we last met, towards the end of June of last year. I had then to inform you that the season up to that date had been, speaking generally, of the most unfavourable character, and it is all the more gratifying that the results have turned out so much more favourable than we then had any reason to expect. The weather conditions in 1914 were adverse, but in 1915 they were still more unfavourable. I may say that during last year severe drought was experienced throughout the greater part of Australia, and in some areas, such as Central Queensland and in the western and north-western districts of New South Wales, the season was almost the worst on record. The effect of the position generally in Australia, owing to the drought, will be better appreciated when I tell you that it is estimated that the total numbers of sheep will show a decrease of some 15 millions and of cattle about a million head as compared with the preceding year, and that the 1915-16 clip of wool will probably show a shortage approximating 400,000 bales. These declines are from a year which itself showed heavy declines from the preceding one. Our company is, as you know, largely interested in the State of Queensland, and, although we have experienced serious losses from the drought, I am glad to say that we have come through the year better than the above estimate of shortage in Australia as a whole might indicate.

THE WOOL CLIP.

The diminution in our own wool clip for the past season amounted to 570 bales. Notwithstanding this shortage, however, the high prices ruling for wool have more than compensated in the cash results for the shortage in bulk. Whereas our clip in 1913, consisting of 14,645 bales, realised £230,539, and our clip in 1914, consisting of 13,118 bales, realised £217,379, the 1915 clip of 12,548 bales has realised as much as £249,707. This includes 803 bales yet to be sold, taken into account, as usual, at a moderate valuation. It will be interesting to you to know that our company handles some of the very highest-priced wools produced in Queensland, and during the most recent sales we realised for 480 bales of one of the company's scoured clips no less an average than 3s. 5½d. per lb., while the price for the highest-priced lot reached 3s. 9d. per lb., equivalent to about £40 per bale. The prices for both merino and crossbred wools have been steadily appreciating, and values are now on a higher basis than has, I believe, ever before been experienced. During the past year the periodical sales of colonial wool have taken place at frequent regular intervals, and the difficulties arising through congestion in the Port of London and at the warehouses, which were a very serious drawback some time ago, are being gradually and steadily overcome. The shortage of freights, however, is still an increasing difficulty.

STOCK SALES: OUTPUT OF SUGAR.

The result of our stock sales for the year has been that, after providing for the maintenance of our stock numbers, we have available proceeds of stock sales amounting to £72,426, as compared with £131,370 in 1914 and £106,405 in 1913. As I indicated when addressing you last year was sure to be the case, the extremely dry weather in Queensland had a very bad effect on the output of sugar, and our revenue from this source shows

a very large reduction when compared with that of the year 1914. The outlook for the current year is much more satisfactory, and it seems probable that the results from our sugar estates in the current year will show a considerable improvement over those of last year. It is, however, still too early to speak with any definite assurance in regard to this. Owing to the war and the magnificent way in which the manhood of Australia has responded to the Empire's call to arms, a company such as this, with its many large estates, has naturally had special difficulties during the past year in obtaining the necessary supply of labour, both as regards outdoor and indoor work. This is also the cause of our being a few weeks later than usual in holding our annual meeting.

HEAVY INCREASE IN TAXATION.

To the difficulties with which we have had to contend, in view of the drought and the shortage of labour, has been added a heavy increase in taxation. The steady, indeed, rapid, increase in taxation of late years is becoming a very serious menace. In addition to all the local rates and assessments, we have a State land tax, and then a Federal land tax, which in the case of a large company like this, with extensive holdings, rises to the immense annual figure of 9d. in the £ of the unimproved capital value of freeholds, and the latest amendment of the Act has also included Crown leaseholds. Then we have State income-tax, and now we have added to that a Federal income-tax of 1s. 6d. in the £ on the profits of companies not paid away in debenture interest or dividend, and which on incomes of over £6,500 in the case of individuals rises as high as 5s. in the £, and companies are constituted the agents of the Federal Government for deduction of the tax from their debenture-holders and shareholders. Lastly, we have the British income-tax, now 5s. in the £. Of course, so far as taxation is necessary to meet the expenses of the war, we will all bear our share willingly, provided the taxation be distributed proportionately over the community. We contend, however, that companies such as this, carrying on business in Australia, are burdened with an unduly heavy proportion of taxation, both for war and in peace.

INTERVIEWS WITH THE COMMONWEALTH PRIME MINISTER.

Advantage was taken of the recent visit to this country of Mr. Hughes, the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth, and a small but representative deputation from the British Australasian Society was accorded the opportunity of laying our whole case before him at a personal interview. The British Australasian Society is an association of all the large pastoral and finance companies doing business in Australia, who have thus united together for the purpose of co-ordinating opinion in all matters of common interest affecting their respective businesses. This deputation had the opportunity of explaining to Mr. Hughes the very strong objections entertained here to certain features of the Federal land tax and the legal difficulties with which English companies operating in Australia are confronted if they comply with all the requirements of the Federal income-tax. The deputation had the benefit of hearing Mr. Hughes's views on the points raised, and of talking over the matter with him, and I trust that good will result (Hear, hear.)

DOUBLE INCOME-TAX WITHIN THE EMPIRE.

The problem of what is known as double income-tax within the Empire has for some time been receiving the careful consideration of certain influential committees and of the chambers of commerce in London and throughout the country, and a large and representative deputation waited on Mr. Hughes a few days prior to his departure, and submitted to him certain definite proposals for relief upon which all the interests represented were agreed, and with which Mr. Hughes himself was in hearty accord. This is not the time nor the place to go in any detail into this matter. It will be enough for me here to say that we contend that within the Empire there should upon the same income be one income-tax, and one only, and that that portion of the Empire in which the income is earned has the primary right to impose such a tax. At the present time the imposition of two—and sometimes of three, as in the case of Australia, where we have State income-tax as well as Federal income-tax—the imposition of two taxes, and that at war rates, mounting up in the case of large incomes to over 10s. in the pound for income-tax alone, is altogether unreasonable and most injurious to the free circulation and employment of capital within the Empire.

A concise, but comprehensive, memorandum has been issued jointly by two of the representative committees above referred to, and any shareholder desiring further information on this important subject should communicate with the secretary, the Hon. J. G. Jenkins, 27, Clement's Lane, E.C., who will, I am sure, be very pleased to afford any information.

MR. HUGHES'S "POWERFUL PERSONALITY": CAPITAL AND LABOUR.

While making this incidental reference to Mr. Hughes, I would also refer to the truly remarkable manner in which this Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia has impressed his powerful personality upon this country. His speeches have been read by the vast majority of the people here with profound satisfaction. His utterances in connection with the war have been those of a man with clear, strong views, and with the courage of his opinions. His action on the outbreak of the war in dealing with the German trade entanglements in Australia was swift and effective. His speeches during his visit here on trade after the war have struck a truly Imperial note, and have received an enthusiastic response from all classes of the community. If, however, the maximum of bene-

ficial result is to follow both here and in Australia—indeed, throughout the Empire—then it is vital that harmonious working between capital and labour shall be established and maintained, and the frank recognition made on both sides that the one is indispensable to the other in the tremendous economic fight we have ahead of us with Germany after the war. If when the war is over we are effectively to resist the "peaceful penetration" of Germany and overcome her rivalry in neutral markets, we must be a united household within the Empire, and capital and labour must pull together and not against each other. After a most memorable visit Mr. Hughes has now left this country on his return journey to Australia, and I am sure we all wish him complete success in the great effort to which in the interests of the Empire he has set his hand.

THE PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Turning again to our review of the past year, and taking into account all the adverse conditions to which I have alluded, I feel sure you will agree with me that the result of the past year's working is, in the circumstances, satisfactory. As you will see from the profit and loss account, the gross profit amounts to £210,791, and this after providing a fairly substantial sum for depreciation in investments in Stock Exchange securities. You will note that we have taken our investments in the 4½ per cent. Imperial War Loan at cost, as this loan has the right of conversion at par into any future permanent loan the Government may bring out in connection with the war. On the other side of the profit and loss account, the general current expenditure, which includes expenses at head office and branches, amounts to £31,580, as against £35,179 in the previous year, and the English and Australian income-tax to £23,500, as against £21,216. After providing for these charges, a credit balance is brought down of £155,710, contrasting with £183,793 in 1914. After providing for the interest for the year on all our debenture stocks, and carrying £25,000 to the credit of the reserve account, bringing it up to £295,000, and bringing in £5,976 carried forward from last year, there remains a balance of £36,609 16s. 1d., out of which the directors recommend payment of a dividend of 6 per cent. for the year, carrying forward £5,137 to next account.

THE BALANCE SHEET.

The balance-sheet is set out in its usual form, and is, I think, quite clear and distinct, and there is no need to go through all the different items. I would only refer to the first and last items on the credit side. The first is properties and stock, loans on mortgage, and other securities, which stands at £2,052,228. Regarding these properties and securities, we believe them to be at least worth the values set against them in the balance-sheet. The last item, sundry debtor balances, including advances on wool and other produce, are, in our opinion, fully secured.

THE CURRENT YEAR'S PROSPECTS.

Passing now from the review of the working of the past year to the prospects of the company for this present year. You have been informed in the report that the present year, so far, shows an improvement in weather conditions as compared with the corresponding period of last year, but that rain was still needed on several of the company's properties. Since June 24, the date of the report, we have had further rain cables, and to that extent the position is improved. The position at the present time may be summed up as follows:—On the whole, it is much better than it was at this time last year, but a few of our properties have had very little rain during the past six months, and the results of their working for this year must be seriously prejudiced thereby, even if rain subsequently falls. The other properties—and they are, I am glad to say, the large majority—have been more fortunate, and have had more or less satisfactory rainfalls, but they still require seasonable rains between now and the end of the year. If normal rains fall during the next six months, and the present prices for both live stock and wool are maintained, the results of the working of our sheep and cattle stations should, on the whole, be satisfactory. The outlook for our sugar estates for the current year is also more encouraging. The prospects of our agency business, as in the case of our own estates, are, of course, largely conditioned by the character of the season. In a bad season there is naturally less stock and less wool to sell for our constituents, and altogether less agency business available, and, accordingly, the better general outlook this year than last extends to this department of our business. In a word, I am not without hopes that we shall again next year be able to submit to you a satisfactory report. (Hear, hear.) I regret to say that during the past year our manager in Australia, Mr. McClure Smith, has been seriously ill, and has been laid aside for many months. He has now, I am glad to say, recovered, and is back again at his post and I hope will soon be fully restored to health. I am afraid that untiring devotion to the interests of the company and the continuous strain which the drought, the war, and the burden of taxation together laid upon him, have been largely, if not mainly, accountable for his illness. I wish to express the board's appreciation of the manner in which the staff, both here and in Australia, have carried out their duties during the past year. (Hear, hear.) I have now pleasure to move:—"That the report and accounts for the year to December 31, 1915, now submitted, be received and adopted, and that the dividend recommended by the directors in the report of 6 per cent. for the year 1915 be and is now hereby declared on all the consolidated ordinary stock and the capital paid up on the ordinary shares

of the company appearing on the register on June 22, 1916, the same to be payable, less income-tax, on and after Friday, July 7." I will ask Mr. Malcolmson, the deputy-chairman, to second the motion.

Mr. G. F. Malcolmson seconded the resolution.

Mr. Charles Lock, speaking as a large shareholder, said that considering the bad weather conditions, the depletion of the staff, and the war conditions generally, the results achieved during the past year were eminently satisfactory, and he congratulated the directors and the staff on their management of the company's affairs.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The retiring directors, Mr. Andrew Williamson and Mr. Stanley Gray, were re-elected; and Messrs. Kemp, Sons, Sendell and Co. were reappointed auditors to the company for the ensuing year.

On the motion of Mr. Lock, a hearty vote of thanks was passed to the chairman, the directors, and the staff, and the proceedings then terminated.

JAVA PARA RUBBER.

The fifth annual general meeting of the Java Para Rubber Estates, Ltd., was held on Wednesday in the council room of the Rubber Growers' Association, 38, Eastcheap, E.C., Mr. R. J. Arnold presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. J. J. Sneddon, A.C.I.S.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Your chairman, Major Johnson, is still away on military duty, and the task of explaining to you our report and the accounts again devolves on me as your acting chairman. I have only just heard also that our colleague, Mr. Bingley, who has an important Government engagement, is not able to be here to-day. I hope on that account you will excuse him, as he is up for re-election afterwards. My remarks last year were prefaced with an apology, as on that occasion we were unable to pay you any dividend, but I then stated that your board did not anticipate that the barren period would be of any great length. Within six months of that date we were able to pay you an interim dividend, and it is with much pleasure that we are able to recommend a final dividend at to-day's meeting in respect of the year 1915 of 10 per cent., making 15 per cent. for the year, also that we are able to carry forward the very substantial sum of £22,462 3s. 5d. I had foreshadowed at our last annual meeting a yield of £40,000 all told—namely, £25,000 from coffee and £15,000 from rubber. Partly through our crops being in excess of estimates, but much more in consequence of a very substantial rise in the price of both products, this estimate of £40,000 of produce was very largely exceeded, and we harvested for the year coffee to the value of £37,656 14s. 2d. and rubber to the value of £16,709 14s. The working expenditure in consequence of these higher crops was naturally slightly more than the £20,000 estimated, and amounted to about £21,200, but we have this year included the whole of our London expenditure in this total. In addition to this expenditure, we have paid debenture interest, £1,822, and we have written off the whole of the balance standing to the debit of underwriting commission and preliminary expenses, not only of our original share capital, but also of our subsequent issue of debentures—thus extinguishing these items, which are now finally wiped off, and will not again appear in our accounts. These debits amounted to the large sum of £4,756. Of course, in addition to the expenses booked to revenue, we have spent during the year on capital account a sum of £5,877, of which £2,535 was spent on buildings and machinery. For all intents and purposes, however, our debenture debt, which was always a millstone round our neck, may be considered to be as good as extinguished. Looking to the future, our position is still rosier. Our coffee crop, from which we have so far derived the major portion of our revenue, may be considered quite safe as to the quantity, and as to price there is no question, as your board have sold the entire output forward at a price averaging £4 15s. 8d. per picul. I told you in the earlier part of my remarks that the crop for 1915 had realised about £1 per picul above our expectations. I am able to tell you for the current year not what I hope it will realise, but what it actually has realised—namely, £1 8s. 7d. over and above the figure realised last year. This is calculated on an output of 11,000 piculs, but should our crop exceed this estimate, of which there is every indication, the price also will be higher, for we got the very fine price of £5 10s. per picul for our last sale, which was for the whole balance of our crop. Assuming, however, that we only harvest 11,000 piculs, this will bring in over £52,000 of revenue, and we should certainly get £25,000 worth or more of rubber—say in all £77,000 of revenue, which is £23,000 more than last year. Our expenditure in Java, mainly on account of our larger rubber crop, will amount to about £25,000. Adding London expenses, and perhaps a further £3,000 on capital account, we come to a maximum expenditure of £30,000, leaving £47,000 available. The amount we shall be able to pay to you in dividends will, of course, depend on the excess profits duty we are taxed with, but in normal times we should be able to pay you almost 30 per cent. dividend. What the dividend will be it is impossible to forecast, but we hope, at any rate, to pay a substantial interim dividend later on in the year. Looking still further ahead, we shall, I think, before long add to our income through our

large investment in the South Preanger Company, which is under the immediate control of your board. Through an arrangement of paying off debentures, this concern is now practically owned by us, as we hold the whole of the debenture issue and 82 per cent. of the share capital. The South Preanger Company is extending its acreage, which will add to our assets, and we are also opening a further 220 acres on our own estate. We shall still have 348 acres of jungle left, all of which I hope to see opened during the following year or two. Add to this the leased area of 677 acres, which reverts to us, fully planted with coffee and rubber, in 1920, and you will see that your board has studied your future interests, and that, whatever befalls either of our products, we hope to be able to increase our outputs in quantity as a set-off against any decrease in prices which future years may bring. Let us hope prices also will be maintained. If this is the case, we shall earn still larger profits in years to come than I am foreshadowing for 1916. The outputs for June are just in, and show that the output of rubber for that month is 20,000 lbs. You will notice that our estimate for the year is 250,000 lbs.; therefore we are well up to the average in our June output. The output of coffee for the month was 2,200 piculs, making the amount already harvested for the year 3,515 piculs. It is a very curious thing that the 2,200 piculs compare with only 63 piculs last year. That is accounted for by the fact that the coffee output this year is coming forward at least a month, or two months, earlier than it did last year, but we shall probably not be harvesting coffee in November as we did last year. You naturally understand that, whereas the rubber crop is about even for the whole twelve months of the year, the coffee crop is only picked when the fruit is ripe, and only for a certain season. Therefore, gentlemen, these outputs are good, and substantiate the estimate I gave you for the coming year's work.

Mr. William J. Keymer seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

EMPIRE OF INDIA AND CEYLON TEA CO.

The 20th annual ordinary general meeting of the Empire of India and Ceylon Tea Co., Ltd., was held on Tuesday at the offices, King William House, 2A, Eascheap, Mr. F. T. Verner (the chairman) presiding.

Mr. H. F. Turner (the managing director) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman said: When I had the pleasure of addressing you last year I took a hopeful view of the company's prospects for the coming season. I am fain to admit they have surpassed my highest expectations. At Christmas, when the interim report was issued, your board felt far from sanguine of the ultimate results of the revenue working. We had secured a large increase in crop, but not so large as many others. In the aggregate the Indian yield was from 50 to 55 million lbs. over the previous season. During the calendar year, Ceylon sent 10½ millions, China 39½ millions, and Java nearly seven millions more, so that buyers had a poor time in prospect and things did not look rosy for the producer. Buyers had made up their minds that there would be no lack of tea, and they were only willing to lay in stock at always lower prices. At the end of September, Assam tea had realised an average of 12.75d. per lb., and this fell away by the end of the year to 11.19d., and for the last weekly sale of the year 9.33d. was realised. Doors, in the same way, came down from 11.50d. to 10.33d., the last average of the year being 8.33d. The bulk of the Indian crop had still to be disposed of, but, fortunately, week by week saw a steady improvement in the average, the last sale of the season from the Assam district averaging 12.00d. and from the Doors 11.90d. Freight shortage has been a distinct feature in favour of the market as it checked unduly heavy supplies being forced upon buyers at a critical period. The large demands of the Government for the Army and Navy was also a contributing cause for the higher market, and it soon became evident that Russia, and other outside markets, had quietly absorbed the greater part of the Indian surplus crop. The season has closed with a heavy stock in the warehouses, but it is not unwieldy, being no more than three months' supply, and, with the uncertainty of the shipping outlook, there is a disposition on the part of the trade to look a little further ahead, and to add somewhat to the stocks generally held. The gross proceeds of tea crop was £326,916 in 1915, against £262,481 in 1914; tea seed proceeds £339 in 1915, against £104 in 1914, making together £327,255 in 1915, against £262,585 in 1914; outlay on gardens in 1915 £148,013, against £135,733 in 1914; account sale charges in 1915 £30,721, against £20,070 in 1914; war insurance in 1915 £3,532, against £3,550 in 1914; interest and discount in 1915 £3,157, against £3,319 in 1914; London expenditure in 1915 £9,686, against £6,185 in 1914; commissions in 1915 £11,466, against £8,124 in 1914—a total in 1915 of £207,475, against a total of £177,881 in 1914; the nett profit shown is £119,780 for 1915, against £84,704 for 1914. Of the increased nett profit, the Assam group has contributed 70½ per cent., and the Doors group 31½ per cent., while Ceylon fell short by 2½ per cent. All the Indian gardens have shown improved results, while Ceylon was particularly unfortunate with unfavourable weather, with short labour, and a great deal of sickness. Of the increased expenditure shown above, £17,666 may be put down to larger crop, £2,586 to increased cultivation, £2,224 to increased outlay for buildings and machinery, £3,239 to income-tax on un-

distributed profits, £3,342 to commissions to managers. Against this increased outlay of £29,057 we have received increased proceeds of £64,435, a very substantial increase being shown in the crop as well as in the price per lb. All round the cost has only gone up .22d. per lb. Compared with last year we have made an increased nett profit of £35,076, of which it is proposed to pay shareholders £5,875, or an extra 2½ per cent. dividend on the ordinary shares. It is a matter of much regret that we have to retain the balance of £29,201, but when I tell you we shall have to pay about £35,750 for excess profits duty on account of 1915, you will see we have no option. Our labour force on the Assam gardens shows an increase of 223 coolies, and is over the 1½ coolies per acre which is considered a minimum force. As you are aware, the duty on tea has been raised from 5d. to 8d. per lb., and subsequently to 1s. per lb. Home consumption has not so far been seriously interfered with, for we are living in abnormal times, and there appears to be money about to pay the extra price of this necessary article of everyday consumption; but we are bound to suffer in the long run if this high duty is continued for any length of time when normal conditions again rule. You will wish me to say something about our investment in the British Malay Rubber Co. We hold 32,500 shares of £1 each, and they will all be fully paid this year. The market price of the shares is exactly double the par value. It is intimated in the report that the crop estimate for 1916 is 280,000 lbs., of which there has been secured in the first six months about 66,000 lbs., or 34 per cent., which gives promise of a full crop, seeing that the autumn months are the best yielding months of the year. Young producers of rubber are likely to be very hard hit over the excess profits duty, but until some definite ruling has been given us we cannot say where we are, but, judging from our experience of the Oriental Rubber Co., apart from excess profits duty, we ought to do very well indeed. The future of the tea market is obscure. At present prices are on a high level with a distinct tendency to decline. Opinions may differ, but I am disposed to think that difficulties of freight and delay in the arrival of the teas in London may again enable us to regulate our offerings, and thus secure fair competition and the maintenance of prices on a paying basis. To June 30 our crop is 75,000 lbs. behind last year, and generally throughout India the yield has been smaller, but not so small as to be against the best interests of the planting community. Our gardens are in excellent condition, we have had no hail, and I feel sure we are well equipped to show good results.

Mr. W. K. Darley seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

ASPREY AND CO.

The seventh ordinary general meeting of Asprey and Co., Ltd., was held on Friday, June 30, at 166, New Bond Street, W., Mr. George Edward Asprey (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. E. Charles C. Smith, F.S.A.A., F.C.I.S.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—I have much pleasure in presenting the directors' report and accounts for the past year, and I presume that you will, as usual, take them as read. I am glad to be able to tell you that there is every reason to be satisfied, in existing circumstances, with the balance-sheet now presented to you. It shows a further slight reduction in profit, but this is due to the increase in expenses rather than to any decrease in the volume of trade. The latter, though considerably below pre-war level, shows a steadily recovering tendency, and the number of new customers is remarkably large, showing that your goodwill is continuing to broaden, and auguring well for the time after the war. Expenses are being watched with every care, but efficient service has to be maintained, increased taxes must be paid as cheerfully as possible, and the item of part pay to the staff in khaki is a large figure, but one which you will not begrudge. A new item in your assets is the (perpetual) Corporation lease of a neighbouring property in Bond Street. This is not only a good investment, but may also be useful in future expansion and development. It has been paid for out of liquid assets, leaving cash resources quite ample for the ordinary purposes of the business. After providing for all liabilities and reserves, payment of the preference dividend and of ordinary dividends at the same rate as last year—namely, 11¼ per cent., free of income-tax—there remains to the credit of profit and loss account a balance of £3,151 14s., and it is proposed to carry this forward to the next account. I think, gentlemen, that is all I have to say, and I will therefore conclude by moving: "That the report of the directors produced, together with the annexed statement of the accounts of the company for the year ended March 31, 1916, duly audited, be received, approved and adopted." I will ask Mr. Lionel Asprey to second the resolution, but before putting it to the meeting I shall be pleased to answer any questions that may arise.

Mr. Lionel C. Asprey said the chairman had so well covered all the ground that there was nothing left for him to say. He would therefore formally second the motion for the adoption of the report and accounts.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Chairman next moved: "That a dividend at the rate of 5½ per cent. per annum on the preference shares paid January 1, 1916, being the dividend due on the said shares at that date for the previous six months, be approved, and that a further dividend at the same rate be paid on the said

shares on July 1, 1916, being the dividend due on such shares for the six months to that date."

Mr. A. W. Hilling seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman moved: "That the dividends paid on the ordinary shares for the year ended March 31, 1916, amounting to a total of 11½ per cent. for that year, free of income-tax, be approved."

Mr. L. C. Asprey seconded the motion, which was carried.

Mr. Hilling proposed the re-election of Mr. G. E. Asprey as a director.

Mr. L. C. Asprey seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The auditors (Messrs. C. F. Williams and Co.) were re-appointed, and the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

NATIONAL BANK OF NEW ZEALAND.

The forty-fourth ordinary general meeting of the National Bank of New Zealand, Ltd., was held on Tuesday at 17, Moor-gate Street, Mr. Robert Logan, the chairman, presiding.

The Secretary and London Manager (Mr. Henry F. Fresh-water) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman observed that before proceeding to their ordinary business it was, he thought, fitting that he should invite the shareholders' attention to the splendid manner in which the members of the company's staff had responded to the call to arms in defence of the Empire. Of their New Zealand staff 90 men and in London 75 per cent. of their staff had joined the Colours. New Zealand had had two excellent seasons. High prices had ruled for all the primary products of the Dominion. All exports had fetched "record" prices. The surplus of exports over imports, measured in sterling, amounted to 12 millions, and a total overseas trade of 54½ millions gave an average of over £49 per head of the population. He did not know any other country that had attained such an average. The primary products of the Dominion were wool, frozen meat, and dairy produce. Minerals, such as gold, silver, and coal, represented some four millions sterling, and hemp, grain, hides, skins, and the like also aggregated about four millions. This left nearly 25 millions sterling to represent the primary products. Of this great total wool represented nearly 12 millions, frozen meat over 7½ millions, and dairy produce nearly six millions. Turning to the balance-sheet, he stated that the directors proposed that the reserve fund should be increased to £700,000, or only £50,000 short of the paid-up capital of the bank. Their note circulation showed an increase of £71,000 over last year's figures. There had been a considerable increase in their deposit and current accounts, due to the prosperous conditions of the Dominion. As regarded the bills payable and other liabilities, ample provision had been made for doubtful debts and for depreciation of investments. Their coin and bullion and cash at bankers showed an increase of over £60,000. It was no small feat for a bank with a capital of £750,000 to hold £680,000 in British War Loans and Treasury Bills. In addition, they had subscribed for £100,000 of a New Zealand loan, and they held £140,000 in New Zealand securities. Their advances on securities and current accounts showed an increase of £350,000, which might have been greater had it not been that their policy in respect of advances during these critical times had been of a very conservative character. Embarrassment had been caused to exchange business by the action of the Commonwealth Government in prohibiting the export of coin from Australian ports. The matter had been taken up by the banks, and he had no doubt that the Government would see its way to overcome the difficulty. The gross profits had increased from £275,239 to £296,555—an advance of £21,000, which he thought the shareholders would regard as very satisfactory. On the other hand, the expenses had increased by £28,000—the result almost entirely of the extra income-tax and other taxes on the bank's note circulation. If it was necessary to double their present contribution to the country's fund they would do so without a murmur; but it was evident that the shareholders must in the near future contemplate either the payment of their dividends subject to income-tax or they must accept a lower dividend—or possibly both. There was one way in which the shareholders could help themselves and the bank, and that was by vigorous support, both here and in New Zealand, of the movement for the abolition of, or at least a reduction in, the payment of double income-tax—first in the Dominions and next in London. The divisible profit was £191,608, as compared with £193,080 last year.

The Hon. H. S. Littleton seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

Pennsylvania Water and Power.—Gross earnings for June, \$107,150, showing an increase of \$21,500.

Mr. R. V. Vassar-Smith (Lloyds Bank, Ltd.) has been elected chairman, and Mr. William Henry Neville Goschen (National Provincial Bank of England, Ltd.) deputy-chairman, of the committee of London Clearing Bankers for the ensuing year.

The Union Bank of Manchester, Ltd., calls attention to the position of British Government securities as the finest investment in the world and the special facilities it offers to the public for dealing in the same. Holders of American securities may sell or deposit them through the bank, which also opens War Savings accounts for small investors.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

Alexanders and Co.—Interim for half-year ended June 30 at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the ordinary, same as last year.

Arizona Copper.—Interim of 1s. 6d. per share, free tax, on the ordinary, against 1s.

Ashanti Goldfields.—25 per cent. (1s. per share), payable, less tax, Aug. 11, same as a year ago.

Banco de Chile.—8 per cent. for half-year, against 7 per cent.

Bank of Bengal.—At the rate of 12 per cent. per annum (6 per cent. for half-year) and a bonus of 4 per cent. per annum (2 per cent.), placing Rs.4,00,000 to reserve, Rs.50,000 to pension fund, with Rs.5,34,996 forward, the same as last half-year.

Bank of Bombay.—For past half-year at the rate of 13 per cent. per annum, and a bonus of 2 per cent. per annum, same as a year ago; transferred to credit of Government and other securities account depreciation, Rs.5,00,000; forward, Rs.4,39,757. Taken from reserve for writing down Government securities, Rs.5,00,000.

Bank of Madras.—10 per cent., with a bonus of 2 per cent.; three lakhs of rupees transferred to investments account with Rs.4,92,495 forward, same as a year ago.

Bengal Doars Railway.—Interim on the ordinary of 3½ per cent., subject to English tax, on account of year ending Sept. 30, 1916, against 3 per cent.

British and Foreign Trust.—The directors intimate that consideration of the interim dividend on the ordinary will be deferred until the end of the financial year. Last year a similar course was followed; at the corresponding date of 1914 a dividend of 6 per cent., less tax, was paid.

British Hydraulic Foundry.—Interim of 5 per cent., free tax, same as last year.

Cairn Line of Steamships.—Second interim 2½ per cent. actual, and 1s. per share bonus, tax free.

Court Line.—Interim for six months to June 30 at the rate of 16 per cent. per annum, against 12 per cent.

Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph.—Interim for quarter ended March 31 last of 3s. per share, free tax, payable 15th inst., against 2s. 6d.

English and Scottish Law Life Assurance.—Half-yearly (including interim) to June 30 will be at the rate of 6s. 3d. per annum per share (£3 10s. paid), payable on 10th inst.

Fraser and Chalmers.—Interim of 7½ per cent. on the preference shares, less tax, payable July 22.

Glasgow Royal Exchange.—30s. per share, making 60s. per share, less tax, for the year, same as last year, but free tax.

Guardian Investment Trust.—Interim on the deferred for half-year ending 20th inst. at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, less tax.

Head, Wrightson, and Co.—Further in addition to the interim of 4 per cent. paid Dec. 31 of 6 per cent., less tax, and a bonus of 2s. 6d. on each £5 ordinary. For the preceding year the total dividend was the same, but no bonus was paid.

Imperial Colonial Finance and Agency.—Final of 3 per cent. (less tax), making 5½ per cent. for year ended July 1.

Investment Corporation of Canada.—For year to April 30 last of 5 per cent. on the ordinary, against 7 per cent. for preceding year; to reserve, £6,000; forward £1,873, against £2,518.

La Rose Consolidated Mines.—Quarterly of 5 cents per share, payable July 20.

London and Liverpool Bank of Commerce.—Interim for past half-year of 3s. per share, less tax, same as last year.

London Joint Stock Bank.—Dividend 10 per cent., or 15s. per share for the half-year, as before.

Manchester and Liverpool District Banking.—At the rate of 17½ per cent. per annum (5s. 3d. per share), less tax, for past half-year, same as a year ago.

National Discount.—Interim for half-year ended June 30 at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, subject to tax, payable 17th inst., same as last year.

New Investment.—Final of 3½ per cent. (less tax) on the ordinary, making 6 per cent. for year ended July 1.

Oregon Mortgage.—Final at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum on the ordinary, making 10 per cent. for year, and a bonus of 2 per cent. for the year, both less tax, same as that of last year.

Plymouth Consolidated Gold.—Interim at the rate of 1s. per share, less tax at 5s., payable August 15, same as last year.

Ratanui Rubber.—Interim of 15 per cent. (actual), less tax at 4s., on account of year ending Sept. 30, 1916, against 8½ per cent.

St. James's and Pall Mall Electric Light.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the ordinary for half-year ended June 30, payable August 5, against 7 per cent.

Scottish American Investment.—Interim at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, less tax, same as last year.

Stuttaford and Co.—Interim on the ordinary of 5 per cent., payable July 15, against 3 per cent.

Union Discount of London.—Interim for half-year to June 30 at the rate of 13 per cent. per annum, less tax, payable 22nd, same as a year ago.

Union of London and Smiths Bank.—Interim for half-year ending June 30, 1916, at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, less tax, payable 27th instant, same as a year ago.

United States Mortgage of Scotland.—Final at the rate of 11 per cent. per annum, less tax, making 10 per cent. for the year, same as for preceding year.

United Tobacco Companies.—Interim of 6 per cent. on the ordinary, payable (free tax) June 30, against 7½ per cent.

Val d'Or Rubber Estates.—Interim of 5 per cent., less tax, in respect of year ending Oct. 31, payable Aug. 5.

Zungon Tin.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for half-year to June 30, same as a year ago.

IRISH RAILWAYS.

	June 30	£	1915	£	1914	£
Belfast and County Down ..	June 30	5,189	—	313	—	86,439
Grand Canal ..	.. 30	1,021	—	59	—	21,732
Great Northern ..	.. 23	28,408	+ 1,958	—	—	593,943
Gt. Southern and Western ..	.. 30	38,000	+ 2,253	—	—	802,704
Midland Great Western ..	.. 30	14,539	+ 5,379	—	—	314,186

* From Jan. 1.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam Bengal ..	May 27	1,21,000	—	13,070
Bengal & N.W. ..	.. 27	4,55,880	+ 17,059	—
Bengal Nagpur ..	June 3	9,69,000	+ 2,14,000	—
Bombay, Baroda ..	July 1	11,56,000	+ 9,000	—
Burma ..	May 27	4,06,231	+ 30,843	—
Delhi Umballa ..	June 24	71,600	+ 4,141	—
East Indian ..	July 1	21,29,000	+ 1,09,000	—
Gt. Indian Penin. ..	.. 1	19,34,000	+ 8,06,400	—
Lucknow-Bareilly ..	May 27	57,444	+ 11,391	—
Madras and S. ..	..	..	..	..
Mahratta ..	June 3	10,50,000	+ 36,656	—
Nizam's Gd. (Broad) ..	.. 3	1,23,622	+ 12,480	—
.. (Metre) ..	.. 3	64,925	+ 7,585	—
Robilkund ..	..	..	..	..
Kumaon ..	May 27	50,031	+ 8,022	—
South Indian ..	.. 3	6,18,115	+ 22,360	—

a 13 days. † April 1. ‡ October 1.

COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

	£	£	£	£
Beira ..	Apr. *	29,462	—	4,400
Canadian Northern ..	June 30a	81,122,800	+ 8,569,900	c
Canadian Pacific ..	.. 30a	83,409,000	+ 8,124,000	c
Gr. Trk. Main Line ..	.. 30a	284,476	+ 29,953	†
Gr. Trk. Western ..	.. 30a	53,446	+ 13,305	†
Detroit G. H. & M. ..	.. 30a	18,808	+ 3,958	†
Gr Trk Pac Prairie Sc ..	.. 30a	27,618	+ 14,782	†
Mashonaland ..	Apr. *	49,604	+ 4,014	†
Mid. of Westn. Aus. ..	.. *	8,223	+ 1,076	8
New Cape Central ..	June 3	1,303	+ 310	†
Rhodesia ..	Apr. *	70,794	+ 8,297	12

a 9 days. * Months. † July 1. ‡ Jan. 1. c From Oct. 1.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

	June 21	£	£	£	£
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	June 21	954,000	+ 86,000	†	46,642,000
Chicago G.W. ..	.. 21	331,000	+ 8,000	†	14,719,000
Colorado & South'n ..	.. 21	246,000	+ 30,000	†	14,654,000
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	.. 21	49,900	+ 71,000	†	24,204,200
Louisv'e & Nashv'e ..	.. 21	1,163,000	+ 203,000	†	58,701,000
Minn. S.P. (Soo) ..	.. 21	591,000	+ 121,000	†	32,424,000
Missouri Kansas ..	.. 21	579,000	+ 25,000	†	31,416,000
Northern Pacific ..	.. 21	1,442,000	+ 251,000	†	70,462,000
Southern ..	.. 21	1,507,000	+ 217,000	†	68,078,000

§ Includes Wisconsin Central.

† From July 1.

MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

NAME.	NETT EARNINGS FOR MONTH.			NETT EARNINGS TO DATE.		
	Month.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year.	Month.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year.
Atchison T. & S. Fé ..	May	4,317,000	+ 1,475,000	II	40,078,000	+ 6,977,000
Atlantic Coast Line ..	Apr.	1,157,000	+ 202,000	II	8,231,000	+ 2,165,000
Baltimore & Ohio ..	May	2,855,000	+ 258,000	II	29,144,000	+ 4,972,000
Canadian Northern ..	..	727,200	+ 368,600	7	7,552,800	+ 2,216,300
Canadian Pacific ..	..	4,372,000	+ 1,929,000	II	45,536,000	+ 1,639,000
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	Apr.	1,122,000	+ 50,000	II	13,330,000	+ 3,703,000
Chicago & N.W. ..	..	1,799,000	+ 345,000	II	22,822,000	+ 1,991,000
Chicago Burl. & Q. ..	..	2,618,000	+ 1,222,000	10	34,895,500	+ 8,036,000
Chicago G.W. ..	..	253,000	+ 116,000	10	3,591,000	+ 708,000
Chicago Mil. & S.P. ..	May	2,298,000	+ 604,000	II	29,366,000	+ 7,473,000
Chicago, Rock I. & P. ..	Apr.	1,470,000	+ 609,000	10	15,833,000	+ 1,814,000
Colorado & Southern ..	..	138,000	+ 135,000	10	4,299,000	+ 1,171,000
Cuba ..	..	777,663	+ 231,958	10	5,530,581	+ 1,322,315
Do. ..	..	372,717	+ 126,805	10	2,053,822	+ 626,227
Delaware & Hud. ..	..	642,000	+ 220,000	3	2,633,000	+ 471,000
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	..	747,000	+ 227,000	10	7,511,000	+ 2,234,000
Erie ..	May	1,801,000	+ 761,000	5	6,924,000	+ 2,139,000
Gr. Tr. Main Line ..	..	2,222,500	+ 60,552	5	2,886,200	+ 1,229,550
Grand Trunk Westn ..	..	2,490,000	+ 248,200	5	2,178,500	+ 2,185,500
Detroit G. H. & M. ..	..	28,900	+ 116,200	5	2,970,000	+ 2,386,100
Gt. Northern ..	Apr.	1,701,000	+ 1,072,000	10	27,764,000	+ 4,798,000
Illinois Central ..	..	907,000	+ 374,000	II	11,377,000	+ 1,660,000
Kansas City Southn. ..	May	47,000	+ 80,000	II	3,359,000	+ 514,000
Lehigh Valley ..	..	1,312,000	+ 92,000	II	11,425,000	+ 1,527,000
Louisville & Nashv. ..	Apr.	1,567,000	+ 809,000	10	15,018,000	+ 6,660,000
Minn. S.P. (Soo) ..	..	922,000	+ 462,000	10	11,530,000	+ 4,269,000
Miss. K. & Texas ..	..	181,000	+ 395,000	10	5,218,000	+ 3,475,000
Missouri Pacific ..	Mar.	527,000	+ 231,000	9	9,293,000	+ 849,000
New York Cent. & H. ..	Apr.	4,780,000	+ 1,306,000	4	18,557,000	+ 8,789,000
N.Y. N. Haven & H. ..	..	1,095,000	+ 455,000	10	18,030,000	+ 3,927,000
New York Ont. & W. ..	May	204,000	+ 28,000	II	3,205,000	+ 249,000
Norfolk & Western ..	..	2,403,000	+ 918,000	II	21,231,000	+ 9,345,000
Northern Pacific ..	..	2,422,000	+ 1,101,000	II	28,421,000	+ 8,994,000
Pennsylvania East ..	..	8,811,000	+ 3,136,000	4	29,699,000	+ 1,609,000
St. Louis & San F. ..	..	1,043,000	+ 21,000	9	10,018,000	+ 1,164,000
Seaboard Air Line ..	..	84,000	+ 180,000	9	5,287,000	+ 1,383,000
Southern ..	May	2,022,000	+ 684,000	II	19,337,000	+ 7,077,000
Southern Pacific ..	..	4,095,000	+ 1,412,000	II	43,370,000	+ 11,278,000
Union Pacific ..	..	5,689,000	+ 1,551,000	II	37,037,000	+ 9,685,000
Wabash ..	..	1,003,000	+ 708,000	II	9,986,000	+ 4,296,000

§ Includes Wisconsin Central. * Gross earnings. † Surplus.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—HOME.

	£	£	£	£
Bristol ..	June 30	1,508	+ 137	†
Dublin United ..	.. 30	7,234	+ 410	†
Hastings and Dist. ..	.. 30	1,011	+ 17	†
Isle of Thanet ..	July 1	384	—	90
Lancashire United ..	June 28	1,851	+ 190	†
Provincial ..	July 1	2,404	+ 17	†
Yorks. (West. Rdng.) ..	.. 2	1,309	+ 327	†

* From Oct. 1.

† From Jan. 1.

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
	Week ending	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	Wks.	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.
Alcoy and Gandia ..	June 24	Ps. 20,000	+ Ps. 5,000	†	Ps. 353,900	+ Ps. 20,000
Antofagasta (Chili) ..	July 1	32,920	+ 8,250	†	866,195	+ 300,050
Arauco ..	May	9,800	+ 3,241	†	134,138	+ 11,979
Argentine N.E. ..	July 1	7,800	+ 1,167	†	323,911	+ 73,217
Bilbao R. and Cantá ..	May *	3,649	+ 166	5	20,452	+ 2,465
Bolivar ..	..	10,000	+ 1,225	9	101,633	+ 23,689
Brazil ..	Apr. *	M3,431,000	+ M340,870	†	M1,439,000	+ M170,517
Brazil Gt. Southern ..	..	Mis. 32,750	+ M3,300	†	M 69,250	+ M4,200
B. Ayres & Pacific ..	July 1	87,000	+ 12,000	†	12,000	+ 20,000
Do. Gt. South'n ..	.. 2	96,000	+ 16,000	†	23,254	+ 20,654
Do. Western ..	.. 2	56,000	+ 13,000	†	8,000	+ 10,000
Central Argentine ..	..	107,900	+ 18,400	†	13,700	+ 63,500
C. Ur'g'ay of Mts V. ..	..	14,372	+ 2,583	†	2,172	+ 2,923
Do. East'n Ex. ..	..	4,770	+ 979	†	612	+ 866
Do. North'n Ex. ..	..	1,746	+ 199	†	420	+ 249
Do. West'n Ex. ..	..	1,430	+ 149	†	183	+ 304
Colombian National ..	Mar. *	11,200	+ 1,288	3	34,000	+ 5,888
Cordoba Central ..	July 1	34,000	+ 2,130	†	1,550,000	+ 141,610
Costa Rica ..	Apr. 22	5,177	+ 1,903	†	228,544	+ 47,149
Cuban Central ..	July 1	8,544	+ 597	†	1,385	+ 2,370
Dorada Extension ..	May *	7,900	+ 200	†	35,400	+ 700
Egyptian Delta ..	June 10a	4,919	+ 1,363	†	33,382	+ 6,580
Entre Rios ..	July 1	12,100	+ 2,000	†	1,700	+ 2,100
French Sante Fé ..	May	94,572	+ 4,945	5	443,607	+ 71,319
Gt. South. of Spain ..	June 24	Ps. 86,806	+ Ps. 23,916	†	Ps1,734,609	+ Ps309,723
Gt. West. of Brazil ..	July 1	6,400	+ 500	†	242,200	+ 40,900
Havana Central ..	..	6,875	+ 1,788	†	340,917	+ 53,904
Inter. of C. Amer. ..	May *	37,809	+ 16,495	†	180,392	+ 71,429
La Guaira and Car. ..	June *	15,250	+ 2,000	†	49,250	+ 7,000
Leopoldina ..	July 1	21,499	+ 3,698	†	541,057	+ 208,374
Manila (N. & Sth.) ..	June 24	8,919	+ 784	†	256,626	+ 391
Midland Uruguay ..	May	11,277	+ 1,004	7	112,007	+ 8,343
Mogiana ..	Apr. *	M1,200,000	+ M173,649	†	M 5,147,000	+ M153,619
N.W. of Uruguay ..	May *	21,000	+ 2,097	9	242,566	+ 31,697
Nitrate ..	June 30b	27,891	+ 14,191	†	590,757	+ 186,556
Paraguay Central ..	July 1	3,040	+ 1,280	†	129,340	+ 28,566
Paulista ..	Apr. *	M1,500,000	+ M4,420	2	M 7,900,000	+ M 883,734
Peruvian Corp'n ..	June	592,500	+ S170,126	10	S9,634,997	+ S1,403,792
Salvador ..	July 1	20,500	+ 2,250	†	S1,404,120	+ S100,264
S. Paulo (Brazilian) ..	June 24	27,155	+ 4,899	†	570,164	+ 57,000
Sorocabana ..	Apr. *	M1,287,000	+ M101,010	4	M 5,691,000	+ M250,825
Taitai ..	May *	23,355	+ 15,112	11	204,766	+ 82,380
United of Havana ..	July 1	31,257	+ 7,418	†	4,675	+ 5,763
West'n of Havana ..	..	5,212	+ 518	†	992	+ 1,361
Zafra and Huelva ..	May *	11,359	+ 3,806	1	57,758	+ 21,571

* Months. † From Jan. 1. ‡ From July 1. c Nett. b 15 days. a 10 days.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.

		£	—	£	Ms.	£	—	£
Anglo-Argentine ..	July 1	46,726	—	1,432	*	1,326,059	—	£ 6,632
Auckland Electric ..	June 26	21,152	+	641	a	253,058	—	4,949
Brazilian Traction ..	Apr. *	M3,774,000	+ M	68,230	1	M 14,731,000	+ M	676,330
Brisbane Elec. Inv. ..	..	30,320	+	3,730	2	62,600	+	6
British Columbia ..	..	77,867	+ 22,559	9	734,553	—	550,306	
B.A. Lacroze ..	..	40,220	—	1,545	10	413,102	—	8,132
Burmah Electric ..	July 1	Rs. 3,605	—	Rs. 432	—	—	+ Rs.	5,319
Calcutta ..	..	Rs. 67,102	—	1,218	*	1,774,794	—	36,245
Cordoba Light ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
P. & T. ..	Apr.	14,053	+	444	1	14,053	+	444
Hongkong ..	June 3	12,719	+ 1,817	†	297,573	—	665,459	301
La Plata ..	May 6	4,342	—	146	5	22,189	+	301
Lima ..	..	15,693	—	69	4	78,913	+	1,440
Madras Electric ..	June 30c	Rs. 29,250	+ Rs.	70	†	Rs. 370,342	+ Rs.	27,507
Manila ..	Dec.	871,326	+ 84,126	12	732,561	—	841,703	11
Mexico ..	Nov. *	215,256	—	108,666	†	3,193,106	—	197,227
Puebla ..	Dec. *	40,000	—	25,600	†	669,500	—	844,500
Rangoon ..	June *	4,205	—	792	†	23,732	—	1,164
Singapore Electric ..	May 20	13,139	+	1,797	8	2247,259	+ 209,716	311
Toronto ..	..	438,997	+ 665,953	3	1,693,709	—	198,311	11
United of Monte V. ..	June	25,300	—	1,034	8	241,068	+	14,376
Vera Cruz ..	Feb.	57,700	—	20,800	*	130,400	—	70,900
Winnipeg ..	Apr. *	111,035	—	23,515	3	849,660	—	10,589

GRESHAM LIFE OFFICE.

FOUNDED
1848.

CHIEF OFFICE: St. Mildred's
House, Poultry, London, E.C.

Extract from the 67th Report of the Directors on the operations of the Society for the twelve months ending 31st December, 1915.

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NEW PREMIUMS (1915) ... £50,897
ANNUAL INCOME ... £1,268,608
ASSETS £10,983,579
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The Investors' Review

FOUNDED BY A. J. WILSON, FEBRUARY, 1892.

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THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.

(Registered in Japan.)

ESTABLISHED 1880.

Subscribed Capital	Yen 48,000,000
Capital Paid Up	Yen 30,000,000
Reserve Fund	Yen 20,400,000

Head Office: YOKOHAMA.

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The Bank buys and receives for collection Bills of Exchange, Issues Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit on above places and elsewhere, and transacts General Banking Business.

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Capital Issued	1,125,000
Capital Paid Up	562,500
Reserve Fund	550,000

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Subscribed Capital	£1,078,875 0 0
Paid-up Capital	539,437 10 0
Further Liability of Proprietors	539,437 10 0
Reserve Fund	400,000 0 0

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BILLS NEGOTIATED or forwarded for COLLECTION.

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(Incorporated July 29th, 1861.)

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SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL.

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"A" Preference Shares issued to New Zealand Government	500,000
"B" Preference Shares issued to New Zealand Government	250,000
Ordinary Shares	1,500,000

£2,778,988

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FRANCIS SHIPTON, London Manager.

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Paid-up Capital	1,800,000
Reserve Fund	2,000,000

BRANCHES—

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(Incorporated by Act of Parliament, 1865.)

Authorised Capital	£1,000,000.	Subscribed Capital	£225,000
Paid-up Capital	£500,000		
Reserve Fund	£10,000		
	£1,010,000		
Uncalled Capital	125,000		
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	625,000		
	£1,760,000		

London Office—11, Leadenhall Street, E.C.

BILLS on Australasia purchased or collected.

DRAFTS issued and REMITTANCES cabled.

DEPOSITS received for fixed periods at rates to be ascertained on application.

PERCY ARNOLD, Manager.

THE LONDON BANK OF AUSTRALIA, LIMITED.

Head Office—71 Old Broad Street, E.C.

Subscribed Capital	£1,276,747 10 0
Paid up Capital	669,587 10 0
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits	354,791 5 3
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	606,962 10 0

REMITTANCES made by CABLE.

DRAFTS, LETTERS OF CREDIT and CIRCULAR NOTES issued upon Branches and Agents.

BILLS on Australasia NEGOTIATED or sent for collection.

DEPOSITS RECEIVED for periods and at rates which may be ascertained on application, and Banking Business of every description conducted with Australia.

THE UNION BANK OF AUSTRALIA

ESTABLISHED 1837.

LIMITED.

INCORPORATED 1880.

Authorised and Issued Capital, £6,000,000.

Paid-up Capital, £2,000,000; Reserve Fund, £1,960,000; together	£3,960,000
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	4,000,000
Total Capital and Reserves	£7,960,000

HEAD OFFICE 71, CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.

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DEPOSITS are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application.

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Established 1841.

Paid-up Capital .. £280,000 0 0 (25,000 Shares of £10 each).

Reserve Fund .. £280,000 0 0 | Reserve Profits .. £24,057 0 0

Reserved Liability of Shareholders £280,000.

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BANKS.

BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Established 1817.



Paid up Capital	£3,500,000
Reserve Fund	2,675,000
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	3,500,000
	£9,675,000

Head Office: SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES.

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WALTER S. M. BURNS, Esq.

DAVID GEORGE, Manager.

J. S. CAMPBELL, Secretary.

HALKERSTONE MELDRUM,

DAVID GEDDIE,

Assistant Manager.

Accountant.

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Passing Events.

For the first eight days of July the ordinary revenue amounted to £9,473,955, of which £1,454,000 was provided by the excess profits tax and £2,712,000 came from income-tax, while the expenditure was £37,153,825. Receipts from Treasury bills were on a very heavy scale, those issued for Supply being £21,338,000, and for Ways and Means advances £37,904,000. On the other hand, £23,708,000 of Ways and Means Treasury bills was repaid, so that on balance the amount outstanding, including £23,000 received in the end of June, was increased by £35,557,000 to £797,044,000. Sales of Exchequer bonds amounted to £9,311,400, of which £2,374,000 mature in 1919, £600,000 in 1920, and £6,337,400 in 1921. In addition, £3,065,000 was received for War Expenditure Certificates, together with £1,300,000 from other debt under the War Loans Act, so that altogether the total incomings were £82,391,455. Apart from the ordinary expenditure and the redemption of Treasury bills, £8,000,000 of Ways and Means advances was repaid, and the Exchequer balances at the banks were consequently increased by £13,479,630 to £40,032,827. The total of Exchequer bonds sold since April 1 is £132,242,000, of which £21,655,000 is in the 1919 issue, £76,691,000 in the 1920, and £33,896,000 in the 1921.

It does not seem to us to augur well either for the future domestic peace or the material prosperity of Ireland that six counties—Antrim, Armagh, Down, Fermanagh, Londonderry, and Tyrone, as also the three Parliamentary boroughs of Belfast, Londonderry, and Newry, should be kept apart and have no share in the domestic government of the island. But there it is, and for the present we must make the best of a bad, a very bad, business. "We cannot remain your masters," the Protestants of Ulster appear to maintain, "therefore we shall have nothing to do with you." That is a pity, but in thus refusing the men of Ulster have no doubt fully measured the significance of their decision. In remaining a part of England, excluded Ulster will also remain involved in all England's afflictions, and sharer in all our burdens. So enormous will these burdens be after the war, that the strain of keeping faith with the public creditor cannot

fail to impose upon Parliament the necessity to lay hold of the sources of private wealth to an extent undreamt of before the war. And Ulster will cheerfully stand by us in making the sacrifice demanded. "But the other, the self-governing, Ireland will have to take a share also." In some ways probably yes, in others, no. Nationalist Ireland has had its Agrarian troubles in large measure solved—not so Ulster, where tenant customs have helped to keep the position of the feudal superior in the background. After the war our land question, as we keep preaching to heedless ears, will assume an urgency that framers of Bills such as that now before Parliament appear to have no suspicion of, and Ulster will be within the bounds of the coming revolution. She may not like it, any more than some of the English taxes, but her bed is made in the sight of all men, and she must lie on it. They are such fine fellows, too, those men of Ulster, so loyal at bottom—as they are proving themselves to be in this war, so warm-hearted and generous, that they make our regret all the keener. If they could but have persuaded themselves that their fellow-citizens in Catholic Ireland are really not tailless devils nor thieves, nor supplanters, nor slaves of the Pope in civil affairs, they might have helped to make Ireland's prosperity and happiness sure and abiding in the aftertime. But it is not to be, and we must submit to a temporary expedient, although we quite expect to see the lawyers and landlords of Ulster among the first to clamour for inclusion in a healed and united Ireland before many years have slipped by.

Another step in the consolidation of the interests of the Allies has been established in the Russo-Japanese Alliance, the terms of which have just been announced. It is a very brief document, consisting merely of two short articles, the first of which declares that neither Japan nor Russia would be a party to any political arrangement or combination directed against the other; and the second article stipulates that should the territorial rights or the special interests in the Far East of one of the contracting parties be threatened, Japan and Russia will take counsel of each other as to the measures to be taken with a view to safeguard and defend those rights and interests. This Alliance places the coping-stone on the treaties concluded in 1907 and 1910, and should go a long way towards ensuring the peaceful and progressive development of the Far East.

Was there ever incident more charged with mirth-provoking aspects than this voyage of the *Deutschland* submarine merchant boat from Bremen to New York? And the lies told about it, too; they were funniest of all. A vessel of 414 tons nett register carrying 1,000 tons of cargo, besides passengers, and able to submerge and reappear at will; one of a fleet of such marvels in course of building in order that Germany may reassert her right to share in the world's trade. The *Deutschland* has had a precursor, it seems, named the *Bremen*, but the whereabouts of that vessel is not known in Germany at the moment of this writing. Germany expects, or at least the Bremen gollywogs expect, her to pop to the surface in Brazil somewhere, and for all they know she may have already gone to the bottom, or be lying safe and snug in some British port. Assuredly there would be plenty of excitement attending an overseas trade carried on amid such conditions, but they might perhaps interfere with the passenger and emigrant branches thereof. Even the present anxiety of so many Germans to escape their Empire's looming fate can scarcely be strong enough to reconcile them to the thought of crossing the Atlantic in a submarine. And the fit round-off to this *Deutschland* escapade would be her capture on the return voyage and the confiscation of vessel and cargo in our Prize Court. Events more strange have happened. "A Ballin bit of bluff," you hint. No such thing. The ex-tyrant of Antwerp shipping is not such a fool as that implies. Only a Teuton, moreover, a lumbering-witted, grotesquely and most ingeniously doltish Teuton, could ever have fallen upon such a device for giving the world a new proof of Germany's dauntless courage and inimitable commercial energy. Of course, the boat is too big to be hid beneath the waves, but that also only makes the trick the funnier. Are the Americans certain that her armament is not concealed? What if they should be deceived, and let her go? The *Alabama* quarrel case might be child's play to that blunder.

Some interesting statistics are quoted from the Dutch newspaper *In-on-Uitvoer* showing the extent to which Holland supplied Germany with foodstuffs prior to the recent regulations adopted by the Government in consequence of the disturbances at Rotterdam owing to the rise in prices. Here is a suggestive table:—

	Jan.-May, 1914.	Jan.-May, 1916.
Exported from Holland.	Tons.	Tons.
Butter—Total	14,513	15,762
To England	2,495	63
To Germany	5,860	14,805
Eggs—Total	9,401	17,908
To England	3,708	572
To Germany	4,736	17,136
Cheese—Total	23,831	38,063
To England	7,178	528
To France	1,310	423
To Germany	5,708	34,520
Potato flour—Total	41,174	60,141
To England	6,005	747
To Germany	13,491	50,115
Fresh beef—Total	7,869	15,011
To England	5,043	236
To Germany	2,574	13,643
Fresh mutton—Total	1,223	1,253
To England	1,281	—
To Germany	33	1,112
Fresh pork—Total	22,829	10,679
To England	20,484	32
To Germany	1,647	10,281

It will be seen that in every case there has been a heavy falling off in the exports to England and a much larger increase to Germany. Holland is, of course, entitled to sell in the best market, and German prices have no doubt been very tempting, with the result that exports to Germany of the articles mentioned have gone up from 34,000 tons to 140,000 tons during the five months. However, we can draw some consolation from the fact that the transactions, perhaps, will not turn out so profitable as they appear on paper.

All things considered, the Bank of New South Wales did very well in the six months ended March 31. Profits amounted to £247,884, an increase of £8,500, and as the sum brought forward was £20,300 larger,

the available balance is £28,800 up at £358,950. The dividend of 10 per cent. per annum is repeated, £75,000, or £25,000 more, is placed to reserve, and £20,000, against nil, is placed to the Buckland fund, leaving £88,950, or £16,200 less, to be carried forward. It may be explained that the Buckland fund was instituted to provide assistance in necessitous cases not covered by the pension scheme, and the large appropriation on this occasion is to allow the directors to deal generously with members of the staff who have joined the Forces. Notes in circulation have increased £87,300 to £458,197, and deposits are £2,055,350 higher at £40,833,407, while bills payable are £4,361,300 up at £11,368,836. Cash and cash balances have increased £287,600 at £10,419,800, and £2,753,000 more Commonwealth notes are held at £7,305,840. Investments and bills receivable are up £5,278,000 at £31,151,520, but bills discounted are £760,000 lower at £24,966,000. Altogether the balance-sheet totals at the handsome figure of £60,108,190, an increase of £7,709,000, and the bank appears to be in a flourishing condition from every point of view. Two new items appear in connection with the Government wheat scheme—a credit for £3,147,937, representing advances, and a debit of £1,076,300, which has been earmarked for expenses and liabilities connected therewith. When it became certain that the wheat crop would reach an unprecedented quantity and that there would be delay in handling it owing to freight and other difficulties, the Government approached the banks to assist in financing the crop. The basis is an advance to the farmer of 2s. 6d. per bushel, with the addition of 6d. per bushel for expenses of placing on board ship, and after the realisation of the whole crop any surplus will be divided among the farmers from whom the wheat was derived. All the advances are to be cleared off by the end of the year under the guarantees of the Commonwealth and State Governments. The amount standing in the bank's books represents the wheat still awaiting shipment. It is a plan that has a great deal to recommend it, with suitable safeguards, and it must have helped considerably to facilitate marketing the crop when it was most urgently required.

We are very pleased to see a welcome improvement in the results of the British North Borneo Co., which was hit by the war in various unexpected ways. Total receipts for 1915, exclusive of land sales, amounted to £262,067, an increase of £26,200, while the expenditure was £131,580, an increase of less than £2,000, and the nett profit comes out at £130,486, or £24,360 more. With £3,000 less at £24,189 brought forward, the available balance is £21,000 higher, but debenture interest requires £4,280 more, while £2,000 less is written off for depreciation, leaving £89,180, or £19,000 more, to be dealt with. It is proposed to raise the dividend from 2½ per cent. to 3 per cent., and £33,800, or £9,600 more, remains to be carried forward. The nett expenditure on capital account was £133,225, a decrease of £30,000, and this includes £41,563, which was well spent on immigration, land settlement and forestry. In accordance with the deed of settlement, a valuation of assets was made during the year, and the officers have certified that the value of the property has increased by at least £140,000 over the sum at which it stood in the books on December 31 last. Hitherto such increases (on the last occasion £80,000 in 1912) have been added to profit and loss, and have been available, though not actually used, for dividends, but the directors have now decided that the better plan is to place them to the credit of reserve, which is accordingly increased to £260,000, but £115,635 is written off for cost of debenture issue and loss on conversion of Consols, leaving a balance of £144,365 at the credit of the account. Among revenue items the principal gain is £24,200 in excise, while customs are again £4,000 lower, following a loss of £7,300 last year. Land revenue is up £2,400, and most of the other items show small increases. In the balance-sheet certificates of indebtedness for £175,718

appear for the first time, but sundry creditors are reduced £10,000 to £220,219, and loan from bankers has been reduced £71,000 to £43,000. Expenditure on land and property increased £17,000, but £24,500 less was spent on railways and £23,000 less on works and buildings. Altogether property, plant, &c., stand at £2,362,300, an increase of £269,000, including £140,000 on revaluation. Sundry debtors have risen £74,000 to £593,168, nearly half of which is represented by advances to rubber companies under dividend guarantees. It is a fine property, ably managed, and all the indications point to its being increasingly prosperous in the near future.

Splendid results are shown by the English Sewing Cotton Co., Ltd., for the 12 months ended March 31. As the directors modestly put it, "compared with the poor results of last year, this year's earnings are very satisfactory, but they have been abnormally influenced by war conditions." That is the whole sum and substance of the report, and we must confine our observations to the bare figures until we have the chairman's statement at the forthcoming meeting. After providing for depreciation and debenture interest, which are practically the same as a year ago, the nett trading profit (arrived at after allowing for excess profits duty) is £423,167, an increase of no less than £227,900 over 1914-15. The latter, however, was £115,000 below the previous year's level, but even so, the recovery is remarkable, and the result is easily the best in the company's history. The balance brought in was £15,260 larger, and the total amount available shows an increase of £243,000 to £544,029. It is proposed to pay a final dividend of 8 per cent. and a bonus of 6 per cent., making in all 18 per cent. for the year, against 13 per cent. Last year nothing was set aside for reserve and for equalisation of dividends fund, to which £65,000 and £75,000 respectively were allocated in 1914, but these appropriations are now restored, and even then the balance forward is increased by £53,160 to £174,029. Sundry creditors are £78,740 higher at £135,793, and £14,000 more is owing to the American Thread Co., while the reserve for depreciation of investments has been increased by £21,250 to £61,250. Capital expenditure was restricted to £19,000, and as a larger sum was allowed for depreciation, property, plant, &c., is reduced £8,000 to £2,555,459. Stocks naturally show an advance of £132,000 at £577,340, and debtors are also higher, but cash has been reduced £172,000 owing to purchases of War Loan and Treasury bills, investments having increased £271,000 to £884,640. It is a fine display all round, and shows that the management is fully alive to trading opportunities.

Similarly favourable results have been secured by the American Thread Co., which also makes up its books to March 31. After providing for depreciation and bond interest, the nett profits were £321,260, an increase of £158,880, which follows a decline of £116,650 last year. In this case the balance brought in is £89,000 less, and the amount available is nearly £70,000 higher at £548,018. Out of this it is proposed to pay a final dividend of 7 per cent. and a bonus of 6 per cent., making 18 per cent. for the year, or the same as paid in 1914, but last year the shareholders only got 10 per cent. There then remains £275,838, or just a trifle less to be carried forward. During the year £116,654 was expended on extensions and improvements, but £86,500 was written off, and the properties, plant, &c., at £3,266,812 are up £30,200. Stocks have increased £220,500 to £1,468,570, and debtors are £142,000 higher at £403,515. Cash is down £23,000, and investments are £70,500 lower, while sundry creditors and bills payable have increased by £148,000. There is nothing else in the balance-sheet calling for remark, but considering the amount of the capital (£3,366,000) we should like to see larger reserves than £124,000, although it must be admitted that the depreciation fund of £1,105,500 is probably equal to any emergency.

In the year to May 31 the Gloucester Railway Carriage and Wagon Co., Ltd., had a revenue of £86,157, or only £1,140 less than for the previous 12 months, after payment of war allowances, but £5,500 more was written off for depreciation, and the nett profit comes out £5,580 less at £47,750. After again placing £10,000 to reserve, which will then amount to £180,000, it is proposed to repeat the dividend of 10 per cent., leaving £49,104, or £960 more, to be carried forward, the amount brought in having been £6,540 more than a year ago. The debenture debt has been reduced by £26,800 to £389,170, while investments on balance are up £52,600 owing to the purchase of £100,000 $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. War Stock. Cash is consequently reduced by £45,450 to a mere £130, but the company is in such a strong position that this need not cause any anxiety. Wagons on hire show a reduction of £95,000 at £366,000, while work in progress and stocks are £80,000 higher at £245,130. The directors deeply regret to announce the death of Viscount Quenington, who was killed in action on April 23 last, and they have appointed Mr. Montague F. Maclean, of Caradoc Court, Ross, to fill the vacant seat on the board.

Although daylight saving was not known when the Welsbach Light Co. made up its accounts for the year ended March 31, the restriction of lighting was in full force, and might have been expected to have exercised an adverse influence on the company's revenue. So far, however, from that being the case the company was wonderfully prosperous, and increased its trading profits by £6,294 to £26,428. The revenue from shares in B. Cars, Ltd., a subsidiary business dealing in lamp and gas appliances, also improved by £7,633 to £14,673, and miscellaneous receipts were higher. The total revenue is therefore £15,122 up at £44,041, and this result is all the more satisfactory in that it has been accomplished without the help of the holding in Austrian Incandescent Gas Light and Electric Co., an undertaking in which the Welsbach Co. has no less than £179,618 locked up. After providing for interest and other charges and writing off £2,608, or £1,033 more, for depreciation of investments, the nett profit, including £5,709 brought forward, amounts to £24,658, or an increase of £18,950. As the result of this successful trading the company is able for the first time since it was reconstructed in 1911 to give the shareholders a dividend of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., which, although modest, is none the less gratifying. A distribution of nearly double the amount could, in fact, have been paid, but the directors have the liability for excess profits duty in mind, and also the necessity for keeping a good sum in hand, and increase the balance carried forward by £12,325 to £18,033. Stocks are £9,058 larger at £34,695, and debtors and bills receivable are £8,665 up at £49,229, against an increase of only £919 to £24,346 in the current liabilities, but cash has been reduced by £15,144 to £30,959. Part of this decrease is due to the fact that during the year £5,100 was spent on leaseholds, plant, &c., and £1,936 on freehold property, raising the totals to £34,387 and £60,778 respectively.

The presence of troops in Egypt brought considerable business to the Alexandria Water Co. in the year ended March 31, and the total quantity of water pumped increased by 4,135,000 cubic metres to 21,462,000 cubic metres. Receipts from all sources improved by £48,756 to £191,605, while expenses were only £9,133 up, of which £8,051 was due to coal, the cost of which has now risen to 164s. per ton. The directors, however, point out that the increase might have been very much higher but for the fact that they had considerable quantities of coal in stock and on order at prices not much above normal. Profits from ice works, services and fittings, sale of material, &c., and interest receipts were all higher, giving a total of £153,193, or £45,112 more available. Owing to the greater strain put upon the plant, the allowance for depreciation has been increased by £14,782 to £22,000,

while £18,500, as against £15,000, is transferred to a special account for depreciation of securities, and after providing for these and other charges, there is a balance of £105,000, or £24,000 more, out of which a dividend of 10 per cent. is paid as usual, leaving a balance of £22,500, or £12,000 more, divisible between the municipality and the company in equal proportions. Out of the company's share an additional dividend of 3s. 9d. is paid, as against 1s. 9d. a year ago, making a total of 13s. 9d. on the £5 share. During the 12 months £16,250 was spent on new works, a good part of it being on mains, hydrants, &c., laid to supply the military camps and hospitals in and around Alexandria. After deducting depreciation, the cost of lands, buildings, machinery, &c., is £5,750 down at £363,671. Debtors have risen by £6,605 to £15,523, against an increase of £16,177 to £65,112 in sundry creditors, but cash balances are £55,307 up at £100,693, and the position is sound. Investments are taken at the market price of March 31, 1914, and stand at £152,336, against which the depreciation fund now amounts to £33,500.

Like most provision dealers, the business of Lovell and Christmas, Ltd., prospered exceedingly in the year ended June 30, and the directors report that the turnover was the largest on record. Nett profits showed an increase of £19,472 at £110,719, and with £38,635 brought forward gave an available total of £149,354, or £26,837 more. Of this, directors' remuneration absorbs an extra £2,724 at £14,406, but all they can spare as bonus to the employees is an additional £300 at £3,500. The dividend on the ordinary shares is increased from 8 per cent. to 10 per cent. by a final dividend at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, £11,000 is set aside for excess war profits duty, compared with £10,000 added to reserve a year ago, and £55,448, or £16,813 more, is carried forward. The reserve shows an increase of £26,470 at £180,746, but there is nothing in the accounts or in the directors' report to show how this addition was obtained. Stocks are £8,717 down at £155,269, and debtors owe £36,838 less at £557,559, against a decrease of £54,624 to £270,261 in sundry creditors, while cash has risen by £26,616 to £114,284.

Matters have come to a crisis in the affairs of the Western Canada Power Co., Ltd., and a reconstruction scheme has to be faced. Gross earnings for the year 1915 amounted to \$316,554, an increase of only \$750, while operating expenses were \$2,480 higher at \$89,627, leaving a credit balance of \$226,927, a decrease of \$1,720. This is insufficient to pay interest on the first mortgage bonds amounting to \$250,000, and after providing for bad debts, accident claims, &c., the debit balance is increased by nearly \$36,000 to \$59,420. In June, 1915, the president of the company sought permission to make a public issue in London, but this was refused by the Treasury, and subsequently a scheme was arranged with the Noteholders' Protective Committee in New York to place the finances on a firmer basis. It is proposed that holders of first mortgage bonds shall convert two years' coupons (\$500,000) into 7 per cent. debentures, repayable in 10 years, that the noteholders shall procure the conversion of the re-funding bonds (\$4,000,000) into ordinary shares, and that an issue of preferred shares shall be made to pay off all current liabilities and provide sufficient funds for the installation of a third generating unit at Stave Falls. In order to carry out the terms of this compromise it is necessary that the holders of \$2,495,000 ordinary shares issued to the public should subscribe for a sufficient number of preferred shares to realise \$374,200 in cash. Further, it is provided that the present share capital shall be reduced from \$5,000,000 to \$1,000,000, one new share being exchanged for five, and holders are requested to subscribe for at least two preferred shares at 80 (par value \$100) in respect of

each new share. If the scheme goes through as arranged the noteholders will allot four ordinary shares in respect of every two preferred shares subscribed for, so that a present holder of five shares who pays for two preferred will obtain the same number of ordinary as he now holds. The nett effect of the proposals will be to reduce the capital (including debentures) from \$14,000,000 to \$11,350,000, and with the additional capital to be provided and the fact that debenture interest will not have to be paid for two years, the company ought to be able to pull round the corner. We are only afraid that the scheme is not sufficiently drastic, and that a good deal of water remains to be squeezed out of it.

Next week the National War Savings Committee will inaugurate a vigorous campaign for the propagation of national thrift, and we wish the movement all success. The chairman of the Committee is Mr. R. M. Kindersley, a director of the Bank of England and governor of the Hudson's Bay Co., a man eminently qualified for the task he has undertaken. Already the National Committee has been able to organise over 150 Local Central Committees, and has affiliated some 1,700 War Savings Associations, which will encourage and help the humblest wage-earner to practise saving with a view to becoming the owner of one form or other of Government stock. We are not naturally a saving people in the same way as the French, for instance, are, and the chief reason is that the small investor has never been properly cultivated except by the bucket-shop tribe of worthless share pushers. Now there is a fine opportunity to direct the people's surplus cash into more useful and profitable channels, and although the movement has mainly a temporary object in view, it may, and we hope will, have a permanent influence for good. Anyhow, we can all help to make it a national self-denial week to encourage the others.

We have always been staunch supporters of the scheme for a Channel Tunnel, and are glad to see that it is coming more and more within the region of practical accomplishment. There was a meeting of the House of Commons Channel Tunnel Committee the other day, at which the chairman, Mr. Arthur Fell, stated that the Committee now consisted of 60 Liberals, 60 Conservatives, 15 Nationalists, and five Labour members, and as it was most desirable to keep the question free of party politics, it was important that the composition of the Committee should remain as nearly proportionate to the balance of parties as possible. Mr. Fell proposes at an early date to invite the House of Commons to declare its opinion that the progress of the war has demonstrated the great advantages which would have accrued to this country and the Allied Powers had the Channel Tunnel been constructed and in operation, and that final plans should forthwith be completed, and the work undertaken as soon as the war is over. It is believed that a majority of the House can be secured to support this motion, and although it may be a long time before actual work can be commenced, it will be an advantage to have old-time prejudices removed by a substantial majority in favour of the scheme.

In the half-year ended March 31 the Nippon Yusen Kaisha (Japan Mail Steamship Co., Ltd.) derived considerable further benefit from its practical monopoly of the Eastern shipping trade, and its nett profits improved by no less than 6,768,024 yen to 11,997,304 yen. The directors, however, say that serious consideration should be given to the enormous risks which are being run by the company in operating its steamers during the war, and the competition on an unprecedented scale and business depression of a serious nature which are sure to be experienced on the restoration of peace. With these eventualities in view, and the end of the war being still far from sight, they deem it appropriate to

carry the greater part of the profit to next account for suitable adjustment when an opportune time arrives. Accordingly the allowance for depreciation is only increased by 16,873 yen to 1,325,438 yen, and the addition to insurance fund is a mere 21,466 yen larger at 753,711 yen, while the appropriation to ships' structural repair is reduced by 496,274 yen to 303,923 yen. Including 122,021 yen more at 946,618 yen brought forward, the amount now available is 7,347,980 yen larger at 10,560,849 yen, but the directors only add 480,711 yen to reserve, compared with 119,413 yen to that fund, 200,000 yen to the extension of services fund, 500,000 yen to construction and repairs of buildings fund, and 300,000 yen to a special reserve a year ago. Out of the balance the directors' and auditors' fees take an extra 55,000 yen at 165,000 yen, and 250,000 yen is granted as a bonus to the employees for their services in connection with the war, after which the usual 10 per cent. is paid, made up of a dividend of 8 per cent. and a special dividend of 2 per cent., and in addition a further 10 per cent. as "extra special dividend" is distributed, leaving 7,029,537 yen, or 6,146,082 yen more to be carried forward. The capital has been increased by 22,000,000 yen to 44,000,000 yen, of which 16,500,000 yen is carried on the assets side as unpaid. Adjustments were made of the various reserves at the end of the previous half-year, with the result that the fund for the annual reduction of subsidies, which stood at 2,643,234 yen a year ago, has disappeared, ship structural reserve fund has been reduced by 8,327,853 yen to 4,076,960 yen, the dividend equalisation fund is 1,000,000 yen down to 2,300,000 yen, and the fund for extension of services 2,400,000 yen lower at 6,000,000 yen. The insurance fund is 1,223,597 yen up at 12,417,337 yen, the ordinary reserve 386,685 yen up at 4,371,128 yen, and the reserve for construction of repairs of buildings 700,000 yen up at 13,000,000 yen. On the other hand, the book value for construction and repairs of buildings 700,000 yen up 31,686,647 yen, but payment on account of new ships has risen by 1,748,617 yen to 4,440,464 yen. Investments are 3,974,973 yen higher at 13,226,413 yen, cash has risen by 4,475,877 yen to 17,574,822 yen, and debtors owe 1,033,329 yen more at 2,139,540 yen, against a decrease of 370,586 yen to 1,796,150 yen in the amount due to sundry creditors.

Mr. Frederick W. Tattersall, of Manchester, has prepared an analysis of the stocktaking results of cotton spinning companies in Lancashire which have been announced during the past few days. A list of 30 concerns has been compiled, four taking stock for three months' trading, and 26 for the six months ending June 30. In all cases a profit has been declared. The share capital of the 30 companies amounts to £1,012,565 with loans of £303,216. The total profit of the four companies for the three months is £5,695, whilst the gain of the 26 concerns for six months is £57,556. The figures show a profit on share capital of 13.62 per cent. per annum, and on share and loan capital combined a profit of 10.48 per cent. per annum, after allowing interest on loans. The mills contain 2,378,616 mule spindles and 163,400 ring spindles.

Although there are one or two encouraging features in the report of the Prestea Block A for the year 1915, that document cannot be regarded as altogether fulfilling expectations. The yield of gold dropped from £427,776 to £418,122, the average per ton falling from 31s. 7d. to 29s. 10d. Working costs were practically the same as in 1914, namely, 25s. 6d. per ton. The working profit per month, except in March, when it exceeded £10,000, failed to come within measurable distance of the £12,500 which was expected from the improved plant. The total working profit was £62,526, a decrease of £20,010, but it sufficed to repay the loan of £70,000 existing at the end of 1914. Experimental and research work absorbed £6,750, and interest £2,250, these two items showing together a decrease of £1,137; while £39,150, against £43,567, is

allowed for depreciation. With the sum brought in the available balance is £81,550, which is placed to reserve in connection with the loan repayments. For the first six months of this year the total profits are estimated at about £42,000, representing nearly 4 per cent. on the capital. But allowance must be made for depreciation so that a dividend of 2½ per cent. is looked for this year, in fulfilment of the official anticipation of a dividend. The ore reserves, unfortunately, show a further small decline in both quantity and value; the tonnage is 634,264 tons, as compared with 646,610 tons, and the value has declined from 38s. 6d. per ton to 38s. 3d. per ton. Last year the monthly tonnage averaged 23,350, against 22,560 in 1914, and this year the figure has risen to about 25,600, while by means of the sodium sulphide process the extraction has been raised to nearly 84 per cent. Consequently better results are looked for this year.

The shareholders of the Kent Coal Concessions have just been reminded of their unfortunate investment by the issue of two balance-sheets, the first since 1913. One relates to the period of 15 months ended June 30, 1914, and the second to the 18 months to December 31 last. It is a characteristic of Kent Coal finance to find that the accounts are a mass of figures which afford little information to the shareholders; but the outlay charged to capital account in the last 18 months is apparently £35,100, as compared with £79,800 in the preceding 15 months, making the total expenditure on this account £471,100. The new management, which has superseded the Burr interests, is responsible for the second balance-sheet, which indicates that considerable economies have been effected in administration and other expenses. It is reported that the Snowdown Colliery is producing 2,300 tons of coal per week, and the Tilmannstone Colliery 2,000 tons per week. With regard to an item of £24,660 paid for preference and convertible preference share dividends between

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1909 and 1913, the auditors point out that no profit and loss account having been prepared, they are unable to say whether the dividends distributed in the period, administered by the Burr interests, were properly payable. They have not been able to trace any record in the minutes of the declaration of these dividends. As yet it is too early to say whether the present management is capable of bringing order and efficiency out of the chaos which has marked the past history of the unfortunate Kentish collieries. It is a case of waiting and seeing.

A Six Per Cent. Bank Rate.

After remaining at 5 per cent. since August 8, 1914—that is, since just after the outbreak of the war—the Bank of England on Thursday raised its rate to 6 per cent. The step had not been altogether unexpected, but in many quarters a disposition was shown to criticise the Bank's action as being hasty and premature, and the facts as they are known to the outsider might seem to justify that view. The immediate cause of the rate being raised was the sudden development in New York, where the value of money went up to 6 per cent. It is asserted that the advance is only temporary, and, as a matter of fact, loan rates have since gone back, but at the same time all the indications point to the demand for accommodation becoming insistent in the near future. From the fact that the Bank Court decided to make the change, it is obvious that they have fuller means of judging the position than any one in the market can have, and it must be assumed that not only were they impressed by the absolute necessity of making a change, but that they were also able to convince the Treasury that it was imperative. Last week's return of the New York banks showed a heavy decline in the reserves, and the time is approaching when provision will have to be made for the coming harvest. In addition to that, there is the necessity of financing the foreign trade, which has attained proportions hitherto unheard of, and, over and above everything else, there are the requirements of this country and its Allies in the way of loans to be satisfied, while provision has also to be made to pay for the large masses of American Railroad and other securities which are now being shipped from this side. A higher value for money in the United States must inevitably lead to further drains of our stock of gold unless we are able to take steps to protect it, or to tempt the holders of American balances now employed here to refrain from withdrawing them. Already gold has left the Bank in large amounts, and for some weeks past the return has recorded substantial reductions in the stocks of bullion, in spite of large receipts from abroad, with the result that during the last month there has been a decrease of something like £5,000,000. No indication has been given of the direction in which the gold has gone, but from time to time the New York cables have recorded the receipt of more or less important sums from Ottawa, and it is generally assumed that the two movements were closely connected.

The Banking Half-Year.

Only a small minority amongst the leading banks publish figures for the June half-year, but the dividends announced are in themselves a sufficient indication that the period has been a satisfactory one. High rates for money in ordinary conditions generally spell prosperity for the banks, and they have had those, and at the same time they have had the opportunity of employing their funds in a very profitable fashion through the financing of the war by means of Treasury bills and other short-term securities. Working expenses must have been very much heavier, seeing that the banks have been most loyally helping the members of their staffs who are on military service, while they have had at the same time to employ a considerable number of temporary clerks in order to ensure the smooth working of their business. In addition, the need for writing down their securities, we may be sure, has not been overlooked, and the fact that they

have been able to maintain their distributions at the same rate as for the corresponding half of last year is in every way encouraging.

Of the banks which enter into details, the London City and Midland, in announcing an interim dividend at the rate of 18 per cent. per annum, states that the deposits on June 30 amounted to £157,539,135, as compared with £142,388,000 a year ago, and the cash in hand and at the Bank of England to £38,888,014, as compared with £36,356,000. This brings the liability on deposits up to the highest level yet touched even by this bank, while the cash also beats all previous figures. Investments have been increased by £17,848,471, at £37,918,265, and advances on current account, &c., are £2,510,908 up at £65,159,660, but money at call and short notice has been reduced by £959,912 to £8,570,085, and bills of exchange show a decrease of £6,810,396 at £13,047,413. The London and South-Western goes more into details, and along with its announcement of an interim dividend at the rate of 17 per cent. per annum, it issues a fairly full balance-sheet, from which we find that its current and deposit accounts have risen by £1,806,971 to £26,623,073, and its other liabilities by £398,402 to £1,021,114, while acceptances, &c., are £563,777 down at £1,023,631. On the other hand, an increase of £112,647 to £5,239,821 in cash in hand and at the Bank of England is offset by a reduction of £119,733 to £2,805,675 in money at call and short notice. Bills discounted come to £3,004,387, or £459,709 more, and loans and advances have risen by £327,988 to £10,929,143, while investments are £1,521,257 up at £6,808,516, of which £4,934,646, or £1,757,076 more, is in British Government securities. Lloyds' dividend is at the rate of 18½ per cent. per annum, the London, County and Westminster and Parr's at the rate of 18 per cent., and the London Joint-Stock and Union of London and Smiths at the rate of 10 per cent., while Williams, Deacon's repeats its dividend of 14 per cent. per annum. The National Provincial again pays 16 per cent. per annum, and the London and Provincial at the rate of 19 per cent. per annum. The Capital and Counties is now the only big bank closing its year at this time, but it is about to make a change, and hereafter will make its financial year and the calendar year coincide. A dividend of 14 per cent. is now declared, making 14 per cent. for the year, or the same as for 1914-15, £15,000, as against £20,000, is written off premises, and £70,000, as against £100,000, off investments, while £10,000 is this time transferred to the superannuation fund, leaving £104,280 to be carried forward, compared with £74,906.

Hitherto the accounts of Barclay and Co. have been made up for the year ended June 30, but on the absorption of the United Counties Bank the directors came into line with the other big banks and changed the date to December 31. They now announce an interim dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the "A" shares and 17½ per cent. per annum on the "B" shares, or the same as for the corresponding half of 1915. Owing to the amalgamation the capital has been increased by £994,443 to £4,594,443, and the reserve by £600,000 to £2,200,000, while the balance-sheet naturally shows a big expansion in all the items. Current and deposit accounts are £17,646,785 larger at £94,077,854, but this increase is not due entirely to the joining up of the businesses as the total is some £2,000,000 higher than the combined figures of the two institutions a year ago. Against these liabilities the bank has £17,191,769 in cash in hand, &c., £5,055,500 in money at call and short notice, and investments, including £22,803,648 in British Government securities and Bank stock, are valued at £27,855,185. Bills discounted come to £10,952,169, advances to customers, &c., to £37,400,665, and the aggregate of the balance-sheet, including £2,851,051 for acceptances, &c., and £2,417,008 for bank premises, is now £103,723,348.

The discount houses have probably benefited to an even greater extent from the margin between money

and bill rates, but, like the banks, neither the Union nor the National enter into details. As a year ago, the Union pays a dividend at the rate of 13 per cent. and the National at the rate of 10 per cent., both less tax. Alexanders and Co. also pay at the rate of 10 per cent., as before, but they issue a balance-sheet which shows small reductions of £323,679 to £10,354,384 in deposits and sundry balances and £375,502 to £9,527,967 in bills discounted, and an increase of £12,308 to £363,976 in cash.

Amongst country banks the report of the Manchester and Liverpool District Banking Co. affords ample evidence that the good business has not been confined to London. A year ago the gross profits for the half-year showed a small set-back of £6,040, but this has been followed by an improvement of £22,413 at £328,349, and although expenses absorbed £16,951 more at £137,150, the nett balance of £191,201 is £5,462 up. The balance brought forward was £49,005 larger at £114,676, giving a total of £305,877 to be dealt with, out of which a dividend at the rate of 17½ per cent., less tax, is again paid, and £139,977, or £54,467 more, is carried forward. In order to provide for the depreciation of the investments, £100,000 has been transferred from the reserve to the special fund, compared with £200,000 a year ago, but even so the reserve stands at £1,310,000, against the paid-up capital of £1,896,000. To some extent the figures in the balance-sheet are swollen by the absorption of the Bank of Whitehaven as from January 1 last, and current and deposit accounts are £2,124,578 up at £30,630,010, while acceptances have risen by £392,033 to £1,600,906. On the other hand, cash is £146,313 up at £4,633,475, but money at call and short notice, including Stock Exchange loans, has been reduced by £1,159,844 to £3,289,344. British Government securities taken at cost are £2,755,787 up at £7,951,121, and other investments £55,973 down at £2,338,689. Bills of exchange come to £2,274,926, or £321,411 more, and advances are £170,244 higher at £13,454,332, making the aggregate of the balance-sheet £2,569,970 up at £36,042,794.

The Union Bank of Manchester also did well with an improvement of £11,807 to £69,991 in its nett profits for the six months, and as £29,919, or £21,737 more, was brought in, there was £33,546 more available at £99,910. A dividend of 12½ per cent. per annum is again paid, but this time it is tax free, whereas a year ago it was less tax. Then £13,000, as against £5,000, is set aside for income-tax, and the appropriations to premises account and pension fund are increased by £2,000 and £3,000 respectively to £5,000 each, leaving £42,035 to be carried forward. The Manchester and County Bank increased its profits for the six months by £4,224 to £89,412, to which was added £67,708 brought forward, giving a total of £157,120, or £25,520 more available, but beyond paying the usual dividend of 5s. 4d. per £4 share, no appropriations are made at this time. Current and deposit accounts show a small increase of £26,633 at £11,988,961, and acceptances are £64,905 up at £183,636. Against these, cash on hand and money at call and short notice have been reduced by £1,119,351 to £3,212,854, and bills of exchange by £492,314 to £996,113, while investments have risen by £1,913,839 to £4,576,457, of which £3,636,250, or £1,942,955 more, are in British Government securities. Short loans on securities are £82,666 down at £281,327, and advances on current account £168,128 down at £4,746,966. Of the provincial banks which confine their present announcements to the declaration of a dividend, the Lancashire and Yorkshire pays 16s. per share, the West Yorkshire 10-2-5 per cent. per annum, the Bradford District 13¾ per cent. per annum, and the Sheffield 14 per cent. per annum, all as a year ago.

The Bank of Liverpool makes up its annual accounts to June 30 and shows a small decrease of £1,382 at £362,556 in its nett profits, which was due entirely to heavier expenses, as the gross profits were £37,304 up. With £75,109, or £28,855 more, brought forward, the divisible total of £437,965 was £67,473

better, and the directors therefore can easily repeat the dividend of 15 per cent., less tax, as well as the appropriation of £75,000 to investment reserve, and still leave £102,882 more to be carried forward. In common with the other banks of the country, the Bank of Liverpool subscribed largely for the 4½ per cent. War Loan, and following the general practice this has been taken into the balance-sheet at cost, while the other securities held have been written down to the lowest ascertainable prices ruling on June 30. After making these adjustments and deducting the special reserve, the investments stand at £10,156,465, or an increase of £2,932,558. A reduction of £1,581,906 to £1,250,125 in acceptances more than accounts for the decrease of £708,244 in the liabilities on current, deposit and other accounts. On the other hand, cash in hand and at Bank of England is £135,835 down at £5,185,304, and money at call and short notice £374,004 down at £4,939,972. Loans on stocks, &c., have been reduced by £156,357 to £207,712, bills of exchange come to £546,564 less at £1,773,000, and loans and advances are £2,422,502 smaller at £14,199,326. Contingent liabilities on indemnities and on credits opened but not yet accepted against, including obligations under Treasury minute of November 17, 1915, have risen by £439,521 to £1,235,189.

Excess Profits Problems.

No new form or system of taxation was ever introduced without creating some ill-feeling and a good deal of grumbling on the part of the interests affected, but on the whole the idea of the excess profits duty, as a war tax, was well enough received and loyally submitted to. It originated in the theory, which no one dared to challenge openly, that profits made out of the war should be divided with the State, and there were many who argued that the Chancellor of the Exchequer might very properly annex the whole of such excess profits, the persons particularly aimed at being contractors to the Army and Navy for all sorts of supplies and munitions. Wars have always proved extremely lucrative to this class, and the idea that the State, instead of the individual, should get most of the benefit was decidedly fascinating. It appealed to the public's sense of justice, and as there is a deep-rooted belief that big contractors for armaments and the like had a good deal to do with fomenting wars in the past, it seemed perfectly right that their increased profits should be taken to help to pay for the cost. But when the scheme came to be put into practice it at once appeared that it would be impossible to distinguish between profits arising directly out of the war from Government contracts, &c., and those which were earned indirectly owing to war conditions with the consequent advance in freights and prices generally. Accordingly the excess profits duty was made applicable to all trading concerns, and, of course, hardships and imperfections have begun to emerge.

There is little difficulty with regard to old-established businesses, as a rule, although even among them there are inevitable inequalities. But in the case of plantation companies, particularly those interested in rubber and tea, the problem is more complicated. Before the rubber boom of 1909-10 there were comparatively few rubber plantations, and they were mostly very successful. The pre-war level of prices was high, and such prosperous concerns as Anglo-Malay, Highlands and Lowlands, Linggi, Vallambrosa, &c., which were in a position to take advantage of the conditions then existing, practically escape the excess duty altogether. On the other hand, the boom gave a great impetus to planting, and most of the estates developed at that time, or shortly before, have only reached the producing stage in the last year or two, with the result that their profits are much higher than the pre-war level, and are subject to the duty. It takes five or six years for a plantation to produce any appreciable amount of rubber, and shareholders have to go without dividends during that period. Now that they are beginning to earn profits, it seems hard that, by what

may be called the accident of birth, they should be heavily mulcted by the Government, while their much more prosperous neighbours go scot free. We have always maintained that these concerns deserve special consideration at the hands of the Board of Referees, but this body seems either unable or unwilling to give the required redress, and it would perhaps be better if the Chancellor of the Exchequer frankly recognised the peculiar position of plantation companies by altering the incidence of the tax. One of our correspondents, Mr. J. S. M. Rennie, suggested to the Chancellor some months ago that a tax of, say, 1d. per lb. on rubber produced and sold would yield more to the Exchequer, and would distribute the burden equitably over the whole industry. Mr. Parry, chairman of the Anglo-Java Co., recently propounded a similar scheme, and we doubt whether the older companies would raise any serious objection. At any rate, plenty of reasons can be adduced for the exceptional treatment of rubber plantations, and a fixed tax on production has a good deal to recommend it. Most of the companies could well afford such a tax as that suggested, and on a high-priced commodity like rubber it would not be a severe burden for consumers to bear.

We note, too, that the Indian and Ceylon Tea Associations are protesting vigorously against the fixing of the "percentage standard" as low as 6 per cent., and here also a strong case can be made out for more generous treatment. Six per cent. is an absurdly low standard to fix for any trading concern when the Government itself has to pay 5 per cent. and upwards for its money, and we should say 10 per cent. would be a much more reasonable level. Dealing with this matter, the annual report of the Indian Tea Association says:—

An application, on behalf of the tea industry, was forwarded to the Board of Referees, through the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, on March 20 last for an increase to 12 per cent. in the statutory percentage, on the grounds (1) that a period of some six to eight years must elapse after planting before tea can be considered to be in full bearing, and (2) during that time there is little or no return on the capital invested, while all the risks appertaining to tropical agriculture have to be borne. While this application is made on behalf of the whole industry, it does not prevent individual concerns from putting forward claims upon other points. The Commissioners, in their reply, stated that they were not in a position to admit the accuracy and sufficiency of the facts, and asked for more evidence. The Standing Joint Committee of India and Ceylon have accordingly asked members of the two associations to furnish particulars of non-insurable cases of tropical risks. Several interviews have taken place with representatives of the Commissioners, and also an "interlocutory appointment" with the chairman of the Board of Referees. Negotiations are still in progress, and the committee hope shortly to be in a position to advise members as to the result of the industry's appeal for a higher rate of interest.

It will be seen that the Tea Associations claim that the standard should be fixed at 12 per cent., as some recompense for the period during which capital is unremunerative, and we have little doubt that their case will be favourably considered, even if they do not get all they ask. A useful and necessary concession has already been made in the provision that if in any year profits fall below the pre-war standard, repayment can be claimed of an amount which would bring the duty paid down to the average for the whole period. Admittedly, the whole problem is a difficult one, and we doubt if the Government has tackled it in the best possible way, but it will probably be licked into better shape when further experience is gained, for some provision of the kind is certain to remain in force long after the war.

PEEL RIVER LAND AND MINERAL CO., LTD.—The interim report covering the working for the half-year ended December 31 indicates that this company has benefited by the exceptional demand for meat and wool. Sales of livestock increased by £14,218 to £22,586, and the accounts for the whole year are likely to show very substantial improvement, as it is stated that prices in the Australian livestock market continue exceptionally good. The wool clip was 270 bales smaller at 3,517 bales, but in spite of this, and of the heavy cost of freight, insurance, &c., it is expected that it will realise about £80,000 nett as against £53,000 in the previous year. Pending the receipt of the full accounts the usual interim dividend of 5 per cent. is paid tax free.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1916, and July 8, 1916:—

	Estimate for the Year 1916-1917.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1916, to July 8, 1916.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1915, to July 10, 1915.
Balances in Exchequer on April 1:—			
Bank of England	—	25,111,065	81,898,728
Bank of Ireland	—	463,941	1,552,224
REVENUE.		25,575,006	83,450,952
Customs	—	17,808,000	10,907,000
Excise	—	11,925,000	13,910,000
Estate, &c., Duties	—	8,324,000	10,114,000
Stamps	—	1,940,000	1,735,000
Land Tax and House Duty	—	310,000	310,000
Property and Income Tax and Super Tax	—	22,915,000	12,509,000
Excess Profits Duty	—	7,073,000	—
Land Value Duties	—	70,000	40,000
Post Office	—	8,800,000	7,400,000
Crown Lands	—	110,000	110,000
Receipts from Suez Canal Shares and Sundry Loans	—	474,444	6,472
Miscellaneous	—	1,806,619	846,071
Revenue		82,156,033	57,921,543
Total, including Balance		107,731,029	141,372,495
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion	—	1,200,000	230,000
For Treasury Bills (net amount)	—	6,601,000	—
For War Loan, 1925-1928	—	—	35,300,000
For 3% Exchequer Bonds, 1920	—	—	242,345
For War Loan, 1925-1945	—	424	—
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919	—	21,653,000	—
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920	—	76,691,000	—
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1921	—	33,896,000	—
For War Expenditure Certificates	—	13,197,600	—
For other Debt created under the War Loan Act, 1915	—	15,250,000	—
Temporary Advances—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills) £247,878,000 in 1916-1917 and £201,177,000 in 1915-1916	—	298,878,000	202,177,000
Total		575,100,033	379,321,840

	Estimate for the Year 1916-17.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1916, to July 8, 1916.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1915, to July 10, 1915.
EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.			
EXPENDITURE.			
Permanent Charge of Debt ..	£	£	£
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	—	9,442,046	11,676,420
Road Improvement Fund	—	36,571,175	395,012
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c.	—	—	251,038
Other Consolidated Fund Services	—	1,032,674	1,273,540
Supply Services	—	465,873	763,312
	—	434,201,631	284,386,298
Expenditure		481,713,399	298,775,620
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion	—	1,490,000	320,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	—	30,457	30,457
For Treasury Bills (net amount)	—	—	26,519,000
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan (Redemption) Act, 1910	—	—	16,395,500
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913	—	130,000	700,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913	—	50,000	—
Under Housing Act, 1914	—	18,900	—
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8 issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1903	—	10,000	27,000
Old Sinking Fund—1910-1911: Issued under the Finance Act, 1911—Section 16 (1) (b)	—	20,000	30,000
Temporary Advances repaid—Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills) £23,708,000 in 1916-17		51,604,500	—
		535,067,256	343,297,577
Balances in Exchequer—			
Bank of England	1916. July 8. £	1915. July 10. £	
Bank of Ireland	38,770,761	35,795,759	
	1,262,066	228,504	
Total		40,032,827	36,024,263
		575,100,083	379,321,840

MEMO.—Treasury Bills outstanding on July 8, 1916 *£797,044,000.

* Includes £305,000 the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the Account.

Treasury, July 10, 1916.

THE UNION BANK OF MANCHESTER, LIMITED.

A Dividend at the rate of 12½ per cent. per annum (being 13s. 9d. per share), free of Income Tax, has been declared on the present paid-up Capital of this Company (viz., £11 per share) for the Half-year ended 30th June last, and will be payable on and after Monday, the 17th instant.

P. FORRESTER, General Manager.

Manchester, 8th July, 1916.

N.B.—The Transfer Books are Closed till after the 17th instant.

AMERICAN DOLLAR SECURITIES COMMITTEE.

FOURTH LIST of Securities which the Treasury is prepared to purchase and which will be subject to Special Income Tax. Exemption will be granted in respect of those Securities which are lent to the Treasury under the Deposit Scheme.

FURTHER LISTS of the Securities in respect of which holders will be liable to the Special Income Tax of 2s in the £ will be issued from time to time.

- 586 Alabama Central R.R. 1st Mort. 6 p.c., 1918.
 587 Allegheny and Western Rly. Guaranteed 6 p.c. Stock.
 588 American Smelters Securities Co. 6 p.c. Conv. Debs., 1926.
 589 American Smelters Securities Co. 6 p.c. Cum. (unguaranteed) Preferred "A."
 590 American Smelters Securities Co. 5 p.c. Cum. (guaranteed) Preferred "B."
 591 American Steel Foundries Debs. 4 p.c., 1923.
 592 American Telephone and Telegraph Co. Capital Stock.
 593 Anaconda Copper Mining Co. Shares.
 594 Argentine 6 p.c. Treasury Bonds, 1920.
 595 Atlantic and Danville Rly. 1st Mort. 4 p.c., 1948.
 596 Atlantic City Electric Co. 1st Mort. S.F. 5 p.c., 1938.
 597 Atlantic City R.R. 1st Cons. Mort. 4 p.c., 1951.
 598 Bangor and Aroostook R.R. 1st Mort. 5 per cent., 1943.
 599 Big Sandy Rly. 1st Mort. 4 p.c., 1944.
 600 Birmingham Rly. Light and Power Gen. Refunding 4½ p.c., 1954.
 601 Boston and New York Air Line R.R. 1st Mort. 4 p.c., 1955.
 602 Bridgeport Traction Co. 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1923.
 603 Broadway and 7th Avenue 1st Cons. Mort. 5 p.c., 1943.
 604 Brooklyn Union Gas Co. 1st Cons. Mort. 5 p.c., 1945.
 605 Brown Shoe Co. Inc. 7 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
 606 Brunswick and Western R.R. 1st Mort. 4 p.c., 1938.
 607 Buffalo Rly. Cons. Mort. 5 p.c., 1931.
 608 Buffalo and Susquehanna Iron Co. Deb. 5 p.c., 1926.
 609 Buffalo and Susquehanna Iron Co. 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1932.
 610 Buffalo Rochester and Pittsburgh Rly. 6 p.c. Non-Cum. Preferred.
 611 Buffalo Rochester and Pittsburgh Rly. Common.
 612 Bush Terminal Co. Cons. Mort. 5 p.c., 1955.
 613 Bush Terminal Co. 1st Mort. 4 p.c., 1952.
 614 California Electric Generating Co. 1st S.F. 5 p.c., 1948.
 615 California Gas and Electric Corp. Unifying and Refunding Mort. 5 p.c., 1937.
 616 Carolina Central R.R. 1st Cons. Mort. 4 p.c., 1949.
 617 Catawissa R.R. 1st Preferred.
 618 Catawissa R.R. and Preferred.
 619 Central R.R. of New Jersey Capital Stock.
 620 Charleston and Savannah Rly. 1st Mort. 7 p.c., 1936.
 621 Chattanooga Station Co. 1st Mort. Guaranteed 4 p.c., 1957.
 622 Chicago City Bonds.
 623 Chicago Milwaukee and St. Paul Rly. Gen. Mort. 3½ p.c., 1909, Series "B."
 624 Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha Rly. Common.
 625 Cincinnati Gas Transportation Co. 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1933.
 626 Cities Service Co. 6 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
 627 Clearfield and Mahoning Rly. 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1943.
 628 Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Rly. General Mortgage 5 p.c., 1933, Series "B."
 629 Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Rly. White Water Valley Div. Mort. 4 p.c., 1940.
 630 Cleveland Elec. Illuminating Co. 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1939.
 631 Cleveland and Mahoning Valley Rly. 1st Cons. Mort. 5 p.c., 1938.
 632 Columbus Connecting and Terminal R.R. 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1922.
 633 Columbus Gas Co. 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1932.
 634 Columbus and Hocking Valley R.R. 1st Mort. 4 p.c., 1948.
 635 Columbus and 9th Avenue 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1993.
 636 Columbus Street Rly. 1st Cons. 5 p.c., 1932.
 637 Columbus and Toledo R.R. 1st Mort. 4 p.c., 1955.
 638 Connecticut Rly. and Lighting Co. 1st and Refunding 4½ p.c., 1951.
 639 Consolidated Gas Co. of N.Y. Capital Stock.
 640 Consolidated Tobacco Co. Coll. Trust 4 p.c., 1951.
 641 Continental Can Co. Inc. 7 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
 642 Corn Products Refining Co. S.F. Debs. 5 p.c., 1931.
 643 Corn Products Refining Co. 1st S.F. Mort. 5 p.c., 1934.
 644 Cuba External 5 p.c. Loan due 1944.
 645 Cuba External 5 p.c. Loan due 1949.
 646 Cuba External 4½ p.c. Loan due 1949.
 647 Deere and Co. 7 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
 648 Delaware Lackawanna and Western R.R. Capital Stock.
 649 Denver and Rio Grande R.R. 1st Cons. Mort. 4½ p.c., 1936.
 650 Detroit Edison Co. 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1933.
 651 Detroit Edison Co. 1st and Refunding Mort. 5 p.c., 1940, Series "A."
 652 Detroit Gas Co. Cons. 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1918.
 653 Detroit Hillsdale and South-Western R.R. Guaranteed 4 p.c. Stock.
 654 Detroit United Rly. 1st Cons. Mort. 4½ p.c., 1932.
 655 DuPont E. I. de Nemours Powder Co. 4½ p.c. Debs., 1936.
 656 DuPont E. I. de Nemours Powder Co. 5 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
 657 Eastern Power and Light Corp. Conv. 5 p.c., 1918.
 658 Eastman Kodak Co. Common.
 659 Florida Central and Peninsular R.R. 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1918.
 660 Florida Central and Peninsular R.R. 1st Mort. Ext. and Land Grant 5 p.c., 1930.
 661 Florida Central and Peninsular R.R. 1st Cons. Mort. 5 p.c., 1943.
 662 Galveston Harrisburg and San Antonio Rly. Mexican and Pacific Ext. 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1931.
 663 Galveston Harrisburg and San Antonio Rly. Mexican and Pacific Ext. 2nd Mort. 5 p.c., 1931.
 664 Galveston-Houston Electric Rly. 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1954.
 665 Georgia Carolina and Northern R.R. 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1929.
 666 Georgia Rly. and Electric Co. 1st Cons. 5 p.c., 1932.
 667 Goodrich (B.F.) Co. 7 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
 668 Houston Oil Co. New Series 6 p.c. Timber Certificates, 1916-23.
 669 Illinois Central R.R. 1st Mort. Sterling 3 p.c., 1951.
 670 Illinois Central R.R. Sterling 3½ p.c., 1950.
 671 Illinois Central R.R. 1st Mort. Sterling 4 p.c., 1951.
 672 Illinois Central R.R. 1st Mort. Dollar 4 p.c., 1951.
 673 Indiana Natural Gas and Oil Co. Refunding Mort. 5 p.c., 1936.
 674 Ingersoll Rand Co. Common.
 675 International Harvester Co. of New Jersey Com.
 676 Kentucky Central Rly. 1st Mort. 4 p.c., 1987.
 677 Kentucky and Indiana Terminal R.R. 1st Mort. Sterling 4½ p.c., 1961.
 678 Keystone Telephone Co. of Philadelphia 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1935.
 679 Kings County Electric Light and Power Co. Conv. Debs. 6 p.c., 1925.
 680 Kings County Electric Light and Power Co. Purchase Money Mort. 6 p.c., 1907.
 681 Kings County Electric Light and Power Co. 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1937.
 682 Kings County Elevated R.R. 1st Mort. 4 p.c., 1949.
 683 Knoxville and Ohio R.R. 1st Mort. 6 p.c., 1925.
 684 Lake Shore Electric Rly. Co. 1st Cons. Mort. 5 p.c., 1923.
 685 Lehigh Valley R.R. Cons. Mort. 6 p.c., 1923.
 686 Lehigh Valley Terminal Rly. 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1941.
 687 Lexington Avenue and Pavonia Ferry 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1993.
 688 Louisville Lighting Co. 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1953.
 689 Louisville Rly. Cons. Mort. 5 p.c., 1910.
 690 Mahoning Coal R.R. 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1934.
 691 Mahoning Coal R.R. Guaranteed Preferred.
 692 Milwaukee Electric Rly. and Light Co. Cons. Mort. 5 p.c., 1926.
 693 Milwaukee Electric Rly. and Light Co. Refunding and Extension 4½ p.c., 1931.
 694 Milwaukee Gas Light Co. 1st Mort. 4 p.c., 1927.
 695 Minneapolis General Electric Co. 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1934.
 696 Minneapolis, St. Paul & Sault Ste Marie Rly. and Mort. 4 p.c., 1949.
 697 Minneapolis Street Rly. 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1919.
 698 Missouri Pacific Rly. Cons. 1st Mort. 6 p.c., 1920.
 699 Montgomery Ward and Co. Inc. 7 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
 700 Montreal Light, Heat and Power Co. Lachine Div. S.F. 5 p.c., 1933.
 701 Mutual Union Telegraph Co. 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1941.
 702 Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis Rly. Fayette and McMinnville Branches 1st Mort. 6 p.c., 1917.
 703 Nashville Chattanooga and St. Louis Rly., Jasper Branch Ext. 1st Mort. 6 p.c., 1923.
 704 Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis Rly. Capital Stock.
 705 New Amsterdam Gas Co. 1st Cons. Mort. 5 p.c., 1948.
 706 Newport and Cincinnati Bridge Co. General Mort. S.F. 4½ p.c., 1945.
 707 New York, New Haven and Hartford R.R. Non-Convertible Debs. 4 p.c., 1947.
 708 New York, New Haven and Hartford R.R. Consolidated Rly. Co. Debs. 4 p.c., 1954.
 709 New York, New Haven and Hartford R.R. Consolidated Rly. Co. Debs. 4 p.c., 1955.
 710 New York State Bonds.
 711 Niagara Falls Power Co. 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1932.
 712 Niagara Falls Power Co. Refunding and Gen. Mort. 6 p.c., 1932.
 713 North Pennsylvania R.R. Guaranteed Stock.
 714 North-Western Elevated R.R. 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1941.
 715 North-Western Telegraph Co. 1st Mort. 4½ p.c., 1934.
 716 Ontario Power Co. of Niagara Falls 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1943.
 717 Pacific Gas and Electric General and Refunding 5 p.c., 1942.
 718 Pacific Light and Power Co. 1st Mort. Guaranteed 5 p.c., 1942.
 719 Pacific Light and Power Co. 1st and Refunding Mort. S.F. Gold 5 p.c., 1951.
 720 Pacific Power and Light Co. 1st and Refunding Mort. 5 p.c., 1930.
 721 Pennsylvania R.R. Cons. Mort. 5 p.c., 1919.
 722 Pennsylvania R.R. Cons. Mort. Sterling 3½ p.c., 1945.
 723 Pennsylvania R.R. Cons. Mort. Sterling 4 p.c., 1948.
 724 Pennsylvania R.R. Cons. Mort. Dollar 4 p.c., 1948.
 725 Pennsylvania R.R. Real Estate Purchase Money 4 p.c., 1923.
 726 Peoples Gas Light and Coke Co. (Illinois) Capital Stock.
 727 Philadelphia Co. Convertible Deb. 5 p.c. Notes, 1919.
 728 Philadelphia Co. Convertible Deb. 5 p.c. Notes, 1922.
 729 Pine Creek Rly. Registered 1st Mort. 6 p.c., 1932.
 730 Pittsburgh and Lake Erie R.R. 2nd Mort. 5 p.c., 1928, Series "A" and "B."
 731 Pittsburgh and Western Rly. 1st Mort. 4 p.c., 1917.
 732 Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis 4 p.c. Non-Cum. Prefd.
 733 Pittsburgh, Cleveland and Toledo Rly. 1st Mort. 6 p.c., 1922.
 734 Portland Rly. 1st and Refunding Mort. 5 p.c., 1930.
 735 Portland Rly. Light & Power Co. 1st and Refunding S.F. 5 p.c., 1942.
 736 Providence Terminal Co. 1st Mort. 4 p.c. Guaranteed, 1956.
 737 Public Service Corp. of New Jersey Gen. S.F. Mort. 5 p.c., 1959.
 738 Republic Iron and Steel Co. S.F. Mort. 5 p.c., 1940.
 739 Republic Iron and Steel Co. 7 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
 740 Rio Grande Western Rly. 1st Trust 4 p.c., 1939.
 741 Rochester and Pittsburgh R.R. 1st Mort. 6 p.c., 1921.
 742 Rochester and Pittsburgh R.R. Cons. Mort. 6 p.c., 1922.
 743 Rome Watertown and Ogdensburg R.R. 1st Cons. Mort. 5 p.c., 1922.
 744 Rome Watertown and Ogdensburg Terminal 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1918.
 745 Rutland R.R. 1st Cons. Mort. 4½ p.c., 1941.
 746 St. Lawrence and Adirondack Rly. 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1996.
 747 St. Lawrence and Adirondack Rly. 2nd Mort. 6 p.c., 1996.
 748 St. Louis Bridge Co. 6 p.c. 1st Preferred.
 749 San Joaquin Light and Power Corp. 1st and Refunding Mort. S.F. 6 p.c. Series "A," 1950.
 750 San Joaquin Light and Power Corp. 1st and Refunding Mort. S.F. 5 p.c. Series "B," 1950.
 751 Seaboard Air Line Rly. Atlanta-Birmingham Div. 1st Mort. 4 p.c., 1933.
 752 Sears Roebuck and Co. 7 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
 753 Seattle Electric Co. Cons. and Refunding Mort. 5 p.c., 1929.
 754 Seattle Electric Co. (Seattle-Everett) 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1939.
 755 South Carolina and Georgia R.R. 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1919.
 756 South Pacific Coast Rly. 1st Mort. 4 p.c., 1937.
 757 Standard Electric Co. of California 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1930.
 758 Standard Gas and Electric Co. (Delaware) Conv. 6 p.c. S.F., 1926.
 759 Studebaker Corp. 7 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
 760 Swift and Co. Capital Stock.
 761 Tennessee Coal Iron and R.R. Co. General Mort. 5 p.c., 1951.
 762 Tennessee Coal Iron and R.R. Co. (Birmingham Div.) 1st Cons. 6 p.c., 1917.
 763 Tennessee Coal Iron and R.R. Co. (Tennessee Div.) 1st Cons. 6 p.c., 1917.
 764 Texas Co. 1st Mortgage 6 p.c. Notes, 1917-21.
 765 Texas Co. Convertible Debs. 6 p.c., 1931.
 766 Third Avenue R.R. 1st Refunding Mort. 4 p.c., 1960.
 767 Toronto Hamilton and Buffalo Rly. 1st Mort. 4 p.c., 1946.
 768 Tunnel R.R. of St. Louis Guaranteed Capital Stock.
 769 Twin City Rapid Transit Co. 7 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
 770 Union Oil Co. of California 1st Lien S.F. and Coll. Trust 5 p.c., 1932.
 771 Union Traction Co. of Indiana 1st General Mort. 5 p.c., 1910.
 772 United Light and Railways Co. 1st and Refunding Mort. 5 p.c., 1932.
 773 United New Jersey R.R. and Canal Co. 10 p.c., Guaranteed Stock.
 774 United States Rubber Coll. Trust 6 p.c., 1918.
 775 United States Steel 1st Mort. S.F. Coll. Trust 5 p.c., 1951.
 776 United States Steel Corp. Common.
 777 Utah Light and Power Co. 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1930.
 778 Virginia Midland Rly. 5 p.c. Mort., 1921, Series "D."
 779 Virginia Midland Rly. 5 p.c. Mort., 1926, Series "E."
 780 Virginia Midland Rly. 5 p.c. Mort., 1931, Series "F."
 781 Virginia Midland Rly. Gen. Mort. 5 p.c., 1936.
 782 Virginia Rly. and Power Co. 1st and Refunding 5 p.c., 1934.
 783 Western Union Telegraph Co. Capital Stock.
 784 Wheeling Electric Co. 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1941.
 785 Wisconsin Central Rly. 1st and Refunding Mort. 4 p.c., 1930.
 786 Wisconsin Central Rly. 1st and Refunding Mort. 4 p.c., 1930.

THE AMERICAN DOLLAR SECURITIES COMMITTEE.

NATIONAL DEBT OFFICE.

19 OLD JEWRY, LONDON, E.C.

12th July, 1916.

JUNE RUBBER OUTPUTS.

Company.	Current Estimate.	Last All-in Cost.	April. lbs.	(+) or (-) lbs.	Months.	Aggregate lbs.	(+) or (-) lbs.
Aboyne Clyde	289,964	1/10.26	32,564	+ 2,635	12	392,629	+ 31,845
Allagar	312,000	1/2.05	32,500	+ 1,500	6	126,700	+ 6,200
Alliance	163,716	1/10.88	11,797	+ 837	6	56,242	+ 2,667
Alor Pongsu	270,000	1/10.88	22,415	+ 3,715	6	118,556	+ 23,060
Ampat	130,000	1/13.30	14,000	+ 6,015	9	113,110	+ 54,050
Anglo-Java	1,697,000	1/10.26	144,000	+ 63,600	6	809,700	+ 502,457
Anglo-Johore	235,779	1/7.72	20,591	+ 2,122	3	58,340	+ 2,471
Anglo-Malay	1,600,000	1/11	150,510	+ 26,585	6	802,573	+ 149,538
Anglo-Sum.	840,704	1/11.25	79,158	+ 16,130	11	79,158	+ 16,130
Asahan	180,000	1/4.13	26,350	+ 14,711	11	233,289	+ 113,328
As. T. Ceylon	210,000	1/10.50	21,019	+ 4,118	12	211,316	+ 32,967
Ayer Kuning	595,000	1/2.98	54,000	+ 16,668	6	276,922	+ 122,154
Bagan Seria	348,550	1/10.28	20,500	+ 7,500	6	151,613	+ 34,321
Bah Lias	—	—	9,665	+ 3,367	6	57,790	+ 31,146
Bajoe Kidoel	110,000	1/9.12	14,000	+ 3,362	3	47,249	+ 16,087
Bakap.	340,000	1/4.88	28,680	+ 5,564	12	337,150	+ 63,187
Bambakelley	260,000	1/1.43	16,739	+ 659	3	41,484	+ 6,908
Bandar Sum.	246,000	1/8.45	29,000	+ 10,560	11	261,092	+ 75,973
Bandjarasari	213,000	—	21,580	+ 8,491	6	126,380	+ 53,477
Bandarapola	300,000	—	16,700	+ 1,000	6	73,800	+ 33,000
Bandardawa	220,000	1/7	—	—	11	214,160	+ 91,091
Bantam	495,000	1/1.80	—	—	9	477,755	+ 21,666
Banteng	286,222	1/1.94	29,710	+ 10,810	2	54,980	+ 21,666
Batak Rabit.	275,000	1/3	29,000	+ 10,375	12	257,209	+ 54,889
Batang Mal.	300,000	1/2.60	24,800	+ 6,711	6	121,560	+ 23,534
Batu Caves	600,000	1/9.13	58,614	+ 7,022	6	295,813	+ 17,095
Matang	125,000	1/3.64	12,108	+ 2,173	12	133,016	+ 114,350
Rata	325,000	1/1.61	31,890	+ 8,910	12	366,820	+ 79,343
Tiga	750,000	1/10.39	65,000	+ 9,312	6	360,018	+ 79,343
Be'ur'it B'm'o	231,500	1/5.75	18,500	+ 11,570	12	36,500	+ 79,019
Bekoh	318,500	1/2.61	30,500	+ 9,436	6	299,715	+ 13,222
Bentota	210,000	1/10.33	21,855	+ 12,451	12	87,708	+ 70,723
Bernang	220,000	1/7.95	27,179	+ 6,300	12	288,700	+ 71,500
Bernam-Perk	225,000	1/2.41	23,200	+ 2,800	3	222,400	+ 6,650
Bidor	361,500	1/4.70	33,800	+ 12,662	6	187,300	+ 39,618
Bikam	310,000	1/4.24	35,885	+ 8,900	6	152,015	+ 25,286
Bode	100,360	1/6.98	16,900	+ 12,538	6	83,438	+ 41,372
Bradwall	400,000	1/5.08	29,411	+ 9,429	2	40,000	+ 5,000
Braunston	360,000	1/1.10	37,100	+ 2,000	2	98,287	+ 221,804
Brit Born Para	260,000	1/2.5	20,000	+ 1,000	12	397,007	+ 79,153
British Malay	280,000	—	21,800	+ 1,000	6	100,000	+ 20,000
Brooklands	370,000	1/11.26	44,390	+ 20,604	12	249,496	+ 55,500
Broome	262,000	1/3.77	27,849	+ 12,952	12	738,805	+ 158,258
Bukit Cloh	290,000	1/10.39	21,000	+ 9,000	6	149,000	+ 1,530
Ilok	280,000	1/0.74	27,000	+ 9,000	12	279,121	+ 44,952
Kajang.	700,000	1/0.82	80,895	+ 22,322	12	164,010	+ 72,800
Lintang	310,000	1/0.36	24,350	+ 350	12	219,000	+ 53,069
Mert'um	780,000	1/1.08	58,724	+ 17,769	3	197,122	+ 32,800
Panj'ng	455,000	1/0.7	40,000	+ 10,500	6	321,800	+ 90,400
Rajah.	761,751	1/11.82	77,832	+ 26,155	6	150,498	+ 24,720
Semba.	850,000	1/0.77	59,000	+ 16,300	9	475,161	+ 58,927
Carey United	283,000	—	19,668	+ 3,832	12	66,844	+ 17,987
Castlefield	473,000	1/10.70	41,572	+ 5,322	6	345,438	+ 84,502
Cent. Trav.	240,000	1/3.08	10,131	+ 6,214	6	106,724	+ 9,657
Ceylon Para	682,031	1/4.23	71,243	+ 11,783	6	343,000	+ 158,000
Ceylon T. & R.	260,000	1/3.92	16,501	+ 92	6	183,271	+ 39,124
Changkat-Sal.	630,000	1/1.39	64,500	+ 20,900	6	67,800	+ 31,793
Chemb Malay	385,000	1/1.32	34,418	+ 6,111	6	309,609	+ 25,641
Cheras	170,000	1/6.62	13,800	+ 6,998	6	152,100	+ 56,835
Chersonese	720,000	1/11.44	63,138	+ 8,916	6	41,550	+ 10,188
Cheviot	370,000	1/3.48	30,730	+ 18,660	6	100,191	+ 33,513
Chimpul	150,000	1/1.75	15,831	+ 6,615	3	84,216	+ 13,529
Chota	190,000	1/2.34	16,833	+ 4,705	6	100,902	+ 22,290
Cicely	333,728	1/1.72	29,900	+ 2,994	3	304,447	+ 68,118
Cluny	225,000	1/3.01	16,443	+ 643	6	150,300	+ 40,000
Cons. Malay	809,000	1/11.93	61,449	+ 8,350	6	89,755	+ 31,725
Dalkeith	400,000	1/0.79	27,500	+ 5,234	6	40,157	+ 4,661
Damansara	650,000	1/11.95	61,162	+ 13,478	12	388,730	+ 22,366
Dangan	178,000	1/2	17,117	+ 4,751	6	183,808	+ 62,623
Dennistoun	580,500	1/3.25	51,930	+ 9,074	12	261,535	+ 58,345
Deviturai	320,000	1/0.27	15,760	+ 2,220	6	132,800	+ 6,168
Dimbula	340,000	1/10.36	26,500	+ 304	12	133,317	+ 123,544
Djasinga	261,000	1/4.51	31,000	+ 19,140	12	80,300	+ 38,460
Djember	80,000	—	12,700	+ 4,400	6	61,821	+ 5,550
Doranakande	210,000	1/2.30	18,724	+ 3,334	6	278,500	+ 118,500
Duff Develop.	400,400	1/7.40	52,000	+ 17,500	6	253,979	+ 112,785
Dusun Durian	520,000	1/11.47	—	—	5	72,548	+ 9,861
E. Ind. & Cey.	175,540	1/3.36	14,407	+ 839	6	184,500	+ 53,000
Edinburgh	327,000	1/9.71	16,821	+ 12,545	6	86,329	+ 39,384
Elphl	170,000	1/8.21	26,000	+ 9,100	5	115,400	+ 44,232
Emerald	320,000	1/2	13,860	+ 1,275	6	71,058	+ 1,843
Eow Seng	170,000	1/1.20	20,000	+ 10,200	9	156,839	+ 76,976
Escot	180,000	1/2.32	20,000	+ 10,200	9	150,000	+ 40,000
Fed. Malay S.	1,538,982	1/9.50	150,000	+ 40,000	3	89,755	+ 31,725
Fed. Selangor	345,000	1/10.01	28,781	+ 6,048	6	40,157	+ 4,661
Galaba	103,144	—	8,545	+ 733	12	388,730	+ 22,366
Galang Besar	400,000	1/8.24	36,000	+ 6,820	12	135,100	+ 39,450
Gan Kee	135,000	1/5.37	13,200	+ 2,900	12	114,530	+ 24,445
Garing	150,000	1/3.49	13,000	+ 2,500	9	114,400	+ 37,670
Gedong	184,000	1/0.68	15,907	+ 5,042	6	356,470	+ 72,308
Gen. Ceylon	835,000	1/10.10	66,470	+ 11,510	6	170,110	+ 27,735
Glen Bervie	220,000	1/2.57	23,310	+ 4,173	9	166,080	+ 14,785
Glendon	240,000	1/1.56	19,554	+ 2,537	6	162,250	+ 67,541
Glenshiel	295,600	1/3.06	30,150	+ 15,042	6	261,151	+ 51,487
Golconda	498,000	1/11.86	46,325	+ 10,847	6	107,469	+ 11,166
Golden Hope	225,000	1/2.04	19,439	+ 4,436	6	1,692,936	+ 309,846
Grand Cent.	4,000,000	1/0.72	289,419	+ 7,873	6	512,468	+ 74,417
Gula Kal'p'g.	1,269,000	1/11.8	89,488	+ 2,625	6	220,900	+ 31,400
Harpenden	432,000	1/11.23	43,600	+ 6,892	6	248,670	+ 105,645
Hayoepp	451,000	1/4.59	43,264	+ 21,507	6	83,162	+ 33,591
Heawood	200,000	1/3.28	18,270	+ 8,932	6	227,500	+ 26,300
Hewagang	650,000	1/2.80	46,700	+ 5,000	6	100,200	+ 33,000
Hid. Streams	190,000	—	18,700	+ 6,700	6	596,858	+ 89,421
Highlands	1,233,000	1/11.22	109,919	+ 18,871	6	29,750	+ 9,350
Inch-Kenneth	286,380	1/2.46	29,750	+ 9,350	1	175,140	+ 50,330
Insulinde	172,000	1/8.92	17,400	+ 5,900	12	261,800	+ 26,270
Java Amal.	450,000	—	41,000	+ 16,040	6	116,139	+ 42,439
Java R. & Prod	240,000	—	25,220	+ 7,847	6	89,824	+ 47,107
Java Para.	250,000	1/1.20	20,000	+ 5,990	6	52,160	+ 14,801
Java R. Plants.	106,000	—	11,000	+ 154	6	167,100	+ 26,590
Jeram	226,213	2/	24,713	+ 8,602	3	325,042	+ 175,243
Johore Para.	190,000	1/1.80	14,500	+ 76	12	551,715	+ 176,725
Rub Lndr	769,225	1/2.39	72,964	+ 41,154	6	82,304	+ 18,258
Jong Landor	480,000	1/8.27	60,091	+ 21,324	12	138,183	+ 48,597
Jugra Estate	350,000	1/0.60	31,827	+ 8,067	3	89,125	+ 37,588
Jugra Land	1,090,000	1/1.35	75,575	+ 26,557	6	43,400	+ 12,191
Kajang	160,000	1/1.95	23,200	+ 16,300	3	167,500	+ 19,500
Kao Glagah	136,702	—	12,200	+ 1,700	3	725,650	+ 57,373
Kamp Kua't'n	350,000	1/0.93	27,000	+ 4,500	12	336,703	+ 123,031
Kamuning	690,000	1/1.93	69,120	+ 4,526	6	85,884	+ 26,810
Kapar Para	762,800	1/0.62	72,187	+ 30,524	6	117,415	+ 89,124
Karak	138,201	2/1.88	18,000	+ 8,158	6	—	—
Kasintoe	263,000	2/1.39	17,000	+ 12,030	6	—	—
Kawie Java	383,120	1/10.7	36,400	+ 3,400	5	126,300	+ 31,453
Keppigalla	500,124	1/3.78	47,041	+ 4,351	3	135,565	+ 21,949
Kepong	300,000	1/9.53	28,600	+ 4,000	6	136,500	+ 8,500
Kerala	215,000	—	11,317	+ 111	6	53,296	+ 10,444
Khotia Tamp'n	200,000	1/3.30	—	—	4	54,000	+ 17,350
Killinghill	193,700	1/2.12	19,596	+ 6,959	12	220,879	+ 85,202
Kimaniah	263,000	2/1.39	20,000	+ 10,600	6	98,800	+ 61,500
Kinta Kelias	445,000	1/2.81	43,553	+ 22,553	3	111,692	+ 56,592
Klabang	220,000	1/4.15	18,446	+ 3,205	6	97,861	+ 21,539
Klangang	—	1/10.91	29,535	+ 2,402	6	189,071	+ 13,067
Kombok	419,000	1/1.59	44,550	+ 14,470	6	241,260	+ 113,950
Kuala Klang	175,000	1/11.57	15,180	+ 1,589	9	143,123	+ 23,438
Kubu	120,000	2/2.35	14,441	+ 64,441	12	129,021	+ 33,221
Lumpur	1,575,000	1/0.55	118,800	+ 2,529	12	1,409,230	+ 122,557
Pali	210,000	1/2.36	—	—	5	66,500	+

Taiping..	560,000	1/0.59	52,536	† 9,316	12	483,685	† 133,294
Tali Ayer ..	637,062	1/0.46	72,500	† 26,782	2	141,750	† 56,073
Tamlang ..	450,000	2/	49,792	† 19,083	9	384,493	† 179,435
Tangga Batu	175,000	1/3.59	20,441	† 1,096	11	66,227	† 3,773
Tangkah ..	400,000	1/5.74	32,343	† 6,641	12	268,806	† 69,204
Tanj. Malim	750,000	1/3.76	73,200	† 18,914	12	761,806	† 190,268
Tanjong ..	1,042,000	1/2.28	138,753	† 57,152	12	1,206,536	† 386,553
Tangol ..	210,000	1/4.85	24,200	† 5,703	12	222,825	† 76,786
Tebrau ..	900,000	1/1.95	82,232	† 15,441	11	933,041	† 268,553
Teekoy ..	205,000	1/5	13,723	† 1,233	11	192,955	† 76,367
Telagorejo ..	237,000	—	31,000	† 25,219	6	156,376	† 137,229
Tenom B'raeo	530,000	1/1.93	41,453	† 15,347	6	212,200	† 49,300
Third Mile ..	425,000	1/0.30	57,000	† 17,500	12	203,232	† 64,863
Tremelbye ..	543,356	1/0.38	24,730	† 7,937	9	628,500	† 83,250
Trolak ..	225,000	1/3	22,307	† 4,582	6	192,052	† 57,467
Ulu Rantau ..	227,648	1/2.49	64,306	† 33,506	11	106,545	† 4,358
U. Suabotong	800,000	1/2.77	259,024	† 41,729	11	342,577	† 194,792
U. Serdang ..	2,913,800	1/1.79	55,560	† 10,430	6	2,540,592	† 585,977
U. Sumatra ..	800,000	1/0.7	42,450	† 15,300	11	368,530	† 80,380
U. Temiang ..	414,000	1/3.28	14,509	† 3,345	6	341,260	† 110,700
Uva ..	154,450	—	53,674	† 11,849	11	86,843	† 21,507
Vallambrosa	581,000	1/0.65	27,000	† 12,793	8	100,308	† 80,382
Val d'Or ..	250,000	1/3	17,860	† 4,860	11	113,960	† 60,992
Windsor ..	253,000	1/4.21	13,679	† 1,297	6	87,023	† 12,124
Woodend ..	180,000	—	30,738	† 10,730	8	224,473	† 78,368
Yam Seng ..	300,000	1/2.75	25,724	† 13,468	6	154,857	† 6,395
Yatiantota ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

a Last year's crop.

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down.	July 7	£ 3,957	—	195	†	90,396	—	3,504
Grand Canal ..	..	7	1,084	—	57	†	1,084	—
Great Northern ..	..	7	23,085	—	1,115	†	617,028	—
Gt. Southern and Western.	..	7	33,951	—	559	†	836,655	—
Midland Great Western ..	..	7	12,086	—	202	†	326,272	—

* From Jan. 1. † From July 1.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

Assam Bengal ..	June 3	Rs. 1,19,000	—	14,801	†	Rs. 11,71,000	—	1,30,883
Bengal & N.-W. ..	..	3	4,33,030	—	29,139	†	40,68,790	—
Bengal Nagpur ..	..	10	9,45,000	—	2,00,000	†	98,89,000	—
Bombay, Baroda ..	..	10	12,89,000	—	3,14,000	†	1,98,07,000	—
Burma ..	..	3	3,71,339	—	15,465	†	38,71,316	—
Delhi Umbaila ..	..	1	71,600	—	7,827	†	9,41,290	—
East Indian ..	..	8	21,29,000	—	1,09,000	†	3,17,67,000	—
Gt. Indian Penin. ..	..	8	18,79,000	—	6,14,200	†	2,91,67,000	—
Lucknow-Bareilly ..	..	3	49,827	—	4,500	†	4,45,679	—
Madras and S. ..	..	10	10,30,000	—	46,358	†	1,04,60,000	—
Mahratta ..	..	3	1,23,622	—	12,480	†	12,60,847	—
Nizam's Gd. (Broad ..	..	3	64,925	—	7,585	†	7,34,593	—
.. (Metre)	..	3	—	—	—	†	—	—
Rohilkund and ..	..	3	43,823	—	3,348	†	4,06,055	—
Kumaon ..	..	10	6,28,141	—	39,384	†	61,83,860	—
South Indian ..	..	10	—	—	—	†	—	—

a 13 days. † April 1. ‡ October 1.

COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

Beira ..	Apl. *	£ 29,462	—	4,400	—	£ 885,100	—	£ 455,700
Canadian Northern	July 7	\$885,100	—	\$455,700	—	\$2,616,000	—	\$950,000
Canadian Pacific ..	..	7	\$2,616,000	—	\$950,000	—	\$2,616,000	—
Gr. Trk. Main Line	..	7	181,007	—	10,453	—	4,505,804	—
Gr. Trk. Western ..	..	7	40,993	—	13,150	—	985,042	—
Detroit G. H. & M.	..	7	15,335	—	4,270	—	359,294	—
Gr. Trk. Pac. Prairie Sc	..	7	15,211	—	3,678	—	15,211	—
Mashonaland ..	Apl. *	49,604	—	4,014	—	668,820	—	107,690
Mid. of Westn. Aus.	May *	6,941	—	1,146	—	83,158	—	10,632
New Cape Central ..	June *	1,353	—	163	—	36,241	—	6,334
Rhodesia ..	Apl. *	70,794	—	8,297	—	1,097,621	—	116,093

a 9 days. * Months. † July 1. ‡ Jan. 1. c From Oct. 1.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Chesapeake & Ohio	June 30†	\$ 1,428,000	—	161,000	†	\$ 48,150,000	—	\$ 8,685,000
Chicago G.W. ..	..	21	331,000	—	8,000	†	14,719,000	—
Colorado & South'n	..	14	261,000	—	34,000	†	14,915,000	—
Denver & Rio Gran.	..	30†	623,000	—	52,000	†	24,827,000	—
Louisv'e & Nashv'e	..	21	163,000	—	203,000	†	58,701,000	—
Minn. S.P. (Soo) ..	..	14	679,000	—	149,000	†	33,063,000	—
Missouri Kansas ..	..	21	576,000	—	25,000	†	31,446,000	—
Northern Pacific ..	..	14	1,490,000	—	270,000	†	71,952,000	—
Southern ..	..	30†	1,679,000	—	215,000	†	69,778,000	—

† 9 days. § Includes Wisconsin Central. ‡ From July 1.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.

Anglo-Argentine ..	July 11	£ 51,679	—	874	†	£ 1,377,738	—	£ 7,506
Auckland Electric ..	..	20	21,152	—	641	†	253,058	—
Brisbane Traction ..	Apl. †	\$3,774,000	—	\$68,230	—	\$14,731,000	—	\$676,330
Brisbane Elec. Inv.	..	5	30,320	—	3,730	—	62,600	—
British Columbia ..	May 5	\$62,830	—	\$39,116	—	\$797,383	—	\$51,390
B.A. Lacroze ..	..	8	40,220	—	1,545	—	413,102	—
Burmah Electric ..	July 8	Rs. 4,661	—	Rs. 109	—	Rs. 5,403	—	Rs. 5,403
Calcutta ..	..	6	Rs. 71,200	—	1,640	—	Rs. 18,45,994	—
Cordoba Light ..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
P. & T. ..	Apl. †	14,053	—	444	—	14,053	—	444
Hongkong ..	June 3	\$12,719	—	\$1,817	—	\$297,573	—	\$65,459
La Plata ..	..	May 8	15,593	—	146	—	22,189	—
Lima ..	..	—	—	—	—	78,913	—	301
Madras Electric ..	June 30†	Rs. 29,526	—	Rs. 70	—	Rs. 370,342	—	Rs. 27,507
Manila ..	..	Nov. 5	\$71,326	—	\$4,126	—	\$732,561	—
Mexico ..	..	Nov. 5	\$215,256	—	\$108,669	—	\$3,193,106	—
Puebla ..	..	Dec. 5	\$40,000	—	\$25,600	—	\$669,500	—
Rangoon ..	..	June 5	4,205	—	792	—	23,734	—
Singapore Electric	May 20	\$13,139	—	\$1,897	—	\$247,259	—	\$29,716
Toronto ..	..	—	—	—	—	\$1,693,709	—	\$198,311
United of Monte V.	June	25,300	—	1,034	—	241,068	—	14,376
Vera Cruz ..	..	Feb. 5	\$7,700	—	\$20,800	—	\$130,400	—
Winnipeg ..	..	May 5	\$103,277	—	\$16,527	—	\$548,937	—

b 28 days. * From Jan. 1. § Nett. a From July 1. c Two weeks.

MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

NAME.	NETT EARNINGS FOR MONTH.			NETT EARNINGS TO DATE.		
	Month.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year.	Mo. of Yrs.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year.
Atchafalpa T. & S. Fé	May	\$4,317,000	† 1,475,000	11	\$40,978,000	† 6,977,000
Atlantic Coast Line	..	848,000	† 282,000	11	9,079,000	† 2,447,000
Baltimore & Ohio ..	..	2,855,000	† 258,000	11	29,144,000	† 4,972,000
Canadian Northern ..	..	727,200	† 368,600	7	7,552,800	† 2,266,300
Canadian Pacific ..	..	4,372,000	† 1,929,000	11	45,536,000	† 14,639,000
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	..	1,480,000	† 394,000	11	14,816,000	† 4,097,000
Chicago & N.W. ..	..	1,014,000	† 340,000	11	23,836,000	† 4,331,000
Chicago Burl. & Q.	Apl. †	2,618,000	† 1,222,000	10	34,895,800	† 8,036,000
Chicago G.W. ..	May	246,000	† 38,000	11	3,813,000	† 746,000
Chicago Mill. & S.P.	..	2,298,000	† 604,000	11	29,366,000	† 7,473,000
Chicago, Rock I. & P.	Apl. †	1,470,000	† 609,000	10	15,833,000	† 7,473,000
Colorado & Southern	..	318,000	† 135,000	11	4,299,000	† 1,171,000
Cuba ..	..	777,660	† 231,958	10	5,530,581	† 1,322,315
Delaware & Hud. ..	..	622,000	—	3	2,033,000	† 471,000
Denver & Rio Gran.	..	747,000	† 227,000	10	7,511,000	† 2,234,000
Erie ..	May	1,861,000	† 761,000	5	6,924,000	† 2,139,000
Gr. Tr. Main Line ..	..	\$222,500	† \$6,550	5	\$886,200	† \$129,550
Grand Trunk Westn	..	\$49,400	† \$48,200	5	\$178,500	† \$185,500
Detroit G.H. & Mil.	..	\$8,900	† \$16,200	5	\$9,700	† \$36,100
Gt. Northern ..	Apl. †	1,701,000	† 1,072,000	10	27,764,000	† 4,798,000
Illinois Central ..	May	1,287,000	† 608,000	11	12,666,000	† 2,268,000
Kansas City Southn.	..	347,000	† 80,000	11	3,359,000	† 514,000
Lehigh Valley ..	..	1,312,000	† 92,000	11	11,425,000	† 1,527,000
Louisville & Nashv.	..	1,698,000	† 848,000	11	16,716,000	† 7,508,000
Minn. S.P. (Soo) ..	Apl. †	922,000	† 462,000	10	11,530,000	† 4,269,000
Miss. K. & Texas ..	May	418,000	—	63,000	4,706,000	—
Missouri Pacific ..	Mar. †	527,000	† 233,000	9	9,293,000	† 849,000
New York Cent. & H.	May	5,597,000	† 1,870,000	9	24,154,000	† 1,069,000
N.Y. N. Haven & H.	Apl. †	1,905,000	† 455,000	10	18,030,000	† 3,927,000
New York Ont. & W.	May	204,000	† 28,000	11	2,205,000	† 249,000
Norfolk & Western.	..	2,463,000	† 928,000	11	21,231,000	† 9,345,000
Northern Pacific ..	..	2,422,000	† 1,101,000	11	28,421,000	† 8,994,000
Pennsylvania East ..	..	1,846,000	† 4,102,000	5	40,546,000	† 2,019,000
St. Louis & San F.	Apl. †	1,043,000	† 24,000	9	10,018,000	† 1,164,000
Seaboard Air Line ..	..	845,000	† 189,000	9	5,287,000	† 1,383,000
Southern ..	May	2,022,000	† 684,000	11	19,337,000	† 7,077,000
Southern Pacific ..	..	4,095,000	† 1,442,000	11	43,370,000	† 11,278,000
Union Pacific ..	..	3,386,000	† 1,558,000	11	37,037,000	† 9,686,000
Wabash ..	..	1,003,000	† 708,000	11	9,988,000	† 4,296,000

§ Includes Wisconsin Central. * Gross earnings. † Surplus.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—HOME.

Bristol ..	July 7	£ 10,448	—	£ 346	†	£ 259,
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SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1824.

FUNDS OVER £10,500,000.

FIRE (INCLUDING LOSS OF PROFITS), LIFE, ACCIDENT, ILLNESS, ANNUITIES, PENSIONS, LEASEHOLD, BURGLARY, GLASS BREAKAGE, TRANSIT OF SECURITIES, FIDELITY, PROPERTY OWNERS' LIABILITIES, HORSE DRIVING ACCIDENTS, MOTOR CAR RISKS, THIRD PARTY, EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY AND MARINE INSURANCES EFFECTED ON THE MOST FAVOURABLE TERMS.

Edinburgh: 35, St. Andrew Square.

London: 5, Walbrook, E.C., and 5, Pall Mall, S.W.

PHENIX ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1782.

Head Office: PHENIX HOUSE, KING WILLIAM STREET, LONDON, E.C.

Total Assets Exceed £16,000,000.

Claims Paid Exceed £94,000,000.

Chairman—Rt. Hon. LORD GEORGE HAMILTON, P.C., G.C.S.I.

FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT. MARINE.

Loss of Profits following Fire, Workmen's Compensation, Fidelity Guarantee, Burglary, Trustee and Executor, &c.

Prospectuses and Proposal Forms may be obtained on application to any of Branch Offices or Agencies, or to the Head Offices.

General Manager SIR GERALD H. RYAN.

The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 6 PER CENT. (Increased from 5 per cent. on Thursday, July 13.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

For reasons with which we deal in another column, the Bank of England yesterday raised its rate from 5 per cent. to 6 per cent. The Money market has lain all the week under the shadow of the probability of such a step being taken, and business in bills has consequently been reduced to very small proportions. Sellers have been ready enough to turn out their cases, but so long as there was any uncertainty regarding the future, buyers were more inclined to hold back. A small parcel of Russian three months' bills was placed at $5\frac{1}{16}$ per cent., but rates gradually hardened, and by Wednesday the minimum for fine remitted paper was $5\frac{1}{16}$ per cent. Dealings in short-dated Treasury bills fell off along with the business in bank bills, and rates were quoted harder at $4\frac{1}{16}$ per cent. for August, and $4\frac{7}{8}$ per cent. for September. The rise in the Bank rate was followed by a further advance in market rates, but the quotations were for the time being more or less nominal pending the Bank's decision with regard to the selling rate for Treasury bills. These were fixed to-day at $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for three months, $5\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. for sixes, and 6 per cent. for yearlings, and at the same time the price of War Expenditure Certificates was reduced to 89. The market has not quite settled down to the new conditions, but quoted $5\frac{5}{8}$ – $5\frac{11}{16}$ per cent. for 90-day paper, and reported that business was done at both rates.

Money has not been quite so plentiful this week as the result partly of the revenue collections and partly of the big business which has been done in Treasury bills and Exchequer bonds. The demand for accommodation has been good, and $4\frac{1}{4}$ – $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. was readily paid, whether for continuing existing day-to-day loans or for new money, and there has been very little surplus credit offered at low rates overnight. Weekly advances were also more wanted at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Yesterday the charge for call loans ranged from $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. up to 5 per cent., and some business was done in fixtures at $4\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., but, as a rule, lenders pre-

ferred to leave the question of the rate open until they knew more definitely what the banks had decided to charge. The Bank of England has raised the rate allowed to the joint-stock banks for deposits at three days' notice from $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to 5 per cent., and this fixes the rate for weekly fixtures in the market at 5 per cent., although a little money was obtainable outside the clearing banks at $4\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. Day-to-day loans cost $4\frac{1}{2}$ –5 per cent. to-day, with plenty of credit offering at the lower figure.

Following on the advance in the Bank rate, the clearing banks have increased their allowance on deposits from $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to 4, and the discount houses have raised their rates to $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for call and $4\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. for notice money.

The outstanding incident in the foreign exchange market has been the steady improvement in the Scandinavian rates, which has followed the arrangements recently made for the creation of banking credits on behalf of the Allies. Madrid has also moved in favour of this country, and it is reported that as the result of the steady increase in its stock of gold, the Bank of Spain has withdrawn the premium on the metal. The Italian rate has likewise advanced, and the Paris cheque has been firm, but the Swiss has declined. Very little change has taken place in the New York cable rate, but it was, if anything, a shade harder, while in the South American group Rio was firm for a time but has since reacted.

The Bank of England continues to lose gold in large amounts, and in spite of the receipt of £1,027,000 from abroad during the week ended on Wednesday, the return shows a decrease of £924,000 in its stocks of coin and bullion. A contraction of £377,000 in the note circulation left the reserve £547,000 down at £41,859,000, but owing to smaller liabilities the proportion has risen by 2.3 per cent. to 28.4 per cent. Government disbursements exceeded the receipts by £4,029,000, leaving the Public Deposits at £54,920,000, but the money went in reduction of "Other" Securities, which are £14,582,000 down, and Other Deposits have declined £11,107,000 to £92,500,000.

According to the official statement for the week ended July 12, currency notes amounting to £3,072,217 in £1 and £1,002,553 in 10s. notes were issued, against which £2,413,208 in £1 and £908,816 10s. in 10s. notes were cancelled. There was therefore an increase of £842,745 10s. in the amount outstanding at a total of £114,040,110, made up of £87,419,704 in £1 notes and £27,523,316 in 10s. notes. During the same period currency note certificates for £70,000 were issued, and £50,000 were cancelled, and the amount outstanding was increased to £9,740,000. There is also an investment reserve account of £1,948,555 1s. 1d. Against these £28,500,000 is held in gold, £91,573,295 5s. 10d. in Government securities, and £6,415,369 15s. 3d. at the Bank of England, while £104,000 has been advanced to bankers other than Scottish and Irish banks of issue, and £36,000 to the Trustee Savings Bank.

SILVER.

A fall in the Chinese exchanges was followed by sales of silver from that quarter in the beginning of the week, and at the same time there was some liquidation of their accounts on the part of stale bulls. Except for the usual coinage orders the market was without support, and the price consequently declined to 28½d. per oz. The bazaars, however, then sent buying orders, and owing to an improvement in the exchanges the offering of the metal on Far Eastern account ceased, with the result that the quotation recovered to 30d. per oz. To-day, however, there was a slight reaction to 29½d.

Applications for the Rs. 30,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 4,10,000 in bills, Rs. 1,62,00,000 in deferred telegraphic transfers, and Rs. 1,38,00,000 in immediate telegraphic transfers. Of these Rs. 89,000 were allotted in bills, and Rs. 20,11,000 in deferred transfers, tenders at rs. 43-32d. receiving about 27 per cent. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is again Rs. 30,00,000. Between April 1 and July 11 the total sales were Rs. 6,52,39,566, realising £4,376,038.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, July 12, 1916.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued	£ 75,755,675	Government Debt	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion	57,305,675
		Silver Bullion	—
	£75,755,675		£75,755,675

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities	£ 42,187,661
Res	3,261,529	Other Securities	81,225,158
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts) ..	54,920,429	Notes	39,767,050
Other Deposits	92,499,538	Gold and Silver Coin	2,091,693
Seven Day and other Bills ..	37,076		
	£165,271,572		£165,271,572

Dated July 13, 1916.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year.

Last year, July 14.	July 5, 1916.	July 12, 1916.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	£	£	£	£
3,274,566	Rest	3,261,529	771	—
52,986,503	Pub. Deposits ..	58,949,045	—	4,028,616
157,983,549	Other do. ..	103,606,994	—	11,107,456
53,056	7 Day Bills ..	30,026	7,050	—
	Assets.		Decrease.	Increase.
51,747,910	Gov. Securities ..	42,187,454	—	207
140,020,855	Other do. ..	95,836,787	14,581,629	—
37,081,909	Total Reserve ..	42,405,582	546,829	—
			15,136,279	15,136,279
			Increase.	Decrease.
£	£	£	£	£
34,494,590	Note Circulation ..	36,366,185	—	377,570
53,126,499	Coin and Bullion ..	60,321,767	—	924,399
178 p.c.	Proportion ..	26.1 p.c.	2.3 p.c.	—
5 "	Bank Rate ..	5 "	6 "	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week £1,047,000 in.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1916.	1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
January	1,071,948,000	918,685,000	153,263,000	—
February	1,107,655,000	960,743,000	146,912,000	—
March	1,364,599,000	1,231,392,000	133,207,000	—
April	1,090,356,000	976,264,000	114,092,000	—
May	1,447,416,000	1,104,194,000	283,222,000	—
June	1,147,650,000	960,209,000	187,421,000	—
July 5	340,361,000	300,466,000	40,095,000	—
12	319,832,000	289,141,000	30,691,000	—
Total ..	7,889,997,000	6,801,094,000	1,088,903,000	—

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue:—

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Wednesday—Bars	Friday—U.S.A.
—Egypt (released)	
Thursday	
Friday—Bars	
	Nett Influx
£1,065,000	£1,058,000
	£1,065,000

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	July 8, 1916	July 1, 1916	June 24, 1916	July 10, 1915
	£	£	£	£
Loans	656,484,000	657,840,000	659,826,000	509,632,000
Reserve held in own Vaults ..	80,068,000	90,266,000	89,180,000	84,766,000
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk. ..	31,034,000	31,802,000	32,172,000	25,170,000
Reserve held in Other Depos. ..	11,728,000	11,836,000	11,942,000	7,126,000
Nett Demand Deposits	640,036,000	652,482,000	653,528,000	499,192,000
Nett Time Deposits	35,672,000	35,118,000	35,346,000	26,780,000
Circulation	6,312,000	6,318,000	6,332,000	7,580,000
Excess Lawful Reserve	12,822,000	21,714,000	20,894,000	308,140,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits.

NEW YORK STATE BANKS & TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.).

	July 8, 1916.	July 1, 1916.	June 24, 1916.	July 10, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Loans	145,884,000	145,666,000	145,300,000	119,274,000
Specie	12,002,000	11,952,000	11,954,000	9,810,000
Deposits	153,364,000	152,504,000	151,758,000	119,568,000
Legal Tenders	1,876,000	1,840,000	1,800,000	1,966,000

FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	June 23, 1916.	June 16, 1916.	June 9, 1916.
	£	£	£
Gold coin and certificates ..	53,128,600	52,410,400	51,088,800
Gold Redemption Fund	378,800	366,600	340,600
Gold Settlement Fund	21,220,200	20,820,200	20,696,200
Legal tender notes, silver, &c. ..	2,805,200	2,724,400	3,611,000
Total reserves	77,532,800	76,321,600	75,736,600
5% redemption fund against F.R. bank notes	90,000	—	—
10-day bills and loans	2,890,200	2,410,000	2,006,000
30-day bills and loans	2,583,600	3,710,200	4,212,200
60-day bills and loans	6,336,000	5,745,400	4,862,000
90-day bills and loans	5,167,200	4,286,800	5,778,000
Maturities over 90 days	963,600	922,600	810,400
Total	17,940,600	17,075,000	15,668,600
Investments—			
U.S. Bonds	10,575,000	10,575,000	10,438,200
One year U.S. Treasury notes	838,000	838,000	838,000
Municipal Warrants	4,326,400	4,303,400	4,619,000
Federal Reserve notes—nett. Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—nett.	4,602,600	4,883,800	4,784,600
	3,857,400	4,273,000	3,550,000
All other assets	877,400	1,107,600	1,123,200
Total assets	120,640,200	119,577,400	115,758,200
Paid-up capital	10,972,600	10,972,600	10,972,600
Government Deposits	12,899,800	11,150,200	10,315,600
Reserve deposits—nett.	94,522,600	95,456,600	93,556,000
Note circulation—nett.	1,845,600	1,600,600	1,518,600
Fed. Res. notes in circulation ..	344,600	345,200	346,000
All other liabilities	55,000	52,000	49,400
Total liabilities	120,640,200	119,577,400	116,758,200
Gold reserve against nett liabilities	70.9 %	70.8 %	70.8 %
Cash reserve against nett liabilities	73.6 %	73.4 %	74.4 %

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For 8 days ended July 8.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE
Customs	National Debt Service
Excise	Interest, &c., on War Debt ..
Estate, &c., Duties	Development & Road Impvt.
Stamps	Payments to Local Taxation ..
Land Tax and House Duty ..	Other Consolidated Fund
Property and Income Tax ..	Charges
Excess Profits Tax	Supply Services
Land Values	Bullion Advances
Post Office	For Advance for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904
Crown Lands	For Treasury Bills (netamt.) ..
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares ..	For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan Redemption Act, 1910 ..
Miscellaneous	Issues under Section 1 of War Loan Act, 1915 ..
Bullion advances repaid	Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 ..
For Treasury Bills (nett amt.) ..	Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 ..
War Loan, 1925-8	Under Housing Act
War Loan, 1925-45	Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8 ..
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919 ..	Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11 ..
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920 ..	E. Africa Protectorate Loan ..
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1921 ..	Cunard Loan repayment issued to reduce debt under the Cunard Agreement ..
War Expenditure Certificates ..	Deficiency advances repaid ..
Other Debts created under War Loan Act, 1915 ..	China Indemnity issued to reduce debt under Finance Act, 1903 ..
Telegraph Money Act, 1913 ..	Ways and Means Advances repaid
Under Post Office Rly. Act, 1913 ..	Increase in Exchequer balances
Under Military Works Acts, 1897-1903	
Under Housing Act	
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920 ..	
East Africa Protectorate Loan repayments	
Cunard Loan—repayment on account of principal	
Suez Canal Drawn Shares	
China Indemnity	
Ways and Means Advances ..	
Decrease in Exchequer balances	
£82,391,455	£82,391,455

* Decrease.

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	July 13, 1916.	July 6, 1916.	June 29, 1916.	July 15, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold in hand	191,021,720	190,788,040	190,530,280	159,458,960
Silver in hand	13,664,520	13,757,960	13,758,160	14,701,160
Bills discounted	17,178,000	16,430,500	17,915,880	10,715,280
Advances	48,108,920	48,574,760	48,241,240	24,592,120
Note circulation	644,527,000	641,848,440	632,220,000	497,937,760
Public deposits	2,564,440	1,683,480	1,531,080	3,860,400
Private deposits	88,976,240	84,927,680	90,905,680	95,600,960
Foreign Bills	97,240	73,640	70,480	67,080

Proportion between bullion and circulation 31.75 per cent., against 31.86 per cent. last week. Advances to the State £332,000,000, increase £8,000,000. The adjourned payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium amounted to £26,553,640, decrease £182,160, and at the branches to £31,482,840, decrease £104,640.

SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	June 30, 1916.	June 23, 1916.	June 15, 1916.	June 30, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold and silver	12,449,184	12,495,468	12,450,060	11,772,328
Bills	7,054,348	7,812,528	6,992,360	5,961,540
Note circulation	17,326,204	16,235,788	16,255,724	16,902,272
Current and deposit accounts	5,005,140	6,474,068	5,833,420	2,976,412

NETHERLANDS BANK (12 Florins to the £).

	June 3, 1916	May 27, 1916	May 20, 1916	June 5, 1915
	£	£	£	£
Gold	45,241,122	45,002,530	44,857,143	26,826,496
Silver	495,611	373,869	192,038	219,327
Bills discounted, &c.	9,338,198	8,780,289	9,054,604	19,098,649
Note circulation	53,799,326	53,081,877	52,929,632	40,459,818
Deposits	5,116,628	4,607,177	4,350,443	4,011,410

IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	July 6, 1916.	June 29, 1916	June 21, 1916.	July 6, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Notes in reserve ..	9,191,000	8,900,000	10,760,000	7,448,100
Gold	154,100,000	154,030,000	153,830,000	157,946,000
Gold in reserve abroad	168,300,000	158,860,000	149,390,000	10,505,400
Treasury Bonds ..	373,400,000	379,520,000	384,320,000	—
Circulation note issue	653,300,000	644,310,000	641,040,000	377,000,000
Treasury deposits ..	27,680,000	20,020,000	20,920,000	24,787,100

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	July 7, 1916.	June 30, 1916.	June 23, 1916.	July 7, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Total Coin & Bullion	124,779,350	124,838,200	125,001,950	121,790,550
Treasury Notes ..	16,831,100	31,464,050	16,739,550	9,165,050
Bills discounted ..	316,339,600	330,510,600	306,241,300	244,020,500
Advances	611,650	565,500	543,700	730,900
Note circulation ..	354,430,400	362,026,600	331,707,150	280,180,750
Deposits	99,733,100	118,535,850	117,001,650	86,878,150

Clearing House returns during June, £257,755,660 against £276,664,805 in May.

BANK OF SWEDEN.

	July 1, 1916.	June 23, 1916.	June 17, 1916.	July 3, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	9,229,000	9,229,000	9,233,000	6,300,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	8,614,000	8,622,000	8,667,000	4,525,000
Swedish and Foreign Govt. Securities ..	4,334,000	4,347,000	4,369,000	2,732,000
Discounts and Loans	5,013,000	2,648,000	2,674,000	7,918,000
Notes in circulation	19,619,000	17,971,000	18,119,000	15,920,000
Deposits at notice ..	5,023,000	5,703,000	5,739,000	4,180,000

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	July 1, 1916	June 24, 1916	June 17, 1916	July 3, 1915
	£	£	£	£
Gold	41,555,333	41,278,225	41,151,058	27,595,344
Silver	30,679,359	30,680,631	30,603,528	29,685,677
Foreign Bills ..	3,854,759	3,906,197	3,977,536	4,976,171
Discounts and Short Bills	23,603,930	23,306,440	23,496,225	27,269,837
Treasury Account, &c.	31,063,177	30,940,879	31,268,356	32,670,941
Notes in Circulation ..	86,742,675	86,074,163	86,248,062	79,875,577
Current Accounts, Deposits	30,587,534	30,470,785	30,563,212	27,533,033
Dividends, Interests, &c.	2,676,395	1,310,716	1,365,627	2,411,173
Government Securities ..	1,783,319	2,753,165	2,701,068	2,392,680

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	June 10, 1916	May 31, 1916	May 20, 1916	June 10, 1915
	£	£	£	£
Total cash	45,231,720	45,573,920	45,669,520	55,228,600
Inland Bills	16,749,800	16,749,800	17,691,520	36,524,160
Foreign Bills	834,360	836,120	833,480	335,360
Advances	8,325,400	8,989,400	8,715,200	8,698,440
Government securities	8,334,360	8,345,320	7,410,480	8,305,360
Circulation	126,598,560	123,563,000	120,248,800	115,363,280
Deposits at notice ..	13,674,880	12,342,200	11,798,840	12,361,480
Current accounts ..	18,332,280	18,374,600	16,873,800	16,976,800

BANK OF NORWAY.

	June 30, 1916.	June 22, 1916.	June 15, 1916.	June 30, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	6,650,000	6,639,000	6,547,000	3,551,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	5,299,000	5,243,000	5,276,000	3,211,000
Gov't Securities ..	762,000	762,000	762,000	618,000
Discounts & Loans ..	5,519,000	5,207,000	5,212,000	4,327,000
Notes in Circulation	12,276,000	11,646,000	11,658,000	8,062,000
Deposits at notice ..	3,466,000	3,743,000	3,716,000	1,137,000

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.
Paris	obqs.	28.13½	28.14	Antwerp	short	—	—
Brussels	obqs.	—	—	Italy	slight	30.37½	30.47½
Amsterdam ..	slight	11.48	11.49	Constantinople	3 mths	—	—
Berlin	obqs.	—	—	Rio de Janeiro.	90 dys	124½d.	128½d.
Hamburg	obqs.	—	—	Buenos Aires ..	90 dys	46½d.	48½d.
Vienna	slight	—	—	Calcutta	T.T.	1/4½d.	1/4½d.
Petrograd ..	3 mths	155½	155½	Bombay	T.T.	1/4½d.	1/4½d.
New York ..	cable	4.76½	4.76½	Hong Kong ..	T.T.	2/10½d.	2/10½d.
Lisbon	slight	35½	35	Shanghai ..	T.T.	2/10½d.	2/10½d.
Madrid	slight	23.47½	23.58	Singapore ..	T.T.	2/4½d.	2/4½d.
				Yokohama ..	4 mths	2/2½d.	2/1½d.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	July 11, 1916.		July 13, 1916.	
		Buyers.	Sellers.	Buyers.	Sellers.
Amsterdam ..	Cable transfers	11.48	11.51	11.48	11.51
"	Three months' bills	11.64	11.70	11.64	11.70
Paris	Cable transfers	28.12	28.16	28.11	28.15
"	Three months' bills	28.52	28.62	28.50	28.60
Marseilles ..	Three months' bills	28.52	28.62	28.50	28.60
Switzerland ..	Cable transfers	25.15	25.25	25.15	25.25
"	Three months' bills	25.55	25.65	25.55	25.65
Petrograd ..	Cable transfers	154½	155	154½	155½
Genoa, &c. ..	Cable transfers	30.48	30.58	30.55	30.65
"	Three months' bills	30.93	31.03	31.00	31.10
Spain	Cable transfers	23.40	23.50	23.53	23.63
"	Three months' bills	48½	48½	48½	48½
Lisbon and Oporto	Cable transfers	34½	35½	34½	35½
"	Three months' bills	33½	34	nom.	nom.
Scandinavia ..	Cable transfers	16.80	17.00	16.98	17.08

* Nominal

TREASURY BILLS.

		Last week.	This week.
		Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months	.. ..	5	5½
Six months ..	.. ..	5	5½
Nine months	.. ..	5	—
Twelve months	.. ..	5	6

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

		This week	Last week.
		Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted	.. ..	4½—5	5½
Three months	.. ..	5½	5½—5½
Four months	.. ..	5½	5½—5½
Six months	.. ..	5½—5½	5½—6
Three months fine inland bills	.. ..	5½	6—6½
Four months	.. ..	5½—5½	6—6½
Six months	.. ..	5½—6	6—6½

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

		Last week	This week
		Per cent.	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	.. ..	5	6
.. .. short loan rates	.. ..	5½	6½
Bankers' rate on deposits	.. ..	5½	—
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	.. ..	4	4½
.. .. 7 and 14 days' notice	.. ..	4½	4½
Current rates for 7 day loans	.. ..	4½	5
.. .. for call loans	.. ..	3½—4½	4½—5

The Week's Stock Markets.

The danger signals with regard to the impending advance in the Bank rate were practically neglected in the Stock Exchange, which hoped up to the last it would not be necessary to take this step at present. As a matter of fact, the crisis in New York appears to have arisen very suddenly, and it took most people on this side quite unawares. In some quarters there is a disposition to criticise the action of the Bank, but in view of the possible serious effects of a 6 per cent. Bank rate on war finance, it may be taken as absolutely certain that the Bank directors would have avoided the move if they could possibly have done so prudently. The immediate effect, of course, has been a general lowering of gilt-edged securities, but fortunately not to any serious extent so far; but as the rates for Treasury bills had to be raised, as was inevitable, it seems certain that this must react unfavourably on the sale of Exchequer bonds, which from many points of view is the most advantageous form of borrowing which the Government at present possesses. If it should be necessary to issue a new fixed loan of large dimensions the present level of the Bank rate would, of course, worsen considerably the terms on which the Government would be able to raise it, but it may be hoped that this operation can be postponed for some time longer, and for the present the higher charge for temporary borrowing need not distress us seriously. Once, however, the advance in discount rates has been established, it would be folly to look for any relief in the near future, considering that the autumn demands for harvest and other purposes will be upon us almost immediately, and will have an increasing effect on the world's money markets, at least up to the end of the year. Not much need be said about business generally on the Stock Exchange. The tone as a rule has been cheerful and confident owing to the excellent progress of the war, and business has been on a fairly satisfactory scale, but there has been nothing of particular interest calling for comment.

During the week the Committee has taken counsel with a number of leading jobbers and brokers with a view to the restoration of closing prices in the Official List. Very divergent views are held on the desirability of this at the present juncture, but the balance of opinion seems to be in favour of the change, and when mechanical and other difficulties are surmounted it is expected that these prices will be given daily after the middle of next month. From many points of view it would be to the public advantage to have reliable quotations for the leading stocks which are not always supplied by a study of the markings of business done; but, on the other hand, it is pointed out that while all dealings have to be, at any rate nominally, on a cash basis, business must necessarily be largely a matter of negotiation, and jobbers are not likely to pin themselves to prices at which they may be unable to deal. At first, therefore, we may expect to see wide quotations of little practical value, but no doubt, as experience is gained, they will gradually approximate more closely to actual dealing conditions.

Although in the beginning of the week the war news caused an increasing demand for securities, the inquiry was checked later by fears that the hardening of money rates in New York would lead to a rise in the Bank rate. The realisation of those fears brought business to a standstill for the time being, and prices generally have experienced a setback. In the gilt-edged section Consols have fallen to 60½, and the War Loans are down to 89 and 96½ respectively, while Local Loans have dropped to

were lifted during the week to 43, but went back as rapidly, and closed with a loss of 1 on balance at 38. Japanese bonds were harder, the 4½ per cent. 1905 first series improving to 94½ and the second series to 92½ xd.

Home Railway ordinary stocks attracted more attention than they have done for some time, and the trend of prices was upward. Towards the end of the week, however, they reacted in sympathy with trustee stocks, and closed substantially below the best. Great Western touched 103, but fell back to 101½, while the gains in North-Western and Midland deferred were also wiped out. South-Western deferred after touching 27½ relapsed to 26½, but the ordinary was marked up 4 to 102. South-Eastern deferred fluctuated between 29½ and 29, finishing at 29½, and Chatham was a shade harder. Underground Electric income bonds were lifted to 99½, but eased again to 89½, and Metropolitan fell 1. Canadian Pacific shares went steadily downwards to 187½, but Grand Trunk stocks were generally firm, with improvements of 1 each in the first preference and guaranteed and fractional gains in the others. American Railroad shares have fluctuated within moderate limits, and for the most part show very little change. Argentine Railways improved at first, but shared in the general setback, and Buenos Aires Great Southern after rising to 88 closed at 87. Buenos Aires Western touched 90½, but fell back to 89, and Central Argentine was ½ down on balance, while Buenos Aires Pacific declined to 47 owing to fears that no dividend will be paid on the preference stocks. Mexican Railway stocks show substantial advances, but elsewhere in the Foreign Railway market there seems to have been little or no business.

Bank shares have been strong on the dividend announcements, and most of the London group show gains of ¼ to ½, while Lloyds and Union of London and Smiths rose 1 each and Parr's put on ¼. Bank of Australasia was again in demand and rose to 120, and other Australian descriptions were harder. Chartered of India was lifted to 61, and amongst South American things London and River Plate, London and Brazilian, and British of South America all improved. In the Shipping group P. and O. deferred again met with a good inquiry and improved to 337, and Cunard advanced to 88s., but Royal Mail fell 1 to 124 and Furness, Withy declined to 48s. A big demand sprang up for Marconi issues, but profit-taking rubbed off the greater part of the gains. Cities Services common does not appear to have been very much dealt in, but the price fluctuated between 390 and 340 and closed at 360. Imperial Continental Gas rose to 106, and Gas Light and Coke ordinary and South Metropolitan Gas both advanced. Brazilian Traction shares were offered, and fell to 63. Hudson's Bay shares were inclined to be easier, but British North Borneo and Pekin Syndicate were both helped by their reports. British Oil and Cake Mills receded a little after an active business, and Salt Union ordinary also gave way a little, but at the lower level support was forthcoming and they closed steady. Engineering descriptions were also quiet, but showed a tendency to improve towards the end. Welsbach shares improved to 11s. on the dividend. Catering things met with a little inquiry, and Aerated Bread improved to 3½, while Lyons touched 48. Harrods and Whiteleys came in for some attention, but Courtaulds were offered and relapsed to 6½. Textiles were good on the English Sewing Cotton figures, and that company's shares jumped to 49s., while Coats improved to 6½, and Bradford Dyers, Fine Cotton Spinners, and Calico Printers were all harder.

A fair business was done in Oil shares, but the transactions were mainly confined to the usual favourites. "Shell" at one time touched 5 17-32 xd., but fell back to 5 13-32 on the chairman's denial of the rumours that a new issue involving a bonus was pending. Royal Dutch hardened to 45½ xd., and Anglo-Egyptian "B" were a shade better. North Caucasian were lifted to 27s., but finished slightly below that figure, while Ural Caspian and Russian General both improved. Mexican Eagle ordinary and preference and Eagle Transport preference were all fractionally better. The Rubber market has been quiet, partly because of the fluctuations in the prices of the commodity, but prices after a little reaction rallied and closed at about the top. Linggi, Vallambrosa, Highlands and Lowlands and Tandjong were amongst the most prominent, but there was also a fair amount of support forthcoming for Sialang, Bukit Mertajam, Bukit Sembawang and Bukit Kajang, while Bah Lias and United Sua Betong both came in for attention.

HOME RAILWAY DIVIDENDS.

The following railway companies have intimated the dates on which their half-yearly dividends are likely to be declared:—

Date.	Company.
20th July.....	Underground Electric
21st July.....	Great Eastern
21st July.....	Midland
21st July.....	North-Eastern
25th July.....	Hull and Barnsley
26th July.....	London Brighton and South Coast
27th July.....	Great Central
27th July.....	Lancashire and Yorkshire
27th July.....	Metropolitan
27th July.....	North London
28th July.....	Great Northern
28th July.....	London and North-Western
28th July.....	London and South-Western
3rd August.....	North British
4th August.....	Great Western
6th August.....	Caledonian

	Last Week	This Week		Last Week	This Week
Consols.....	61½	60½	N.S.W. 4½% 1922-7	96	96
War Loan 3½%.....	89½	89	" 5% 1921-3	100	99½
India 3½%.....	97	96½	New Zealand 4%.....	89½	89½
" 4½%.....	63½	62	Queensland 4%.....	86	85½
Australia 5½% 1920-22	73½	71½	" 4½% new.....	97	97
Canada 4% 1940-60	87½	87	Union of S. Africa 4½%.....	94½	94½
" 4½% 1920-5	95	95½	1920-5	94½	94½
N.S.W. 4½%.....	86½	85	Victoria 4½% 1920-5	96	96
" 4½% 5 yr. b	98	98½	Westn. Aus. 4%.....	83	83½
Belgian 3%.....	63	63	French War Loan, 5%	89½	87½
Brazil, 1913.....	67½	68½	Japan 4½% (1st)	93½	94½
" New Funding.....	81½	82½	" (2nd)	93½	92½x
Chinese 1896	94½	94½	Russia 4%.....	72½	72½
" 1913	76½x	77½x	" 4½%.....	81½	83
Egypt Unified 4%.....	79½	80	" 5%.....	91	91
Brighton defd.	65½	65½	London and S.W. defd.	26½	26½
Caledonian defd.	108	108	Do. new pf.	100	100
Chatham ord.	98	98	Metropolitan	27½	26½
Gt. Central pf.	18	17½	Do. 5% New pf.	91	91
" defd.	88	88	Met. District	19½	19½
Gt. Eastern	40½	40½	Midland defd.	64½	64
Gt. Northern defd.	41½	40½	Nth. British defd.	17½	17
Gt. Western	102½	101½	Nth.-Eastern	108	107½
Lancs. and Yorks.	76½	77	Nth.-Western	109½	108½
			Sth.-Eastern defd.	29½	29½
Canadian Pacific	190½	187½	Chesapeake	66½	64½
Do. 6% Notes	108½	108½	Erie	39	37½
E. Indian Guar. 4½% debs.	92½	92½	Milwaukee	103½	101½
Grand Trunk ord.	12½	12½	N. Y. Central	110½	108½x
Do. 3rd pf.	28½	28½	Southern	25½	25½
Do. 5½% 3-yr. Notes	100	100	Southern Pacific	103½	102
Do. 5½% 5-yr.	98½	98½	Union Pacific	146½	144½
Atchafalca	130½	109½	U. S. Steel	91½	88½
Baltimore	93½	93½			
Antofagasta defd.	129	129	Cent. Argentine ord.	80½	80½
Do. 6% Notes	100½	100½	Do. 5% Notes	98	98
Brazil Common	8	7½	Do. 6%	101	101
B. A. & Pacific	47½	47	Leopoldina	39	40½
B. A. Gt. Southern	86	87	Mexican ord.	17	18
B. A. Western	89	89	San Paulo (Brazilian)	105	195½
			United of Havana	84½	85
Bank of Australasia.....	119	120	London City & Midland	8½	8½x
Barclay & Co. "A"	8½	8½	London County & West	16½	16½x
Do. "B"	11½	12½	London Joint Stock	24	23½x
Capital & Counties	24	23½x	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (100 pd)	29	28½x
Chartered of India	59½	61	Do. (12 pd)	33½	32½x
Hongkong & Shanghai	80½	80½	Parr's	32	32½x
Lloyds	25½	26½	Standard of S.A.	10½	11
London & Provincial	17½	17½x	Union & Smiths.....	25½	26½x
London & S.W.	12½	12½x			
Apollinaris ord.	12	12	Forestal Land	51½x	51½
Armstrong, Whitworth	37½	37½	Furness, Withy	50½	48½
Associated Cement	38	31½	Hudson's Bay	72	72½
Birmingham Small Arms	45½	45½	Imperial Tobacco pf. ord	22½	22½
Borax defd.	32½	32½	Do. defd. 'A'	33½	35½
Bovril	20½	21	Kynochs	33½	33½
Brazil Traction	63½	63	Lever Bros. "C" pf.	21½x	21½
British Amer. Tobacco	89	88½	Lyons, J.	4½x	4½
Brown (John), & Co.	33½x	32½	Marconi	3½x	3½x
Brunner, Mond	4½	4½	Maypole Dairy defd.	23½	24½
Cammell-Laird	6½	6½	Mond Nickel ord.	3½x	3½x
Castner-Kellner	34½	34½	National Steam Car	16½	16½
Coats	62	62	Pears, A. & F.	1½x	1½
Cunard	83½	88½	P. & O. defd.	333	337
Dennis Bros.	33½	33½	Royal Mail	125	125
Dorman, Long	31½	32½	South Durham Steel	32½	32½
Eastmans	7½	8	Underground Inc. Bds.	88½	89½
English Sewing Cotton	41½	49½	Vickers	37½	37½
Fine Cotton Spinners	28½	29½			
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	69	73	Mexican Eagle pf.	18½x	1½x
Baku (ros.)	34½	34½	North Caucasian	27½	26½
Burmah	4½	4½	Roumanian Cons.	14½	14½
Lobitos	36½	36½	Royal Dutch (100 gulden)	47½	45½
Maikop Combine (ros.)	2½	2½	Shell	58½	58½
Maikop Pipeline	3½	4	Spies (10/-)	15½	15½
Mexican Eagle	14½x	12	Ural Caspian	34½x	35½
Anglo-Java Rub. (2/-)	5½x	5½	Malayalam £1	30½x	30½
Anglo-Malay 2/-	11½	11½	Merlimau 2/-	5½	5½
Ayer Kuning £1	33½	34½	Patalang 2/-	33½x	33½
Bukit Mertajam 2/-	4½x	4½x	Port Dickson 2/-	31	31½
Bukit Sembawang 2/-	3½x	3½x	Rubber Trust &	22½	22½x
Carey United £1	35½	34½	Sapumalkande £1	22½	22½
Golconda £1	58½	60½	Selangor United 2/-	2½x	2½x
Grand Central £1	25½	25½x	Sialang £1	66½	66½
Gula Kalumpung £1	29½	29½	Singapore Para 2/-	3½x	3½x
Highlands £1	52½	52½x	Singapore United 2/-	31	31
Java Para £1	30½	28½	Sungei Buaya £1	46½	46½
Johore Rubber Lands £1	27½	27½	Taping 2/-	3½x	3½x
Langen Java £1	45½	44½	Tandjong Malim £1	25½	25½
Linggi 2/-	20½	20½	United Serdang 2/-	12½	12½x
London Asiatic 2/-	7½	7½x	United Temaling 2/-	3½x	3½x
Malacca £1	4½	4½	Vallambrosa 2/-	17½x	17½
Abbottiakoon (10/-)	7½	7½	De Beers defd. (£2 ros.) ..	11½	11½
Brakpan	4½x	4½x	East Rand	15½	15½
Broken Hill Prop. (8/-) ..	60½	59½	Gt. Boulder (2/-)	13½x	13½
Cam & Motor	14½	13½	Meyer & Charlton	6½x	6½x
Central Mining (£12)	6½x	6½x	Modder "B"	6½x	6½x
Chartered	13½x	13½x	Do. Deep	6½x	6½x
City Deep	4	4½	New Modder (£4)	17½	17½
Cons. Gold Fields	1½	1½	Rand Mines (5/-)	38½	38½
Cons. Langlaagte	1½x	1½x	Rio Tinto (£5)	61½	61½
Crown Mines (10/-)	38	3	Van Ryn Deep	38	38

63 and Irish Land stock is lower. London County Council stocks have both fallen, but the Port of London Authority 3½ per cent. loan maintained its advance of ¼ at 72. Colonial Government stocks were again rather sought after at first, but have dropped back in sympathy with other sections. Amongst Foreign Government securities the French Loan has relapsed to 87½, but Russians, although closing below the best, show substantial gains in one or two instances. Brazilian descriptions have been influenced by the Rio exchange, and although easier towards the end most of them are up on balance. Cuban Ports

LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

SUGAR.—White descriptions, still in very small supply, meet with a continued ready clearance, and no alteration was made in official quotations during the week excepting white Java and Mauritius, which were raised 1s. Canadian and American granulated, 41s. 7½d. Parcels of low brown rather hang fire. Stocks in the three chief ports of the U.K., 50,600 tons, against 87,300 last year.

COFFEE.—The spot market remained in a quiet and featureless state, actual dealings, while the situation is so dependent upon home-trade requirements, being of retail proportions. After showing firmness, the terminal section developed a quiet and easier tone. September sold, 48s. 3d. to 47s. 9d.; December, 49s. 3d., 49s. 6d., and 49s.

COCOA.—There was little or no improvement in demand at public sale for the 5,000 bags colonial and 3,140 bags foreign offered. Only a limited proportion was therefore disposed of, at irregular rates. Ceylon dearer, but in most other directions buyers claimed the advantage respecting any alteration in values. Good Trinidad sold, 82s.; Ceylon, 85s. 6d.

TEA.—Firm features governed the market this week, increased competition leading to generally dearer prices, while offerings were on a smaller scale. During the week these included 11,000 packages Indian, 21,000 packages Ceylon, and 5,000 packages Java.

SPICE quiet in most instances, and trend of values weaker with regard to pepper to arrive. Black Singapore, September-November steamer, sold, 7½d.; white ditto, 9½d.; and Muntok, 9½d. Fair Zanzibar cloves, spot, sold, 6½d. Tapioca steadily held, but quiet.

RICE quiet, and nominally unaltered, while bran and beans experienced a quiet trade.

FIBRES.—Jute steadier, with sellers more reserved, but became easier. New crop native first marks assortment, August, sold £29 to £29 10s. and £29. Returns of acreage sown in all districts shows a comparative increase against last year of about 10 per cent. Manila hemp sold slowly, receipts being on a larger scale. Coarse, August-October, sold, £48, and brown ditto £47.

SHELLAC.—Firm and fair. Second orange, on spot, sold 97s. Futures dearer. T.N., August, sold, 97s. to 99s.; October, 100s. 6d. to 101s.; December, 102s. 6d.

RUBBER commenced the week with a firmer tone, but quietness ensued later. Plantation, spot, crepe, sold, 2s. 4½d. to 2s. 3½d. and 2s. 4d.; October-December, 2s. 5½d., 2s. 4½d., and 2s. 4½d. Ribbed smoked standard sheet, spot, done 2s. 4½d. to 2s. 3½d. and 2s. 3½d. Fine hard Para, spot, sold, 2s. 8½d. to 2s. 9½d.; September-October, 2s. 7½d. Ball, July-August, sold, 1s. 10d.

COPRA.—There was again quite an absence of any tangible business, and general tone ruled irregular.

METALS.—Copper: The standard market opened with a dull tone this week, and on an entire absence of buyers rates relapsed, cash delivery closing at £85, and three months at £83. Support was accorded until the middle of the week and values moved up sharply, these positions settling down at £93 10s and £91 10s respectively. At Thursday's session cash left off at £90, and three months £89. Tin: Irregular. At the commencement of the week cash standard closed at £170, and three months at the same figure. Realisations and forward offerings continued on Tuesday, when cash settled down at £168 10s., and three months at £169. During the middle of the week a cessation of selling prevailed, cash closing at £169 10s., and three months at £170. At Thursday's session values of these dates were finally fixed at £169 15s. and £170 15s. respectively. Spelter firmer. G.O.B., July, £45 5s.; October, £43 10s. Lead steady. Soft foreign, July to October, £28 5s. to £26 15s. Quicksilver, £17 12s. 6d. to £17 15s.

CORN (Mark Lane).—Scarcity of supplies continues to make itself felt at present on spot and near, prices being carried up again this week, with sellers exercising reserve as a rule. Demand fair. Wheat: English whites, delivered up, range to 55s. and reds to 54s. 6d. per quarter, 504 lbs. Of imported grades, No. 1 Northern Manitoba, 55s. 9d. ex ship, and 56s. 9d. landed. Flour: American, first spring patents, 42s. 6d. upwards, landed. Oats, La Plata, landed, 31s., upwards. Grinding Barley: American nominal; La Plata, 41s. to 43s., ex quay. Maize: New La Plata (sound), 50s. 6d. ex ship, and old ditto, 50s. ex quay.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—The market throughout the past week has presented a quiet appearance, and buyers at the moment certainly lack enterprise. In the meantime goods are being cleared in our outlets abroad, and sooner or later a revival of demand must take place. It is worth mentioning that our shipments of yarn and cloth last month were rather larger than in June, 1914, that is to say before the outbreak of war. It is remarkable that in view of the abnormal conditions which prevail, we should be able to maintain our foreign trade on such a level. Only minor fluctuations have occurred in raw cotton rates, and there is no particular fresh news relating to future supplies. In piece goods for India rather more inquiry has come through during the last day or two, and some people have hopes of increased activity in standard makes before very long. For China occasional sales have been recorded, but there is no general flow of orders, and there is still a good deal of uncertainty as to the conditions abroad. For Egypt isolated transactions have been mentioned in sized shirtings, and cloths suitable for dyeing have also attracted moderate attention. The South American markets, on the whole, seem to be rather quieter. No buying of any importance is taking place at the present time in home trade circles. American yarns for home use have been slow of sale, and, owing to the recent slack demand, spinners con-

tinue to lose ground. Now and again sellers have been more disposed to meet buyers in price. The volume of trade in export yarns remains unimportant, and the general demand for India and the Continent is disappointing. Bolton spinnings have moved off quietly at late rates.

CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING JULY 14, 1916.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
Sugar —per cwt., duty 14½, 98% polarisation	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Wool —per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tate's Cubes No. 1	2 7 1½	2 7 1½	Australian	10s. 3 6½	8s. 3 4
Ditto, H.T.S.	2 6 7½	2 6 7½	Scoured Merino	9s. 3 1	9s. 3 1
Fine granulated	nom.	nom.	Greasy Merino	0 11 2 4	0 9 2 0½
Lyle's granulated	41 7½ 42 1½	41 7½ 42 1½	Greasy Crossbred	1 1½ 2 0	1 4½ 1 8
Foreign granulated, first marks	nom.	nom.	New Zealand (scoured) Merino	2 10 3 2½	2 7 3 2½
f.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	4 1 7½ 1 1½	1 10½
German Cubes f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Cape snow white	0 3 1½ 2 2½	2 10½
French Cube prompt	nom.	nom.	Indiarubber p. lb.		
Crystallised, West India	nom.	nom.	Plantation, Spot		
Beet, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Crepe	0 2 3½	0 2 3½
Tea —per lb., duty 1½	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Coal —per ton.		
Indian Pekoe	0 9 1 4½	0 9 0 11	Durham, best	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 9 1 5½	0 9 1 11	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Orange	0 10 1 7½	0 10 2 11	East Hartlepool	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 10 1 10½	0 10 1 11	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Pekoe Souchong	0 9 1 11½	0 9 0 10½	Steamers, best	50/	50/
Ceylon Pekoe	0 8½ 1 11½	0 9 0 11½	Seconds	45/	45/
Broken	0 9 1 10	0 9 0 11	Lead —per ton.		
Orange	0 10 1 12½	0 10 1 1	English Pig	29 5 0	29 0 0
Broken	0 10 1 13½	0 10 1 1½	Foreign soft	£ 27 28	28 5 0
Pekoe Souchong	0 9 1 10	0 9 0 10½	Quicksilver —per bottle first hand	£ 17 8 17½	£ 17 8 17½
Cocoa —per cwt., duty 6d. per lb.	s. s.	s. s.	Tin —per ton.		
Trinidad—per cwt.	83 0 87 0	80 0 85 0	English Ingots	£ 177 178	£ 177 178
Grenada	76 0 82 0	75 0 81 0	Do. bars	£ 178 179	£ 178 179
West Africa	nom.	nom.	Standard cash	£ 173 0 0	£ 169 0 0
Ceylon Plantation	76 0 90 0	77 0 92 0	Tin Plates, per box	33/0-33/6	31/6-32/0
Guayaquil Arriba	102 0 107 0	102 0 107 0	Copper —per ton.		
Offices —per cwt., duty 4½			English, Tough	nom.	nom.
East India	67 0 95 0	67 0 95 0	per ton	nom.	nom.
Jamaica	62 0 120 0	62 0 120 0	Best Selected	£ 128 124	£ 123 121
Costa Rica	62 0 85 0	62 0 85 0	Sheets	£ 150	£ 148
Provisions —			Standard	£ 91 0 0	£ 90 10 0
Butter, per cwt.	158/162/	158/160/	Jute —per ton.		
Australian finest	158/164/	156/162/	Native firsts for sb'pmt. August	£ 28 10 0	£ 29 0 0
Irish Creameries	nom.	nom.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Dutch ditto	nom.	nom.	£ 34 55	£ 34 55	£ 34 55
Russian finest	nom.	nom.	£ 48 50	£ 48 50	£ 48 50
Normandy baskets	nom.	nom.	£ 41 10	£ 41 10	£ 41 10
Danish finest	170/176/	170/174/	Cott'n Seed, crude	£ 41 10	£ 41 10
Brittany rolls	14/6-17/6	14/6-17/6	Ditto, refined	£ 44 1/2 54	£ 44 1/2 54
doz. lb.			Petroleum Oil, per 8 lbs.	1/1	1/1
Bacon —per cwt.			Water White	1/1	1/1
Irish	104 0 110 0	108 0 113 0	Oil Seeds, Linseed		
Continental	96 0 110 0	98 0 112 0	Calcutta—per 410 lbs., June-July	3 8 0	3 11 3
Canadian	84 0 100 0	86 0 102 0	Rape, Toria	60/6	60/6
American	79 0 87 0	81 0 88 0	Iron —per ton.		
Hams —per cwt.			Cleveland Cash	nom.	nom.
Irish	136/148/	134/150/	Tobacco —duty, unmanufactured		
Canadian	84 0 100 0	96/100/	5/6 to 6/2½ per lb.		
American	79 0 87 0	68 0 97 0	Maryland & Ohio		
Cheese —per cwt.			per lb. bond	0 6 0 10	0 6 0 10
Edam	92 0 94 0	81 0 86 0	Virginia leaf	0 5 1 6	0 5 1 6
Canadian	nom.	nom.	Kentucky leaf	0 6 0 10	0 6 0 10
Gouda	100 0 108 0	92 0 104 0	Latakia	0 4 1 0	0 4 1 0
English Cheddar	nom.	nom.	Havana	1 0 6 0	1 0 6 0
Wiltshire	94 0 100 0	82 0 86 0	Manila	0 6 2 0	0 6 2 0
New Zealand			Cigars, duty 10/6 per lb.	2 0	2 0
Rice —per cwt.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Timber —Wood.		
Garden Siam	17 6	17 6	Danish and		
spot	16 0	15 9	Memel Fir, per load	130/150/	130/150/
Rangoon 2 stars			Indian Teak	120/150/	200/600/
Wheat —per 120.			Flour —per sack.		
English	17 0 18 0	18 0 19 0	Town households,		
Irish	17 0 17 6	17 0 17 6	official	45/	46/
Danish	18 0 19 6	18 0 20 6	American, 1st patents	42/6 upds	43/ upds.
Copra —			Turpentine —		
Malabar, London	33 10 0	33 5 0	American Spot	2 0 0	2 1 10½
Ceylon, London	32 12 6	32 0 0	Spelter —		
South Sea	31 5 0	31 0 0	G.O.B. as to position	£ 44 11	£ 45 1/2 43½
F.M.S.	31 1 0	30 15 0			

EASTERN MORTGAGE AND AGENCY CO. (1902), LTD.—This company again suffered from defaults in interest payments and reductions in dividends on its investments, and after providing for debenture interest and other charges the operations in 1915 resulted in a loss of £4,703, or £409 more than a year ago, making the debit balance to date £16,239. Steps were taken during the year to lighten the burden of debt and otherwise improve the position. Advances on mortgage and properties in hand in the Straits were reduced by £8,508 to £4,269, and the similar securities in India by £30,428 to £49,144, and the proceeds were apparently used to pay off the bank loan of £39,000. Although the investments in London were not valued at the end of the year, the book value is £9,991 down at £219,685, but the deficit on realisations, &c., has risen by £2,586 and now stands at £87,347, a very heavy clog, and cash balances are £5,337 up at £8,823.

By-the-Way War Notes.

Provided he has no control over the purely military side of the War Office, Mr. Lloyd George is the one man of all the leading politicians marked out to succeed Lord Kitchener as Minister of War. In a remarkable degree he has been the Carnot of this war of the civilised against the barbarian. His very defects have often aided him, his impulsiveness, his incapacity to judge character sometimes, and even his ignorance of business. Nothing hindered him; he had not to pause and weigh policies, or possibilities even, as men of larger mental endowment would have done. Habits, prejudices, cross-currents of self-interest—all were disregarded by him in his determination to give the country an army and an equipment calculated to make victory certain. No man earlier or more thoroughly than Lloyd George grasped the true nature of the conflict into which we had been suddenly flung by the treacherous attack of the savage Prussians on Belgium and France, and no one was more eloquent and persuasive in rousing the country to a just comprehension of both the perils menacing it and the problem of victory to be solved. In attaining the end sought the expense might be disregarded too freely, the instruments employed might often be poor or unsuited, and the wrong man occasionally chosen for a particular bit of work; but in spite of all drawbacks, the Minister of Munitions pushed ahead and made headway with a success marvellous to see. He has had one supreme merit, too, in that he has never hesitated to discard an instrument, a subordinate, a contractor, or "specialist," who proved on trial to be unequal to the task assigned him. That resolute attitude towards incompetence is a quality almost new in the zone of officialdom, and will be as invaluable at the War Office as among the munitioners. Mr. George and Sir William Robertson ought to work together like twins in office, the one looking after the civil concerns vital to an army's welfare, and the other seeing to it that the troops are good and well led. No other testimonial to Mr. George's achievements should be required than that furnished by what our troops are now accomplishing in France. Imagine how we stood two years ago and contrast the then with the now—contrast and be profoundly thankful.

Nay, we need not go back so far. The battle of Loos was a bootless victory, because it was fought before the Minister of Munitions had made our Army ready to go on as it had begun. In great part, therefore, Loos was a battle wasted, and thousands of mourners throughout the land know what that means. Millions of taxpayers will by and by also know better than they do now. But now, while there is no barren, if spectacularly brilliant, victory to be chronicled every day, there is no going back, no pause even. Ere the Franco-British offensive was begun we told readers of its imminence, and bade them have patience. Too many among us continue to hunger for a sequence of sensational events. We want a fort, or a network of trenches, or a village or wood, to be stormed every day, with great heaps of the enemy slain and immense captures of men and stores. And always we ought to be advancing, with the enemy scudding before us like frightened hares at the sound of the gun. We should be afraid of the finale were that the way the Allies now made war. But our generals have learnt the lessons of the past two years marvellous well, and know how to prepare the ground before launching attacks, as well as how to provoke the enemy to waste his strength in profitless assaults. Probably enough, by a regardless sacrifice of men, Sir Douglas Haig could have kept the Prussians out of Trones Wood at their sixth assault as at the earlier ones, but it was not worth while. German "successes" can never be more than transitory now. On all fronts they are being consumed, and if our advances provoke them to pour out German blood in torrents in order to force us back a few yards here and there, so much the better. Every such effort brings nearer the hour when the troops of the God-forsaken Empires will neither have

the power nor the will to face us. When their manhood and their means are exhausted, then their rulers can be put aside, and the way made ready for our peace. The Prussian overlordship of Germany has to be destroyed, and the races and nationalities ground down for so long by Hohenzollern and Habsburg alike given both their liberty and new masters.

Mr. Francis Gribble is, we note, confident that the ravages of hunger are becoming great in Germany, and he knows better than we do how to weigh the symptoms. Possibly he is, like us, over-hopeful, but the main characteristics now known of the domestic state of Germany support his view. We held that view long ago—too early, as usual—and have always urged, "starve them, it is the humane way to peace," and it is coming true at last. If this year's harvest within the perishing empires should be poor, as it promises to be, the condition of between 60 and 70 millions of human beings within their borders next winter will be likely to horrify mankind. We must not be cheap then with our pity, or sudden in changing our attitude towards the offenders. Hunger must be used with remorseless sternness in forcing the German peoples to discard their delusions and emerge from their fools' paradise of a world dominion to be secured by rapine. We see it stated that holders of stolen Belgian, French, Polish, Serbian, Russian and other property in Germany are trying to raise money by putting it up to "rummage sale," so to say. No neutral country ought to be tempted to buy, and the Press of the Allied States ought to warn the thieves in good time that restitution will be demanded, and must be made, not only before a word is spoken about peace, but before any food is permitted to enter the empires, even if they should be suing for peace, no matter how great the hunger therein. Not only by wearing them down on the fields of battle, but by starvation and vigour in demanding the return of stolen goods, the German peoples must be taught that the occupation of highway robber, equally with that of sneak thief, is mean, contemptible, and punishable. In this way their moral sense may be awakened and cultivated for their good and our future safety. If Germany really is as short of food as the reports allowed to come from the country lead us to infer, then the hour is not far off when terribleness will give place to whining, "mercy, *Kamarad*" will be heard among the politicians and functionaries with a rising insistence as great as in the field. To all the grovelling we can give no heed whatever, so long as men in Bethmann-Hollweg's position go on talking of sticking to territories overrun and plundered, or while representative bodies like the German Colonial Society continue to put forward programmes of "Colonial expansion" for the Fatherland as bombastic, nay insolent, as any elaborated before the Prussian Chief of Staff said: "Now is the time to surprise our beguiled neighbours, strike hard and steal without stint." That day of world lust will never come again.

A Danish correspondent who has given the *Times* valuable comments and notes before now on German internal affairs tells us this week that the subjects of the Kaiser regard the "big push" of the Franco-British Armies in the West as "John Bull's last kick," so deep is their ignorance. We would pity the dupes were they less inhuman, for the survivals of a bygone age who surround the throne and who forced on the war keep them in that ignorance. One has but to contrast the German bulletins with the French and British or Russian to understand how systematic and methodical are the Prussian habits in lying. Sir Douglas Haig's modest review of the progress made by our troops, published on Wednesday, told of the capture of the enemy's first system of defence along a front of 14,000 yards after 10 days' continuous fighting, and most strenuous fighting, too. In this brief time the "numerous and continuous lines of fire trenches, support trenches, and reserve trenches, extending to various depths of from 2,000 to 4,000 yards, and including five strongly fortified villages, numerous heavily wired and entrenched woods, and a large

number of immensely strong redoubts" were stormed, and "the whole of them are now in our hands." Let those who grumble still at our slowness try to conceive what this tremendous struggle meant, and what our success means. Let doubters also contrast the indisputable facts with the German falsehoods and fragments of truth shaped to serve the purpose of the Army chiefs even better than falsehoods.

The solid truth is that the Allies are now making satisfactory headway, not only in France, but on all fronts. Long ago this journal said "the Germans are beaten," and our eagerness to hail the end of a world-convulsing scourge only made us foreshorten the coming certainty. Had they but known it, the Germans were defeated—baffled for ever of their ambition—at the end of the weeks' long battle of the Marne, and every check or defeat they have since experienced has only rendered the final doom of the barbarians the more inevitable. Long had we to wait while we got ready for the "big push," *but we held the foe, in spite of his wealth in human gun-fodder and in slaughter appliances, until we were ready.*

And now we behold the beginning of the end, of the ruin of oppressor Empire systems and the destruction of thrones and dominions, deadly foes to human freedom. All along the front in the West the Germans are now firmly held in our grip, and being worn down. No longer can the General Staff in Berlin hurl troops hither and thither to support the defenders at danger-points or to, if possible, ensure success in cunningly planned assaults, as at Verdun. Neither Germany nor Austria possesses any longer troops in sufficient number for their increasing necessities. East and West and South the tyrant Empires have created a position for themselves which ensures their destruction, and we have only to persevere, to "peg away," to behold their fabrics of oppression and false-seeming founder before our eyes. It is "on without hurry and on without stop" to the goal.

For some time yet, however, the enemy, most likely, will put up a desperate fight. He can do no otherwise, because defeat means, for him, utter and irretrievable ruin. Did the German peoples possess the sovereignty of their own minds we might expect them, now that they are hungry, to turn on their heartless enslavers and throw off the tyranny. But Germans are the Paraguayans of Europe, as we have often said, and not even the imminence of starvation will rouse them to rebel. They may riot and shout and splutter hot words—but they will cower below the lash to the end. Therefore, the manhood of the race must perish, and the Allies can do nothing now except go on with the slaughter, taking pains to make it increasingly thorough upon the enemy and of diminishing importance upon their own brave troops. Will it take long, then, this butchery? Perhaps at its maximum intensity another two or even three months, with a year of dismemberment toil to follow. Austria seems likely to be beaten to the dust very soon now, but her destruction will not end the war, though it may hasten the collapse of the Germans. Even now the brunt of the fighting falls on the German, Prussian moulded, troops, and they fight well, too, much better than we could have believed possible, looking at their nature and training. But the better they fight on all fronts the sooner their exhaustion, because nowhere is victory now possible for the Kaiser, for either Kaiser, and the masterly tactics of the Russian commanders in Poland seem likely to render the very strenuousness of the German assaults up in the north their undoing. While they are trying to hold in General Kuropatkin and to keep the right wing of General Brousiloff's hosts out of Kovel all the passes over the Carpathians may be sealed up, and the Russians closing in on the German lines of retreat.

No matter what the combined strategic plans may be, of this be sure—we have only to go on as we have begun to be certain of securing a peace that shall be our very own and the world's; the peace that will give the Belgians back their country, France her invaded, and, also her lost, provinces, Italy her true frontier, the Serbians their kingdom, and more, Russia

the Bosphorus and Constantinople, Greece, perhaps, some of the lands now overrun by the Bulgarians, and liberty to all the oppressed and suppressed nationalities that have so long existed under the stifling oppression of the Austrian and Prussian tyrannies. And after the settlement of Europe will come that of Asia Minor, of Syria and Arabia—but the first task is to deliver Europe from the three enslaving Empires—Austrian, Prussian, Turkish. Ah! the undertaking is arduous—and also the noblest mankind ever entered upon. Well may we have courage and go forward without pause to the reward for our sacrifices.

American Business Notes.

Something like consternation was created on this side when the market suddenly woke up to the fact that money had become extremely stringent in New York. Purely local and temporary conditions may have had some influence on this development, but there need be no mystery about the fundamental causes which have been at work. Trade in the United States has been enormously active, not only in supplying munitions of all sorts, but in taking the place of a hundred and one articles usually furnished by Europe, the production of which has been suspended, or at best restricted, owing to the war. It is a common Wall Street saying with regard to finance that "trade will be served first," and consequently that it is impossible to run a Stock Exchange boom concurrently with a boom in trade. Occasionally the New York magnates have tried it, and have succeeded to a certain extent for a time, but invariably they have to give way if trade continues active. As a matter of fact, until recently Wall Street was trying to make a firework display alongside of the biggest trade America has ever handled, and it doubtless used up a good deal of credit in the process. However, that was merely a "side show," and the main point is that the expansion in commerce must inevitably have strained the monetary situation pretty considerably, even although there were only faint signs of it coming to the surface of late in the bank returns. Under normal conditions a boom of the recent dimensions would have taxed the resources of the banks to the utmost, but it must not be forgotten that instead of being paid for by cheque or the ordinary three months' bill, a great deal of the goods manufactured and sold have been paid for by Treasury bills of different Governments having one or two years to run. Then there was the Anglo-French loan of £100,000,000, followed by a Russian loan of £10,000,000 and a purely French loan of £20,000,000, while both Argentina and China are endeavouring to make substantial issues. And on top of all comes the British Government commandeering American dollar securities held here to be sold or pawned in New York, in order to regulate the exchange. It does not require a wizard to see what effect these various influences must have on a market like New York, with its faulty banking system and inexperience of high finance. But it will be a fine opportunity for the Federal Reserve Banks to show their mettle, and we shall watch the result with considerable interest.

Particulars are now furnished of the loan for \$50,000,000 which the Russian Government, after several months of negotiations, has been able to arrange with a syndicate comprising J. P. Morgan and Co., the National City Bank, the Guarantee Trust Co., Lee, Higginson and Co., and Kidder, Peabody and Co. The loan is for a maximum period of three years, and bears interest at 6½ per cent. from the dates when drawn upon. All the money must, of course, be spent in the United States. The Russian Government undertakes to pay into the Russian State Bank to the credit of the syndicate a sum of Rs. 150,000,000, which the syndicate may draw upon at any time without notice for the purpose of diminishing the dollar debt, the basis being \$1 for Rs. 3, or equivalent to an exchange rate of 33½ c. per rouble, which compares with the current rate of 30-31 c. If the syndicate makes a profit by selling drafts on their Russian credit, such profit must be divided with the Russian Government. The latter

has also given the syndicate an option to purchase five-year $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. State bonds at $94\frac{1}{4}$, less a commission of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., so that the nett price would be $90\frac{1}{4}$. It is expensive borrowing, but needs must when the devil drives.

Insurance News.

Fire underwriters had a very favourable experience during the first half of the current year, the losses in June being only about £168,000, whereas for the corresponding month last year the total was nearly half-a-million, the comparatively light loss ratio last month being attributed partly to the wet weather. The total estimated cost of the principal fires during the first six months of the present year amounts to £1,459,000—a decline of £608,000 as compared with the first half of 1915. Losses in January and April of this year exceeded those in the corresponding months of last year, but the losses during the other four months were substantially lighter.

A new monthly premium prospectus has been issued by the Britannic Assurance Co., and came into force on Monday. Monthly premiums form a convenient half-way stage between industrial assurance on a weekly payment basis and ordinary life business. Medical examination is necessary where the sum assured is over £25. After five years' premiums have been paid policies acquire a cash surrender value. The company quotes rates for endowment assurances for periods of from 10 to 30 years.

The results of the quinquennial valuation of the Life Association of Scotland as at April 5 show that, notwithstanding the disturbing effects of the war, the total new assurances completed in the period were considerably larger than in the preceding five years, while the mortality experience was slightly more favourable, and the nett rate of interest earned was 3s. per cent. higher. The directors, however, have deemed it prudent out of the profits to write off for depreciation in investments the large sum of £407,000, and, after deducting intermediate bonus additions, &c., there remains a nett balance of £109,481. In order to conserve the funds, it has been decided to postpone any consideration of bonus distribution for the five years to April last until the end of another quinquennium—that is, until April 5, 1921. By that time prices will, it is hoped, have had full time to adjust themselves to the altered conditions, and once more to form the basis of reliable estimates for the future. The directors have resolved to declare interim bonuses to all participating policies becoming claims in classes A3 and B before April 6, 1921, and December 6, 1920, respectively. In view of the abnormal conditions, the directors have decided to restrict the ordinary dividend to £1 a share, but with the balance in hand there is sufficient to provide an additional 1s. a share for each of the next five years. For the previous year the distribution was 23s. 6d. a share.

As was generally anticipated, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has come to an agreement with the life insurance companies with reference to deductions from income-tax for payments in respect of premiums. It is proposed that in no case should the relief which was given be more than 3s. in the pound, this deduction being allowed in respect of all life insurance policies, but not in respect of policies which became operative only after the expiration of a certain period; that is a policy in which there is no death clause, but which is purely for endowment. Super-tax for the purpose of deduction from premiums is to be treated as income-tax. All the "freak" insurances have made their appeal mainly to the wealthy man who could claim abatement at the rate of 8s. 6d. in the pound.

The only point on which an agreement was not reached was whether the new clause embodying the agreement which would have to be introduced into the Finance Bill should apply to existing contracts or not. On that point the Chancellor is prepared to keep an open mind, although it is difficult to see why the new scheme should be made applicable to old policies as well as new.

The Week in Mines.

The dominant incident in the Mining markets this week has been the increased activity and buoyancy of Russian shares, in which an appreciable advance has been established, in spite of profit-taking effected about the middle of the week. The South African market has been fairly active, but rather irregular, with a reactionary tendency in diamond and Rhodesian shares. Base metal shares have weakened generally, owing to a further fall in the price of all the metals, but Burma Corporations have formed a notable exception to this rule, the shares receiving fresh support on the statements made at the meeting.

SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

In the South African market the Modder group met with support, New Modders rising $\frac{1}{8}$ to 17 $\frac{1}{2}$, Modder Deeps $\frac{1}{8}$ to 6 $\frac{1}{2}$, and Modder B's 1-32 to 6 27-32. Nourse Mines have risen $\frac{1}{8}$ to 1 $\frac{1}{8}$, Witwatersrand Deeps $\frac{1}{8}$ to 1 $\frac{1}{8}$, and Knight Centrals 9d. to 12s. 9d. Central Minings at 6 $\frac{1}{2}$, Rand Mines at 3 23-32, City and Suburbans at 2, Modder Areas at 1 $\frac{1}{4}$, Village Deeps at 1 $\frac{1}{8}$, and Robinsons at 22s. have also been in some request at a higher level. Cinderellas have attracted some attention at 6s. 6d. on the full report of the meeting, in which Mr. G. A. Denny declares that the raising of £330,000, which will be necessary to carry out a two years' programme of development work before restarting crushing, is abundantly justified when market conditions are propitious. The Consolidated Mines Selection group has been easier, with Brakpans 3-32 lower at 4 $\frac{1}{8}$. In the Rhodesian department, Tanganyikas relapsed $\frac{1}{8}$ to 2 17-32, Falcons 1s. to 15s., Cam and Motors 9d. to 13s. 9d., and Chartered 6d. to 13s. 6d. Diamond shares have been subjected to profit-taking, De Beers deferreds falling $\frac{1}{8}$ to 11 $\frac{1}{8}$, and the preferreds $\frac{1}{8}$ to 15 $\frac{1}{8}$. Of the West Africans, Presteas have relapsed 1s. to 9s. 6d., owing to the report failing to fulfil expectations, but Taquahs have risen 9d. to 20s.

COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Copper shares are mostly lower, owing to a further fall in the price of the metal, which is down to £93 $\frac{1}{4}$ per ton. Anacondas have declined $\frac{1}{8}$ to 17, Utahs $\frac{1}{8}$ to 15 $\frac{1}{8}$, Hampdens 2s. 3d. to 36s. 6d., Mount Morgans $\frac{1}{8}$ to 1 $\frac{1}{8}$, and Rio Tintos $\frac{1}{8}$ to 61. Tin has fallen $\frac{1}{8}$ to £169 $\frac{1}{8}$, and the shares have been generally on the dull side. East Pools, however, have been bought on a good development report, and are $\frac{1}{8}$ to the good at 1 $\frac{1}{8}$, while Tronohs have improved to 1 $\frac{1}{8}$. The Broken Hill group has been quiet, with Proprietarys at 59s. 6d. and South Silvers at 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ lower on the week. West Australian shares have shown a better tendency, with rises of $\frac{1}{8}$ in Golden Horseshoe at 1 $\frac{1}{8}$, Ivanhoes at 2 $\frac{1}{8}$, and Kalgurli at $\frac{1}{8}$.

There has been heavy buying of Russian shares, and prices have been quick to respond to the demand. Profit-taking ensued, but material rises are recorded on balance. Irtysys have risen 3s. 9d. to 47s. 6d., Kyshtims 1-32 to 2 15-32, Orsk Prioritys 3-32 to 1 $\frac{1}{8}$, Russian Minings 7-32 to 1 3-32, Russo-Asiatics $\frac{1}{8}$ to 6, and Tanalyks $\frac{1}{8}$ to 23 $\frac{1}{8}$. Nechi prefs. have risen 9d. to 15s. 6d., on the maiden dividend, and Oroville are 1s. to the good at 18s. 6d. Tomboys have risen 1s. to 23s. 6d. Mexican shares have been in good request, notably Esperanzas, which have advanced 2s. 3d. to 13s. 3d., which is only 6d. below the pre-war making-up level. Eastern Pioneers have spurted 1s. 3d. to 7s., and Waihis are 1s. up at 38s. Burma Corporation shares rose 9-32 to 3 11-32, partly on Mr. Theodore Hoover's encouraging statement regarding the technical features of the mines.

MINING NEWS.

AMALGAMATED PROPERTIES OF RHODESIA.—The report for 1915 states that the mining claims in Rhodesia amount to 518, a large number having been abandoned during the year in pursuance of the policy of only retaining claims that may prove profitable. Efforts to sell the 1,181 very deep level claims in the Transvaal have been unsuccessful, and as their retention would entail a heavy cash outlay each year it was wisely decided to abandon them. The directors anticipate that full compensation will hereafter be found in the company's interest in the farm "Maraisdrift" on the Eastern Rand, on which boring operations are to be undertaken. The quoted share assets stand in the books at £174,391; the market value showed a depreciation at December 31 of over £76,000, but since then about one-third of the loss has been recovered, the value on June 24 being £124,284. At December 31 there was a cash surplus of £21,000. In connection with the abandonment of properties the account under this heading has been written down by £60,000. Shareholders, of course, are greatly interested in the litigation over the John Bull claims, which is now drawing to a close.

HENDERSON'S TRANSVAAL ESTATES.—For the year ended March 31 this company made a nett profit of £33,363, as compared with £25,317 in 1914-15. A maiden dividend of 5 per cent., less tax, is recommended, leaving £50,911, against £49,332, to be carried forward. The sum of £10,000 set aside last year has been placed to reserve. The company's various interests are doing fairly well, except that the demand for land has fallen off; and it should derive a good profit from its participation in the refinancing of the Daggafontein Gold Mining Co.

MOUNT LYELL.—The full report of this company for the half-year ended March 31, the chief financial points of which have previously been dealt with, states that in view of the larger requirements of power in the future, especially in the event of

the company exercising its option on the West Coast Mines, an inquiry was made as to local sources of supply. This showed that sufficient power could not be assured. To avoid capital expenditure, and to protect probable requirements, negotiations were entered into with the Tasmanian Government Hydro-Electric Department, which has agreed to supply 50,000 horse-power at a reasonable cost. The Department, we may add, has also made arrangements to supply a large quantity of cheap power in connection with the scheme for treating 40 per cent. of the zinc concentrates produced in Australia.

TRANSVAAL GOLD OUTPUT.—The production last month was £3,235,767, an increase of £27,543 on June last year. The following table shows the monthly production since January, 1911:—

Month.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
January ..	2,765,386	3,130,830	3,353,116	2,708,470	3,037,058	3,344,948
February ..	2,594,634	2,989,832	3,118,325	2,660,186	2,872,406	3,201,063
March	2,871,740	3,528,688	3,358,050	2,917,346	3,202,514	3,384,121
April	2,836,267	3,133,383	3,334,358	2,904,924	3,160,651	3,205,643
May	2,913,734	3,311,794	3,373,998	3,059,340	3,243,347	3,303,377
June	2,907,854	3,202,517	3,173,382	3,049,558	3,208,224	3,235,767
July	3,012,738	3,255,198	2,783,917	3,111,398	3,272,258	—
August	3,030,360	3,248,195	2,992,754	3,024,037	3,307,975	—
September ..	2,976,065	3,176,846	2,999,686	2,982,630	3,299,423	—
October ..	3,010,130	3,265,150	3,051,701	3,116,754	3,388,122	—
November ..	3,057,213	3,216,965	2,860,788	3,040,677	3,317,534	—
December ..	3,015,499	3,297,962	2,857,938	2,952,755	3,317,949	—
Total ..	34,991,620	38,757,560	37,358,040	35,588,075	38,627,461	19,674,919

NATIVE LABOUR RETURNS.—The native labour figures show a loss of 1,262 against 4,666 in May, the decrease at the gold mines being 1,956 as compared with 5,171. But at the diamond mines there was a further increase of 646:—

Month.	Natives on Gold mines.	Natives on Coal mines.	Natives on Diamond mines.	Total natives.
June, 1915	184,155	9,019	—	193,174
July	190,026	9,371	—	199,397
August	196,866	9,943	—	206,809
September	204,833	9,743	—	214,576
October	210,017	9,513	—	219,530
November	210,068	9,432	—	219,500
December	209,438	9,309	132	218,879
January, 1916	209,835	9,228	802	219,865
February	209,426	9,468	970	219,864
March	203,575	9,588	917	214,080
April	199,936	9,827	938	210,701
May	194,765	9,811	1,459	206,035
June	192,809	9,859	2,105	204,773

SOUTH KALGURLI CONSOLIDATED.—A further improvement is recorded in the results of this company for the past year. The total receipts rose from £137,682 to £147,833, while the nett profit was £6,701 larger at £16,335. The dividend is again raised, from 9d. per share to 1s. per share, leaving £4,541 to be carried forward as against £706 brought in.

NORTH KALGURLI.—The report for 1915 states that 4,117 tons were extracted by tributaries, realising £7,931, which with sundry revenue makes a total of £8,519. Working expenses, however, amounted to £9,257, and the resultant balance is a debit of £775. Deducting the credit brought in, a nett deficit of £226 is carried forward.

ROPP TIN.—This company did materially better last year. Its profits rose from £9,352 to £13,947. It is again proposed to pay a dividend of 1s. per share (25 per cent.), tax free, leaving £9,490 against £6,792 to be carried forward. The output for the year was 394 tons, and for the first five months of this year 182 tons. The railway rate on concentrates has now been reduced to a flat level of £11 a ton. Reserves of ore are estimated at 12,574 tons of 70 per cent. tin concentrates.

VENTURE TRUST.—The report for the year ended June 30 is rather interesting. It states that there has been a substantial recovery in the value of the Trust's investments. Contingent liabilities have been reduced by £11,331 to £2,699, but fresh liabilities have been incurred amounting to £6,000 in connection with new business. A small profit has been made on share transactions. After prolonged negotiations, and under expert advice, the Trust has formed the British Electrolytic Zinc Co. (Isherwood Process), Ltd., with a share capital of £62,500 and a debenture issue of £25,000. This process has been tried in the United States and gave good results, electrolytic zinc of high purity being produced at a cost that compares favourably with fire smelting. Premises have been secured at Widnes, Lancashire, and the works should be producing zinc in a few weeks. The Trust has subscribed for £12,000 of 7 per cent. debentures, and will receive 30 per cent. of the issued share capital.

APOLLINARIS AND JOHANNIS, LTD.—This company's property being in an enemy country, the directors can do nothing but repeat for the year ended March 31 the statement made for the preceding 12 months:—"Owing to the war, they are prevented from submitting the usual statement of accounts," and in these circumstances no dividend can be paid on the preference or ordinary shares, but the debenture interest, amounting to £34,000, was paid when due. The auditors also repeat their certificate, stating that "owing to the war and the dislocation of business and means of communication caused thereby the company is not in a position to draw up a balance-sheet which would exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the affairs as at March 31."

Tea, Oil and Rubber.

Considerable fluctuations have occurred in the raw rubber market this week, and after recovering to 2s. 4½d., the price of standard crepe has fallen back to 2s. 3½d. Forward deliveries up to the end of the year were done as high as 2s. 5½d., but we do not suppose that a great deal of business was done on these terms—at any rate, by actual consumers. According to the Board of Trade returns, the imports of rubber for June amounted to only 118,385 centals, against 138,200 centals in the corresponding month last year, and we re-exported 103,117 centals. In the first half of the year we imported 861,560 centals and retained for home consumption 263,850 centals, but in considering these figures it may be well to recollect that, owing to shipping and other difficulties, an increasing amount of rubber is being sent direct from the producing countries to American, Russian, and other consumers without coming here. Anyhow, the position does not encourage extravagantly bullish views, unless one could be persuaded that there is going to be a boom after the war. In the circumstances, the share market keeps its end up wonderfully well, and prices remain remarkably steady, notwithstanding the slackening off in business. There has been nothing particularly to stimulate buying, but holders are very doggedly sticking to their shares, and sellers are nearly as scarce as buyers.

Shareholders in the Port Dickson-Lukut (F.M.S.) Rubber Estates are no doubt very glad that the proposed arrangement with the Linggi Plantations was abandoned, as the past year proved an exceedingly good one. Owing to the employment of Chinese tappers on the contract system, certain alterations in the methods of tapping, and exceptionally favourable weather conditions, the output for the 12 months ended March 31 exceeded the estimate by 32,000 lbs., and was 119,579 lbs. larger than the crop of the previous year. The "all-in" cost was not reduced to the extent anticipated, but it was 2.88d. down at 1s. 4.20d., while the price rose by 7.37d. to 2s. 9.14d. The increase of 10.25d. in the profit per lb. meant a gain of £17,876 at £23,948 in the nett profits, and with £6,072 more at £12,571 brought forward, the total available is £23,948 larger at £36,519. Of this £15,000 is transferred to reserve to meet capital requirements, and the company returns to the dividend-paying list after an absence of two years with a distribution of 10 per cent., leaving £4,109, or £8,468 less, to be carried forward. Expenditure on the immature area during the year amounted to £10,129, making the cost of the property to date £174,177. Last year's crop was obtained from an average of 974 acres, but in the current year 1,273 acres will be in tapping, and the output is estimated at 490,000 lbs. at an "all-in" cost of 1s. 2½d.

The Kinta Kellas Rubber Estates is gradually increasing its area in bearing, and in the year ended March 31 brought in some 392 acres. An output of 312,357 lbs., or 121,957 lbs. more, was obtained, and the gross average price realised improved by 8.98d. to 2s. 10.53d. On Division I. the f.o.b. costs were reduced by .77d. to 10.28d., but on Division II., where 530 acres were brought into partial bearing for the first time, the costs were heavy at 1s. 9.38d., and with an increase of .96d. due to the abnormal costs of freight and insurance, the "all-in" cost worked out at 1s. 2.81d., as compared with 1s. 0.63d. in the previous 12 months. There is, however, nothing to grumble at in this increase, which was entirely due to exceptional circumstances. Nett profits, including £3,162, or £1,848 less, brought in, were £12,562 higher at £26,078, and the dividend is increased from 7 per cent. to 12½ per cent. Of the balance £9,000, as against nothing, is transferred to capital reserve to cover expenditure on non-producing areas and to replace swamp area, and the balance carried forward is £300 up at £3,463. The local agents submit the most detailed report of any yet seen, giving not only the number of trees in tapping and the yield of the trees, but even the yield per coolie employed. Capital expenditure amounted to £7,731, making a total of £136,908, and

it is anticipated that in the current year £5,565 will be spent on Division I. and £3,696 on Division II. The crop for the current year is estimated at 445,000 lbs., or an increase of about 4½ per cent., but as 111,692 lbs. were obtained in the first three months, it seems probable that this figure will be largely exceeded.

In its year ended March 31 the Padang Jawa Rubber Estate obtained a crop of 165,930 lbs., or 30,303 lbs. over the estimate, and 45,578 lbs. more than the previous output. The nett price was 6.43d. better at 2s. 7.36d., and the profits, after providing for depreciation, showed an improvement of £8,464 at £16,763. Of this £4,000 is transferred to reserve, and the dividend is raised from 7 per cent. to 15, leaving £5,057 to be carried forward, as against £2,044 brought in. The outlay on development and maintenance on the unproductive portion of the estate was only £1,490, making a total of £68,955, against which the reserve will now stand at £12,000. For the current year a crop of 210,000 lbs. is expected, of which 47,272 lbs. were obtained in the first three months.

The accounts of the Soconusco Rubber Plantations for the year ended June 30, 1915, were again delayed by the difficulty in obtaining the necessary information from Mexico, and have only just been issued. As is well known, matters have not improved in that country, and the company was only able to produce 21,600 lbs. of rubber, or 20,085 lbs. less than in the previous 12 months. The average nett price was 3½d. better at 1s. 8½d., and the cost of production was reduced by £1,055 to £532, while administration charges were £386 lower at £1,233, and as the nett proceeds of the rubber were £1,825, there was actually a small margin on the working. Owing, however, to the fall in the value of the Mexican dollar, which was taken at rates varying from 1s. 3d. to 3d., giving an average of 8.32d., there was a decrease of £1,177 in the value of the assets, and after providing for all charges, the loss for the year was £2,895, increasing the debit balance to £14,016. During the past 12 months the exchange has fallen as low as 18d. per Mexican dollar, so that the outlook is far from encouraging. The directors say that the prolonged rest cannot fail to have been advantageous to the trees, the yield of which may be expected to increase considerably when it becomes possible to tap them, but they refrain from offering any opinion as to when that happy time may be expected. In November last the balance of the authorised issue of debenture stock, £5,000, was offered for subscription, and £2,220 was subscribed, out of which all liabilities, other than current accounts, were liquidated.

In the year ended December 31 the world went very well with the Assam Oil Co., so well that the directors can only say as regards the refinery that "there is nothing of interest to report." The supply of crude oil was maintained and development work in the new areas pushed on, while a good deal of exploratory work has also been undertaken, resulting in the discovery of further satisfactory indications of oil-bearing territory. Prices of kerosine were maintained in all the markets served by the company, and values of some of the other products advanced, with the result that nett profits rose by £8,969 to £49,950. Adding £4,813 brought in, the total available is £10,293 up at £54,763, out of which £22,000 is transferred to depreciation account as against £12,000 to that fund and £5,857 written off for balance of preference issue expenses a year ago. The dividend on the ordinary shares is maintained at 1s. per share, and £10,963, or £6,150 more, is carried forward, including provision for excess profits duty if any should be payable. Expenditure on development amounted to £15,319, but after deducting the depreciation allowance, property account is reduced by £6,681 to £375,948.

BIDOR RUBBER ESTATE.—With favourable weather conditions a crop of 361,500 lbs. was obtained in the year ended March 31, as against an estimate of 331,000 lbs., and an output of 267,500 lbs. in the previous 12 months. The price was 6.39d. better at 2s. 9.19d., and the "all-in" cost was reduced by .54d. to 1s. 1.83d., with the result that nett profits rose by £14,251 to £29,712. Adding £4,175 brought forward, the divisible total

is £14,700 up at £33,887, out of which the dividend is doubled at 50 per cent., and £2,184 is written off development account, leaving £6,703, or £1,755 more, to be carried forward.

KERALA RUBBER.—The crop for the year ended December 31 showed an increase of 71,450 lbs. at 162,292 lbs., and the gross price was 3.91d. better at 2s. 6.18d., with the result that the nett profits rose by £6,253 to £9,921. Out of this a maiden dividend of 12 per cent. is paid and £508 is transferred to reserve, compared with £767 written off preliminary expenses, leaving £3,892 more at £6,793 to be carried forward. The war temporarily put an end to the directors' proposals with regard to tea, but they now say that the fine growth of the experimental plots makes it desirable that this matter should be taken in hand as soon as circumstances permit.

PANORA TEA AND PRODUCE.—Owing to unfavourable weather conditions this company failed to realise its estimates in the year ended March 31, and the tea crop was only 21,489 lbs. larger at 534,633 lbs., while both coffee and pepper showed a falling off. The tea realised 7.55d. nett and cost 5.21d. Receipts from all sources were £1,082 down at £17,618, against which expenditure in India rose by £976, and although the provision for depreciation and allowances in reduction of preliminary expenses and labour advances were all smaller, the nett balance was £1,483 lower at £2,896. The dividend is reduced from 6 per cent. to 4 per cent., less tax, which leaves £2,658 to be carried forward, or £298 more than was brought in. Crops for the current year are estimated at £596,550 lbs. tea and 12 tons of pepper.

DOOLOOGRAM TEA.—One of this company's estates suffered from excessive flooding in the early part of 1915 from which it never recovered, and the total crop for the year was only 40,180 lbs. up at 1,200,924 lbs. The price realised, however, was .63d. better at 10.06d., and profits, including £1,364 more at £4,042 brought forward, showed an improvement of £4,647 at £22,525. After providing for income-tax, managers' commission, and a small sum of £101 for excess profits duty, 1914, the available surplus is £3,700 better at £19,419, out of which the dividend is increased from 20 per cent. to 22½, and £7,053, or £3,010 more, is carried forward subject to excess profits duty for 1915. The yield for the current season is estimated at 15,700 maunds at a cost of £31,000.

Answers to Correspondents.

*** * A Key to these Answers will be posted early each week for a subscription of ONE GUINEA per annum, 11s. for six months, or 5s. 9d. for three months.**

Deposits against future queries may be lodged with the Publisher.

Forfar.—We think they are likely to continue to pay a good return, but you can only look for appreciation on increase in dividend. At present this company must be doing remarkably well, and we see no objection to a purchase.

Male.—A rise seems very likely, as this company must have done well. If you buy, you should be prepared not to hold long, as the company is rather heavily capitalised, and this stock will, therefore, be rather sensitive.

F. W. B.—Yes, the charge is quite correct. The stamps are payable to the Government, and the commission is on the official minimum scale.

H. E. H.—The security is quite a good one, and you might lend if you do not wish to realise.

Pedar.—Quite good, as the preference are "participating."

W. W.—If you can pick up a few at about the last quotation, the purchase ought to pay you in the long run. Adverse conditions have affected the company, but these should pass away in time.

H. E. P.—We fear the outlook for shareholders is rather hopeless, and there is nothing you can do that would be of any use. The shares are practically valueless, and we doubt if the assets will satisfy the debentures.

M. M. R.—They are, of course, highly speculative, but if the reported discoveries prove valuable, the shares will rise.

James.—Yes. See our note on the report on another page.

N. C.—All three seem good to look up on their prospects. The third especially has a very good chance through its interests in a number of young producers.

SOUTHERN BRAZIL ELECTRIC CO.—On this occasion the report covers only a period of six months to December 31, and figures are not furnished to provide comparison with the second half of previous years. It is stated, however, that in several directions the returns show an improvement owing to increasing demands for light and power. Conditions in Brazil continue to improve, and this is reflected in a substantial recovery in the exchange. Nett revenue amounted to £21,572, but most of this is absorbed in debenture interest, and there is only a balance of £945 to add to the £2,127 brought forward. Share capital has been increased by £241,000 to £600,500, but this is offset by the extinction of the Piracicaba loan. Debentures have increased £12,300 and sundry creditors £42,700, while investments are £55,300 higher at £1,175,570 and debtors have been reduced by £15,700.

BANK RATE NOTICES.

THE UNION OF LONDON & SMITHS BANK, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the RATE OF INTEREST allowed on Deposits at the Head Office and Metropolitan Branches repayable on seven days' notice will be FOUR per Cent. per annum from this date until further notice, which will be given by advertisement only.

H. H. HART, General Manager (Town and Foreign).
L. E. THOMAS, General Manager (Country).

No. 2, Princes Street, E.C.,
13th July, 1916.

LONDON COUNTY AND WESTMINSTER BANK, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at the Head Office and Metropolitan Branches the INTEREST allowed to Depositors is this day RAISED to the following rates, viz. :—

On Deposits subject to seven days' notice FOUR per Cent., and on Deposits at call THREE AND A-HALF per Cent., until further notice.

F. J. BARTHORPE, Head Office Manager.
No. 41, Lothbury, E.C.
13th July, 1916.

LONDON & SOUTH WESTERN BANK, LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE: 170, Fenchurch Street, E.C.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the RATE OF INTEREST allowed at the Head Office and Metropolitan Branches of this Bank on DEPOSITS repayable at seven days' notice is this day RAISED to FOUR per Cent. per annum.

H. H. HAMBLING, General Manager.
13th July, 1916.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED.

Incorporated by Royal Charter and Act of Parliament.
London Office: Nicholas Lane, Lombard Street.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the RATE OF INTEREST allowed on Deposits at this Office will be FOUR per Cent. per annum for money at seven days' notice.

J. FERGUSON, Manager.
13th July, 1916.

THE CLYDESDALE BANK, LIMITED (LONDON OFFICE).

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the RATE OF INTEREST allowed on Deposits at this Office will be FOUR per Cent. per annum until further notice.

DAVID YOUNG, Manager.
30, Lombard Street, London, E.C.,
13th July, 1916.

THE LONDON CITY AND MIDLAND BANK, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the RATE OF INTEREST allowed on Deposits at seven days' Call at the Head Office and London Branches will be FOUR per Cent. until further notice.

J. M. MADDERS, }
S. B. MURRAY, } Joint
F. HYDE, } General
E. W. WOOLLEY, } Managers.

No. 5, Threadneedle Street, E.C.,
13th July, 1916.

THE CAPITAL AND COUNTIES BANK, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at the Head Office and Metropolitan Branches the RATE OF INTEREST allowed on Deposits repayable on seven days' notice is this day RAISED to FOUR per Cent. per annum.

G. A. HARVEY, } Joint
E. D. VAISEY, } General Managers.
No. 39, Threadneedle Street, E.C.,
13th July, 1916.

PARR'S BANK, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the RATE OF INTEREST allowed by this Bank at the Head Office and Metropolitan Branches on Deposit at seven days' Call is FOUR per Cent. per annum until further notice.

JOHN STEWART, } Joint General Managers.
JOHN RAE, }
Bartholomew Lane, E.C.,
13th July, 1916.

BANK RATE NOTICES.

WILLIAMS DEACON'S BANK, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the RATE OF INTEREST allowed by this Bank on Deposits at seven days' notice at this Office and Metropolitan Branches will be FOUR per Cent. per annum from this date until further notice.

JOHN J. MEAGHER, Manager.
20, Birch Lane, E.C.,
13th July, 1916.

THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED (LONDON OFFICE).

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the RATE OF INTEREST allowed on Deposits at this Office will be FOUR per cent. until further notice by advertisement.

GEO. S. COUTTS, Manager.
No. 62, Lombard Street, London, E.C.,
13th July, 1916.

BANK OF SCOTLAND (LONDON OFFICE).

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the RATE OF INTEREST allowed on Deposit Accounts will be FOUR per cent. until further notice by advertisement.

WILLIAM SMILES, Manager.
No. 30, Bishopsgate, E.C.,
13th July, 1916.

BRITISH LINEN BANK (LONDON OFFICE).

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the RATE OF INTEREST allowed on Deposit Accounts at this Office will be FOUR per Cent. until further notice.

JAMES LITTLE, Manager.
Threadneedle Street, London, E.C.,
13th July, 1916.

THE UNION BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the RATE OF INTEREST allowed on Deposits with the Union Bank of Scotland, Limited, at this Office will be FOUR per Cent. per annum from this day until further notice.

GEO. J. SCOTT, Manager.
London Office, 62, Cornhill, E.C.,
13th July, 1916.

NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK OF ENGLAND LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the RATE OF INTEREST allowed by this Bank at its Head Office, Bishopsgate, and London Branches is this day RAISED to FOUR per Cent. for money placed on Deposit at seven days' notice.

T. ESTALL, } Joint General
D. J. H. CUNNICK, } Managers.
F. ELEY, }
No. 15, Bishopsgate, London, E.C.,
13th July, 1916.

LLOYDS BANK LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the RATE OF INTEREST allowed by this Bank upon Deposits at its Metropolitan Branches is RAISED to FOUR per Cent. for money at seven days' notice.

HENRY BELL, General Manager.
No. 71, Lombard Street,
13th July, 1916.

THE LONDON JOINT STOCK BANK, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the RATE OF INTEREST allowed at the Head Office and London Branches of this Bank on Deposits subject to seven days' notice of withdrawal is this day ADVANCED to FOUR per Cent. per annum.

CHARLES GOW, General Manager.
5, Princes Street, Mansion House,
13th July, 1916.

MARTIN'S BANK, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the RATE OF INTEREST on Deposits with the Head Office of this Bank, subject to seven days' notice, will be FOUR per Cent. per annum from this date until further notice.

G. BROMLEY MARTIN, Managing Director.
No. 68, Lombard Street, E.C.,
13th July, 1916.

What Balance Sheets Tell.

GLYN, MILLS, CURRIE AND CO.

The balance-sheet as at June 30 shows decreases of £1,375,841 to £12,851,419 in current accounts and £1,769,957 to £5,219,352 in deposits. On the other hand, cash in hand and at the Bank of England has been reduced by £1,335,015 to £2,956,082, money at call and short notice is £1,929,500 down at £5,395,500, and bills discounted, loans, &c., are £1,190,642 lower at £5,554,175. Investments in British Government securities have been increased by £1,498,941 to £5,141,570, but there is a reduction of £185,023 to £279,626 in Indian and Colonial Government securities, and the aggregate of the balance-sheet is £3,141,239 less at £19,600,953.

EASTERN AND AUSTRALIAN STEAMSHIP CO., LTD.

The directors say that during the year ended December 31 trade on the route of the company's fleet was active, and rates, although moderate compared with those ruling on other routes, showed improvement, a very mild enthusiasm considering that the profits rose by no less than £46,165 to £86,928. After providing for administration and other charges, including £10,250 more at £12,000 for income-tax, and setting aside £5,000, as against nothing, for replacement of steamers, the nett balance, with £3,852 brought forward, is £33,422 larger at £43,145, and the dividend is increased from 6 per cent. to 10 per cent. Property account has been reduced by £19,499 to £114,580, partly as the result of the sale of the oldest of the steamers at a "satisfactory price." Sundry debtors have risen by £35,749 to £52,483, cash and bills receivable come to £19,791 more at £21,283, while there is a new item of £40,000 for investments. On the other hand, sundry creditors are £15,570 up at £27,373, but liabilities for pending voyages come to only £1,791, or £9,362 less, while the balance of £1,500 debentures have been paid off, together with the £2,000 loan from bankers. Replacement of steamers account, before adding the present appropriation from revenue amounted to £40,186.

EDMUNDSONS' ELECTRICITY CORPORATION, LTD.

Owing to the fact that several of the undertakings in which this company is interested are on the coast, the revenue for the year ended March 31 shows the effect of the air raid scares. The aggregate gross profits were £12,209 down at £157,396, and the parent company's revenue was £8,351 smaller at £49,703. After providing for administration charges, writing off £540 more at £959 for loss on working local authorities' and other undertakings, and providing £1,255 more for income-tax, the nett surplus was £9,981 down at £13,259. A rather larger balance of £3,366 was brought forward, but the directors are unable to repeat the last year's appropriation of £10,000 to reserve, and after meeting the preference dividend, they carry forward £4,625, or £1,260 more. Investments in and advances to subsidiary companies, undertakings owned by the corporation itself, and other assets stand in the books at £1,153,294, and with regard to these the auditors say that they are unable to express an opinion as to the value of the investments, as, except in a few instances, these have no market quotations, and a number of them, as well as some of the advances, are not at present producing income.

BRITISH CANADIAN AND GENERAL INVESTMENT CO., LTD.

In the year to December 31 last the revenue was £10,700, an increase of £2,970, and after paying taxes and debenture interest, it is proposed to pay a final dividend of 2½ per cent., making 4½ per cent. for the year, against nil for 1914. A sum of £3,644 will remain to be carried forward, or £635 more than last time. In past years accrued interest has been brought into account, but under existing conditions the directors have very prudently decided to include only such interest as has been actually received. Affiliated companies in Canada have, as a rule, done well, but two of them have been adversely affected by the large efflux of men who have joined the forces. Investments at cost are £18,740 lower at £215,767, and cash in hand has been reduced by £13,620 to £1,677, so that it would probably have been wiser to defer the dividend until conditions are more favourable.

INVESTMENT CORPORATION OF CANADA, LTD.

Like most other Canadian ventures of the same kind, this company suffered considerably in the 12 months to April 30 last. Nett revenue was £14,000 lower at £42,943, but nearly £3,000 was saved in interest, and the profit is £11,000 down at £28,963. It is proposed to pay a dividend of 5 per cent., against 7 per cent., and £5,000 is again placed to reserve, but only £1,000, against £4,000, is placed to special reserve against arrears of interest, and nothing is written off investments, for which purpose £2,500 was appropriated last year. After these adjustments the carry forward is reduced by £640 to £1,874. Terminable notes for £76,700, or £4,800 less, fell due and were paid off, but a new loan was arranged for £26,700 for one year, against £51,500 in 1914-15. For the second year in succession no sales of real estate have been effected. Except for a decline of £35,000 to £682,588 in loans on mortgage, the changes in the balance-sheet are unimportant.

LOCHGELLY IRON AND COAL CO., LTD.

Profits for the year ended May 31, after providing for depreciation on an undisclosed scale, showed an increase of £84,470 at £122,079. To this was added £24,840, or £2,755 more, brought forward, giving a total of £146,919 to be dealt with. The dividend on the ordinary shares is increased from £1 15s. to £3 15s. on the £10 share, and £30,000, as against nothing, is transferred to reserve, leaving £45,492, or £20,652 more, to be carried forward. Property account shows a reduction of £29,699 at £264,811, but investments and loans have been in-

creased by £49,928 to £139,928. Debtors have risen by £28,146 to £77,294, and cash is £46,600 up at £98,990, while current liabilities are £21,603 higher at £53,689.

BROWN, STEWART AND CO., LTD.

That the increase in the cost of paper to the consumer has not been due entirely to heavier expenses is shown by the results obtained by this Glasgow business of paper manufacturers in the 12 months ended April 29. A year ago its operations resulted in a loss of £3,925, but this time the gross profit is £44,625 up at £113,549, and after providing for all charges there is a surplus of £22,231. The dividend on the preference shares is made up to the full 6 per cent., as against 3 per cent. last time, and in addition the company pays off arrears for seven years. Property account has been reduced by £5,393 to £142,993, and stocks are £7,281 smaller at £33,425, but debtors owe £36,897 more at £56,272, and cash and bills are £3,877 up at £4,309, while current liabilities are only £7,696 higher at £26,734.

MINING RETURNS FOR JUNE.

Abosso.—9,622 tons, producing £14,150 (May, £15,758).
 Ashanti.—9,849 tons; value, £40,238 (May, £40,667).
 Aurora West.—14,650 tons; profit, £4,528 (May, £4,523).
 Balaghat.—2,200 tons, 1,625 ozs. fine gold (May, 1,430 ozs.).
 Bantjes.—21,520 tons; loss, £1,006 (May, loss, £3,001).
 Brakpan.—60,000 tons; profit, £35,163 (May, £35,360).
 Cape Copper.—Output, 197 tons (May, 248 tons).
 Champion Reef.—15,796 tons; 9,310 ozs. fine (May, 9,540 ozs.).
 Chenderiang Tin.—24½ tons (May, 26½ tons).
 City and Sub.—26,050 tons; profit, £20,758 (May, £20,277).
 City Deep.—57,500 tons; profit, £59,323 (May, £60,023).
 Cons. Langlaagte.—52,100 tons; profit, £24,081 (May, £25,439).
 Cordoba Copper.—130 tons bars, value, £13,550 (May, 150 tons).
 Cons. Main Reef.—27,710 tons; profit, £14,049 (May, £13,900).
 Crown.—167,000 tons; profit, £63,072 (May, £63,002).
 Durban Road. Deep.—27,000 tons; profit, £2,165 (May, £2,594).
 East Rand Prop.—153,000 tons; profit, £42,514 (May, £44,257).
 Ferreira Deep.—50,080 tons; profit, £37,432 (May, £39,191).
 Geduld.—26,400 tons, £40,813; profit, £13,220 (May, £13,178).
 Geldenhuis Deep.—57,000 tons; profit, £13,625 (May, £13,944).
 Ginsberg.—14,850 tons; £15,476; profit, £3,049 (May, £3,574).
 Glencairn.—20,200 tons; profit, £1,067 (May, £1,062).
 Glyn's Lydenburg.—4,115 tons; profit, £3,808 (May, £2,214).
 Gov. Areas Mod.—57,500 tons; profit, £19,275 (May, £18,166).
 Gt. Boulder Prop.—15,867 tons; profit, £25,802 (May, £28,180).
 Ivanhoe.—20,137 tons; profit, £9,011 (May, £9,005).
 Jos Til Area.—Output, 17½ tons (May, 15 tons).
 Jibutl (Anantapur).—3,200 tons, 742 ozs. (May, 754 ozs.).
 Jupiter.—21,300 tons, £24,676; profit, £5,567 (May, £4,513).
 Kamunting Tin.—47½ tons (May, 35½ tons).
 Knight Central.—26,500 tons; profit, £3,473 (May, £3,601).
 Knight's Deep.—104,100 tons; profit, £19,019 (May, £20,086).
 Langlaagte Est.—47,444 tons; profit, £14,029 (May, £12,619).
 Luipaard's Vlei.—21,200; profit, £4,872 (May, £3,080).
 Main Reef West.—25,210 tons; profit, £3,054 (May, £3,201).
 May Consolidated.—13,060 tons; loss, £107 (May, profit, £602).
 Meyer and Charl.—14,480 tons; profit, £20,584 (May, £20,559).
 Modder "B".—45,500 tons; profit, £58,256 (May, £55,054).
 Modder Deep.—38,900 tons; profit, £40,947 (May, £36,989).
 Mount Boppy.—4,296 tons; value, £5,000 (May, £9,050).
 Mysore.—25,317 tons, 16,540 ozs. (May, 16,597 ozs.).
 New Goch.—30,000 tons; profit, £9,447 (May, £10,292).
 New Heriot.—13,400 tons; profit, £8,439 (May, £8,453).
 New Modder.—53,600 tons; profit, 70,518 (May, £69,146).
 New Primrose.—23,000 tons; profit, £3,202 (May, £3,550).
 New Unified.—14,000 tons; profit, £4,101 (May, £4,114).
 North Anantapur.—3,000 tons, 1,208 ozs. fine (May, £1,113 ozs.).
 Nigel.—10,300 tons, loss £2,824 (May, loss £3,714).
 Nourse.—52,000 tons; £57,842; profit, £6,861 (May, £2,969).
 Nundydroog.—8,000 tons, 6,643 ozs. (May, 6,636 ozs.).
 Ooregum.—12,890 tons, 7,410 ozs. fine gold (May, 7,467 ozs.).
 Pahang Cons.—Black tin produced 228½ tons (May, 230 tons).
 Princess Estate.—23,700 tons; profit, £1,082 (May, £1,696).
 Randfontein Cent.—180,385 tons; profit, £70,163 (May, £65,349).
 Rayfield Tin.—50 tons (May, 50 tons).
 Renong Tin.—Output, 931 piculs; total for 12 months, 13,885 piculs or 826 tons 9 cwt.
 Robinson Deep.—50,600 tons; profit, £26,501 (May, £28,101).
 Robinson.—56,700 tons; profit, £33,183 (May, £29,354).
 Roodepoort United.—30,651 tons; profit, £3,089 (May, £5,048).
 Rose Deep.—63,100 tons; profit, £19,278 (May, £20,271).
 Sheba.—6,313 tons, 2,516 ozs.; profit, £1,881 (May, £1,250).
 Siamese Tin.—Output, 102½ tons (May, 91½ tons).
 Simmer and Jack.—59,600 tons; profit, £22,178 (May, £23,107).
 Simmer Deep.—61,800 tons; profit, £5,599 (May, £5,201).
 Sub Nigel.—7,520 tons, £15,819; profit, £3,470 (May, £3,232).
 Sudan.—3,020 tons for £4,575 (May, £4,120).
 Tanganyika.—2,277 tons (May, 2,333 tons).
 Taquah.—5,156 tons; output, £15,490 (May, £15,080).
 Transvaal Estates.—15,890 tons; profit, £11,079 (May, £13,130).
 Van Ryn Deep.—44,600 tons; profit, £50,109 (May, £50,002).
 Van Ryn.—37,550 tons; profit, £17,358 (May, £18,317).
 Village Deep.—52,600 tons; profit, £22,882 (May, £22,771).
 Vogelstruis Estates.—12,491 tons, 2,828 ozs. (May, 3,409 ozs.).
 Wanderer.—13,300 tons; profit, £1,622 (May, £1,534).
 West Rand Cons.—34,200 tons; profit, £7,234 (May, £9,663).
 Witwatersrand.—45,600 tons; profit, £24,176 (May, £24,019).
 Wit. Deep.—42,710 tons; profit, £15,559 (May, £14,698).
 Wolfram Mining and Smelting.—Output, 27 tons (May, 28 tons).
 Wolhuter.—34,200 tons; profit, £13,836 (May, £13,312).

COMPANY MEETINGS.

BURMA CORPORATION.

The annual general meeting of the Burma Corporation, Limited, was held on Wednesday at Salisbury House, London Wall, Sir Trevredyn R. Wynne, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., the chairman, presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. D. Anderson, F.C.I.S.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman, at the outset of his remarks, referred to certain changes which had taken place on the board since the shareholders' meeting in November last, when, he reminded them, Mr. Tilden Smith gave them a very full account of the Bawdwin mines, which the corporation practically owned, holding, as it did, 99.8 per cent. of the shares and 77 per cent. of the debentures of the Burma Mines, Limited. Since their last meeting he had had the opportunity of personally visiting and inspecting in February this year the Bawdwin mines and smelting works in Burma. He made a careful inspection of the mine, and there could be no doubt that it contained a large body of ore. The ore, as the shareholders were aware, was a lead-zinc-silver ore, but lead smelting only was being carried out at the works in Burma, and at present there was no market for the zinc ore. The smelting works were situated at Namtu, about six miles from the entrance to the Tiger tunnel, at which place all ore would be delivered from the mine when the tunnel was completed. There were three blast furnaces in operation, with the necessary roasting plant; there was also a refining plant, which had been steadily turning out soft lead, for which there had been a good demand. No refining of silver was at present being done, and this metal was being shipped to London and realised with the hard lead produced. Labour was easy to obtain during the greater part of the year. This most important work, he found, was making great progress. The ore body was situated in the middle of a big hill, the whole country being of a mountainous character. An internal shaft was originally sunk inside this hill, connected with the outside surface by a tunnelled approach. Working a large body of ore under these conditions would have been a difficulty and the cost of haulage high. It was decided, therefore, to take the bold course of running a tunnel from a level in the valley approximating to the bottom of the internal shaft. This tunnel was to be the route by which all ore mined would be taken to the surface, whilst at the same time affording a very perfect means of ventilation and drainage. The mine's smelting works were situated about 40 miles from the nearest station on the Burma Railways, and to connect the mine at Bawdwin and the smelting works at Namtu with the Burma Railways system a 2-ft. gauge railway had been built by the Mines Co., and was operated by it. The railway was capable of dealing with present requirements, and for reasonable future expenditure it could be made to carry all the tonnage required. The company's operations required good workshops and an efficient mechanical staff. There was room for improvement in the supply of plant, &c., for the workshops, and difficulties had occurred owing to the shortage of mechanical staff. Both these difficulties had been appreciated, and improvements had been and were being made. The company was most fortunate in its relations with the local Government, and the new Lieutenant-Governor of the Province, Sir Harcourt Butler, was giving all the assistance to the company that it could reasonably expect. Situated as the mines were, some 500 miles from Rangoon, it was most important that the relations between the mines and the Burma Railways, which connected them with Rangoon, should be cordial, and he was glad to say that the mines were being very well treated by the Burma Railways Co., the board of which had recently agreed to give a 16 per cent. reduction in the rate for the carriage of coke and coal. The most important feature during the year had been the successful smelting of the Bawdwin mine ore, which was now being used for the production of hard and soft lead. Experiments so far made had demonstrated that commercially profitable lead and zinc concentrates could be made from the average grade ore. The combined metal recoveries in these two products were 91 per cent. of the silver, 92 per cent. of the lead, and 92 per cent. of the zinc. Both of these products were easily saleable before the war, and on pre-war contracts would yield good profits. During the coming year, it was hoped, further experiments would enable final conclusions to be come to with regard to the design of the mill which would be required to deal with the increased ore output from the mines. Prior to the war the smelting of zinc ores was practically in the hands of the Germans, the result being that since the war broke out it had been impossible to realise the company's zinc ore products. The future policy to be adopted was receiving the very careful consideration of the board, and the question was being gone into whether it would be more advantageous for the company to sell its zinc concentrates or, alternatively, to erect smelting works of its own, and in the latter case on what site they should be situated. Investigations were now being made regarding smelting works in England, and it was possible that subsidiary works might be erected in India, where cheap coal and labour were available, with the additional advantage of being but a comparatively short distance from the mines. He had no hesitation in saying that on the occasion of his visit he had been very much impressed by the possibilities of the future of the company.

Mr. T. J. Hoover seconded the resolution, and gave a statement of further technical details and results, which was frequently applauded.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

CHANNEL TUNNEL.

An ordinary general meeting of the members of the Channel Tunnel Co., Ltd., was held on Monday, at the Cannon Street Hotel, Baron Emile Beaumont d'Erlanger (the chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. R. D. Heckels) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: As stated in the report to the shareholders, the board has watched with interest the growing movement of public opinion in favour of the tunnel, but has abstained from taking any active part therein. Indeed, there has been of late a very great revival of interest in the tunnel project, and Mr. Fell, M.P., has brought up the question in the House of Commons. Having been born, educated and married in France, and identified with the Entente Cordiale movement, I have numerous relations and innumerable friends there, and I am thus placed in a particularly favourable position to judge of the public feeling and opinion in that country. I do not hesitate to say that there is no deliberate act that would go so far to impress the public opinion in France with the permanency of the Entente Cordiale and the mutual disinterestedness and mutual confidence upon which it is founded as the sanction of the construction of the Channel Tunnel. From the victory-crowned bonds of arms will follow a wide fraternity of commercial, industrial and financial interests which nothing would develop with greater certainty and greater rapidity than the link of the Channel Tunnel. I feel more confident to-day than I have been during my long association with this great national enterprise of seeing it emerge from the realm of a cherished dream to that of a concrete reality. I now formally beg to move: "That the report and accounts be and are hereby approved."

Sir Edward Bowron: I have great pleasure in seconding the resolution, and I do not think I can do better than simply say that I fully endorse what our Chairman has said. I think we are moving now and are likely to move very quickly, and your board will be ready as in the past to do everything they can in your interests.

The Chairman then invited questions from shareholders.

Mr. Walford: I only want to ask you two questions. I see among the assets there are some railway debenture stocks. May I ask whether they are taken at their cost price or their present value?

The Chairman: They are taken at cost.

Mr. Walford: There is another question I wish to ask, which, however, you need not answer if you think it an indiscreet question. Has any estimate of the cost of the Tunnel been made?

The Chairman: I have not the slightest hesitation in answering that question, because a pamphlet on the question of the Channel Tunnel has been widely circulated, and you will find in it the speech I made at the Entente Cordiale meeting. You will also find the articles of our eminent engineer, Sir Francis Fox, and of M. Sartiaux, the chief engineer of the Chemin de Fer du Nord, in which the estimates of the cost of construction have been given, and also estimates of the income to be derived from the Tunnel after the first years of its construction.

The motion was then put and carried unanimously.

SIALANG RUBBER ESTATES.

The seventh annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Sialang Rubber Estates, Ltd., was held on Friday, in the council room of the Rubber Growers' Association, 38, Eastcheap, E.C., Mr. George Croll presiding.

Mr. J. Mitchell Thom, representing the agents and secretaries (Messrs. Harrison and Crossfield, Ltd.), having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—Our issued capital remains the same as a year ago—viz., £200,000; premiums on shares are also the same—£62,633 11s. 6d. Should you agree to the proposal we place before you to-day, our development reserve account will then stand at £20,000, making the total of premium and reserve £82,633 11s. 6d.—equal to £13 3s. 9d. per planted acre. The capital expenditure for the year under review amounted to £16,675 17s. 5d., against an estimate of £20,616. The difference was owing chiefly to Paya Pinang factory, the balance of erection cost of which is carried forward to the current year. The actual expenditure over the immature acreage of 3,363 acres was £4 9s. 4d. per acre. After sales of sundry assets, amounting to £115 5s., and depreciation written off buildings, machinery, &c., amounting to £3,203 16s. 8d., the nett amount added to the balance-sheet was £13,356 15s. 9d., making the total capital expenditure to the date of the accounts £263,317 7s. 4d. £201,260 4s. 2d. of this is for cost of properties and development, and £62,057 3s. 2d. is for buildings, machinery, and furniture. This, spread over the planted acreage of 5,967 acres, is equal to £44 2s. 7d. Including the £10,000 which it is proposed to place to reserve out of the year's profits, premiums and reserves equal £13 3s. 9d., leaving the book cost at £30 18s. 10d. This is without placing any value on the 3,424 acres of reserve land. Our capital position is quite satisfactory. The capital paid up, plus the premiums and reserves, to which I have already referred, amount to £282,633. The capital expenditure to January 31, 1916, amounted to £263,317, leaving a surplus of £19,316, to which has to be added our carry forward of £15,020, making a total of approximately £34,000. We estimate the capital expenditure for the current year at £20,856, which leaves us with a balance as at January 31, 1917, of £13,144, out of which we have to provide working

capital on the estates and our assessment on account of the excess profits tax. Our cultivated acreage remains the same as a year ago, and a full statement is included in the report. The whole area has been kept clean-weeded at a cost of approximately 8.49d. per acre per month, against 10.28d. last year, showing a very satisfactory reduction. The visiting agent reports that all the estates are in first-class order, that labour is sufficient for requirements, and that the European staff, although somewhat under normal in number, have carried out their duties to the satisfaction of the company's agents. The health of the labour force was quite exceptionally good, the death rate being at the rate of only 6 per 1,000, as against 13 per 1,000 the previous year—the latter figure being in itself a very low rate. This splendid result is due to the excellent hospital arrangements, which Mr. Lampard referred to last year, and which I consider one of the outstanding features of rubber cultivation in Sumatra. Up to date factories are in existence on Sialang, Batoe Ginging and Tebing Tinggi, and the factory on Paya Pinang will be completed during the current year. Our building programme is very nearly completed, and as all the work done has been of a permanent character, only a very small amount will be required for upkeep in the future. The crop harvested during the year amounted to 821,454 lbs., against an estimate of 705,000 lbs. The all-in cost was 1s. 0.03d. per lb., against 1s. 1.62d. for the previous year. The crop realised 2s. 6.42d. per lb., against 2s. 2.84d. the previous year, the profit being 1s. 6.39d., against 1s. 1.22d. last year. The average area in bearing was 2,604 acres, against 1,764 the previous year, and the average yield was 315½ lbs. per acre, against 274. Considering the large area brought into tapping for the first time, the increased yield per acre, and the reduced all-in cost per lb. reflect very creditably on the members of our staff and the yielding capacity of our property. The net profit for the year amounted to £63,707 os. 11d., to which has to be added £5,313 13s. 10d. brought forward from the previous year, making £69,020 14s. 9d.. Of this £24,000 has already been distributed, by the interim dividends paid in November, 1915, and March of this year, and we now propose to deal with the balance by the payment of a final dividend of 10 per cent., making 22 per cent. for the year, placing £10,000 to development reserve account, and carrying forward, subject to excess profit duty, £15,020 14s. 9d.. I cannot give you any information on the subject of the excess profit duty. I think you know that at the present time the matter is before the Board of Referees through the Rubber Growers' Association, but ample provision has been made for the maximum we are likely to be called upon to pay in the amount we propose to carry forward. For the current year we estimate for a crop of 1,060,000 lbs., of which we have secured to the end of June 446,950 lbs., against 283,288 lbs. for the corresponding period last year. With reasonably favourable weather our estimate should again prove to be a conservative one. Out of this crop we have sold and delivered 143,265 lbs. at a London equivalent of, approximately, 2s. 6.15d., and their remains to be delivered out of this crop against forward contracts approximately 306,480 lbs., at a London equivalent price of 2s. 5.69d. per lb.

Mr. Morrison seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously. The retiring director and auditors were re-elected, and £250 was voted to the Red Cross Fund. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to the chairman, the directors, and staff.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

Amalgamated Zinc (De Bavay's).—2s. per share, payable Aug. 9, less tax at the rate of 5s. Dividend (No. 17) paid April 26 last was 3s. per share, and a similar payment was made on Jan. 29 last.

Anglo-American Telegraph.—Interim for the quarter ended June 30 last of 15s. per cent. on the ordinary and £1 10s. per cent. on the preferred, less tax at 5s., payable Aug. 1, same as a year ago.

Anglo-Dutch Plantations of Java.—For 1915 at the rate of 5 per cent., payable 2½ per cent. on Aug. 15 and 2½ per cent. on Jan. 1 next, against 2 per cent. for 1914.

Anglo-India Jute Mills.—Second ad-interim on the ordinary at the rate of 10 per cent. actual, less tax.

Arica and Tacna Railway.—At the rate of 3s. per share, free tax, payable July 14.

Assets Company.—Interim of 5 per cent., less tax, same as last year.

Bradbury, Greatorex.—Interim on the ordinary or "B" shares at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, payable 31st inst., same as a year ago.

Bradford District Bank.—Interim of 5s. 6d. per share, being at the rate of 13½ per cent. per annum, less tax, for half-year ended June 30, payable July 26, same as last year.

British Assets Trust.—Interim of 8 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary, same as last year.

British Investment Trust.—Interim at the same rate as last year—viz., at the rate of 13 per cent. per annum on the deferred for half-year ended July 1, payable, less tax, Aug. 1.

British Law Fire Insurance.—Interim of 1s. per share, less tax, payable Aug. 1, same as last year.

D. Davis and Sons.—On the ordinary at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum (less tax) for half-year ended June 30, against 16 per cent. a year ago. A distribution of bonus shares in respect of the accumulated profits will be made as soon as this can be arranged.

Direct United States Cable.—Interim of 2s. per share, less tax

at 5s. being at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum for quarter ended June 30, payable July 31, same as a year ago.

Dominion Steel.—At the rate of 1½ per cent. on the preference, payable Aug. 1.

East Indian Coal.—At the rate of 16 per cent. per annum, less tax, for half-year ended April 30, same as a year ago.

Eastman Kodak Company of New Jersey.—Extra of 10 per cent. on the common, payable Aug. 15. On Sept. 1 last year the extra was 5 per cent.

Farrow's Bank.—At the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, less tax, for half-year ended June 30.

Foreign and Colonial Investment Trust.—Interim for half-year ended July 10 at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on both preferred and deferred, payable July 31, same as a year ago.

Foster, Porter, and Co.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, less tax, for half-year ended June 30, payable 31st inst. A year ago, when the shares were of £15 each, the interim was at the rate of £4 13s. 4d. per cent.

Halifax Commercial Banking.—Interim of 8s. per share, being at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, less tax, for half-year ended June 30, same as a year ago.

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking.—Interim of £2 3s. per share, less tax, for half-year ended June 30, payable Aug. 14.

Imperial Bank of Canada.—For quarter ending July 31 at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, same as a year ago.

Java Investment Loan and Agency.—At the rate of 10 per cent. (less tax) on account of year ended March 31 last, payable 28th inst. In 1914-15 no dividend was paid.

Krubong (Malacca) Rubber.—Interim of 5 per cent. on account of year ending Sept. 30, free tax, payable 20th inst., same as last year.

Liebig's Extract of Meat.—An additional of 10 per cent. and a bonus of 5s. per share, both free tax, on the ordinary for year ended March 31 last, payable August 3, making with the interim 25 per cent., free tax, for year, against 22½ per cent.

Lister and Co.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, less tax, for half-year ended May 31, payable July 20, same as a year ago.

London County and Westminster Bank.—Interim of 9 per cent. (9s. per share) for half-year ended June 30, payable, less tax, Aug. 1.

Lonely Reef Gold Mining.—Interim of 10 per cent. (2s. per share), less tax, on account of 1916, payable Aug. 30, same as last year.

Manchester North Borneo Rubber.—Final of 3 per cent., making 6 per cent. for year.

Mercantile Investment and General Trust.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on both the preference and ordinary for half-year ending July 31, payable Aug. 1, same as a year ago.

Mortgage Company of the River Plate.—Interim at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum for half-year ended June 30, less tax, on the ordinary, payable 1st prox., same as a year ago.

Mutual Tontine.—Interim of 4 per cent. for half-year ended June 30, less tax, being at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, against 9 per cent.

National Gas Engine.—Interim for six months ended June 30 at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum on the ordinary, less tax, same as a year ago.

Peel River Land and Mineral Company.—Interim of 5 per cent., free tax, payable 24th inst., same as a year ago.

Provincial Bank of Ireland.—At the rate of 12½ per cent. per annum, less tax, for half-year ended the 30th ult., same as a year ago.

River Plate and General Investment Trust.—Interim at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum on the preferred and 8 per cent. per annum on the deferred (less tax) for half-year ending June 30, payable Aug. 1, same as a year ago.

Samnugur Jute Factory.—Interim of 15 per cent. on the ordinary, free tax, against 10 per cent.

Scottish American Mortgage.—At the rate of 12 per cent., less tax, same as a year ago.

Standard Tea of Ceylon.—Interim of 5 per cent. (at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum) for six months ended June 30, same as a year ago.

Sheffield Banking.—Interim for past half-year at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, less tax, same as a year ago.

Steel Company of Canada.—Usual of 1½ per cent. on the preference for quarter ended June 30, payable Aug. 1.

Taiping Rubber.—Second interim of 5 per cent. (actual), less tax, on account of year ending Sept. 30.

Tekka-Taiping.—1s. per share, less tax, payable July 26.

Titaghur Jute Factory.—Interim of 15 per cent. on ordinary (free tax), against 10 per cent.

Union Bank of Australia.—At the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, equal to £1 5s. per share, and a bonus of 2 per cent., equal to 10s. per share, the dividend and bonus together being at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, and amounting to £1 15s. per share, with £71,374 forward, same as a year ago, with £70,500 forward.

William Hollins and Co.—Interim on the ordinary of 6d. per share, being at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, less tax, for half-year ended May 31, same as a year ago.

CHARLES HOARE AND CO.—Being a private bank this firm, of course, issues no profit and loss account, but its balance-sheet as at July 6 shows a small reduction of £256,495 to £1,800,632 in the liabilities on current accounts, and a decrease of £78,162 to £548,123 in deposits. On the other hand, cash is £148,962 down at £414,805, money at call has been reduced by £79,000 to £428,000, and loans, overdrafts and bills discounted come to £331,802 less at £1,046,807, while investments have been increased by £225,198 to £844,142.

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THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.

(Registered in Japan.)
ESTABLISHED 1880.

Subscribed Capital	Yen 48,000,000
Capital Paid Up	.. ..	Yen 30,000,000
Reserve Fund	Yen 20,400,000

Head Office: YOKOHAMA.

Branches and Agencies at

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Bombay.	Honolulu.	Newchang.	Sydney.
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Changchun.	Kobe.	Osaka.	Tientsin.
Dairen (Dalny).	Liaoyang.	Peking.	Tokyo.
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K. TATSUMI, Manager.

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Capital Issued	1,125,000
Capital Paid Up	562,500
Reserve Fund	550,000

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CHINA, AND PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS.

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DEPOSITS received for one year at 5 per cent. per annum. Rates for other periods on application.

On current accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on daily balances.

BANK OF MONTREAL.

ESTABLISHED IN
1817.

Capital Paid-up, \$16,000,000. Reserve Fund, \$16,000,000.
Undivided Profits, \$1,321,193.

President H. V. MEREDITH, Esq.
General Manager Head Office and Board of Directors. MONTREAL.
Assistant General Manager Sir FREDERICK WILLIAMS-TAYLOR, LL.D.
Branches and Agencies throughout Canada and Newfoundland; also at New York, Chicago and Spokane in the United States.

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Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits ..	354,791	5 3
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The Investors' Review.

Vol. XXXVIII.—No. 968.
New Series.

SATURDAY, JULY 22, 1916.

(Registered as a Newspaper.) Price 6d.

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Passing Events.

An expenditure of £6,000,000 a day is £42,000,000 a week, and last week's gross outgoings amounted to £43,173,000, so that Mr. McKenna is warranted in what he stated. In the previous week, however, the expenditure was only £37,154,000, but with the intensity of the pressure now exercised upon the German front, the expenditure must necessarily rise towards a maximum and continue thereabouts until victory is won. Against last week's stupendous disbursement the revenue amounted to only £4,883,000, or little more than half the receipts of the preceding week, but that does not matter much so long as the Exchequer is able to finance its payments, and it continues to do so with marvellous success, although last week the supply of new credit was £13,120,000 short of requirements. That is to say, besides the ordinary revenue, the Treasury obtained only £7,315,000 by Exchequer bonds and £854,000 from War Expenditure Certificates, while the nett total of the Treasury bills outstanding was increased within the week by £14,612,000 and now stands at £811,656,000, a formidable total, which will demand careful handling if the present somewhat strained position of the Money market is not to become threatening towards the end of the year. All was not enough, and the Treasury balances must be refreshed somehow. Before, however, a new loan has to be floated, long before we hope, daylight will be visible through the smoke of battle when the power and willingness of the nation to make sacrifices and to find the means for the war would be much stimulated. This week is to be a sort of Salvation Army "Self-Denial Week" in war-loan raising, and we wish it all success, although not too enthusiastic, for the best that the people can do is to bound to come short of the present requirements, and the temptation offered is not mob-stimulating to a sufficient degree.

Including about £125,000,000 of currency notes and note certificates, the floating debt which the country and its money markets have to carry now amounts to £1,257,000,000. Mr. McKenna was asked for particulars, and that is the sum of them. Treasury bills outstanding amount to £811,656,000, 5 per cent. Exchequer bonds of three, four, and five years' currency

have risen to £295,000,000, and there follow War Expenditure Certificates for £14,000,000 and War Savings Certificates for £10,500,000. These two last amounts may be considered a success from one point of view, from another they represent a lamentable shortcoming, and in spite of himself the Chancellor of the Exchequer will have to revise his decision against premium bonds. Instead of obtaining less than £25,000,000 on war expenditure and war savings certificates, a loan of indefinite amount issued on the system adopted in France, Belgium, and other countries might have brought in by now ten times as much. It is useless to try to attract the ordinary citizen, be he workman or person of superior attainments, by sentimental appeals, or by such devices as the deferred payment of a pound offered in exchange for 15s. 6d. down. We must come to practical business, and take human nature as we find it. We must also consider how best to borrow large amounts cheaply and without demoralisation of the lender. Properly safeguarded, and with the bonuses kept to moderate and small amounts and well distributed, there should be nothing whatever to hinder the Government from putting forth a scheme that would tap a very large source of savings now running to waste, without hurting the people's morals in the slightest.

Where is this pensioning going to end? In our view it has been a mistaken policy from the first, but it was made inevitable just because the bulk of the people of this country have no other "stake" in it than what can be extracted from the real possessors of its sources of wealth. Mr. McKenna told a deputation, representing municipal and county authorities, which waited upon him to press the demands for additional help to all kinds of charities from the public purse, that we are now paying separation allowances and pensions at the rate of £80,000,000 a year, and then he proceeded to tell them that the Government proposed to place at the disposal of the Statutory Pensions Committee "a capital sum of £6,000,000," which it was estimated would meet the cost, not only of the care of the disabled, but of additional pensions on a scale "Parliament might fairly be asked to approve," and Parliament will doubtless feel as free as usual to bestow what is not its own. Where is all this lavishness in doles going to stop? Already the total named is

greater in amount than the entire Imperial expenditure of the country a quarter of a century ago. Out of what source is the money to come? Add civil expenditure, debt charges, and the upkeep of the Army and Navy, and we may soon arrive at the position where a peace Budget of £500,000,000 a year will prove not enough. Is there no wealth-evolving way by which the wants of the wounded, the old, the poor of all classes could be provided for? Charity fed by taxation augments distress, and in time produces national decay.

A correspondent in the North tells us that a relative of his who had just returned from the Isle of Man informs him that German prisoners there are living on the fat of the land. They are practising Swedish drill each day, and when interrogated say they are "keeping themselves fit and waiting for the German army to come for them." Some few of them only are daily taken up Snaefell by the mountain railway to cut peats. Why not make all German prisoners in the island cut peats and prohibit coal being sent there as now? "The only miserable man about on the island was the young British officer in command, who was bored to death walking about doing nothing." Surely a disabled British officer or an elderly man might be told off to see to that job and to provide employment for the prisoners. The correspondent adds: "I believe the German prisoners do no work at Handforth Camp, near Stockport. One generally sees them playing football when passing by rail. Will our working classes tolerate this, the men whose sons are now facing death and meeting it at the front?" No, our working classes would not tolerate this much longer, if the facts became known to them. It is doubtless extremely difficult to know what to do with the German prisoners, but all the same, they ought not to be left to loaf about in idleness while there is any quantity of work which they might be put to if we had the organisation and could make sure of guarding them without adding to the cost of their keep. They might clear waste lands, for instance, or reclaim commons, build roads, drain bogs or other ground capable of cultivation, prepare land for reforestation, or they might be, once their fellow Germans are driven further back, set to work on the Continent to rebuild the villages and towns they have destroyed in their demoniac onslaughts. A hundred and one things they could do, but while the fight is on our politicians have no time to attend to this minor affair, and must allow many abuses to continue in existence, since the House of Commons appears to be as a whole, or in sections, unutilisable for practical objects. Nevertheless, we have now 21,535 of these "unemployed" in this country, and the number is being added to now daily. Why should we be asked to feed and clothe them like honoured guests? Let them earn the bread they eat. Some among them may be chemists expert in dyes. Make them teach workmen here.

For the last time the Capital and Counties Bank, Ltd., finished its business year on June 30. A slight change in the bank's articles of association is to be asked for at a special meeting of shareholders to be held immediately after the ordinary meeting in order that the bank may come into line with the other joint-stock banks and make its financial year the calendar year. That means that we shall have an interim balance-sheet next January. For the past year ended June 30 the business was remarkably good, gross profit having reached £1,027,350, or £109,660 more than for 1914-15. Current expenditure, however, increased £76,742 to £657,975, and the balance of £74,906 brought forward was £28,544 smaller, so that the £444,281 left as clear revenue is only £4,374 better. But by putting only £15,000, as against £20,000, to premises account and by giving only £70,000, as compared with £100,000, to reduce cost of investments, the directors, although presenting the officers' superannuation fund with £10,000 this year, as against nothing the previous year, are able to maintain the dividend at 14 per cent., less tax, and have

£29,374 more at £104,281 left to carry forward. This is quite satisfactory. The balance-sheet shows that liabilities on current, deposit, and other accounts have increased by £354,268 to £48,240,177. Among assets, cash is less by £458,596 at £8,877,893, and the reduction in call and notice money is £4,752,543, bringing down the total outstanding to £3,830,721, so that altogether the assets classed as most immediately available show a reduction of £5,211,139 at £12,708,614. On the other hand, investments in British Government securities are up £7,884,609 to no less than £14,233,809. Slight reductions have taken place in the miscellaneous securities held, but the investment total of £15,984,090 is still £7,441,413 above that of 12 months back. Bills discounted, loans on other accounts, including pre-moratorium Stock Exchange loans, have been reduced by £1,853,754 to £21,128,377, and the cross entry of acceptances is £85,322 smaller at £961,192, but bank premises have increased in book value by £7,123 nett to £1,073,377, and the total of the balance-sheet is just £289,947 up at £51,855,650.

Considerable variations are shown in the figures of the bank statements at June 30, so far as available, as will be seen from the following table, which compares the principal items with the corresponding amounts a year ago:—

Bank.	Deposits, June 30, 1916.	Inc. or Dec.	Cash in Hand, &c., June 30, '16.	Inc. or Dec.
Bank of Liverpool	34,488,640	— 708,000	5,185,304	— 136,000
Barclay and Co.	94,077,854	+ 17,647,000	17,191,769	+ 1,044,000
Glyn, Mills, Currie	18,070,771	— 3,146,000	2,956,082	— 1,335,000
Lloyds	133,958,678	+ 566,000	27,383,355	+ 5,290,000
London City and Midland	157,530,256	+ 15,151,000	38,888,014	+ 2,531,000
London Joint	44,761,668	+ 411,000	6,054,429	+ 4,292,000
Manchester and County	11,988,961	+ 27,000	3,212,854	— 1,120,000
Manchester and Liverpool	30,630,010	+ 2,025,000	4,633,474	+ 146,000
National	16,573,471	+ 1,313,000	3,239,147	+ 287,000
Provincial of Ireland	6,972,959	+ 102,000	1,204,514	+ 142,000
Union of Manchester	7,737,664	+ 714,000	1,043,117	— 395,000

Bank.	Bills. Advances, June 30, 1916.	Inc or Dec.	Invest- ments, June 30, 1916.	Inc. or Dec.
Bank of Liverpool	15,815,969	— 3,125,000	10,156,465	+ 2,933,000
Barclay and Co.	48,352,834	+ 7,598,000	27,855,185	+ 11,900,000
Glyn, Mills, Currie	5,554,175	+ 1,190,000	5,421,197	+ 1,314,000
London City and Midland	78,207,073	+ 4,300,000	37,918,265	+ 17,848,000
London Joint	27,131,684	+ 236,000	12,460,752	+ 5,275,000
Manchester and County	6,024,407	+ 743,000	4,576,457	+ 1,914,000
Manchester and Liverpool	15,729,257	+ 639,000	10,289,809	+ 2,700,000
National	10,160,005	+ 128,000	4,627,640	+ 1,608,000
Provincial of Ireland	4,898,330	+ 8,000	2,598,527	+ 43,000
Union of Manchester	4,978,720	+ 48,000	2,401,250	+ 106,000

Except where absorptions have taken place meantime deposits are in some cases a trifle lower, and the cash in hand, bills, and advances are often appreciably smaller. All this is just what might be expected when we come to the last column and observe the substantial increases in investments. This, of course, is due to purchases of war securities, and the array is an imposing one. At the same time, it is well to emphasise that the cash position has not been materially weakened and the strength of the banks has not diminished in any way.

Slender indeed is the balance-sheet exhibit of Coutts and Co., dated June 30 last, but it is perhaps ample enough considering the private character of the bank, and we lament its meagreness mainly on statistical grounds. Deposit and current account liabilities show an increase of £291,886 on the year at £13,189,621, and acceptances are up £216,577 to £345,944. Cash is £115,512 larger at £2,527,034, and call and short notice money £308,202 down at £2,262,214. Investments in British Government securities, including the 4½ per cent. War Loan taken at cost, are £1,300,292 larger at £3,314,450, a fact which seems to prove that "Coutts" is manfully doing its duty in helping the Government to carry on the war. This large increase, however, has doubtless brought about a reduction of £252,460 in the Indian Government, Corporation, Railway, debenture and miscellaneous securities held, the total of which is now £1,234,822. Thus altogether £4,549,272 of the banks' available resources, or £1,047,832 more than a year ago, is in fixed securities, and that has further involved a reduction of £539,257

in the item bills discounted and loans, which now stand at £5,010,800. Bank premises remain at £340,300, and the total of the balance-sheet is £15,035,565.

In the June half-year the Union Bank of Manchester made a nett profit of £122,983, which was £19,471 more than in the corresponding half-year. The balance of £25,919 brought forward was also £17,738 up. So the £148,903 thus made available shows an increase of £37,209, and working expenses were only £3,664 up at £48,992, but £5,000, as against £3,000, was written off bank premises, &c., and £5,000, as against £2,000, added to the pensions fund, while £8,500 more at £13,500 was set aside for income-tax. Then, after paying the usual dividend at the rate of 12½ per cent.—this time tax free, whereas a year ago it was paid less tax—the balance left to carry forward is £31,464 up at £42,035. War Loan stock, as is the universal usage, has been taken into the accounts at cost price, and the total of British Government securities held by the bank shows an increase of £1,210,892 upon the figure of June 30, 1915, at £2,255,645. Bills of exchange held are £72,413 up at £726,489, but loans and advances are £120,091 down at £4,252,240, and cash and short loan money together show a reduction of £395,516 at £1,043,117. There is, however, an increase of £174,395 in the acceptances and of £105,660 in the open credits, foreign bills negotiated, &c., the one item being now £592,472 and the other £372,439. As for bank premises, &c., their value is down £3,713 to £295,977, the total of the balance-sheet being £1,029,217 up at £9,683,986. The position and prospects of the bank, say the directors in their report, remain quite satisfactory, and the business continues to grow rapidly. The figures just recited support the truth of this statement.

In the six months ended February 29 last, the Union Bank of Australia, Ltd., made a profit of £369,518, or £27,876 more than in the corresponding half-year. General expenses, however, increased £14,480 to £66,322, and income-tax took no less than £11,738 more at £25,427, so that although general expenses were £1,808 less at £117,163, the nett profit was only £1,796 up at £140,845, and when the usual dividend at the rate of 10 per cent., together with the usual bonus of 2 per cent. have been paid, both free of income-tax, there will only be £845 left to carry forward, but the undistributed accumulation of profits from August 31 last is £70,528, so that, adding this £845, there is now £71,374 in hand over and above the reserve fund of £1,960,000. Changes in the balance-sheet are not of remarkable size, but the liabilities on deposits show an increase of £460,887 at £24,055,785, and bills payable, &c., are up £375,877 at £2,123,323. Specie and cash balances are down £300,681 at £5,040,774, and money at call and short notice in London is £180,000 lower at £320,000, while the Stock Exchange loans in London, which a year ago figured at £264,081, have now completely disappeared. The bank's investments, too, are down £848,865 to £1,658,894, the decrease being chiefly in stocks or bonds of, or guaranteed by the British Government, an item down £648,409 to £518,389. Bills discounted and loans show an increase of £1,645,238 at £19,085,373, and balance of remittances and drafts in transit, and bills receivable at the London office are up £899,594 to £3,974,207. Altogether the balance-sheet foots up at £30,684,533, an increase of £896,742 on the year's comparison.

Last year the figures of the Russian and English Bank were given in roubles only; this time a very commendable change has been made and the figures are given both in roubles and pounds sterling. We should have preferred to make comparisons in sterling, but having only roubles in the year 1914 balance-sheet, we must stick by roubles, which are converted into sterling at 94.5. The business of the year 1915 was, all things considered, wonderfully satisfactory. Gross

profit increased by 425,164 rbls. to 2,261,258 rbls., while general expenses were actually 54,900 rbls. down at 405,272 rbls. Liabilities on current, deposit and other accounts have increased 16,696,224 rbls. to 45,193,577 rbls., and the profit was 823,029 rbls. up at 1,723,527 rbls. It was decided at the general meeting held on May 13 last to pay out of these nett profits, which represent 17½ per cent. on the paid-up capital of 10,000,000 rbls., a dividend of 8 per cent., which takes only 800,000 rbls. Out of the balance left 700,000 rbls. have been transferred to the reserve, which is thereby raised to 2,428,536 rbls., or £256,988. Investments in Russian securities, &c., have increased by 3,589,399 rbls. to 7,924,238 rbls., or £838,544, and bills for collection are also 1,008,509 rbls. larger at 1,583,619 rbls. Details in the two balance-sheets are not identical, that for the past year being commendably fuller than that for 1914, so that we cannot carry the comparison far. It should, however, be mentioned that a year ago 267,772 rbls. were written off cost of investments and 200,000 rbls. put aside against possible losses. The position of the bank appears to be distinctly good, and the total of the balance-sheet is now £7,263,159.

In the second half of its working year ended March 31 last, the East Indian Railway Co. earned nett Rs. 1,18,217 less than in the corresponding half of the preceding year. The total, including the earnings of the South Behar Railway and the amount received for working the Delhi-Umballa-Kalka Railway, was Rs. 3,42,20,854. Out of this Rs. 1,93,76,617, or Rs. 4,50,332 more, was absorbed by the fixed charges, so that the divisible surplus of Rs. 1,48,44,237 is Rs. 5,68,549 smaller. Also Indian income-tax took Rs. 75,713, or Rs. 44,042 more, from the company's share, with the result that when the balance is turned into sterling the yield, £83,580, is £4,688 smaller, consequently the extra dividend is reduced by 4s. to £1 1s. per cent. on the deferred annuity capital and the class "D" annuity capital. For the whole year the guaranteed interest of 4 per cent. and the excess dividend are brought down to £6 per cent., subject to English income-tax, which is 5s. less than was paid for 1914-15, and 9s. less than for 1913-14. It does not follow from this that the business has been worse, but expenses have tended to increase for various reasons. In the half-year reported upon the nett increase in working expenses was Rs. 8,44,045, and of that Rs. 6,10,555 falls to the charge of maintenance of way, works, and stations. Also Rs. 2,26,531 had to be charged against revenue in respect of grain compensation allowance paid to certain of the subordinate servants of the company owing to higher prices of food. The war interfered with business to some extent, but on the whole both the passenger and goods traffic were well maintained. In fact, the number of

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passengers carried in the half-year was 201,000 more than in the corresponding half, or 2,202,014 in all, while the receipts rose by Rs. 1,54,000. The average charge per mile for carrying these passengers was .202d. in both years, but for the whole year it was .20rd., as compared with .2d. in 1914-15. The goods traffic was also worked at what looks to us extremely low charges, an average, for instance, of .234d. for the second half of the year, which compares with .239d. in the second half of 1914-15. The weight of merchandise carried was, taking the whole year, only 84,297 tons less than that of the previous year. Capital expenditure in the past half-year was Rs. 33,79,746, a decrease of Rs. 1,74,31,230 on the expenditure in the second half of 1914-15, and no new money was asked for by the company during the six months, the requirements of the undertaking having been met as usual by advances from the Secretary of State, these advances having risen by March 31 last to Rs. 6,37,86,605. Altogether the total capital outlay of the company, including incorporated branches, was at March 31 last, Rs. 71,36,96,504, or at the conventional exchange, £47,580,000. But this by no means represents the cost of the property to the Indian peoples from first to last. The gains, however, have likewise been great.

Is not the report of the London County Council Finance Committee upon tramways results for the past year pitched in too pessimistic a key? The total revenue of the tramways was slightly lower at £2,339,291, and as expenses were higher the nett revenue was only £665,631, whereas interest and repayment of debt charges amount nett to £729,426, that is after taking off £4,494 accountable for by the London United Tramways and £18,465 otherwise deducted. Consequently there is a deficiency of £73,795, which is £9,635 more than the revised estimate of shortcoming, but nearly £18,000 below the original expectation of loss, and does not seem to be such a ruinous display, looking at the circumstances; but the committee is full of wailing, and warns the ratepayer that another year of this kind of thing will exhaust the general reserve upon which the past year's deficiency can be charged, and that the drawings upon this reserve in their turn involves serious losses on realisation of securities. Depreciation, for example, was £23,621 on the securities realised last year, and thus and so there is an advance in the rates in prospect. What is behind this elaborated howling? Would it not be possible, no fuss made, to reduce the amount at nett revenue devoted to the repayment of debt to just the amount available until the bad times have passed by; or must we so twist and exaggerate the facts as to disgust the ratepayer with the tramway property, and thus generate support for the sale of the undertaking to the London General Omnibus Co. or other outside monopoly? The County Council is not to be trusted.

If shipping profits were to continue for another two years on the scale revealed by all the reports that have been published this year, we should probably soon have to deal with an irresistible clamour for something like confiscation of all private shipping by the State. Here is Furness, Withy and Co., Ltd., now one of the greatest steamship and ship-owning, marine and docks investment, engineering, industrial and other undertakings controlling enterprises in the kingdom showing a profit for its year closed April 30 last of no less than £1,528,406. This, to be sure, includes £141,446 brought forward, which was £10,117 above the similar entry of a year ago, but leaving that out the nett profit was £1,386,959, or £733,412 higher, and the board is again able to set aside £350,000 to the depreciation account, while £300,000 is transferred to a trades contingencies fund, and the allowance to masters, officers, and engineers doubled at £20,000, leaving enough to give ordinary shareholders a 10 per cent. dividend for the year as before, and also a 10 per cent. bonus not as before, or 20 per cent. in all, free of income-tax. The

5 per cent. preference dividend is paid less tax, but the dividend and bonus, which together absorb £400,000, are paid free of income-tax, and even then a balance of £395,281 is left, which is £253,835 more than the balance shown a year ago, when no bonus was given. In this large balance, however, is the amount which will have to be provided for excess profits duty, so that presumably it is none too large. A year ago the balance-sheet was accompanied by a skeleton profit and loss account, which set forth the trading profits separately from the dividends on investments and the postal subsidy and transfer fees on one side, and on the other gave the directors' fees and the amount paid for income-tax. This time there are no such details, but the accounts as they stand are sufficiently explicit up to a point, and the balance-sheet shows that bills payable have been reduced to a mere £30,454, being £432,602 less than at the same date in 1915. Sundry creditors, including steamers current accounts, are, however, £824,510 heavier at £1,440,060. A year ago the balance was the other way round, sundry debtors owing the company £40,349 on steamers current accounts. The value of the property of all kinds has been reduced by £125,987 to £3,978,399, but investments have increased by £619,767 to £877,744, and bankers' balances, Treasury bills, cash and bills of exchange on hand show an increase of £691,284 at £1,590,901. These items reveal into what large totals the interests and possessions of this company now run, and we hope its prosperity will continue unabated.

Compared with what other shipping companies have done, the Anchor Line (Henderson Bros.), Ltd., shows quite a moderate increase in the profits for the year closed April 30 last. After providing a special reserve for war taxation and contingencies, deductions about which no particulars are given, the profit is brought out at £323,539, or only £16,266 more than that of the previous year. The balance of £95,413 brought forward was also £8,451 larger, so that the £418,952 available is £24,717 up. Depreciation allowance gets £2,832 more at £128,699, and the assignment to reserve is again £100,000. The directors are therefore able to pay the same dividend, 10 per cent., tax free, on the ordinary shares, and to double the bonus, making it also 10 per cent., tax free, for the year, and still have £12,194 more at £107,606 left to carry forward. Many of the company's ships continue to be employed by the Government in various capacities, but its business appears to have been conducted without hitch or comparatively few hindrances, and although the Atlantic passenger trade, both in Glasgow and in the Mediterranean services, has sunk to very small dimensions, especially in the saloon and steerage branches, the Indian passenger business has shown an improvement. But no further large increase is expected until peace returns. Two large new steamers are on order for the Bombay passenger and cargo service, but their construction cannot be proceeded with in present circumstances. The company, however, has bought two freight vessels, and is evidently in a position to hold its own. As for the fleet, &c., value, it is down £87,339 to £1,791,057, and cash, Treasury bills, &c., form an entry £268,034 larger at £300,623. There is nothing of special significance in these or any other balance-sheet changes.

Like all shipping undertakings, the Empire Transport Co. prospered exceedingly in its year ended June 30. The profits amounted to £314,150, or a nominal increase of £129,584, but as the accounts for the preceding 12 months included a profit on the sale of one of the vessels, the actual trading results must have been even better than this figure indicates. Adding £100, or £1,381 less, brought in and receipts from dividends, &c., the total was £130,944 up at £318,378, but maintenance, repairs, and renewals cost £18,862 more, and after providing for interest and other charges, £248,172, or £121,573 more, was available. Of this, an extra £24,569 at £59,569 is transferred to depreciation

account, and £30,000, against £5,000, is added to insurance fund, while £10,000 is again put to survey and repair reserve, but nothing is written off corresponding to the £58,000 for debenture issue expenses a year ago. The ordinary shares again get a dividend of 10 per cent., but this time a bonus of 1s. per share is paid in addition, after which £111,353, or £111,253 more, is carried forward, subject to excess profits duty. One of the company's ships was sunk by an enemy submarine, but a new one was added to the fleet, and the book value is £35,605 up at £932,706. The difference between the war risk insurance and the low book value of the lost vessel was added to the depreciation fund, raising it to £225,000, while other reserves aggregate £60,000, or £40,000 more. Current liabilities have been reduced by £74,659 to £190,548, against an increase of £20,414 to £87,541 in sundry debtors, and although cash balances have been reduced by £58,989 to £37,009, the decrease is more than accounted for by the investment of £133,000 in Treasury bills.

Probably it is all right, but shareholders may have some little difficulty in following the procedure adopted by the board of the British Steamship Investment Trust, Ltd. It made a profit last year, closed June 30, out of steamships sold, lost, sunk, and torpedoed, which, together with gains on investments realised, totalled £185,356. Of this £68,488 has been applied to write down investments, and another £61,662 credited back to the nett revenue as representing sums taken therefrom during the past four years for writing down purposes. The £55,205 remaining is then added to the reserve fund, raising it to £155,317. From the £61,662 reverting to current revenue a special bonus of 25 per cent., less tax, is to be distributed to the deferred stockholders, their ordinary dividend being again made up to 20 per cent., less tax, for the year. This is the same as a year ago, but instead of receiving it as now, in halves, for 1914-15, the dividend was 6 per cent. and made up to 20 per cent. by a 14 per cent. bonus. Shareholders are to be asked to authorise the doubling of the donation money to charities put to the discretion of the board, making two thousand guineas instead of one thousand, and the balance left to carry forward is £137,827 larger at £174,005, the year's ordinary revenue having been £232,348, of which £199,957 was nett income from investments and £20,345 nett receipts from interest on mortgage loans. The total of the investments held by the trust, principally in shipping, but also in foreign railway stocks and in industrial and other securities, is £789,274, a decrease of £51,764 on the year, but loans secured by first mortgage and bills receivable have increased £298,950 to £640,400. Depreciation and reserve funds investments taken, at market value show an increase of £66,466 at £213,777.

Liebig's Extract of Meat Co., Ltd., has attained such a position of strength and is so ably managed that it is difficult to conceive of its being affected, except temporarily, by adverse conditions. For the year to March 31 last the results indicate a gratifying improvement, the sales showing an increase of £82,200 at £683,442, and the nett profit is £84,660 higher at £310,530. With £19,280 more brought in the balance available is up £103,940 at £380,672, and the bonus is raised from 2s. 6d. to 5s., making the total distribution for the year 25 per cent. against 22½ per cent., while the carry forward is increased by £80,500 to £150,620. Since the date of the balance-sheet £400,000 redeemable notes, which fell due on the 10th inst., have been paid off, but as the company had £250,000 more cash in hand at £511,872 on March 31 this operation would cause it no inconvenience. Sundry creditors are down £41,000, while debtors are up £182,400. Stocks, on the other hand, are £354,000 lower at £1,257,200, and have doubtless been very conservatively valued, just as land, buildings, plant, &c., are also slightly reduced on balance. It is a wonderful business, which will continue to prosper for many a long day.

Lipton, Ltd., appears to have done quite well last year. Its accounts are made up to the odd date of March 11, and in the twelve months then ended profits were £124,339, or £43,543 more than in the previous year. As the balance of £57,786 brought forward was £10,797 up, the clear total of £182,125 shows an improvement of £54,340, and the directors could have paid a dividend on the ordinary shares had things been normal, for after meeting the preference dividend in full and giving £30,000 to the reserve fund, against nothing a year ago, the balance of £82,125 remaining is £24,340 larger than that shown last year. The directors, however, consider it not only prudent, but necessary to keep plenty of money in hand, and the whole of the balances are therefore retained in the business as working capital. It is recognised that this may entail some hardship on the ordinary shareholders, but the board feels confident that the wisdom of the course will be recognised in the general interests of the business. In fulfilment of his generous promise, the chairman, Sir Thomas Lipton, has handed over to the company in all £247,812 in replacement of the substantial amount of working capital that had formerly been diverted from the business. Of the total £110,000 was received before the date when the accounts were made up and the remainder has been paid over on May 17 last. The accounts do not indicate where this money has gone. Goodwill, freehold and leasehold properties and freehold estates in Ceylon have risen in book value by £3,495 to a total of £1,843,717 in the course of the year. Machinery, plant, fixtures, &c., however, have been written down £24,577 nett to £374,441, the expenditure having been that amount less than the allowance for depreciation. Sundry debtors, too, show a reduction of £88,822 at £459,195, but stock-in-trade is up £34,629 to £821,568, and cash £45,888 greater at £125,693. The item "savings-bank investments, £27,838," shown a year ago, has now disappeared. As regards liabilities,



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LITTLE NOTES ON "GENERAL" HISTORY

No. 9.—"CORRESPONDENCE."

"Correspondence" was the term for the system of through bookings introduced in 1857 by the Compagnie General des Omnibuses, as the L.G.O.C. was known when it first commenced operations in the metropolis. Offices were opened in the City and West End, where intending passengers booked through from any one part of London to any other part, changing *en route* to the particular services travelling towards their ultimate destination. Thus, one could book in advance from Croydon to Edmon-ton, and accomplish the journey with one change of bus. Although successful in Paris, "Correspondence" received but little patronage in London, and was consequently withdrawn after a brief existence. Recently, however, this old-time facility has been revived on certain routes in the east and south-east. Below are some examples of this modern form of "Correspondence."

THROUGH FARES

By Routes Nos. 99 108	From Poplar (Blackwall Tunnel), changing at Woolwich Road to Routes Nos. 53 or 53A.
	To New Cross Gate, 2½d. To Plumstead Common, 3½d.
	From Woolwich Road (Blackwall Lane) changing at Poplar to Routes Nos. 15, 23, 40 or 40A.
	To Aldgate Church, 3d. To Green St., Barking Rd., 2½d.

The London General Omnibus Co., Ltd.,
Electric Railway House,
Broadway, Westminster, S.W.

the changes are of no particular consequence, but bills payable show a reduction of £81,243 at £93,998, and savings-bank deposits are £15,350 smaller at £291,526. There is also a reduction of £44,698 in the item "unclaimed dividends," bringing it down to £110,510. Profits, including that from the Ceylon estates, after paying wages and working expenses, are up £23,804 to £293,756, and current expenses show a reduction of £17,338 at £106,204. Loss on realisation of investments amounting to £6,021 has been written off, and depreciation altogether took £3,229 more at £45,104, but bad and doubtful debts written off or provided against took £12,327 less at £7,469, and hence the nett profit of £124,339 was larger as stated above. The business is said to be progressing satisfactorily, and the larger part of the profit was made in the second half of the company's year. Re-organisation has steadily proceeded, and makes good progress, so that the report in various aspects is cheerful, although the steady rise in prices must necessarily have some hindering effect upon profits.

The difficulties of procuring supplies and the exceptionally high prices which have ruled for many classes of goods left their mark on the results obtained by the International Tea Co.'s Stores in its year ended April 29. In the preceding 12 months the nett profits reached the highest total in the company's history with an increase of £33,613 to £186,592, but this is now followed by a setback of £50,730 to £137,861. The dividend on the ordinary shares is reduced from 10 per cent. to 7 per cent., bringing the distribution back to the level of 1912-3, while the allowance for depreciation is cut down by £8,000 to £22,000, and only £20,000, or half last year's amount, is transferred to reserve. Even with these smaller appropriations the balance carried forward is £9,375 less than was brought in at £7,949. Stocks are £127,210 larger at £518,159 and debtors have risen by £49,550 to £242,689, with the result that the company has had to depend to a much greater extent on credits, and in addition to an increase of £61,236 to £274,017 in trade liabilities the indebtedness on temporary loans is £124,733 up at £278,494. Cash shows a small decrease of £2,040 at £51,886, but investments are unchanged at £68,844. During the year a further £12,841 was spent in converting leasehold properties into freehold, raising the total of these to £382,595. Goodwill remains at £626,675 out of the capital of £1,100,000, but against this the reserve now amounts to £394,906.

With ammunal playing such an important part in the present struggle it is not surprising that the profits of Roburite and Ammunal, Ltd., increased enormously in 1915. Even after providing for excess profits duty and amortisation on war capital outlay the trading profits showed an improvement of no less than £73,172 at £88,920. Of this £26,000 is set aside as a reserve for contingencies, and expenses, including proportion of profits payable to directors, having been met, the nett surplus is £30,252 better at £36,095. The 10 per cent. transferred to reserve under the articles of association requires £3,610, or £3,026 more, and the ordinary shares, which a year ago got a modest 2 per cent., are now made happy with a distribution of 20 per cent., and £11,887 is carried forward compared with £199 brought in. Stocks have risen by £83,515 to £96,745, debtors owe £135,604 more at £148,139, and cash is £4,612 up at £10,913, while, on the other hand, current liabilities have been increased by £157,890 to £174,904. Property account is unchanged at £23,033, but plant and machinery is £4,332 up at £19,722, and it has been necessary to increase the indebtedness on mortgages by £15,500 to £15,950. Patents and goodwill have been written down by £884 to £91,495, but are very high in comparison with the total capital of £129,635, and the directors would have been better advised if they had taken advantage of the exceptional prosperity to reduce the amount substantially instead of making a display over the dividend.

The difficulties of importing sufficient goods to meet the demand which sprang up in the second half of last year gave the Dominion Textile Co. (of Montreal) an opportunity of which it has not been slow to avail itself. In spite of the scarcity of dyestuffs and chemicals, the mills have been run to their full capacity, and a large number of new cloths not previously made in Canada were added to its productions, and the directors are very hopeful that the trade now captured will be retained after the war is over. Nett profits for the year ended March 31, after writing off \$350,156, or \$146,106 more, for repairs and improvements to the mills, were \$240,428 larger at \$1,481,195, and to this was added \$74,377 for dividend of 2½ per cent. on shares in the Dominion Cotton Mills Co. for the 12 months ended March 31, 1915, making a total of \$1,555,573 available, but in spite of the substantial increase no difference is made in the distribution on the common stock, which is again 6 per cent. Of the surplus, \$100,000 is set aside towards Government war tax, and \$15,000, or \$5,000 more, is contributed to the Patriotic Fund, while the balance carried forward, including \$74,377 for the dividend on the Dominion Cotton Mills stock received since the books were closed, is \$211,008 higher at \$1,167,912. Stocks of raw cotton are \$165,597 larger at \$903,082, and supplies are \$30,566 up at \$389,815, but manufactured goods show a decrease of \$553,228 at \$1,005,087. Sundry debtors owe \$589,598 more at \$2,357,469, while, on the other hand, the "quick liabilities," which include loans, have been reduced by \$95,102 to \$3,675,760.

Messrs. Henry R. Merton and Co., the well-known metal merchants, upon whose conduct in connection with the supply of certain metals to Germany at the time of the outbreak of war severe strictures were recently passed by a judge in the High Court, have issued a circular, in which they say arrangements have been made to ensure that in future the company will remain under exclusively British control. It was formerly a German concern to all intents and purposes, but the shares hitherto held by German firms, amounting to £300,000 (nominal value), and representing about 50 per cent. of the capital, have now been acquired by British subjects, with the result that 85 per cent. of the capital is now in British hands, the remaining 15 per cent. being split up among Swiss, French, and American shareholders, who refuse to part with their shares. Negotiations were authorised and entered into as long ago as July, 1915, but only came to a successful conclusion early in February this year. The terms of the transaction were submitted to the Board of Trade and High Court of Justice for their approval, which was granted. The company has also altered its articles of association, in conjunction with the Board of Trade, and they now contain stringent provisions, which should ensure that the company will remain exclusively British. Should any of the foreign countries in which shares are now held become involved in war with Great Britain, the foreign shareholders will be compelled to dispose of their holding. It is also provided that no shares may be sold to a foreign subject or corporation or British subject with foreign connections. In order to give effect to these regulations, no bearer shares will be issued in future, and no transfer will be made unless accompanied by a statutory declaration that the transferee is a British subject. In future all directors, committees of the board, and managers must be British subjects.

At one time the shares of the Duff Development Co., Ltd., were a favourite market gamble, and puffs of the prospects were served up in plenty. The company originally owned a concession over some 3,000 square miles in the State of Kelantan, Malay Peninsula, but this was cancelled in 1912, and the Government of Kelantan agreed to pay £300,000 as compensation. Prospecting and other rights were retained, and a considerable area was planted with rubber, but the chief hope for the development of the mineral resources (gold and tin) lay in the expectation that the projected

Government railway would pass through the Galas-Sokor district, where the principal mineral deposits, were believed to have been located. Unfortunately for the company the Government decided that the railway should follow another route, and as the company considered it had a grievance, the case was submitted to arbitration. The award, after unavoidable delays, has now been given in favour of the Government, and, heigh-presto! the capital is immediately to be cut in half by writing 10s. off each of the 492,470 shares issued. At the same time holders of option certificates conferring the right to take up 100,000 shares at 25s. will be asked to take 10s. shares at 12s. 6d. instead, and as an inducement to accept, the option will be extended from October, 1917, till October, 1918. According to the last report—for 1914—there was a debit at profit and loss of about £40,000, a gross profit of £7,000 on rubber having been swallowed up by a loss of £2,600 on gold dredging, and of £7,000 on the sawmills. Even on ordinary trading there was a loss, which is fairly conclusive evidence of bad management somewhere, and the option certificates would not appear to be of such value as to be a serious stumbling block to reconstruction. But it will doubtless come as a shock and a surprise to the shareholders that the mere prospect of a particular railway route should have apparently been considered sufficient to justify the doubling of the value of the company's assets. That is surely a very flagrant example of counting chickens before they are hatched, and with a loss of nearly a quarter of a million to face, the shareholders will have a right to demand a much fuller explanation than is vouchsafed in the circular announcing the proposed scheme of reconstruction.

A Two Thousand Million Budget: What Follows?

That is what Mr. McKenna's casual-looking remark in the House of Commons last Monday, that our expenditure had risen to more than £6,000,000 a day, means. If the war continues up to the end of the financial year to make demands as great as it is now doing, we shall probably by then have added another £1,600,000,000, or £1,700,000,000 to the National Debt, notwithstanding the new taxation, and instead of being £127,000,000 the annual charge of the debt alone will probably approach something like £135,000,000. This is a burden or clog which by itself alone will tend to alter the entire outlook of the nation, and put its recuperative capacity to a test far more exacting than that which it had to deal with a century ago. But it will be said that much of the expenditure has been, or is being, incurred on behalf of our Allies and colonies, perhaps also—although upon that point we are less sure than we should like to be—for India. And it is no doubt pleasant to think that we may be able to reckon upon repayment of these balances some day, somehow; but we should be very far from wise in counting upon speedy liquidation. How, for instance, are Belgium or Serbia going to repay us with promptitude for what we have bestowed upon them, for what we are now paying to sustain their armies? And how much money are we likely to get back from Australia or New Zealand in return for the advances we are making to them, not only on account of the war, but to keep them meanwhile from defaulting upon old debts, maturing for repayment without having been provided for? And could India pay us back within a reasonable time any of the money we may be advancing to sustain her troops in this forlorn-looking campaign in Mesopotamia? Such questions have but to be asked to reveal the precariousness of the security, or at best its remoteness. We shall have to rely upon ourselves or—ah! state not the alternative.

We shall have to carry the burden of the war debt and of many other obligations by ourselves almost alone for years to come even should we yoke Germany to redemption bondage, and the question is becoming urgent, How are we to do it and triumph? It cannot

be done on the old lines, and the Government is obviously to some extent becoming conscious that large new sources of public income will have to be created against the day when the war and the credit riot will together be over; but it has thus far only got to the length of appointing committees. They multiply daily, one may say, and some of them have already made suggestions or recommendations which carry us no further than we were before. Undaunted by failure apparently the Cabinet has even got as far as to invite suggestions from outsiders. All and sundry with bees in their bonnets, or without, have been invited to send their prescriptions for earthquakes to Mr. Vaughan Nash, the very competent permanent head of the Development Committee. But does not this kind of shunting reveal a shirking of responsibility? Could not, for instance, the Government itself or some of its members, or an intelligent House of Commons, answer some of those questions which its new Commercial and Industrial Committee announced on Wednesday is to break its teeth over? Take the first one—"What industries are essential to the future safety of the nation, and what steps should be taken to maintain or establish them?" Could not the Marquis of Lansdowne answer that question, or the Marquis of Londonderry, or the Earl of Derby, or the Duke of Devonshire? Is it not true that the one industry which above all others requires stimulus and immediate great expansion in this country is agriculture? And does any member of the Cabinet really in his own mind believe that the proposal to vest in the War Office a power to acquire land on which to colonise returned soldiers as rack rent cotters, or tenants at will, or as charity pensioners, is going to revivify the decaying rural life of the kingdom? Contrasted with the nation's imperative necessities the project is a mockery, and can only provoke the people to make demands, the gratification of which may lead to the confiscation of all that remains of the feudal privileges to which our landed class clings with a blind obstinacy that would excite commiseration were it not so dangerous.

Some years ago this writer was driving with a friend through a hunting district in one of the Midland counties. It was not a district where crops were conspicuous by their magnitude, but still, the land was here and there cultivated after a fashion, and most of such crops as there were looked fairly clean. At one point, however, a farm was skirted which stood out conspicuous amongst all the country round with an aspect of absolute neglect. Weeds choked the growing grain and root crops, hedges were untrimmed weed nurseries, gates and fences in a state of utmost dilapidation, and the whole place so malarious in appearance that we could not help remarking upon it. "Oh," said the friend with us, "the farmer here is dead." "Then," we replied, "the landlord will surely try to get a better tenant in his place?" "Oh, no, he won't care much about that," was the answer; "he is Lord So-and-So, a great hunting man, and thinks far more of his foxes than about crops. So long as the foxes are plentiful, the farming may go to the devil for all he cares."

What are we to think of a country which in this twentieth century tolerates such a misuse of its soil, of a people who sit quiet and behold the land monopolised

SOUTH MANCHURIAN RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED, 5 PER CENT. STERLING BONDS.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the COUPONS due 5th August, 1916, will be PAID on that date between the hours of 11 and 1, or any day afterwards (Saturdays excepted), between the hours of 11 and 3, by the Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd., where lists may be obtained.

Coupons must be left three clear days for examination prior to their payment.

For the Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd.,

K. TATSUMI, Manager.

7, Bishopsgate, London, E.C.,
21st July, 1916.

for sport, food for man and beast scorned that foxes may flourish. How is it possible for the town dweller, or the down-trodden, hope and outlook-denied agricultural labourer himself, for that matter, to be reconciled to the laws and customs which permit any individual, no matter how hierarchically exalted, to stifle the sources of wealth for the community in this fashion over large tracts of country? Will the new Committee just appointed apply itself to a question of this kind, and try to suggest a permanent remedy? Its members may depend upon it that "back to the land" in a real and durable fashion is to be the cry of large masses of the men of our returned armies when the war is over. "Colonies of coddled cottiers" they will never consent to be. It is a cry that will not be satisfied by rack rent tenures of allotments more or less scanty, nor even by compensation for improvements, leases of larger farms. Mr. Jesse Collins is perfectly right; the desire for ownership must be frankly met and gratified, and the power of the great landlords to withhold for their own selfish purposes millions of acres from the people, merely in obedience to old custom, will have to be surrendered. The nation must be in great part fed by the produce of its own soil for many a year to come as one fruit of this war.

That is the most important point in the first question this new Committee is asked to solve. There are many others, however, and it will evidently have to discuss Free Trade and Protection in dealing with the steps taken "to recover home and foreign trade lost during the war, and to secure new markets." The third and fourth questions seem to us to a large extent academic, and, indeed, the second one cannot be handled in a way to carry us far towards practical results until we know what markets the war is going to leave us. Speakers and theorists seem mostly to continue to assume that when the war is over everything will be as it was in international trade. There could be no greater illusion. Take our own case as bearing on our food supplies. Look what is happening in regard to our investments in United States securities. Before the war these investments put the United States in our debt to an amount which probably exceeded of late £150,000,000 per annum. That was surely a powerful stimulus to our trade with the United States, and a great help to our importing power in all directions. Especially did it enable us to make sure of plenty of food. But now we have parted with this asset, and when the war ends little or none of the former power will remain with us. All the income our investments gave will have been mortgaged or parted with for ever by the sale of the securities to the American people. How is trade to be resumed after the war between the two countries with this powerful leverage in our favour withdrawn? If the United States, as is probable, continues a protective country, shutting out the foreigner and trying to be self-sustaining, what means will we have by which to surmount the barrier, so as to command what we want? If we have nothing but our manufactures to sell, and if these are denied easy entry, then we must fall back on home resources and grow food at home. The Committee might devote a little attention to answering questions of this type, and landlords learn to look facts in the face before it is too late. It is not greed of gain which keeps the landowner from moving, but love of power, the caste feeling common to feudal junkers of all nationalities.

The illustration furnished by our dealings with, and financial relations with, the United States in varying forms applies elsewhere. Our lost wealth, our inability to stimulate trade by moneylending in the old way, must force us back on our own native resources. Wisely and fully utilised these might soon make all classes, if not rich, comfortable. We shall hope to have a much more intimate commercial union with France, Russia and Italy when the war is over, but for a time the buying power of every one of these Allies also must be seriously crippled by reason of the enormous consumption of their wealth the war is causing, and because it will take years to reorganise for wealth-creating purposes industries now diverted

from their ordinary channels by war demands and for the populations to recover their manhood vigour. Therefore interchange of commodities will all round be circumscribed to a degree our publicists seem not to so much as suspect. Are we to go on disregarding until revolution overtakes us?

We are not insisting upon points like these with any idea of discouraging the nation, but simply with a view to impress upon those who are fumbling around the great questions looming ahead and ripening fast for solution, the necessity of throwing away their intellectual crutches, removing their blinkers, their habits of thinking by rote and their slothful dependence upon current phrases. It is not going to be the world we left in August, 1914, that we are going to resume living in when this war ends, not even if the end came before October. Old habits of life, old relationships between class and class, old associations in all directions will have to be abandoned, and the individualism which is selfishness broken down to make way for the linking of man with man in a common endeavour to save our civilisation from the ruin that impends if we are not up and doing. The true ideal is neither rich nor poor, but well-being for all. But the abolition of the privileges of feudalism, descended from feudalism, need not tend to the poverty even of the deprived, but the contrary, if rightly arranged. Community of interests, a well-ordered co-partnership between hind and aristocrat, landlord, farmer, labourer, distributor, for the common good in arranged proportions would consolidate the wealth of all, and lift all up towards a nobler life ideal and avert revolution.

Australian Commonwealth Finance.

Somewhat late, but not too late for useful purposes, we must hark back upon the financial position of the Australian Commonwealth as outlined in Mr. Higgs's Budget. It is the more expedient to do this because we continue to receive many indications that all is not as it should be in money matters amongst our fellow-citizens in that part of the world. Grumbings many are heard there, and find their way into the newspapers, not merely about the financial position of the Commonwealth, but about the extravagance of the individual Governments, a theme to which we shall also have to refer. The Commonwealth itself is not setting quite the example it should to the various States, and underneath the whole system of Colonial finance—as well as under our own to no small extent—lies an obliviousness to the consequences flowing from unthrift and an ignorance of what certain measures or expedients in credit using really imply, which cause us often to pause aghast at the prospect before us—before civilised existence—when peace comes back to the world.

Look, for example, at the developments that may spring from the credit-originating activity of the Commonwealth Bank. All Australian politicians—headed by Mr. Fisher, formerly Premier, now the High Commissioner here, and naturally quite a shrewd Scotsman—seem to regard the creation and emission of bank notes as something to be delighted over. They never for a moment regard these notes as debt, and yet they are as much debt as interest-bearing obligations, and a form of debt that may bring universal stagnation and decay if given too much liberty of expansion. The notes of the Bank are used now to inflate prices, to sustain the "wages fund," as it is called, to pay for public works, and the more they expand in volume, replacing hard cash, the more they sap the wealth of the young nation. Already artificial restrictions are placed on the export of gold, and no regard is paid to the true quality of the security behind the notes. They are regarded as "money," good for their face value, although it may be that the pre-existing or co-existing interest-bearing debt more than absorbs all the available assets furnished by the industry of the people. How will the Commonwealth stand should the day arrive, as it often has elsewhere in like circumstances,

when the notes fall to a more or less ruinous discount against gold, and gold must none the less be provided to pay interest on the enormous public debts?

These preliminaries over—such questions left to discuss another day—let us recite a few facts. In the year 1914-15, all budget years closing on June 30 in Australia, the total expenditure of the Commonwealth was £31,751,488, of which £15,011,335 was war expenditure. The revenue available was only £16,056,023, so that the deficit was £15,695,465, and of that deficit £14,100,000 was furnished by the British Treasury. For the year ended June 30 last the war expenditure amounted to £43,790,187, and the total expenditure came to £62,554,091, while the total revenue was only £22,143,605. Therefore the revenue provided for barely £3,800,000 of the total war expenditure, and there was a deficit of £40,410,486 to be provided for at the end of the year. To the extent of £22,400,000 it was covered by advances from the Home Government, and then £35,045,020 was raised by war loans in Australia, unquestionably a most remarkable feat. In these two ways £57,445,000 was provided, and allowing for £4,000,000 advanced by the Commonwealth to the States, £13,034,534 remained in hand to help to meet expenses in the current year. These will now be heavier than ever, for the war is at its height, and the Commonwealth Treasurer, Mr. W. G. Higgs, has stated that the Government intends to borrow £50,000,000 of new money in Australia during the year ended June 30 next, besides £9,000,000 additional to be used to enable the States to carry on "absolutely necessary public works" and to meet obligations maturing up to December 31 next. Altogether £59,000,000, it would seem, is to be raised on loan within Australia this year, and we shall be dazzled indeed if that feat can be accomplished without hurting the vital strength of the nation.

Supposing it to be so, what is the prospect for the Australian people after this war? That is a question they should at least endeavour to prepare themselves to discuss without sentiment or rhetoric at the earliest available opportunity. Obviously their debts will be augmented to an extent that must demand a large increase in the permanent revenue. From what source or sources is that to be procured? At the same time that taxes must be seriously augmented the working population will have been diminished by war casualties and war diseases, while, to add to the pressure, those soldiers who return from the wars will have large arrears of pay to claim, and not a few maimed ones will have to be pensioned. The *Australasian Insurance and Banking Record* contends that, after adding the ordinary defence expenditure, the total war costs to the Commonwealth of the two financial years will be over £70,000,000, exclusive of £4,500,000, the estimated amount of soldiers' deferred pay, and exclusive also of the debt due to the Imperial Government for the maintenance and equipment of Australian soldiers abroad. Should the war continue up to the end of June next to involve expenditure at the rate estimated for the current year, we cannot be far out in placing the additions it will have made to the actual indebtedness of the Commonwealth at something like £200,000,000, everything included. It may be considerably more, it cannot be much less, and if it is sought to maintain prosperity in spite of the facts by further additions to the interest-bearing debt, or by continuing to expand the note circulation of the Commonwealth Bank regardless of consequences, it will soon become impossible to avert calamities. Let it never be overlooked that the community will be thrown back on its own resources when the war ends, through the sheer inability of the home money market to continue the old habit of adding loan to loan and calling on the world to behold Australia's wonderful expansion, wealth, and prosperity. Throw off the glamour of the ignorant, too often of the self-seeking, rhetorician, and examine prospects in the light of plain facts.

The present, we are told, is not the time to press topics of this kind too strenuously upon the attention of our fellow-citizens in Australia, but would our

critics be good enough to tell us when the right time will come? Surely political leaders at least ought to give attention to possibilities certain to become ominous as actualities if they continue blindly to follow the old ways—"borrow and hoast, borrow and re-borrow, and let future generations carry the load if they please." That is not statesmanship, be it what it may. Australian prosperity has been based on debt multiplication and manipulation quite as much as German has been. Credit manipulation through banks and the combined action of banks, loan agencies, politicians, and industrial companies all engaged in "pushing business," have much to answer for in Australia, even as in Europe.

The chief delinquent amongst the individual States of the Commonwealth continues to be New South Wales. All the States are keeping labour sweet still by utilising borrowed money, or treacherous credit in the form of Commonwealth notes, to keep public works, as they are called, going on, no matter how hurtful the waste of means may be for the ultimate welfare of the community. In the *Sydney Morning Herald* we see all too frequent complaints about the extravagance New South Wales continues to exhibit, and lament the fact were it only because the loan sustenance by which this extravagance is nourished must in the nature of things end when at latest the war ends. Economy should be the rule enforced on every side, and in New South Wales extravagance continues. What the future is going to bring nobody seems to care. As a correspondent in Sydney puts it to us—it is not even as if these public works now being carried on are to be revenue producing. A second story is being erected on the "glorified railway station" by day labour, "which should be called day loafing." This will probably run into £250,000, and is simply being built to keep the men working at the Government quarries, brick works, and cement works. "Most of these men should be in khaki." Then a new Government printing office is going to sweep away another £750,000, and the underground railway system just started, also by day labour, will cost £5,000,000. Buildings are being pulled down wholesale to clear the ground on which to erect palatial stations. Railways are being constructed that could easily wait, roads widened, and all by "day labour." The whole state of affairs, our correspondent declares, is "absolutely scandalous," and can only end in "reconstruction" when a "large proportion of the British loans will be written down." The writer pleads for exposure of these practices, but experience has warned us that exposure does no good, brings nothing but hatred and evil speaking. We must therefore wait for the sobering influence of bitter experience, and will not now have to wait long.

By-the-Way War Notes.

Sir Douglas Haig's appeal to the munition-makers of this country has been promptly and nobly responded to. Even before that cogent and dignified message from our Generalissimo was penned, the assemblage of miners' representatives in Buxton had decided to forego the August Bank Holiday, and now all classes of munitioners, as we may call them, have done the same. They held a meeting in the Caxton Hall on Tuesday, presided over by Mr. Arthur Henderson, Minister of Education in the present Government, and resolved that they "would not relax their efforts to maintain and increase the supply of ammunition, guns and other war material which is necessary to enable you and the Army to bring to a victorious conclusion the great task which you have so gallantly and successfully begun." Therefore no holidays are to be taken "until such time as we are assured by you that military exigencies permit them to be taken." Nothing could be more satisfactory, and there is satisfaction of another sort also in the language of Sir Douglas Haig's note. "The pressure which we have now brought to bear on the enemy must not for a moment be relaxed," he says. "The troops are prepared and

eager to maintain it, but the continuous supply of ammunition is a vital factor." And finally, "Let the whole British nation forego any idea of a general holiday until our goal is reached. A speedy and decisive victory will then be ours." We gather from this that, given the ammunition, Sir Douglas knows that he has the enemy well in hand, and we infer also that the pressure has only to be maintained as it has begun to bring this war to an end much sooner than appearances would suggest. That seems to be the view of the men coming back from the front. We talked the other day with a Manchester "Tommy" who had just come back with his wounds from the Somme, and his language was emphatic in expressing the conviction that "it won't last much longer." All the more reason why the Army should be sustained to the fullest extent possible with all the appliances necessary to destroy the obstinate and infatuated foe. The workers recognise their responsibility and may be trusted to do their duty to the full.

We wish it were possible to speak as cheerfully about the attitude of the House of Commons as about that of the working men and women now doing their utmost to bring the war to an early successful conclusion, but it is not possible. In many respects the attitude of the faction in the Commons which makes it its business to bait and worry the Government on any pretext or none seems at times almost unworthy of British citizenship. But it may have been as well that the Government should give way in part to the clamour for investigation into the Dardanelles and Mesopotamia catastrophes if only in this way faction could be muzzled. Possibly enough, as regards the Kut calamity, the Indian army staff did underrate difficulties and neglect to make full provision for many contingencies when it organised that expedition, misled by the 60 years' experience of little wars with border tribes around India. That may account for, although it does not excuse, the mistakes, the inadequacies, the failures, but we have the assurance of the Prime Minister that the utmost energy has been displayed in putting things to rights, and we can trust Sir William Robertson to make that assurance good. The thing we have to do meanwhile is strenuously to unite together in winning this war.

Peace propagandists are becoming more insistent and active in proportion as the agony of the war increases. Academically considered, there is a certain attractiveness in some of the proposals advanced by one body of them, among whom we see such names as Mr. Thomas Burt, M.P., Lord Courtney of Penwith, Sir Edward Fry, Mr. J. A. Hobson, Canon Horsley, Margaret Llewelyn Davies, Sir Edwin Pears, Principal Selbie, Robert Smillie, Victor Branford, and Professor Eddington. In a leaflet circulated by these men and women it is laid down that "the independence of Belgium, Serbia and Montenegro must be restored" with "full compensation to Belgium." Do these people, then, think Germany reduced to a mood of humility capable of assenting to that proposition, or when do they think that happy state of affairs will arise, assuming the proposal otherwise feasible or adequate? What do they mean by the "independence" of Serbia and Montenegro?

Alongside this suggestion—which is quite up in the air so far as every-day affairs go, absolutely valueless so long as the Germans are not thrashed into humility—we are told that there must be "restoration of territory" invaded by both States subject to "readjustments" outlined and declared reasonably satisfactory. How is that to be brought about in the present mood of Germany? One of the "adjustments," for instance, "demands the application of the principle of nationality in Europe by the readjustments of frontiers, autonomy, or other solution." A large order, surely, needing a tremendous amount of bloodshed before it can be brought into the region of practical politics. But these visionaries refuse to look at facts. Instead, we are informed that the demands of the Central Powers and other European States to have increased economic opportunity in economically

undeveloped countries should be granted. Can these pacifists tell us why or how? Who and what will be the "Central Powers" when this war is over? These memorandists tell us that the principle of nationality must be recognised in Poland, Alsace-Lorraine, the Trentino, the South Slav districts, Bulgaria, Macedonia, and elsewhere, and if this is to be done, where are the Austrian and German Empires to come in? A complete restoration of the Polish nationality would bring the frontier of Poland precious near the gates of Berlin, and if "the principle of nationality" is to be honoured in the case of the Slav, why not in the case of the Czech? To put forward academic flatulencies of this kind as serious contributions to practical politics would be insulting to the common intelligence were it not redeemed by its droll detachment from anything real. How "the principle of nationality" is to be given to these countries and the Central Empires continue to exist even these memorandists seem puzzled to guess. "A wide extension of the principle of nationalisation through neutral States or zones may prove the happiest solution in some cases," they remark with a sapience quaintly impractical. "In some cases autonomy within a larger State is likely to prove more satisfactory than independence from the point of view of the nation itself no less than of European peace." You feel wiser after reading utterances of this kind, don't you, more able to see your way through the maze of conflicting interests civilised Europe will have to deal with when the fighting has ended? We can't feel that way quite, but it is nice and surely beautiful in the abstract. There is nothing either to be said against the remark that "the settlement we want is a settlement dictated by thought for the future rather than by retribution for the past." Exactly, we have all along felt that way, and hence our determination to fight until a solid foundation can be laid for a peace that may endure. Can these engaging other-worldly gentlemen and ladies point to a single German of position and authority whose words and actions have given the least indication that they would assent to the charming sentiment—"successful invasion should not itself justify annexation"? If not, what is the practical use of thrusting such school copybook sentimentalities under the eye? The German mentality as to annexation and many things else can be gauged by the Kaiser's latest sermon. He has been preaching to that branch of his civil service bond slaves represented by the army chaplains at headquarters, and the abstract of his harangue transmitted by Reuter makes him lament that some there are within his ever-sacred empire who complain and criticise. In sadness rather than wrath he bids his people, *i.e.*, his armies, "live according to the Lord's teaching." And the essence of that teaching is, "Our nation is great," and "has without complaint or hesitation sacrificed everything for the great cause. Give the men in the trenches my greetings and impress upon them the need for firm reliance upon God." A beautiful sentiment which, alongside the aims and facts of the war the Kaiser's megalomania let loose in the world, has as much congruity and seamliness as the tract before us on "the basis for a just peace."

One more question: Would the memorandists kindly explain why the Germans are to be given "special economic opportunities for their enterprise in Asiatic Turkey"? Are they to get that reward for having schemed to oust us from India, or for having backed the Turks in massacring the Armenian nation well-nigh to extinction? And how are "economic opportunities" to be given to the Germans in Asia Minor if Russia is to be endowed with the "suzerainty" over devastated Armenia? Have these decadent visionaries no knowledge of things actual? It would seem not; and there is much more of the same sort of stuff which those who care to may muse or make merry over. We have no more space. But those who really understand the problem civilisation has now to solve must not treat as of no moment at all such exhibitions of "fusionless" sentimentality, for they appeal to the ignorant among all classes, and to the oddities among "intellectuals," as

well as to many interests jeopardised by the continuance of war.

It is unnecessary for us to expatiate upon the incidents of the actual fighting this week, but it is always wise to counsel the nation to have patience. As far as we can judge Sir Douglas Haig's management of our offensive in the West is prudent and sagacious in the highest degree, and the success our armies have already obtained renders it daily more certain that the Germans will be destroyed to the needful extent and their madness bled out of them ere very long. Our casualties have been heavy, and when the map of the trenches stormed and now in our hands is examined the marvel is that they were not much greater than they are. That we should have possessed ourselves of miles of fortified positions, prepared and interlinked with the utmost skill and ingenuity, by a race whose business is war and only war, in less than a fortnight, is one of the most remarkable military feats in the history of nations. And as we have begun so will we go on, no matter what the transitory fluctuations of trench holding and attack and rebuttal may be. Methodically, without pause or interruption, with ever-increasing effectiveness, the obliteration of the debased and brutalised victims of Prussian and Austrian despotism will go on now to the necessary end. Both the British and the French armies are on the way to assured victory, and so are the Russians and the Italians. Both on their Western front and in Asia Minor the Russians are steadily working towards the goal shining ahead for all the Allies, viz., the extinction of the Central Empires, the deliverance of their oppressed and befooled peoples, and the destruction for ever of their power to do evil through commanding hordes of armed and drilled serfs and savages inured to habits of blind obedience. That is the end we make for, grave though it must be to define it, and within a few weeks, or months at the outside, the attainment ought to be in sight for all of us. The fury of the German threats and boasts is itself a symptom of the approach of collapse, though as yet the wild boar at bay is more defiantly aggressive than ever. Will the deluded populations rise in revolt when the truth is forced in upon them? The Prussians will not, whatever the others may do. It is for the Allies to count on no help from within the derelict empires, but to forge steadily ahead.

American Business Notes.

In the lull which comes before the opening of hostilities over the Presidential contest there may be said to be nothing of interest happening in the United States. A certain amount of talk and scribbling has gone on over the sudden dearness of money in New York, and, as the *Morning Post's* able correspondent points out, the fact that money should suddenly jump to 6 per cent. on the New York market has been cited as a proof that the Federal Bank law has failed to do what its framers intended. The Federal Banks were to make money cheap always and in any circumstances, for the small borrower equally with the large, and it has failed the critics say. Not so, retorts Mr. Maurice Low, the dear money was caused by a Stock Exchange gamble, and the Federal Banks are debarred from lending any money, or countenancing by direct or indirect means, operations of that kind. Their resources and facilities are for the general public, not for the gambler. For the merchant and the industrial employer of borrowed money there has been no increase in rates. That may be true enough; but all the same the structure of the Federal Banks has not yet been put to a real test, and may not be so while the iron and steel manufacturers of the Republic continue to draw large amounts of money from Europe in payment for munitions exported. From now onward, however, it is probable that this trade will decline, and many unforeseen conditions may emerge when the flow of European savings to the States begins to decline or tends to cease altogether. We in this country are now nearly independent in the matter of ammunition, and by and by the consumption

will diminish. Our emergency imports from America should therefore diminish, and help to reduce the strain on the New York exchange, unless food and raw material requirements come forward to fill the gap. It will be a complicated position for many a month yet at best.

Much discussion has also gone on over the submarine "merchant" vessel, *Deutschland*, which has been treated by the United States Government as being nothing beyond what it professes to be. We still have our doubts, remembering Teuton cunning and ingenuity, but some amusement will doubtless be afforded by the escapades of this and other triumphs of German serpentine perseverance. Also if the fleet of such merchant vessels can be increased to a dozen or so, the chances of sport for our Navy will be pleasantly augmented. Whether it will catch offhand the *Deutschland* or the *Bremen*—which is said also to be on the point of arriving at a United States port—or not is a secondary matter; the fun of the hunt promises now and then to be remarkably exciting, and we need a little occasional lightening of the strain of war from some quarter. We back our sailors to get the best of the tussle in the end, no matter what the Germans do.

Even Mexican muddles are in a state of half-suspended animation at the moment, and hope has again revived of salvation by the good offices of neutrals. It will mostly depend on whether Carranza is strong enough to be trustworthy. He does not seem to be a bad man or a man of defined anarchic designs against the foreign capitalist, but he has never yet shown vigour in statesmanship or a higher political capacity than that of the limpet. He has held on his way though, and he is standing up to Washington in a style which encourages hope. We dread the advent of the *exploiteur*, and of anarchy, if any part of the Republic has to be occupied by United States troops, but disinterested help and advice devoid of selfish designs might consolidate the power of the new Government, and give the Mexican people yet one more chance to emancipate themselves from the curse of old Spain.

The latest suggestion is that in order to further his re-election Dr. Woodrow Wilson is going to thrust himself forward as peace mediator between the European belligerents. He will come to grief in more ways than one if he does.

Lieutenant-Colonel Alexander Fitzgerald Watt, D.S.O., has been elected to a seat on the West-End board of the Yorkshire Insurance Co., Ltd.

NOTICES.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

NOTICE.

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EDWARD SATTERTHWAITE,

Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange,
Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London.

CITY OF TOKYO 5 PER CENT. STERLING LOAN OF 1906 FOR £1,500,000.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the COUPONS due 1st August, 1916, will be PAID on and after that date (Saturdays excepted), between the hours of 11 and 3, by the Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited, where lists may be obtained.

Coupons must be left three clear days for examination prior to their payment.

For the Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd.,
K. TATSUMI, Manager.

7, Bishopsgate, E.C.,
17th July, 1916.

Answers to Correspondents.

***. A Key to these Answers will be posted early each week for a subscription of ONE GUINEA per annum, 11s. for six months, or 5s. 9d. for three months.**

Deposits against future queries may be lodged with the Publisher.

A. A. C.—We think so, but the company has had a very rough time, and the immediate outlook is not too cheerful. In the long run it should do better again.

J. W. M.—Nothing definite, but there are reports that pressure is being brought to bring about a settlement. Until this is done we doubt if dividends will be paid.

Insurer.—Any of the leading British companies. Rates vary according to age.

L. R. W.—Yes, certainly. Your broker can no doubt put you on the right way.

Yare.—There is no undue risk, and we see no objection to a further purchase.

R. C. N.—(1) (2) Quite good. (3) Not so good, although the interest should be safe enough. You will probably find them all scarce, but (1) (2) should be worth buying if bought to yield, say, not less than $5\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.

G. R. S.—They are better left alone. We have no faith in the people connected with the concern.

Eno.—No. They are being puffed by outside brokers.

Devon.—We see nothing against your doing so. The company is well managed, and likely to be a steady dividend-payer.

Rock.—(1) Yes. Quite good. (2) With its large area under rubber this should also be a promising lock-up.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Average Trust.—Interim of 15 per cent., free tax, on the ordinary, payable 15th inst., same as last year.

Bank of Victoria.—Half-yearly on the preference and ordinary at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, same as a year ago; forward, £30,711, against £49,454.

Bournemouth and Poole Electricity Supply.—Interim on the ordinary at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, less tax, payable Aug. 15, same as a year ago.

Brazilian Traction, Light, and Power.—1 per cent. on the issued ordinary, payable Sept. 1.

Butters Salvador Mines.—25 cents per share, same as a year ago.

Carey United Rubber.—Interim of 1s. per share, less tax, for year ending Sept. 30, 1916, same as a year ago.

Claudius Ash, Sons and Co.—On the ordinary at the rate of 5 per cent. for 1915, less tax.

Commercial Bank of Australia.—At the rate of 4 per cent. on preference, placing £20,000 to reinstatement of capital, £5,000 to reduction of bank premises, £3,000 to officers' provident fund, with £9,408 forward.

Cressington Steamship.—Interim for six months ended June 30 at the rate of 16 per cent. per annum, against 12 per cent.

Edward Wood and Co.—Net profit £21,791, against £15,536; final, $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on ordinary, making 10 per cent. for year; to reserve, £3,000; to investment reserve, £1,000, with £7,484 subject to excess profits duty. Last year 6 per cent., with a bonus of 4 per cent., was paid.

Employers' Liability Assurance Corporation.—Interim of 5s. per share, tax free, payable Aug. 16, same as a year ago.

Loders and Nucoline.—Second interim on the ordinary of 5 per cent., making $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to date on account of year to Aug. 31, 1916, same as last year.

London General Omnibus.—Interim of 5 per cent., free of tax, on the ordinary for half-year ended June 30, against 6 per cent.

Metropolitan Trust.—Interim for six months ended the 1st inst. on the ordinary at the rate of 11 per cent. per annum, less tax, payable July 29, same as last year.

Northern Corporation.—Interim at the rate of 4 per cent. on the ordinary for half-year ended June 30, same as a year ago.

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Banking.—Interim of 5s. 6d. per share, being at the rate of 11 per cent. per annum, same as last year.

Pawsons and Leafs.—Interim of 3s. per share for half-year ended June 30, payable Aug. 2, same as a year ago.

Regent's Canal and Dock.—The directors are unable to recommend the payment of a dividend upon the capital stock for the past half-year.

Rembia Rubber.—Second interim on both the ordinary and preference 5 per cent. actual, free tax, payable Aug. 7.

Rio de Janeiro Tramway, Light and Power.— $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the issued capital, payable Aug. 1.

Riordon Pulp and Paper.—Quarterly of 1 per cent. on the common, payable Aug. 15.

Robinson Deep.—On the "A" shares of 4s. per share for six months ended June 30, payable Aug. 31.

Royal Bank of Canada.—3 per cent., being at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, for three months to Aug. 31, payable Sept. 1, same as a year ago.

Royal Brewery, Brentford.—Final of 5 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary for year ended June 30, against 8 per cent.

Sao Paulo Tramway, Light, and Power.— $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the common, payable Aug. 1, same as a year ago.

Scottish Malay Rubber.—Interim of 15 per cent., less tax, against 10 per cent.

Spratt's Patent.—Interim on the ordinary of 1s. per share (same as last year), less tax.

Sungei Reyla (F.M.S.) Rubber.— $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., free tax, payable July 22.

United States Debenture.—Interim for half-year ending 31st inst., less tax, on the ordinary at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, same as a year ago.

United States Mortgage of Scotland.—Final on the deferred at the rate of 11 per cent. per annum, less tax, making 10 per cent. for the year, placing £5,000 to reserve, with £3,671 forward, same as last year.

W. B. Fordham and Sons.—Interim at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, less tax, for six months ended June 30, same as a year ago.

RAILWAYS.

Central London.—Interim for first half of 1916 on the undivided ordinary at the rate of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum, and on the preferred ordinary at the rate of $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. per annum. A year ago 3 per cent. was paid on the undivided ordinary.

City and South London.—Interim for first half of 1916 on the ordinary at the rate of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum. Last year no dividend was paid on the ordinary, the last distribution being $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in 1913.

Great Eastern.—At the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum on the ordinary, same as a year ago.

Liverpool Overhead.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. on preference and of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on ordinary, both less tax at 4s. 6d., same as a year ago.

London, Chatham, and Dover.—Interim for first half of 1916 of £2 per cent. (at the rate of £4 per cent. per annum) on the arbitration preference, payable Aug. 14, same as a year ago.

London Electric.—Interim for first half of 1916 on the ordinary at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum, against 1 per cent.

Metropolitan District.—Interim for first half of 1916 on the second preference at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum, same as a year ago.

Midland.—At the rate of 3 per cent. per annum on the deferred stock, same as a year ago.

North Eastern.—At the rate of $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum on the Consolidated stock, same as a year ago.

South-Eastern.—Interim for first half of 1916 of 10s. per cent. (at the rate of £1 per cent. per annum) on the undivided ordinary. This permits of an interim of £1 per cent. on the preferred ordinary, payable Aug. 8, same as a year ago.

Underground Electric.—Interest on the 6 per cent. cumulative debenture, less tax, at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, and coupon No. 17 off 6 per cent. income bonds, free tax, at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, payable Sept. 1.

ROCK INVESTMENT CO., LTD.—Receipts for the year ended June 30 showed a further decline of £1,872 at £19,876, but the nett profit, after deducting debenture interest and administration charges, was only £362 down at £7,090. Out of this the ordinary stock again gets a dividend of 1 per cent., and £938, or £236 more, is carried forward. No valuation has been made of the investments, which have been reduced by £15,771 to £461,492, but the auditors say that in their opinion there is a depreciation in addition to the investment depreciation account of £84,843, which is included in the balance-sheet as an asset. Cash is £8,164 up at £9,448, while, on the other hand, a reduction of £24,000 to £25,000 in loans is partly offset by a new item of £12,900 for liabilities on deposits.

NEW INVESTMENT CO., LTD.—A further shrinkage of £2,433 to £14,177 in the income for the 12 months ended July 1 was largely offset by a reduction of £1,460 in the interest paid on loans, and the nett profit was consequently only £971 lower at £12,383. The dividend on the ordinary stock is again 6 per cent. for the year, but the half-yearly payments instead of being equally divided were at the rate of 5 and 7 per cent. per annum respectively. Of the surplus remaining, £2,482, or £58 less, is written off investments, leaving the balance brought in of £5,000 untouched. A profit of £4,636 was made on change of investments, compared with £804 in the previous year, and as usual this has been used to write down certain securities. The book value of the investments has been reduced by £37,780 to £252,067, and cash balances are £8,162 down at £4,872, while on the other hand the debt of £45,377 due to the bank has been paid off.

Copies of THE INVESTORS' REVIEW can be obtained in Paris at

**Messrs. W. H. Smith & Son's,
248, Rue de Rivoli.**

Subscriptions to THE INVESTORS' REVIEW will be received in Canada by

**Messrs. Sells, Ltd.,
302, Shaughnessy Buildings,
McGill St., Montreal.**

IRISH RAILWAYS.

		£	£	£	£
Belfast and County Down ..	July 14	5,397	1,354	95,793	4,358
Grand Canal ..	" 14	1,101	15	2,185	72
Great Northern ..	" 14	25,885	2,315	642,013	13,413
Gr. Southern and Western ..	" 14	35,257	201	871,912	45,128
Midland Great Western ..	" 14	12,965	570	339,237	10,440

* From Jan. 1. † From July 1.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam Bengal ..	June 10	1,13,000	6,986	12,84,000	1,23,897
Bengal & N.W. ..	" 10	4,16,310	10,245	44,85,100	3,17,410
Bengal Nagpur ..	" 10	9,45,000	2,00,000	98,80,000	15,56,343
Bombay, Baroda ..	July 15	12,24,000	2,49,000	2,10,31,000	17,99,000
Burma ..	June 10	3,55,250	29,195	42,30,543	1,55,046
Delhi Umballa ..	July 8	65,500	1,370	1,06,790	84,571
East Indian ..	" 15	20,96,000	1,11,200	38,63,000	5,10,000
Gr. Indian Penin. ..	" 15	18,23,500	5,04,900	3,10,20,100	55,21,483
Lucknow-Bareilly ..	June 10	49,046	4,666	4,94,725	60,386
Madras and S. ..	" 17	9,90,000	23,367	1,64,42,152	6,22,394
Mahratta ..	" 17	1,21,900	1,24,515	15,03,589	1,07,754
Nizam's Gd. (Broad) ..	" 17	67,691	12,869	8,70,383	1,01,866
Robilkund and ..	" 17	67,691	12,869	8,70,383	1,01,866
Kumaon ..	" 10	42,330	3,599	4,48,385	36,688
South Indian ..	" 17	18,23,500	5,04,900	3,10,20,100	55,21,483

a 13 days. † April 1. ‡ October 1.

COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

		£	£	£	£
Beira ..	May *	38,734	10,209	1,260,000	880,900
Canadian Northern ..	July 14	874,900	842,500	5,354,000	2,053,000
Canadian Pacific ..	" 14	2,738,000	1,103,000	4,702,502	575,670
Gr. Trk. Main Line ..	" 14	196,698	34,743	1,023,569	251,984
Gr. Trk. Western ..	" 14	38,527	9,226	363,985	93,640
Detroit G. H. & M. ..	" 14	13,691	1,599	30,895	8,935
Gr. Trk. Pac. Prairie Sc ..	" 14	15,684	5,257	728,934	88,250
Mashonaland ..	May *	60,114	19,440	83,158	10,632
Mid. of Westn. Aus. May *	" 14	6,941	1,146	37,480	7,166
New Cape Central ..	June 17	1,239	1,239	1,79,782	96,352
Rhodesia ..	May *	82,161	19,741	1,79,782	96,352

a 9 days. * Months. † July 1. ‡ Jan. 1. c From Oct. 1.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

		£	£	£	£
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	June 30†	1,428,000	161,000	48,150,000	8,685,000
Chicago G.W. ..	" 23†	308,000	22,000	15,041,000	1,114,000
Colorado & South'n ..	" 21	263,000	12,000	15,181,000	1,325,000
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	" 30†	623,000	52,000	24,827,000	3,040,000
Louisville & Nashv'e ..	" 21	1,163,000	203,000	58,701,000	8,285,000
Minn. S.P. (So.) ..	" 21	665,000	159,000	33,721,000	6,593,000
Missouri Kansas ..	" 21	570,000	25,000	31,446,000	728,000
Northern Pacific ..	" 14	1,490,000	270,000	17,953,000	11,706,000
Southern ..	July 7	1,354,000	182,000	1,354,000	182,000

† 9 days. § Includes Wisconsin Central. † From July 1.

MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

NAME.	NETT EARNINGS FOR MONTH.			No. of Mths.	NETT EARNINGS TO DATE.		
	Month.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year		Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year	
		Dols.	Dols.		Dols.	Dols.	
Atchison T. & S. Fé	May	4,317,000	+1,475,000	II	40,078,000	+6,977,000	
Atlantic Coast Line	"	848,000	+282,000	II	9,079,000	+2,447,000	
Baltimore & Ohio ..	"	2,855,000	+258,000	II	29,144,000	+4,972,000	
Canadian Northern	"	727,200	+368,600	7	7,552,800	+2,216,300	
Canadian Pacific ..	"	4,372,000	+1,929,000	II	45,536,000	+14,639,000	
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	"	1,480,000	+394,000	II	14,816,000	+4,097,000	
Chicago & N.W. ..	"	1,014,000	+340,000	II	23,836,000	+4,331,000	
Chicago Burl. & Q. ..	Apl.	2,618,000	+1,222,000	10	34,895,500	+8,036,000	
Chicago G.W. ..	May	246,000	+38,000	II	3,831,000	+746,000	
Chicago Mil. & S.P. ..	"	2,298,000	+604,000	II	29,366,000	+7,473,000	
Chicago, Rock I.&P.	Apl.	1,470,000	+609,000	10	15,833,000	+1,814,000	
Colorado & Southern	"	318,000	+135,000	10	4,299,000	+1,171,000	
Cuba	"	777,660	+231,958	10	5,530,581	+1,322,315	
Do.	"	372,717	+126,805	10	2,053,822	+626,227	
Delaware & Hud. ..	"	622,000	+220,000	3	2,633,000	+471,000	
Denver & Rio Gran.	"	747,000	+227,000	10	7,511,000	+2,344,000	
Erie	May	1,861,000	+761,000	5	6,924,000	+2,139,000	
Gr. Tr. Main Line ..	"	£222,500	+£6,550	5	£886,200	+£129,550	
Grand Trunk Westn	"	£49,400	+£48,200	5	£178,500	+£185,500	
Detroit G.H. & Mil. ..	"	£8,900	+£16,200	5	£9,700	+£36,100	
Gt. Northern ..	Apl.	1,701,000	+1,072,000	10	27,764,000	+4,798,000	
Illinois Central ..	May	1,287,000	+608,000	II	12,666,000	+2,268,000	
Kansas City Southn.	"	347,000	+80,000	II	3,359,000	+514,000	
Lehigh Valley ..	"	1,312,000	+92,000	II	11,425,000	+1,527,000	
Louisville & Nashvl.	"	1,698,000	+848,000	II	16,716,000	+7,508,000	
Minn. S.P. (Seo) ..	Apl.	922,000	+462,000	10	11,530,000	+4,269,000	
Miss. K. & Texas ..	May	418,000	+63,000	II	4,706,000	+3,538,000	
Missouri Pacific ..	Apl.	983,000	+97,000	II	11,844,000	+651,000	
New York Cent.&H.	May	5,597,000	+1,870,000	5	24,154,000	+10,659,000	
N.Y. N. Haven & H.	Apl.	1,905,000	+455,000	10	18,030,000	+3,927,000	
New York Ont. & W.	May	204,000	+28,000	II	3,205,000	+249,000	
Norfolk & Western.	"	2,463,000	+928,000	II	21,231,000	+9,345,000	
Northern Pacific ..	"	2,422,000	+1,101,000	II	28,421,000	+8,994,000	
Pennsylvania East	"						
and West Lines..	"	10,846,000	+4,102,000	5	40,546,000	+20,970,000	
St. Louis & San F.	Apl.	1,043,000	+24,000	9	10,018,000	+1,164,000	
Seaboard Air Line..	"	845,000	+189,000	9	5,287,000	+1,383,000	
Southern ..	May	2,022,000	+684,000	12	19,337,000	+7,077,000	
Southern Pacific ..	"	4,095,000	+1,442,000	II	43,370,000	+11,278,000	
Union Pacific ..	"	3,366,000	+1,558,000	II	37,037,000	+9,686,000	
Wabash	"	1,003,000	+708,000	II	9,988,000	+4,296,000	

§ Includes Wisconsin Central. * Gross earnings. † Surplus.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—HOME.

		£	£	£	£
Bristol ..	July 14	10,691	347	270,580	9,685
Dublin United ..	" 14	6,628	18	158,763	8,966
Hastings and Dist. ..	" 14	1,165	106	24,613	528
Isle of Thanet ..	" 15	453	45	11,753	2,147
Lancashire United ..	" 12	1,844	67	48,288	1,492
Provincial ..	" 11	2,633	222	89,594	4,559
Yorks. (Wst. Rdng.) ..	" 16	1,710	142	49,112	4,321

* From Oct. 1. † From Jan. 1.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.

		£	£	£	£
Anglo-Argentine ..	July 15	54,578	4,579	1,432,316	2,927
Auckland Electric ..	June 26	21,152	641	253,058	4,949
Brazilian Traction ..	May §	M4,043,000	M 51,020	M18,774,000	M 727,350
Brisbane Elec. Inv. ..	Apl.	30,320	3,730	61,600	6,390
British Columbia ..	May §	£62,830	£39,116	£797,383	£511,190
B.A. Lacroze ..	June	36,212	4,208	490,818	15,324
Burmah Electric ..	July 15	Rs.4,545	Rs. 69	—	Rs. 5,472
Calcutta ..	" 15	Rs.70,104	156	Rs19,098	88,042
Cordoba Light ..	"	"	"	"	"
P. & T. ..	May	14,868	374	28,921	818
Hongkong ..	June 17	£16,624	£5,798	£327,027	£73,522
La Plata ..	"	3,736	140	25,925	161
Lima ..	May §	15,693	69	78,913	1,440
Madras Electric ..	June 15c	Rs. 34,007	Rs. 1,921	Rs4,04,349	Rs4,29,428
Mexico ..	Nov. §	£215,256	£108,669	£3,193,106	£197,227
Puebla ..	Dec. §	£40,000	£25,600	£669,500	£44,500
Rangoon ..	June §	4,205	792	23,732	1,164
Singapore Electric ..	May 20	£13,139	£1,897	£247,259	£29,716
Toronto ..	"	£438,997	£65,952	£1,693,709	£198,311
United of Monte V. ..	June	25,300	1,034	241,068	14,376
Vera Cruz ..	Mar.	£73,500	£32,300	£203,900	£103,200
Winnipeg ..	May §	£103,277	£16,527	£542,937	£5,93

b 28 days. * From Jan. 1. § Nett. a From July 1. c Two weeks.

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.				Wks.	GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.	
	Week ending	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	Amount		In. or dec. on last year.	
Alcoy and Gandia ..	July	Ps. 20,000	+Ps.7,000	†	†	Ps. 406,900	+Ps.39,000
Antofagasta (Chili) ..	" 16	33,255	+3,565	†	†	932,415	+308,760
Arauco ..	May	9,800	+3,241	†	†	134,138	+11,979
Argentine N.E. ..	July 15	6,200	—	557	†	12,202	—
Bilbao R. and Canta ..	June *	4,325	+669	6	†	24,777	+1,886
Bolivar ..	"	7,000	+1,339	9	†	109,372	+23,089
Brazil ..	May *	M3,472,000	+M190,000	†	†	M1,787,000	+M189,500
Brazil Gt. Southern ..	Apr. *	M18,32,750	+M3,300	†	†	M 69,250	+M4,200
B. Ayres & Pacific ..	July 15	80,000	+7,000	†	†	180,000	+5,000
Do. Gt. South'n ..	" 16	91,000	+13,000	†	†	206,254	+7,346
Do. Western ..	" 16	45,000	+1,000	†	†	99,000	+6,000
Central Argentine ..	" 15	105,400	+9,600	†	†	226,100	+73,900
C. Ur'g'ay of Mts V. ..	" 15	11,915	+1,039	†	†	25,598	+932
Do. East'n Ex. ..	" 15	4,183	+480	†	†	9,696	+1,140
Do. North'n Ex. ..	" 15	1,833	+277	†	†	4,051	+643
Do. West'n Ex. ..	" 15	1,877	+196	†	†	3,593	+284
Colombian National ..	June *	11,840	+946	6	†	65,500	+7,188
Cordoba Central ..	July 15	35,300	+2,120	†	†	81,100	+7,910
Costa Rica ..	May 20	5,413	986	†	†	251,583	+50,728
Cuban Central ..	July 15	9,446	+1,405	†	†	19,816	+1,042
Dorada Extension ..	June *	9,500	+1,100	†	†	44,900	+400
Egyptian Delta ..	" 20a	5,163	+1,391	†	†	38,545	+7,971
Entre Rios ..	July 15	15,300	+6,000	†	†	28,000	+6,700
French Sante Fé ..	May	94,572	+4,945	5	†	443,607	+71,319
Gt. South. of Spain ..	July 8	Ps. 60,242	+Ps.8,717	†	†	Ps1,862,671	+Ps307,328
Gr. West. of Brazil ..	" 15	7,100	+800	†	†	257,400	+38,700
Havana Central ..	" 8	5,511	+33	†	†	6,339	+1,211
Inter. of C. Amer. ..	May 4c	37,809	+16,495	†	†	180,392	+71,429
La Guaira and Car. ..	June *	15,250	+2,000	†	†	49,250	+7,000
Leopoldina ..	July 15	22,152	3,888	†	†	541,051	+208,374
Manila (Ndr. & Sth.) ..	" 8	8,030	+850	†	†	28,617	+11,225
Midland Uruguay ..	" 15	11,796	+2,346	†	†	72,432	+11,197
Mogana ..	May *	M1,492,000	+M277,000	†	†	M 6,689,000	+M125,900
N. W. of Uruguay ..	June *	\$25,500	+\$3,086	9	†	\$265,127	+\$3,844
Nitrate ..	July 15b	31,009	+12,189	†	†	621,766	+198,745
Paraguay Central ..	May 15	3,175	+640	†	†	6,440	+2,320
Paulista ..	May *	M1,500,000	+M126,000	†	†	M 9,400,000	+M101,000
Peruvian Corp'n ..	June *	\$92,500	+\$170,126	10	†	\$9,763,497	+\$1,403,792
Salvador ..	July 15	\$38,000	+\$15,500	†	†	\$1,459,621	+\$103,264
S. Paulo (Brazilian) ..	" 9	32,539	+12,284	†	†	390,117	+56,044
Sorocabana ..	May *	M1,269,000	+M23,000	5	†	M 6,960,000	+M292,000
Taitai ..	June *	21,143	+10,643	12	†	225,909	+93,023
United of Havana ..	July 15	30,160	+6,338	†	†	62,885	+6,420
West'n of Havana ..	" 15	5,932	+754	†	†	12,132	+513
Zafra and Huelva ..	May *	11,359	+3,806	†	†	57,758	+21,371

The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 6 PER CENT. (Increased from 5 per cent. on Thursday, July 13.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

A big demand for Treasury bills and War Expenditure Certificates is said to have come from outside interests this week, with the result that credit has been withdrawn from the Money market. At the same time the inquiry for accommodation in the market was on a gradually increasing scale, and on Wednesday supplies were reduced to such an extent that there was apparently a shortage, which sent borrowers to the Bank for a small amount, for which they had to pay $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for a week. In the market the usual charge for day-to-day advances was 5 per cent., and although in the beginning of the week balances were offered overnight down to 4 per cent., this so-called "bad" money could not be obtained later below $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and very little was available even at that figure. For weekly fixtures the clearing banks charged 5 per cent., but a small amount of the business was arranged in other quarters at $4\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.

The Stock Exchange allowed its fears to run away with its judgment this week, and was predicting a further immediate advance in the Bank rate to 7 per cent., but the Money market refused to be alarmed and the prophecy found no supporters there. America is rightly regarded as the only possible quarter where developments might occur which would force the Bank to take any such step, and so far from events moving against us there has been some little evidence of the 6 per cent. proving effective for the time being in the shape of a demand for full three months' bills on New York account. There has also been an inquiry from the Continent, which was understood to be on Scandinavian account, and as holders showed rather more disposition to turn out their bills discount rates were inclined to be easier. No appreciable decline was possible owing to the hardening of money rates, but buyers were more willing to take three months' bills at the lower quotation. A demand also sprang up for short-dated Treasury bills, the banks buying August at 5 per cent. and September at $5\frac{3}{16}$ per cent., but it was soon satisfied, and with sellers predominating the rate for September has stiffened to $5\frac{1}{4}$. French Treasury bills were dealt in at $5\frac{7}{8}$ per cent. and Russian at $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., while a number of bills issued under the French credit, which matured this week, were renewed at $5\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.

Business in the foreign exchange market has been quiet, and there have been no pronounced movements in rates in any direction. The Paris cheque was a little easier in the week, but became steadier later, and the Dutch and Italian exchanges also improved, but the Spanish gave way. Scandinavian rates fluctuated within narrow limits, but eventually hardened. The New York cable rate was just a shade up, and in the South American group Buenos Aires moved in favour of this country, while Rio and Valparaiso both improved.

One influence which helps to keep the Money market firm is the steady drain of gold revealed by the Bank return. This week, notwithstanding the receipt of £797,000 acknowledged in the daily bulletins, there was a further decline of £2,446,000 in the stocks of

coin and bullion, making a loss on balance of £5,757,000 since the end of June. With a small decrease of £28,000 in the note circulation, the reserve was £2,418,000 lower at £39,441,000, and the proportion to liabilities dropped by 1.1 per cent. to 27.3 per cent. Public Deposits rose by £3,148,000, probably as the result of Treasury bill sales, and as "Other" Securities were reduced by £437,000, "Other" Deposits were £6,056,000 down at £86,442,000.

According to the official statement for the week ended July 19, currency notes amounting to £2,873,047 in £1 and £1,047,915 in 10s. notes were issued, against which £2,666,193 in £1 and £889,803 10s. in 10s. notes were cancelled. There was therefore an increase of £364,065 10s. in the amount outstanding at a total of £115,305,075 10s., made up of £87,623,645 in £1 notes and £27,681,427 10s. in 10s. notes. During the same period currency note certificates for £50,000 were issued, and £110,000 were cancelled, and the amount outstanding was increased to £9,680,000. There is also an investment reserve account of £1,948,555 1s. 1d. Against these £28,500,000 is held in gold, £92,515,316 2s. 6d. in Government securities, and £5,773,314 8s. 7d. at the Bank of England, while £104,000 has been advanced to bankers other than Scottish and Irish banks of issue, and £36,000 to the Trustee Savings Bank.

SILVER.

The market for silver has been governed almost entirely by the course of events in India, and as the bazaars were alternately buyers and sellers, the fluctuations in price have been fairly active. Selling predominated at first, and the quotation fell $\frac{1}{16}$ d. to $29\frac{3}{16}$ d. per oz., but it recovered immediately to $29\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz. A fresh relapse to $29\frac{3}{8}$ d. per oz. was followed by a rally to $30\frac{3}{16}$ d. per oz. on a renewal of the Indian support.

Applications for the Rs. 30,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 10,00,000 in bills, Rs. 60,00,000 in deferred telegraphic transfers, and Rs. 32,93,000 in immediate telegraphic transfers. Of these Rs. 2,85,000 were allotted in bills, Rs. 17,10,000 in deferred transfers, and Rs. 10,05,000 in immediate transfers, tenders for bills and deferred transfers at 1s. $4\frac{1}{16}$ d. and for immediate transfers at 1s. 4.3-32d. receiving about 28 per cent. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is again Rs. 30,00,000. Between April 1 and July 18 the total sales were Rs. 6,82,30,566, realising £4,577,210.

Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields.—Production for week July 15, 667 tons.

Messrs. Turner, Davidson and Co., Ltd., have removed their registered offices to 41, St. Mary Axe, E.C.

Ural Caspian Oil.—Total production week July 13, 151,350 poods (or 2,441 tons).

W. and T. Avery.—Owing to the abnormal pressure on the accounts department, the directors have found it impossible to prepare the balance-sheet and hold the annual general meeting at the usual time. As, however, the broad results of the financial year ended March 31 can be approximated, they have resolved to declare an interim dividend of 10 per cent., less tax at 3s., making, with the $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. already paid, $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the year.

IMPERIAL COLONIAL FINANCE AND AGENCY CORPORATION, LTD.—A further drop of £519 to £9,114 is shown in the nett profits for the 12 months ended July 1, and the available balance, including £4,146 brought in, is £615 down at £13,260. The distribution on the stock is consequently reduced by another $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. to $5\frac{3}{8}$ per cent., but £942 more at £5,089 is carried forward. A profit of £2,623 was made on the realisation of securities, which has been applied in writing down the investments. No valuation of the securities is yet possible, but the book value is £22,155 lower at £194,751, and against this bank loans have been reduced by £21,333 to £13,174.

SEVILLE WATER WORKS CO., LTD.—This company is working under considerable difficulties owing to the impossibility of procuring in this country the necessary capital required for new works. Subscriptions were invited in Seville for 6 per cent. preference shares, but the response was very poor, and the directors have therefore been forced to devote as much as possible out of revenue towards the cost of laying the new filtered water mains. In the year ended March 31 the income rose by £2,444 to £48,810, but mainly because pumping and engine charges were heavier the nett profit showed a decrease of £656 at £10,630. Adding £17,929, or £11,282 more, brought in the balance available was £10,626 up at £28,559, of which the preference dividend took £139. The ordinary shares, however, have again to go without a dividend, but £4,000, as against nothing, is set aside as provision for over expenditure on capital account and £24,420, or £6,491 more, is carried forward. Altogether £2,828 of the preference capital has been issued, while the outlay amounted to £6,400, but with the £4,000 from revenue the debit balance is practically unchanged at £26,252.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, July 19, 1916.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued	£ 73,340,435	Government Debt.. ..	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	54,890,435
		Silver Bullion	—
	£73,340,435		£73,340,435

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 42,188,185
Reserve	3,326,472	Other Securities	80,788,352
Public Deposits (including		Notes	37,380,195
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	2,050,693
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	53,068,078		
Other Deposits	86,443,050		
Seven Day and other Bills	26,830		
	£162,417,430		£162,417,430

Dated July 20, 1916.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year.

Last year, July 21.		July 12, 1916.	July 19, 1916.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,381,176	Rest	3,261,529	3,326,472	64,943	—
109,226,335	Pub. Deposits ..	54,920,429	58,068,078	3,147,649	—
134,620,428	Other do. ..	92,499,538	86,443,050	—	6,056,488
46,097	7 Day Bills ..	37,076	26,830	—	10,246
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
53,157,910	Gov. Securities.	42,188,661	42,188,185	—	524
164,567,210	Other do. ..	81,225,158	80,788,352	436,806	—
44,101,916	Total Reserve ..	41,858,753	39,440,893	2,417,860	—
				6,067,258	6,067,258
				Increase.	Decrease.
33,774,310	Note Circulation	35,988,615	35,960,240	—	28,375
59,426,246	Coin and Bullion	59,397,363	56,951,133	—	2,446,235
18 p.c.	Proportion ..	28.4 p.c.	27.3 p.c.	—	1.1 p.c.
5 "	Bank Rate ..	6 "	6 "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week £797,000 n.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1916.	1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
January	1,071,948,000	918,685,000	153,263,000	—
February	1,107,655,000	960,743,000	146,912,000	—
March	1,364,599,000	1,231,392,000	133,207,000	—
April	1,090,356,000	976,264,000	114,092,000	—
May	1,447,416,000	1,164,194,000	283,222,000	—
June	1,147,630,000	960,209,000	187,421,000	—
July 5	340,561,000	300,466,000	40,095,000	—
" 12	319,832,000	289,141,000	30,691,000	—
" 19	290,135,000	394,307,000	—	104,172,000
Total ..	8,180,132,000	7,195,401,000	984,731,000	—

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue:—

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Saturday—Bars	£ 7,000
Wednesday—Bars	£ 686,000
Thursday—Bars	£ 121,000
	£814,000
Nett Influx	£ 814,000

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	July 15, 1916	July 8, 1916	July 1, 1916	July 17, 1915
Loans	£ 645,426,000	£ 656,484,000	£ 657,840,000	£ 510,010,000
Reserve held in own Vaults ..	80,448,000	80,068,000	90,266,000	86,640,000
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk.	31,112,000	31,034,000	31,802,000	25,482,000
Reserve held in Other Depos.	11,260,000	11,728,000	11,836,000	7,080,000
Nett Demand Deposits ..	627,992,000	640,036,000	652,482,000	502,086,000
Nett Time Deposits	36,026,000	35,672,000	35,118,000	26,718,000
Circulation	6,312,000	6,312,000	6,318,000	7,592,000
Excess Lawful Reserve ..	14,900,000	12,822,000	21,714,000	32,448,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits.

NEW YORK STATE BANKS & TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.).

	July 15, 1916.	July 8, 1916.	July 1, 1916.	July 17, 1915.
Loans	£ 145,802,000	£ 145,884,000	£ 145,666,000	£ 119,068,000
Specie	12,092,000	12,002,000	11,952,000	9,740,000
Deposits	153,360,000	153,364,000	152,504,000	122,736,000
Legal Tenders	1,916,000	1,876,000	1,840,000	1,948,000

FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	June 30, 1916.	June 23, 1916.	June 16, 1916.
	£	£	£
Gold coin and certificates ..	52,407,600	53,128,600	52,410,400
Gold Redemption Fund ..	357,800	378,800	366,600
Gold Settlement Fund ..	22,586,200	21,220,200	20,820,200
Legal tender notes, silver, &c.	5,489,600	2,805,200	2,724,400
Total reserves	80,841,200	77,532,800	76,321,600
5% redemption fund against			
F.R. bank notes	90,000	90,000	—
10-day bills and loans ..	2,290,200	2,890,200	2,410,000
30-day bills and loans ..	3,307,800	2,583,600	3,710,200
60-day bills and loans ..	5,698,400	6,336,000	5,745,400
90-day bills and loans ..	6,122,800	5,167,200	4,286,800
Maturities over 90 days ..	1,037,400	961,600	922,600
Total	18,456,600	17,940,600	17,075,000
Investments—			
U.S. Bonds	10,587,800	10,575,000	10,575,000
One year U.S. Treasury			
notes	838,000	838,000	838,000
Municipal Warrants	4,534,200	4,326,400	4,503,400
Federal Reserve notes—nett.	4,636,400	4,602,600	4,883,800
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—			
nett.	4,082,800	3,857,400	4,273,000
All other assets	924,400	877,400	1,107,600
Total assets	124,991,400	120,640,200	119,577,400
Paid-up capital	10,970,800	10,972,600	10,972,800
Government Deposits ..	20,230,400	12,899,800	11,150,200
Reserve deposits—nett. ..	91,500,600	94,522,600	95,456,600
Note circulation—nett. ..	1,888,000	1,845,600	1,600,600
Fed. Res. notes in circulation	344,200	344,600	345,200
All other liabilities	57,400	55,000	52,000
Total liabilities	124,991,400	120,640,200	119,577,400
Gold reserve against nett			
liabilities	68.8%	70.9%	70.8%
Cash reserve against nett			
liabilities	73.8%	73.6%	73.4%

SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	July 7, 1916.	June 30, 1916.	June 23, 1916.	July 10, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold and silver ..	12,479,236	12,449,184	12,495,468	11,784,252
Bills	7,595,212	7,054,348	7,812,528	5,681,960
Note circulation ..	16,934,624	17,326,204	16,235,788	16,399,136
Current and deposit				
accounts	5,715,184	5,005,140	6,474,068	3,316,936

NETHERLANDS BANK (12 Florins to the £).

	July 15, 1916	July 8, 1916	July 1, 1916	July 17, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold and Silver	49,071,750	48,696,916	48,575,750	30,955,220
Bills and Advances	10,634,166	10,405,916	9,995,833	14,942,867
Note circulation	54,751,166	54,870,416	54,997,582	42,066,355
Deposits	8,121,333	7,404,416	6,644,916	3,303,705

PROTECTORS



NORTH BRITISH and MERCANTILE INSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1809.

"An old and first-class office."

"Low rates a distinctive feature."—The Times.

Funds - £23,400,000.

LONDON - 61, Threadneedle Street, E.C.

EDINBURGH - 64, Princes Street.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For 7 days ended July 15.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
Customs £ 666,000	National Debt Service .. £542,447
Excise 810,000	Interest, &c., on War Debt .. 340,133
Estate, &c., Duties .. 552,000	Development & Road Impvt. .. 345,447
Stamps 208,000	Payments to Local Taxation .. 194,661
Land Tax and House Duty .. —	Other Consolidated Fund .. 50,000
Property and Income Tax .. 727,000	Charges 41,756,000
Excess Profits Tax 770,000	Supply Services 30,457
Land Values 1,000,000	Bullion Advances —
Post Office 1,000,000	For Advance for Interest .. —
Crown Lands 150,231	on Exchequer Bonds under .. —
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares .. 150,800	Capital Expenditure .. —
Miscellaneous 1,044,000	(Money) Act, 1904 —
Bullion advances repaid 2,324,000	For Treasury Bills (net amt.) .. —
For Treasury Bills (net amt.) .. 750,000	For Exchequer Bonds issued .. —
War Loan, 1925-8 4,241,000	under the War Loan Re- .. —
War Loan, 1925-45 2,500,000	demption Act, 1910 —
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919 .. 2,324,000	Issues under Section 1 of .. —
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920 .. 750,000	War Loan Act, 1915 —
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1921 .. 4,241,000	Under Telegraph (Money) .. 20,000
War Expenditure Certificates .. 854,000	Act, 1913 40,000
Other Debts created under .. —	Under Post Office (Lon- .. —
War Loan Act, 1915 2,500,000	don) Railway Act, 1913 .. —
Telegraph Money Act, 1913 .. —	Under Housing Act —
Under Post Office Rly. Act, .. —	Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8 .. —
1913 —	Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11 .. —
Under Military Works Acts, .. —	E. Africa Protectorate Loan .. —
1897-1903 —	Cunard Loan repayment is- .. —
Under Housing Act —	sued to reduce debt under .. —
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920 .. —	the Cunard Agreement —
East Africa Protectorate .. —	Deficiency advances repaid .. —
Loan repayments —	China Indemnity issued to .. —
Cunard Loan—repayment on .. —	reduce debt under Finance .. —
account of principal —	Act, 1903 —
Suez Canal Drawn Shares .. —	Ways and Means Advances .. —
China Indemnity 32,122,000	repaid 16,587,000
Ways and Means Advances .. 32,122,000	Increase in Exchequer .. —
Decrease in Exchequer 13,119,914	balances —
£59,900,145	£59,900,145

* Decrease.

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	July 20, 1916.	July 13, 1916.	July 6, 1916.	July 22, 1915.
Gold in hand	191,211,120	191,021,720	190,788,040	162,052,240
Silver in hand	13,663,720	13,664,520	13,757,960	14,685,920
Bills discounted	16,970,680	17,178,000	16,430,500	10,499,280
Advances	47,834,400	48,108,920	48,574,760	24,294,160
Note circulation	643,748,920	644,527,000	641,884,440	500,511,360
Public deposits	2,481,360	2,564,440	1,683,480	7,718,920
Private deposits	88,788,200	88,976,240	84,927,680	95,018,880
Foreign Bills	26,200	97,240	73,640	55,000

Proportion between bullion and circulation 31.82 per cent., against 31.75 per cent. last week. Advances to the State £332,000,000, unchanged. The adjourned payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium amounted to £26,433,440, decrease £120,200, and at the branches to £31,749,680, decrease £33,160.

IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	July 6, 1916.	June 29, 1916.	June 21, 1916.	July 6, 1915.
Notes in reserve	9,191,000	8,900,000	10,760,000	7,448,100
Gold	154,100,000	154,030,000	153,830,000	157,046,000
Gold in reserve abroad	168,300,000	158,860,000	149,390,000	10,565,400
Treasury Bonds	373,400,000	379,520,000	384,320,000	—
Circulation note issue	653,300,000	644,310,000	641,040,000	377,000,000
Treasury deposits	27,580,000	20,020,000	20,920,000	24,787,100

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	July 15, 1916.	July 7, 1916.	June 30, 1916.	July 15, 1915.
Total Coin & Bullion	124,839,600	124,779,350	124,838,200	122,001,800
Treasury Notes	20,973,400	16,831,100	31,464,050	14,158,100
Bills discounted	320,836,250	316,339,600	330,510,600	232,720,650
Advances	647,750	611,650	565,500	670,600
Note circulation	346,981,650	354,430,400	362,026,600	270,612,300
Deposits	119,269,550	99,733,100	118,535,850	86,819,950

Clearing House returns during June, £257,755,660 against £276,664,805 in May.

BANK OF SWEDEN.

	July 8, 1916.	July 1, 1916.	June 23, 1916.	July 10, 1915.
Gold	9,227,000	9,229,000	9,229,000	6,297,000
Balance abroad	8,997,000	8,614,000	8,622,000	4,496,000
Foreign Bills	—	—	—	—
Swedish and Foreign	—	—	—	—
Govt. Securities	3,458,000	4,334,000	4,347,000	2,703,000
Discounts and Loans	2,579,000	3,013,000	2,648,000	7,700,000
Notes in circulation	18,184,000	19,619,000	17,971,000	15,340,000
Deposits at notice	4,875,000	5,023,000	5,703,000	4,614,000

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	July 8, 1916.	July 1, 1916.	June 24, 1916.	July 10, 1915.
Gold	42,397,667	41,555,333	41,278,225	27,632,001
Silver	30,436,379	30,679,359	30,680,631	29,563,048
Foreign Bills	3,744,696	3,854,759	3,906,197	4,894,179
Discounts and Short Bills	23,950,209	23,603,930	23,306,440	27,073,539
Treasury Account, &c.	22,572,296	31,063,177	30,940,879	32,803,961
Notes in Circulation	88,320,345	86,742,675	86,072,163	80,378,150
Current Accounts, Deposits	31,409,972	30,587,534	30,470,785	27,926,424
Dividends, Interests, &c.	2,555,925	2,675,395	1,310,716	2,153,229
Government Securities	1,542,951	1,783,319	2,753,165	2,726,319

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

June 10, 1916 May 31, 1916 May 20, 1916 June 10, 1915

	£	£	£	£
Total cash	45,231,720	45,573,920	45,669,520	55,228,600
Inland Bills	16,726,800	16,749,800	17,691,520	36,524,160
Foreign Bills	834,360	836,120	833,480	833,360
Advances	8,325,400	8,989,400	8,715,200	8,698,440
Government securities	8,334,360	8,345,320	7,410,480	8,305,360
Circulation	126,598,560	123,563,000	120,248,800	115,363,280
Deposits at notice	13,674,880	12,342,200	11,798,840	12,561,480
Current accounts	18,332,280	18,374,600	16,873,800	18,976,800

BANK OF NORWAY.

	July 7, 1916.	June 30, 1916.	June 22, 1916.	July 7, 1915.
Gold	£ 6,614,000	£ 6,650,000	£ 6,639,000	£ 3,598,000
Balance abroad and	—	—	—	—
Foreign Bills	5,429,000	5,299,000	5,243,000	3,216,000
Gov't Securities	761,000	762,000	762,000	637,000
Discounts & Loans	5,028,000	5,519,000	5,207,000	4,348,000
Notes in Circulation	12,323,000	12,276,000	11,646,000	8,115,000
Deposits at notice	3,207,000	3,466,000	3,743,000	1,114,000

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.
Paris	ohqs.	28.14	28.13	Antwerp	short	—	—
Brussels	ohqs.	—	—	Italy	sight	30.47½	30.57
Amsterdam	sight	11.49	11.50	Constantinople	3 mths	—	—
Berlin	ohqs.	—	—	Rio de Janeiro	90 dys	12½	12½ d.
Hamburg	ohqs.	—	—	Buenos Aires	90 dys	4½	4½ d.
Vienna	sight	—	—	Calcutta	T.T.	1½	1½ d.
Petrograd	3 mths	155½	156½	Bombay	T.T.	1½	1½ d.
New York	cable	4.76½	4.76½	Hong Kong	T.T.	2½	2½ d.
Lisbon	sight	35	34½	Shanghai	T.T.	2½	2½ d.
Madrid	sight	23.58	23.48½	Singapore	T.T.	2½	2½ d.
				Yokohama	4 mths	2½	2½ d.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	July 18, 1916.	July 20, 1916.
		Buyers.	Sellers.
Amsterdam	Cable transfers	11.47½	11.49½
	Three months' bills	11.63	11.64
Paris	Cable transfers	28.11	28.11
	Three months' bills	28.50	28.50
Marseilles	Cable transfers	28.50	28.50
Switzerland	Cable transfers	25.20	25.20
	Three months' bills	25.60	25.60
Petrograd	Cable transfers	155½	156½
Genoa, &c.	Cable transfers	30.45	30.55
	Three months' bills	30.90	31.00
Spain	Cable transfers	23.50	23.60
	Three months' bills	24.8½	24.8½
Lisbon and Oporto	Cable transfers	34½	35½
	Three months' bills	nom.	nom.
Scandinavia	Cable transfers	16.75	16.85

* Nominal

TREASURY BILLS.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months	5½	5½
Six months	5½	5½
Nine months	—	—
Twelve months	6	6

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted	5½	5½
Three months	5½	5½
Four months	5½	5½
Six months	5½	5½
Three months fine inland bills	6½	6½
Four months	6½	6½
Six months	6½	6½

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	6	6
short loan rates	6½	6½
Bankers' rate on deposits	4	4
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	4½	4½
7 and 14 days' notice	4½	4½
Current rates for 7 day loans	5	5
for call loans	4½-5	4½-5

The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China has opened an agency at Tavoy, Lower Burma.

Owing to the shortage of petrol in the country for other than war services, and to the action taken by the Petrol Control Committee in reducing the supplies, the London General Omnibus Co., Ltd., finds it necessary to withdraw certain of its routes, to curtail parts of other routes, and to adjust the services upon the routes that will remain, but every effort will be made to maintain effective services on business routes, particularly at the busy hours.

Ferro Carril Central De Buenos Aires, Ltd. (Buenos Aires Central Railways).—Owing to the required representation of debenture-holders not being in attendance the meeting called for Wednesday, the 19th inst., has had to be adjourned for a fortnight. In view of the importance of the proposed resolution debenture-holders should certainly attend, or be represented by proxy, on August 2. All holders of the 4½ per cent. first mortgage bearer debentures who have not yet received the circular issued by the company should apply without delay to the company's London agency, 4, Moorgate Street, E.C.

The Week's Stock Markets.

It is said that the old method of quoting securities on the Stock Exchange is to be revived. At present only the actual price at which transactions take place is recorded, and the Official List no longer contains both the price at which the jobber will sell and that at which he is ready to buy. Whether the reversion to the former habit will help business or not we cannot be sure, but certainly the present usage must tend to hurt, and probably ultimately to extinguish, the position of the jobber as intermediary or wholesale dealer in securities. "Bid and asked prices," as the Yankees put it, have their uses, and may to some extent safeguard the outside public from being cheated, but an open market, where all would be free to buy and sell, where the distinction between broker and jobber would no longer exist, might serve the public just as well, and in many parts of the market better. A month, it is said, may yet elapse before the buying and selling prices are restored, and, so far as business to be done goes, the delay might be three months or six. Circumstances, in fact, are bearing hard upon the jobber, at any rate upon the small jobber, in the market, and no change in the method of publishing quotations will do much in present circumstances to assist him.

Naturally, dearer money has damped prices, but not for long, and there are such enormous masses of Government credit circulating in the country in the guise of realised wealth that Stock Exchange business seems to us bound to continue fairly abundant, although mostly consisting of a stream of small transactions. Already, then, prices have begun to rally, except for Government securities, which cannot attain renewed firmness while war expenditure continues on the scale now established, but Home Railways have rallied on dividends and dividend anticipations, and there has been rather more than the customary activity in side, though often important, markets like those for Rubber and Oil shares. No distinctive tendency can be instanced, but various influences contribute to keep the markets cheerful and moderately busy, not least the steady and successful pressure of our offensive in France.

Markets have been under the influence of the higher Bank rate, and in the earlier part of the week there was a moderate amount of selling which forced prices downwards. During the last day or two, however, offerings have been rather lighter, and there has been a sharp recovery. Consols relapsed to 58½, but rallied to 59½, the 3½ per cent. War Loan closes at 88, and the 4½ per cent. at 95½, after touching 87½ and 95½ respectively. Local Loans and Irish Land stock have fallen 1½, and London County Council issues, Metropolitan 3 per cents., and Water Board "B" are all substantially lower, while Bank of England stock was marked down 4. Colonial stocks were dull, the new Commonwealth loan being dealt in at ½ discount, and losses ranging from ¼ to ¾ being scattered throughout the list. In the Foreign Government market the French War Loan was marked down to 86½, but rallied and closes ¼ lower on the week at 87. Several Russian issues were easier, and Japanese 4 per cents. of 1899 and 1910 both fell 1, while the 5 per cents. of 1907 dropped ½. Brazilian descriptions were heavy with declines of 1 to 1½. Cuban Ports was lifted to 41½, but has since relapsed to 40½.

Home Railway stocks followed Trustee securities with a further all-round decline, but at the lower levels a moderate amount of support was forthcoming, and a sharp rally followed on the statement in Parliament that the Government's arrangement with the companies was to be modified. The recovery was not sufficient to wipe out the earlier losses and on balance Great Western shows a loss of 2½, while North-Western is ¾ down, and Lancashire and Yorkshire 1 lower. Underground Electric income bonds suffered from the prospect of a curtailment of the bus services through petrol restrictions, and relapsed to 87½, but recovered to 88½ on the dividend declaration. Canadian Pacific shares, after dropping to 186½, gradually recovered, and closed over 2 points better at 189½, but Grand Trunk stocks were all lower. American Railroad shares have been quiet, and changes as a rule are small. The market welcomed the announcement that the Share and Loan Department had been appointed as agent for the deposit by members of small amounts of Dollar Securities to the Treasury. The arrangement is considered very satisfactory, as it enables the holders to instruct their brokers to carry through the transaction; and the Stock Exchange will therefore be able to retain the business in its own hands. Argentine Railways have been heavy and most of the ordinary stocks are ¾ to 1½ lower, while there has also been some selling of the debenture issues. Leopoldina relapsed to 38½, and San Paulo was easier

at 194½, while United of Havana has fallen to 84½, and Mexican ordinary and second preference are both ¼ down.

The recent steady advance in Bank shares has been followed by a set-back since the declaration of dividends, and in the London group Parr's and London Joint Stock have both fallen 1½, and Capital and Counties, London County and Westminster, National Provincial, £12 paid, and Union of London and Smiths are ¾ to 1 down. Foreign and colonial shares have also re-

	Last Week	This Week		Last Week	This Week
Consols.....	60½	59½	N.S.W. 4½% 1922-7	96	96
War Loan 3½%	89	88	" 5% 1921-3	99½	99½
India 3½%	96½	95½	New Zealand 4%	89½	88½
" 3½%	62	60	Queensland 4%	85½	86
Australian 5½%, 1920-22 ..	71½	70	" 4½% new	97	96½
Canada 4%, 1940-60	87½	86½	Union of S. Africa 4½% ..	94½	94½
" 4½%, 1920-5	95½	95½	1920-5	96	98
N.S.W. 4½%	87	86½	Victoria 4½%, 1920-5	83½	83
" 4½% 5 yr. b	98½	98	Westn. Aus. 4%		
Belgian 3%	65	62½	French War Loan, 5% ..	87½	87
Brazil, 1913	68½	66½	Japan 4½% (1st)	94½	94½
" New Funding	82½	80½	" (2nd)	92½	92½
Chinese 1896	94½	93½	Russia 4%	72½	71½
" 1913	77½	76½	" 4½%	83	80½
Egypt Unified 4%	80	80	" 5%	91	90½
Brighton defd.	65½	65½	London and S.W. dfd. ..	26½	26½
Caledonian defd.	10½	10½	Do. new pf.	100	100
Chatham ord.	9½	9½	Metropolitan	26½	26½
Gt. Central pf.	17½	16½	Do. 5% New pf.	91	91
" dfd.	8½	8½	Met. District	19½	19½
Gt. Eastern	40½	39½	Midland dfd.	64	64
Gt. Northern dfd.	40½	40½	Nth. British dfd.	17	17
Gt. Western	101½	99½	Nth.-Eastern	107½	107½
Lancs. and Yorks.	77	76	Nth.-Western	108½	108
			Sth.-Eastern dfd.	29½	29½
Canadian Pacific	187½	189½	Chesapeake	64½	64½
Do. 6% Notes	108½	108½	Erie	37½	37½
E. Indian Guar. 4½% debs.	92½	92½	Milwaukee	101½	101½
Grand Trunk ord.	12½	12	N. Y. Central	108½	108½
Do. 3rd pf.	28½	28	Southern	25½	25
Do. 5½% 3-yr. Notes ..	100	100	Southern Pacific	102	102½
Do. 5½% 5-yr. "	98½	98	Union Pacific	144½	144½
Atchison	109½	110	U. S. Steel	88½	89½
Baltimore	93½	91½			
Antofagasta dfd.	129	128	Cent. Argentine ord.	80½	79½
Do. 6% Notes	100½	100½	Do. 5% Notes	98	98
Brazil Common	78	78	Do. 6% "	101	101½
B. A. & Pacific	47	47	Leopoldina	40½	38½
B. A. Gt. Southern	87	86½	Mexican ord.	18	17½
B. A. Western	89	87½	San Paulo (Brazilian) ..	195½	194½
			United of Havana	85	84
Bank of Australasia	120	119½	London City & Midland ..	84½	84½
Barclay & Co. "A"	8½	8½	London County & West. ..	164½	154½
Do. "B"	12½	11½	London Joint Stock	234½	212½
Capital & Counties	23½	23½	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (£104 pd)	28½	28½
Chartered of India	61	61	Do. (£12 pd)	32½	31½
Hongkong & Shanghai ..	80½	80	Parr's	32½	304½
Lloyds	26½	25½	Standard of S.A.	11	11
London & Provincial	178½	174½	Union & Smiths	26½	25½
London & S.W.	124½	112½			
Apollinaris ord.	13	13	Forestral Land	51½	50½
Armstrong, Whitworth ..	37½	37½	Furness, Withy	48½	49½
Associated Cement	31½	31½	Hudson's Bay	77½	82
Birmingham Small Arms	45½	45½	Imperial Tobacco pf. ord	22½	23½
Borax dfd.	32½	34½	Do. dfd. "A"	35½	35½
Bovril	21½	20½	Kynochs	33½	33½
Brazil Traction	63½	62½	Lever Bros. "C" pf.	21½	20½
British Amer. Tobacco ..	88½	89½	Lyons, J.	44	45½
Brown (John), & Co.	32½	32½	Marconi	31½	32½
Brunner, Mond	44½	44	Maypole Dairy dfd.	24½	24½
Cammell-Laird	64½	61½	Mond Nickel ord.	38½	38½
Castner-Kellner	31½	31½	National Steam Car.	16½	19½
Coats	64	63	Pears, A. & F.	15	14
Cunard	88½	88½	P. & O. dfd.	357	355½
Dennis Bros.	33½	33½	Royal Mail	125	126
Dorman, Long	32½	32½	South Durham Steel ..	32½	31½
Eastmans	8½	7½	Underground Inc. Bds.	80½	88½
English Sewing Cotton ..	49½	46½	Vickers	37½	37½
Fine Cotton Spinners ..	29½	28½			
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	7½	7½	Mexican Eagle pf.	11½	11½
Baku (ros.)	34½	3½	North Caucasian	26½	27½
Burmah	43½	43½	Roumanian Cons.	14½	14½
Lobitos	36½	35½	Royal Dutch (100 gulden).	45½	45½
Maikop Combine (ros.) ..	2½	2½	Shell	58½	58
Maikop Pipeline	4½	4½	Spies (10/-)	15½	14½
Mexican Eagle	12	12	Ural Caspian	35½	35½
Anglo-Java Rub. (2/-) ..	51½	51½	Merlimau 2/-	51½	51½
Anglo-Malay 2/-	11½	11½	Pataing 2/-	33½	33½
Ayer Kuning 2/-	34½	33½	Port Dickson 2/-	31½	31
Bukit Mertajam 2/-	41½	41½	Rubber Trust 2/-	22½	22½
Bukit Sembawang 2/- ..	34½	34½	Sapumalkande 2/-	21½	21½
Carey United 2/-	34½	35½	Selangor United 2/-	21½	21½
Grand Central 2/-	25½	25½	Sialang 2/-	66½	65½
Gula Kalumpung 2/-	29½	29½	Singapore Para 2/-	31½	31½
Highlands 2/-	52½	52½	Singapore United 2/- ..	31	31
Java Para 2/-	28½	28½	Sungei Buaya 2/-	46½	46½
Johore Rubber Lands 2/-	27½	26½	Taipang 2/-	31½	31½
Langen Java 2/-	44½	44½	Tanjong 2/-	76½	76½
Linggi 2/-	20½	20½	Tanjong Malim 2/-	25½	25½
London Asiatic 2/-	71½	71	United Serdang 2/-	12½	12½
Malacca 2/-	48	48	United Temasing 2/- ..	31½	31
Malayalam 2/-	30½	29½	Valambrosa 2/-	17½	17½
Abbotiakoone (10/-)	7½	7½	De Beers dfd. (£2 ros.) ..	11½	10½
Brakpan	44½	44½	East Rand	15½	14½
Broken Hill Prop. (8/-) ..	59½	58½	Gt. Boulder (2/-)	13½	13½
Cam & Motor	13½	12½	Meyer & Charlton	57½	57½
Central Mining (£12) ..	68	67½	Modder "B"	68½	68½
Chartered	13½	12½	Do. Deep	68½	68½
City Deep	4	3½	New Modder (£4)	17½	17½
Cons. Gold Fields	18½	18	Rand Mines (5/-)	31½	31½
Cons. Langlaagte	18½	18½	Rio Tinto (£5)	61½	60½
Crown Mines (10/-)	3	2½	Van Ryn Deep	38	38

lapsed to a moderate extent. A fairly active business has taken place in Shipping shares under the lead of Union of New Zealand shares, which attracted considerable attention on a report that the company was to be taken over by the P. and O., and the price rose to 61s. P. and O. deferred touched 334, but recovered to 335½, and Royal Mail is 2 up at 126, after being down to 122½, but Furness, Withy closed a shade below the best. Prince Line are up to 78s., and Cressington were bought on the increase in the interim dividend from 12 per cent. to 16 per

cent. per annum. Brazilian Traction shares have been dull at 62, representing a loss of 1 on the week, and Cities Services were marked down to 350. Motor shares have been quiet, but a demand sprang up for National Steam Car on expectations that the company will benefit from the petrol restrictions. Hudson's Bay shares were offered after the announcement of the dividend, and relapsed to 6½; Forestal Land shares fluctuated within narrow limits, but Duff Developments were easier on the directors' circular. Armament and Engineering things have been quiet on the whole, but there has been a fair inquiry for Fraser and Chalmers, Cammell Laird, and Projectiles. Borax Consolidated deferred were supported, but Brunner, Mond, United Alkali, and Salt Union were all a shade lower. A big business was done in Courtaulds, but after touching 7, the price reacted to 6½, while amongst Textiles, profit-taking caused Coats, English Sewing Cotton, and Fine Cotton Spinners to give way. Amongst Catering shares, Lyons were a shade harder, but Aerated Bread fell to 3½.

Very little business was done in the Oil Share market, but Shell were fairly active, and fluctuated between 5½ and 5½, closing at the top. Royal Dutch fell to 4½. Spies gave way on the absence of a dividend, but North Caucasian and Ural Caspian hardened a little. Mexican Eagle shares and bonds were firm, with a moderate inquiry, but Eagle Transport preference were easier. Business in the Rubber share market has also been exceedingly quiet, and towards the end prices have been inclined downward. In the early part of the week there was some inquiry for Trusts, and Rubber Trusts, Java Investment, and Batavia Plantations all improved, but the greater part of the gains has since been wiped out. In Plantation shares much the same thing has happened. Bukit Rajah rose on the dividend, and Kepitigalla on the report, but failed to hold top prices, and there was a moderate amount of support throughout for Bukit Mertajam, Kinta Kellas, Port Dickson, and one or two Java descriptions.

LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

SUGAR.—The market remains in the same state as that previously commented upon. No change was made in official quotations, and supplies as they come forward pass readily into consumption. From Cuba favourable weather was reported for the growing crop. Stocks in the three chief ports of the U.K. amount to 47,000 tons, against 87,000 same time last year.

COFFEE.—There was only a comparatively small business doing during the week, but importers show no desire to press their sales, which helps to keep prices at a steady level. The terminal market disclosed some irregularity, and weakness ensued, while operations were confined to a moderate limit. July, sold, 46s. 9d.; September, 47s. 3d. to 47s.; December, 48s. 9d. to 48s. 6d.; March, 50s. to 49s. 6d.

COCOA.—No improvement occurred in this market, general tone being very slack, and 5,600 bags Colonial and 366 bags foreign offered in auction were only partly disposed of at about late rates. Top price of Grenada, 78s.

TEA.—All good liquoring descriptions found a generally ready sale this week, and firm values were secured, but in the case of inferior slight weakness was discernible. 13,000 packages Indian, 46,000 packages Ceylon, and 4,000 packages Java were catalogued.

Rice very quiet but steady, and No. 1 garden Siam, spot, sold, 17s. 3d. Bran firmly held. Beans quiet, and Rangoon, afloat, sold, £16 10s. to £16.

SPICE.—General steadiness prevailed, but there was not much actual business stirring in pepper. Singapore black, afloat, steamer, sold, 7½d.; white, September-November, 9½d.; and Muntok, 9½d. Fair Zanzibar cloves, spot, sold, 6½d. Tapioca steady in value, but rather slow of sale.

FIBRES.—The market for jute ruled steadier, as offers were more reservedly made. Native first marks, actuals, August, sold, £29 5s.; September, £28 15s.; and October, £28 5s. Of Manila hemp, prices receded under more numerous selling orders and marked reserve on the part of buyers. Fair graded, August-October, sold down to £49; coarse, £46 to £46 5s.; and brown, £45 10s. to £45 5s.

SHELLAC.—A rising market was evidenced this week, owing to improved buying orders and firmness cabled from Calcutta. Fair second orange, spot, sold, 100s. to 105s.; August, up to 105s.; October, 108s.; December, 109s. 6d.

RUBBER.—Though quiet, the market ruled tolerably steady. Crepe, spot, sold, 2s. 3½d., 2s. 3½d., and 2s. 3d.; October-December, 2s. 4½d., 2s. 4½d. Ribbed smoked sheet, spot, done 2s. 3d., 2s. 2½d. Fine hard Para, spot, found buyers at 2s. 11d. Ball, July-August, quoted 1s. 10½d.

COPRA.—Firm features were apparent, more inclination on the part of buyers to operate causing sellers to adopt reserve.

METALS.—Copper: Statistics for first half of this month show a decrease in the total visible supplies of 1,014 tons. The standard market commenced lower last Monday, no business being done, cash delivery closing at £88, and three months £86. An improved tone prevailed until the middle of the week, and near dates met with most support, while, after a little irregularity, values of the above positions left off at £89 and £87 10s. At Thursday's session cash closed £90; three months, £88. Tin continued an irregular market, and rates moved in a downward direction until Wednesday on realisations and forward offers, with sellers showing reserve at intervals. Standard spot fluctuated down to £163 5s., and three months to £163 10s. Thursday's final figures fixed respecting these dates were £166 15s., £167 respectively. Spelter dearer. G.O.B., July, £51; October, £47. Lead steady. Soft foreign, August, £28. Quicksilver, £17 12s. 6d. to £17 15s.

CORN (Mark Lane).—The general tone, though firm, has been less pronounced this week, and in a few cases prices have yielded, supplies being ample for requirements, while a fair demand prevailed since Monday last. Wheat: English whites, delivered up, range to 56s., and reds to 55s. 6d. per 504 lbs. Imported grades, No. 1 Northern Manitoba, 56s. 6d., ex ship, and 57s. 6d. landed. Flour: American first spring patents, 43s. upwards, and Canadian patents, 42s. to 43s., both landed. Oats: La Plata, 30s. 9d. to 32s. 3d. landed. Grinding barley: American, 44s.; La Plata, 43s. to 44s. 6d., both ex quay. Maize: New La Plata (sound), 52s., ex quay.

CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING JULY 21, 1916.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
Sugar —per cwt., duty 14½, 98% polarisation	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Wool —per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tate's Cubes No. 1	2 7 1½	2 7 1½	Australian	1 8½-3 4	1 2-3 2½
Ditto, H.T.S.	2 6 7½	2 6 7½	Scoured Merino	1 9½-3 1	1 9-3 0
Fine granulated	nom.	nom.	Greasy Merino	0 9½-2 0½	0 11½-2 3
Lytle's granulated	41 7½-42 1½	41 7½-42 1½	Greasy Crossbred	1 4½-1 8	1 3½-1 10
Foreign granulated, first marks f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	New Zealand (scoured) Merino	2 7-3 2½	3 3-3 10
German Cubes f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	1 1½-1 10½	1 3½-1 9½
French Cube	nom.	nom.	Cape snow white	2 2½-2 10½	2 9-3 1
prompt	nom.	nom.	Indiarubber —lb. Plantation, Spot		
Crystallised, West India	nom.	nom.	Crepe	0 2 3½	0 2 2½
Beet, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Coal —per ton.		
Tea —per lb., duty 7½	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Durham, best	nom.	nom.
Indian Pekoe	0 9-0 11	0 10-1 0½	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 9½-1 1½	0 10-1 0½	East Hartlepool	nom.	nom.
Orange	0 10½-1 1½	0 10½-1 0½	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 10½-1 1½	0 11½-1 0½	Steamers, best	50/	48/ 50/
Pekoe Souchong	0 9-0 10½	0 9½-1 1½	Seconds	45/	40/ 45/
Ceylon Pekoe	0 9½-0 11½	0 9½-1 1½	Lead —per ton.		
Broken	0 9½-0 11½	0 9½-1 1½	English Pig	29 0 0	29 5 0
Orange	0 10-1 1	0 9½-1 0½	Foreign Soft	28 5 0	28 15 0
Broken	0 10-1 1½	0 10-1 0½	Quicksilver —per bottle first hand	£17½-£17½	£17½-£17½
Pekoe Souchong	0 9½-0 10½	0 9-1 0½	Tin —per ton		
Cocoa —per cwt., duty 6d. per lb.	s. s.	s. s.	English Ingots	£177-£178	£172-£173
Trinidad—per cwt.	80 0-85 0	80 0-85 0	Do. bars	£178-£179	£173-£174
Grenada	75 0-81 0	74 0-80 0	Standard cash	£169 0 0	£168 7 6
West Africa	nom.	nom.	Tin Plates, per box	31/6-32/6	29/6-30/6
Ceylon Plantation	77 0-92 0	76 0-90 0	Copper —per ton.		
Guayaquil Arriba	102 0-107 0	95 0-102 0	English, Tough	nom.	nom.
Offee —per cwt., duty 42½	per cwt.	per cwt.	per ton	nom.	nom.
East India	67 0-95 0	67 0-95 0	Best Selected	£123-£121	£122-£120
Jamaica	62 0-120 6	62 0-120 6	Sheets	£148	£146
Costa Rica	62 0-85 0	62 0-85 0	Standard	£90 10 0	£90 0 0
Provisions —			Jute —per ton.		
Butter, per cwt.			Native firsts for sh'pmt. August	£29 0 0	£29 10 0
Australian finest	158/-160/-	158/-160/-	Oils —		
Austrian Creameries	156/-162/-	156/-162/-	Linseed, per ton	£342-£352	£342-£352
Dutch ditto	nom.	nom.	Rape, ref. English, barrels	£48-£50	£48-£50
Russian finest	nom.	nom.	Brown English, naked	nom.	nom.
Normandy baskets	nom.	nom.	Cott'n Seed, crude	£41 12 0	£40 0 0
Danish finest	170/-174/-	172/-174/-	Ditto, refined	£44½-£54	£44½-£54
Brittany rolls—doz. lb.	14/6-17/6	14/6-17/6	Petroleum Oil, per 8 lbs.	1/	1/
Bacon —per cwt.			Water White	1/1	—
Irish	108 0-113 0	109 0-115 0	Oil Seeds, Linseed	—	—
Continental	98 0-112 0	94 0-114 0	Calcutta, per 40 lbs.	3 11 3	3 12 0
Canadian	86 0-102 0	96 0-104 0	July-August	60/6	60/6
American	81 0-88 0	81 0-88 0	Rape, Toria	nom.	nom.
Hams —per cwt.			Iron —per ton		
Irish	134/-150/-	134/-150/-	Cleveland Cash	nom.	nom.
Canadian	96/-100/-	98 0-100 0	Tobacco —duty, unmanufactured		
American	68 0-97 0	67 0-99 0	5/6 to 6/2½ per lb.		
Cheese —per cwt.			Maryland & Ohio		
Edam	84 0-86 0	88 0-90 0	per lb. bond	0 6-0 10	0 6-0 10
Canadian	nom.	nom.	Virginian	0 5½-1 6	0 5½-1 6
Gouda	92 0-104 0	94 0-106 0	Kentucky leaf	0 6-0 10	0 6-0 10
English Cheddar	82 0-86 0	88 0-92 0	Latakia	0 4½-1 0	0 4½-1 0
Wilts loaf	nom.	nom.	Havana	1 0-6 0	1 0-6 0
New Zealand	82 0-86 0	88 0-92 0	Manila	0 6-2 0	0 6-2 0
Rice —per cwt.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Cigars, duty 10/6 per lb.	2 0	2 0
Garden Siam	17 6	17 3-17 6	Timber —Wood.		
spot	15 9	15 9	Dantsig and Memel Fir, per load	130/-150/-	130/-150/-
Rangoon 2 stars	15 9	15 9	Indian Teak	280/-600/-	280/-600/-
Eggs —per 120.			Flour —per sack.		
English	18 0-19 0	18 0-19 0	Town households, official	46/	46/
Irish	17 0-17 6	16 6-17 0	American, 1st patents	43/ upds.	43/6 upds.
Danish	18 6-20 6	18 0-20 0	Turpentine —American Spot	2 1 10½	1 19 6
Copra —			Spelter —		
Malabar, London	33 5 0	33 5 0	G.O.B. as to position	£45½-£43½	£54-£50
Ceylon, London	32 0 0	32 0 0			
South Sea	31 0 0	31 0 0			
F.M.S.	30 15 0	31 5 0			

COTTON (from Our Manchester Correspondent).—The situation in the market during the past week has not shown any distinct change, but here and there a rather increased inquiry has been dealt with, and producers are looking forward to a larger turnover in the near future. Many of our leading customers have held aloof for a long time, and the opinion is gaining ground that orders will have to be placed on a freer scale if necessary supplies are to be obtained. In raw cotton circles rather bearish influences have prevailed, the news with regard to the crops in America and Egypt being favourable. In cloth for India a larger inquiry has been reported, and some producers of low shirtings have booked rather more orders for Calcutta and Bombay. So far

the response to prices wired out in the better qualities has not been encouraging. The production of this class of goods is now comparatively small, and if shippers began to operate in earnest we might soon experience a shortage of supplies. For China miscellaneous sales have occurred, but shippers are still cautious. Rather more business has been reported for some of the minor markets of the Far East, and increased activity is mentioned for the Straits Settlements. Favourable advices are being received from Egypt as to clearances, and a steady demand has again come through in a variety of fabrics. Most of the South American outlets continue rather quieter. Certain kinds of heavy goods remain very slow of sale. Printing cloths are not attracting quite so much attention as a few weeks ago. Engagements are rather irregular in bleaching cloths. American yarns for home use have moved off in small lots from day to day, and perhaps towards the close of the week a little more activity has shown itself. There are comparatively weak sellers to be found, but most producers have sufficient work to go on with to enable them to hold pretty firmly to quotations. Poor reports continue to be received from spinners of yarns suitable for shipment abroad, and occasional sales have been put through for India at very low figures. Egyptian yarns show very little change, and demand has ruled quiet.

Tea, Oil and Rubber.

Business has been restricted in the rubber market, partly owing to dearer money and partly because the price of the commodity continues weak. The phenomenon of a higher price for forward deliveries continues, and there is a great deal of speculation as to the real reason, for it is perfectly certain that the genuine consumer is not going to buy ahead when he can get all he requires at a lower price on the spot. But it is useless trying to guess at the explanation, which probably will not appear for some time to come, although there are rumours that some of the speculators are beginning to be very uneasy. In other respects, the news has been encouraging, and the results recently announced have all been favourable. Bukit Rajahs and Rubber Trusts reacted after their sharp rise, although the report issued by the former was eminently satisfactory. Cicely has declared a dividend of 120 per cent., against 60 per cent.; Kepitgalla, 10 per cent., against 5 per cent.; Mount Austin (Johore), 14 per cent., against 7 per cent.; and British North Borneo Rubber Trust, 5 per cent., against 2 per cent. These are figures to encourage buying, but the public seem to be satiated for the time being, and perhaps they are also wondering what the price of rubber is likely to be after the war. We have little fear the output will not keep well abreast of consumption, especially as such luxuries as rubber paving and the like will have to be postponed until the world replaces the huge amounts of capital wasted in the past two years.

The big stride forward made by the Mount Austin (Johore) Rubber Estates in 1914-15 was the beginning of a rapid extension of its bearing area, which was followed up in the 12 months ended March 31 by the inclusion of a further 1,442 acres. A good deal of thinning out of the trees has been done, but the crop nevertheless exceeded the estimate, and was 296,067 lbs. larger than the previous output at 1,016,599 lbs. Owing to heavier transit charges the "all-in" cost was practically the same at 1s. 4.4d., but the price improved by 4.28d. to 2s. 7.3d., and the nett profits were £33,298 up at £68,271. The dividend is doubled at 14 per cent., and £6,000, or £1,027 more, is written off to extinguish the balance of amalgamation expenses, leaving £729 less at £4,472 to be carried forward. Of the £12,000 required for debenture interest £8,000 is charged to capital as against £9,000 a year ago, making a total of £30,341, which is carried as a separate asset for the present. Expenditure on the property amounted to £20,674, increasing the total cost to £646,115. It is expected that a further 2,000 acres will be brought into tapping during the current year, and the crop is estimated at 1,350,000 lbs., of which about one-fourth has already been sold forward at a gross average of 3s. per lb.

Modestly capitalised at £16,000 the Cicely Rubber Estates owns 1,255 acres, of which all but 37 acres have been planted and 802 acres are now in bearing. It has

a wonderful record in the matter of dividends, the payments having risen in 1910-11 to 205 per cent. on the preference and 200 per cent. on the ordinary, while since the company was formed, including the distributions just made, it has paid 1,070 per cent. on the preference and 1,040 per cent. on the ordinary. In the 12 months ended March 31 a crop of 335,740 lbs. was obtained, or 37,475 lbs. more than in 1915-16, and the average gross price rose by 6.99d. to 2s. 8.49d., while the "all-in" cost was further reduced by .64d. to 1s. 1.08d. After providing for administration charges and repeating the provision of £1,500 for depreciation, the nett profits, including £3,146 less at £3,281 brought in, were £7,748 up at £24,929, and the dividends are increased by 60 per cent. to 125 per cent. on the preference and 120 per cent. on the ordinary, leaving £2,148 more at £5,429 to be carried forward. A year ago £4,000 was transferred to reserve, but the directors evidently consider that there is no necessity to add anything further to that fund at present, seeing that it already amounts to more than double the capital at £35,000. In addition to the depreciation allowance property account is reduced by £850 received from the sale of 425 acres originally intended for coconut cultivation, and the cost now stands at £50,189, or just over £41 per cultivated acre. The crop for the current year is estimated at 345,000 lbs.

The Bukit Rajah Rubber Co. continues to make excellent progress, and in the year ended March 31 harvested a crop of 769,303 lbs., or 64,303 lbs. in excess of the estimate, and 95,796 lbs. more than the previous year's output. A satisfactory price of 2s. 8.27d., or 5.91d. more, was obtained, and the cost was practically the same as in 1914-15 at 11.83d., although this time it includes the whole of the general charges, as against 80 per cent. Including £2,614 more at £8,003 brought forward, the nett profits were £27,197 better at £73,550, and the dividend is

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doubled at 100 per cent., but the appropriation of £5,000 for depreciation is not repeated, and £1,153 less at £6,850 is carried forward. The dividend now paid brings the total distribution since the company began paying dividends in 1905-6 to 896 per cent., or an average of about 81 per cent. per annum, while in the same period £24,200 has been written off for depreciation, and a reserve of £21,000 has been accumulated. A crop of 877,000 lbs. is expected in the current year, of which 197,122 lbs. were secured in the first quarter, as against 144,053 lbs. in the corresponding period of 1915-16.

Although the Kepitigalla Rubber Estates failed to realise its estimates in the year ended March 31, it was none the less able to make a very good display, owing in great measure to the satisfactory price for rubber. The rubber crop was 91,524 lbs. larger than that of the previous year at 500,324 lbs., and the price rose by 9.21d. to 2s. 11.09d., while the "all-in" cost was only .22d. up at 1s. 4d. Cocoa yielded a few cwts. less at 1,863 cwts., and the cost was 16s. 10d. heavier at 62s. 4d., against an increase of 13s. 4d. to 78s. 9d. in price, and a reduction of 24,449 lbs. to 57,844 lbs. in tea was offset by a rise of 6.93 cents to 56.72 cents in price. The pepper crop was a failure, being only 3,922 lbs., as against an estimate of 9,500 lbs. and an output of 23,537 lbs. in the previous year, while the cost rose by 1.65d. to 2.82d., and the price by 1.36d. to 6.83d. Nett profits, including £8,458, or £1,386 less, brought in, were £20,682 up at £46,890, and after setting aside £6,000, or £500 less, for debenture sinking fund and reserve, the dividend is doubled at 10 per cent., leaving £9,932 more at £18,390 to be carried forward, subject to excess profits duty. During the year £2,217 was spent on development, making the cost of the estates £239,680, but buildings, machinery, &c., have been reduced on balance by £3,040 to £20,905. The company has £23,984 in War Loan and Treasury bills, and at the same time has increased its cash balances by £9,892 to £14,287. Crops for the current year are estimated at 594,000 lbs. rubber, 1,350 cwts. cocoa, 50,000 lbs. tea, and 1,000 lbs. pepper.

A very satisfactory display is made by the British North Borneo Rubber Trust for the year ended June 30. The company has again left out of account interest due on investments which has not been paid in cash, but in spite of that, the revenue is £8,783 up at £22,984. After providing for all expenses, the nett balance, including £2,975 brought forward, is £7,322 larger at £20,954, and in addition to increasing the dividend from 3 per cent. to 5 per cent., £2,000, as against nothing, is transferred to reserve and £2,393, or £582 less, is carried forward. Realisation of investments yielded a profit of £10,150, or £7,754 more, of which £9,679 has been used to extinguish the item of preliminary expenses and £471 is written off securities. The book value of the investments is £19,143 up at £418,662, and of this 38.34 per cent., or 8.91 per cent. more, is in rubber and other produce companies, while the holding in commercial and industrial undertakings has been reduced by 3.53 per cent. to 18.45 per cent. Sundry creditors have risen by £23,278 to £31,200, but the bank loan of £23,000 has disappeared from the balance-sheet, while, on the other hand, a decrease of £6,404 to £21,657 in sundry debtors is largely offset by an increase of £5,665 to £6,597 in cash.

Established in May, 1909, Rubber Securities paid a dividend of 20 per cent. for the period ended May 31, 1910, but after that it struck a streak of bad luck which has lasted until now. It, however, has interests in a number of good rubber companies, some of which paid their maiden dividends last year, with the result that the nett profits for the 12 months ended June 30 increased by £2,803 to £3,647. Adding £2,577, or £844 more, brought in, the available total is £3,647 larger at £6,224, and a fresh start is made with a distribution of 2½ per cent., tax free, which leaves £4,478, or £1,902 more, to be carried forward. Including £1,206 transferred from depreciation suspense account for cost of certain shares which were considered doubtful a year ago, but have now attained a value

considerably in excess of this amount, the investments stand in the books at £48,403, or an increase of £780, but the directors say that a valuation made on June 30 showed an appreciation of £17,458 on this figure. The depreciation suspense account amounts to £17,378, of which £16,475 represents the cost of a property in what was German East Africa. Payments on account of purchases of properties have risen by £1,000 to £18,692, and although debtors owe £2,373 less at £1,851, cash is £1,919 up at £3,269, while current liabilities have been reduced by £3,518 to £16,343.

Although the dividend declared by the Anglo-Dutch Plantations of Java, Ltd., for 1915 is 5 per cent. against 2 per cent. for the previous year, the results obtained are not so satisfactory as the increased distribution would have led us to expect. Indeed, practically the whole is derived from omitting to place anything to reserve, which last year got £25,000, and by depleting the carry forward to the extent of £6,700. After applying £3,030 (an increase of £1,310) to writing down investments the nett revenue is £51,117, an increase of £6,580, but £3,450 less at £18,656 was brought in, and the available balance of £69,773 is only £3,130 up. The dividend requires £57,818, and £11,955 remains to be carried forward. Out of a total area of 18,234 acres planted with tea, rubber, coffee, &c., 10,208 acres are in bearing, the immature area being mostly rubber, of which the output last year was 133,916 lbs. against 63,912 lbs. in 1914. F.o.b. costs were 1s. 10½d. against 1s. 7½d., the increase being attributed to the failure of the coffee crop in the coffee-rubber plantations necessitating practically the whole of the general expenditure on these estates being charged against the small rubber areas in bearing. The rice crop was also very disappointing owing to unfavourable weather, the yield being only 12,201,000 lbs. against 14,014,000 lbs., and the average per acre 137 lbs. against 178 lbs. Tea, however, did well, the crop amounting to 2,017,670 lbs., an increase of 567,150 lbs., but the price obtained was ¾d. per lb. lower. There is little in the balance-sheet that need detain us, but we may mention that investments are £37,760 lower at £17,406, while cash is up £17,300 at £26,250. As the issued capital is £1,163,000 the reserve of £41,000 looks trumpery, and it would have been better policy to strengthen it instead of dividing profits up to the hilt. Of course, revenue ought to increase rapidly as the large rubber areas come into bearing, but tropical agriculture has peculiar risks, and it is best to be well provided against them.

Considering the adverse conditions, the Maikop Combine, Ltd., did very well in the year to December 31 (o.s.). Although the rouble has been taken at 16 to the £, as against 9.5 normally, the gross profit was £85,810, and after writing off £31,598 on account of general expenditure for the years 1913-14, there is a balance of £54,212. It is proposed to write off £5,283 in respect of preliminary expenses, &c., and to place £16,305 to depreciation account, leaving a balance of £32,623 to be carried forward. The average price obtained for the oil at Ekaterinodar was 54 copecks per pood on a production of 4,292,000 poods. Active drilling operations have been carried out on several plots, and the prospects are considered very encouraging. When normal conditions are restored, the company ought to do still better.

In the year to December 31 (o.s.) the nett production of the Spies Petroleum Co., Ltd., was 13,654,450 poods, a decrease of 5,240,680, but deliveries and consumption amounted to 15,121,720 poods, a decrease of 2,186,250, and at the end of the year stocks were reduced by 1,467,270 poods to 291,760. Sales realised Rs. 4,720,670, an increase of Rs. 229,900, being an average of 37.36 copecks per pood as against 31.58 copecks in 1914. Nett profit for the year amounted to £152,029, a decrease of £74,560, but £119,000 more was brought forward, and after allowing for Russian taxes the balance is £275,395, of which £130,000 is again written off for depreciation, leaving £145,395, or £9,180 more, to be carried forward. A year ago

share premiums produced £137,687, while £30,000 was written off the holding in Terek General Oil, and an interim dividend of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. absorbed £75,000, but no distribution can be made on the present occasion owing to exchange and other difficulties. Items in the profit and loss account have been converted at an exchange of Rs. 13 to the £, while Rs. 16 to the £ has been taken for the conversion into sterling of floating assets. If the normal rate of Rs. 9.45 had been ruling during the year the nett profit would have been £262,790 instead of £152,029. Actually the Russian profits were greater than for either of the two preceding years, the figures for 1913, 1914, and 1915 respectively being Rs. 1,742,360, Rs. 2,385,320, and Rs. 2,752,930. There are, however, several obstacles to paying a dividend now. In the first place, it is impossible to get funds from Russia owing to a prohibition by the Government of remittances on private account, and there are obvious objections to borrowing in England against deposits in Russia owing to the risk of further depreciation in the exchange. Opportunity has been taken to acquire further plots of land at Grozny, and a satisfactory contract has been made with the Mazout Co. for the sale of the 1917 output. Meantime, production has dropped rather heavily, the output for the first five months of the current year being only 3,896,745 poods against 6,086,315 poods for the corresponding period, but the average price has been 46.61 copecks against 36.34 copecks. Changes in the balance-sheet are merely of academic interest owing to the abnormal exchange, and we may hope that before another report is due conditions will be more favourable in this respect.

SARAWAK RUBBER.—A poor crop had been expected from the older of this company's two estates in the year ended December 31, as it was still suffering from the previous bad season and also from the necessity of tapping the second bark lightly. The output, however, was rather larger than the estimate, although it was still 30,621 lbs. below the 1914 figure, and the estate costs rose by 2.54d. to 1s. 7.50d. On the second estate the output was 128,575 lbs. up at 312,860 lbs., and the costs were reduced by 3.56d. to 1s. 11.22d., but in addition the Sarawak Government duty of $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. worked out at .68d., and transport and sale charges came to 1.2d. more. The average price realised was 3.38d. better at 2s. 5.41d., and profits showed an improvement of £9,061 at £16,104, out of which the preference dividends are paid and £9,146 is applied in reduction of estates development accounts, bringing them down to £42,771. For the current year the production is estimated at 130,839 lbs. for Dahan and 434,500 lbs. for Sungei Tengah.

RIM (MALACCA) RUBBER.—Up to 1915-16 the directors of this company devoted any profits made to reducing the dead assets of preliminary expenses, &c., and to redeeming debentures, but the progress made in the 12 months ended March 31 was sufficiently good to justify the payment of a maiden dividend of 10 per cent. The crop was 36,855 lbs. larger at 194,035 lbs., and realised 5.12d. more at 2s. 6d., but the all-in cost was only reduced by .48d., and was still fairly high at 1s. 3.43d. Including £448 brought forward, the nett profits were £6,305 better at £12,109, and of this £3,519, or £1,732 less, is transferred to debenture redemption account to bring it up to the actual amount redeemed at the date of the balance-sheet. The dividend of 10 per cent., less tax, requires £6,450 of the balance, and £2,140, or £1,587 more, is carried forward. Of the total of £7,690 on debenture redemption account, £7,162 has been utilised to wipe out the balance of preliminary and debenture issue expenses and underwriting commissions. A crop of 280,000 lbs. is expected for the current year, and forward sales have been made of 35½ tons of smoked sheet at a gross average of 2s. 5d.

BUKIT SELANGOR RUBBER.—The crop for the year ended March 31 was well above the estimate and exceeded the previous year's output by 40,838 lbs. at 102,295 lbs., while the all-in cost was reduced by .81d. to 1s. 2.01d., and the gross price was 6.74d. better at 2s. 0.07d. Nett profits improved by £5,809 to £9,059, and after meeting debenture interest and other charges the balance, including £228 brought in, was £4,763 up at £7,053. Of this, £2,500, or £1,349 more, is written off preliminary expenses, and £500 off debenture issue expenses, leaving £1,500 and £1,000 respectively still to be wiped out, and £500, or double last year's amount, is allowed for depreciation. The shareholders then receive their first dividend of 5 per cent., and £618, or £389 more, is carried forward. Expenditure on development amounted to £5,164, which included the cost of planting 177 acres on one of the estates. A further 123 acres is now being planted, which will bring the planted area on this estate to 883, while on the second 518 acres will be under cultivation. Application has been made for a block of 1,000 acres of new land not far from the Java Selangor estate, and the directors hope to begin planting with a clearing of 100 acres this year. The output for 1916-17 is estimated at 180,000 lbs. at an all-in cost of 1s. 2d.

MERCHISTON RUBBER.—This company is in the early stages of production, but in the year ended March 31 it obtained a crop of 42,402 lbs., or 22,959 lbs. more, while the price realised showed a satisfactory improvement of 9.03d. at 2s. 10.65d. The "all-in" cost was naturally high, amounting to 1s. 11.20d., exclusive of .48d. for war risk insurance, and the nett result was a profit of £1,994. Of this £910 is applied in extinguishing preliminary expenses and £1,084 is carried forward. During the year £4,367 was spent on development, bringing the cost of the property up to £34,225, and against this £2,582 was received from calls paid in advance. A crop of 62,000 lbs. is expected for the current year.

BANGAWAN RUBBER.—This company has 1,544 acres planted with rubber, but has only just reached the producing stage. In 1915 light tapping was carried on over some 250 acres, and a crop of 25,544 lbs. was obtained, compared with an estimate of 20,000 lbs., but in the current year the output is expected to reach 100,000 lbs. Expenditure on the property, after deducting £3,333 for the value of the rubber, amounted to £7,451, bringing the total cost up to £115,950, while preliminary expenses stand in the books at £11,167. The available working capital having proved insufficient to carry the company through until the self-supporting stage was reached, arrangements have been made with the agents for a loan of £10,000, of which £5,000 had been advanced at the end of the year. The guarantee of the British North Borneo Co. of a 5 per cent. dividend for six years expired on November 1 last, and the company shows a contingent liability of £29,896 for amounts advanced for this purpose.

MALAYAN RUBBER, LOAN AND AGENCY CORPORATION.—In March last the scheme for writing down the capital was duly carried through, and the issued capital is now £58,954 in 2s. shares. The nominal reduction is £137,559, but as a set off against this £98,256 in 6 per cent. convertible debenture stock has been issued to the shareholders as part compensation. Investments are £43,107 down, partly by utilising the credit balance of profit and loss account, and now stand at £158,303, while against a decrease of £6,550 to £3,500 in loans due to the company, liabilities for loans of £4,689 have been paid off, and the reserve of £13,000 has disappeared. Nett profits for the year ended June 30 were £4,067 larger at £9,242, and after paying debenture interest from April 7, a dividend of 5 per cent. is paid on the shares, together with a bonus of 7.70 per cent. as compensation for loss of interest on the debentures from July 1, 1915, to April 6, 1916. A balance of £1,693 is then left to be carried forward.

BOGAWANTALAWA DISTRICT TEA.—In spite of an unusually prolonged drought in the last three months, this company was able to increase its yield per acre in the year ended March 31 to 621 lbs., being the highest yet recorded in its history. The total crop was 1,448,955 lbs., or 40,834 lbs. more, and with good markets the price rose by 1.82d. to 11.84d. Including the export duty of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb. levied in Ceylon and London management charges, the cost was 5.73d., in addition to which freight, insurance, sale charges, &c., came to 2.15d. Nett profits showed an improvement of £3,379 at £23,875, and with £4,394, or £3,068 more, brought forward and £722 from interest, the available surplus was £6,613 up at £28,992. Income-tax took £1,296 more, and £2,679 was provided for excess profits duty: 1914-15, while £1,650 is written off investments, compared with £641 off that item and £1,500 off cost of estates a year ago, after which the dividend on the ordinary shares is raised from 10 per cent. to 12, and £6,890, or £2,496 more, is carried forward, subject to excess profits duty for 1915-16. For the current season a crop of 1,497,000 lbs. is expected.

OKLAHOMA OIL.—A very poor display is made for the year ended April 30, chiefly because the Canadian Oil and Gas Co., in which this company has a large amount of its capital, did very badly. The production of that undertaking in 1915 fell off by 33,048 barrels to 82,762 barrels, and the sales by 43,049 by 33,048 barrels to 82,762 barrels, and the sales by 43,049 barrels to 48,219 barrels, while the price was 12 3-5 cents down at 72 7-10 cents. After writing off \$44,480, or \$3,765 less, for depreciation and \$15,368 for development expenses, the nett outcome was a loss of \$41,671, which is deducted from the balance brought in, leaving \$2,249 to be carried forward. The parent company states that it has waived the interest on the bonds of its subsidiary, and as other income also fell off, there was a deficit of £1,178, compared with a profit of £138 a year ago. Deducting the surplus of £391 brought in, the debit balance carried forward is £788.

NEW DARVEL BAY (BORNEO) TOBACCO PLANTATIONS, LTD.—While the 1914 tobacco crop, which was dealt with last year, was 1,650 bales larger at 5,456 bales, the disorganised state of the market prevented any real recovery in the price, and the average realised was only $\frac{1}{4}$ d. better at 1s. 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ kilo. The cost was reduced by £18,776 to £10,716, but after paying interest and London office expenses there was a loss of £15,301 as against £29,493 for the previous 12 months. Adding the debit balance brought forward, less £7,000 taken from reserve, the loss to date is consequently increased by £8,301 to £28,670. The 1915 crop was 5,009 bales, of which 2,872 bales have been sold at an average of about 3s. per $\frac{1}{2}$ kilo, so that the outlook is more promising. A beginning was made with the tapping of rubber in November, when 2,056 lbs. were harvested, and for the current year a crop of 40,000 lbs. is expected, of which 17,313 lbs. had been harvested by the end of June.

What Balance Sheets Tell.

NATIONAL BANK, LTD.

In the June half-year this powerful Irish bank suffered to the extent of £55,454 in the total of its gross profits, which were thus brought down to £187,212. The balance of £23,494 brought forward was also £1,034 down, so that altogether the available £210,700 showed a reduction of £56,498. Working expenses rose £4,512, and income-tax taken at 4s. in the £ took £7,188 more, which, however, is charged upon the individual shareholders. Consequently the amount that the 10 per cent. per annum dividend cost the bank was reduced to £60,000. Also the special reserve received this time only £25,000 against £30,000, but the biggest economy was the abstention from adding anything to the reserve or rest, which a year ago got £40,000. Through these adjustments the reduction in the nett profits was kept down to £52,208. This meant £108,133 available for division and for carrying forward, and so nicely has the dispersal been adjusted that £23,133 remained to be brought into the new half-year. The balance-sheet shows an increase of £1,313,602 in the liabilities on current, deposit and other accounts, making them £16,573,471. The note circulation has also increased by £346,905 to £2,454,109. With the addition just mentioned the special reserve to cover depreciation in investments will now amount to £115,000, but the general reserve remains at £500,000. Cash and cash credits show an increase of £286,680 at £3,239,147. Government securities held are £1,671,926 up at £3,743,676, and advances are £111,006 larger at £7,045,774; bills discounted are down £239,019 to £3,114,231. There is an increase of £160,000 in the cross entry acceptances, making it £240,000, and including bank premises, whose value shows an increase of £6,126 on the year's comparison at £302,159, the balance-sheet total is now £21,465,713.

PROVINCIAL BANK OF IRELAND, LTD.

Gross profit for the June half-year was £3,270 up at £112,465, but the balance of £12,093 brought forward was £8,949 less, so that the £124,558 aggregate was £5,679 smaller. Then working expenses rose. £3,320 to £57,088, and £5,790 was given as bonus to the bank's officers. On the other hand, £14,000 less at £21,000 was utilised to write down the company's investments; consequently the board was able to continue the dividend at the rate of 12½ per cent. per annum, less tax, and had £2,445 more at £13,680 remaining to carry forward. The principal changes in the liabilities are an increase of £296,167 in the note circulation, making it £1,607,785, and of £102,138 in the deposit and current account total, raising it to £6,972,959. Amongst the assets, cash is also £142,226 up at £1,204,514, and call and short notice money £200,800 higher at £728,100. The investments in British and Colonial Government securities are £383,129 larger at £1,659,204, but other investments are down, so that the total of £2,598,526 is only £43,035 larger. Bills discounted and advances taken together, amounting to £4,898,330, show an increase of only £8,438, and the balance-sheet total is just £397,515 higher at £9,536,424.

MUNSTER AND LEINSTER BANK, LTD.

Nett profits for the half-year ended June 30 showed a small decrease of £991 at £28,504, but as £452 more at £15,323 was brought in, the free balance was only £539 smaller at £43,827. The usual dividend at the rate of 16 per cent. per annum, less tax, is paid, £10,000 is transferred to investment depreciation account, compared with a similar sum put to reserve a year ago, and £5,000 is again written off premises account, leaving £16,027, or £995 more, to be carried forward. The directors say that the provision now made is sufficient to write down all the investments to the prices current on June 30. Deposit and current accounts have risen by £486,345 to £7,800,582, against which cash is £581,782 up at £1,423,009, but money at call and short notice has been reduced by £408,923 to £618,916. Investments are £420,573 higher at £2,395,390, Government stocks having been increased by £596,273, and corporation stocks, railway debentures, &c., reduced by £175,700. Bills receivable come to £58,603 less at £975,320, and advances to £43,348 less at £2,868,032.

YORKSHIRE PENNY BANK, LTD.

No profit and loss account is issued by this institution, which is in the hands of a number of the leading banks, but the report for the year ended June 30 states that £3,715,000 was found for investment in War Loan and Exchequer bonds. Deposits show a decrease of £1,466,593 at £19,355,065, and against this cash and money at short notice and English Government Treasury bills are £72,465 down at £5,787,995, but the percentage to deposits has again risen, and now amounts to 29.9 per cent., as compared with only 13.8 per cent. in December, 1911. Treasury bills and securities repayable within one year have been reduced by £552,778 to £1,462,322, and investments in Stock Exchange securities, which have been taken at their lowest ascertainable market value, are £1,298,120 lower at £7,389,612. Loans on security, however, are £454,737 up at £5,104,281, and there is a small increase of £2,034 to £450,946 in bank premises, which, with the £600,000 for bank purchase account, brings the aggregate of the balance-sheet to £20,855,065.

NATIONAL BANK OF AUSTRALASIA, LTD.

In its half-year ended March 31 last this bank's gross profit amounted to £199,890, being £6,738 more than that in the corresponding half-year. The balance of £28,938 brought from the previous half-year was also £5,831 better, so that the £228,828 earned or in hand was £15,569 up. Expenses rose

£5,125 to £102,243, and taxes were £4,237 higher at £12,045. Consequently, the nett revenue of £114,530 is only £6,207 larger, the actual nett profit of the half-year being but £376 better. The dividend of 7 per cent. is maintained on the ordinary shares, and altogether the reserve fund gets £45,000, bringing it up to £610,000. The balance finally left to carry forward is £15,793 less at £12,102. Nothing is this time given to officers' provident fund, which got £3,000 at the corresponding date a year back, but the bank's donations to the various war funds totalled £3,750 during the year. In business it appears to continue prosperous, and some interesting particulars about crops, &c., are given in the speech of the chairman, Mr. John Grice, at the shareholders' meeting. Seeing how abundant the Australian harvests were for the past year, we should expect to see the bank's prosperity expand this year. The balance-sheet movements indicate a growth in trade done, bills in circulation, for instance, being £231,902 larger at £808,439, but the deposits have not altered much in amount, the total of £10,408,432 being actually £159,066 down. This is exclusive of the Government deposits, which total £830,857 and show an increase of £141,684. Amongst the assets, bills and remittances in transit have increased £410,846 to £1,359,880, and bills discounted and advances are £429,650 larger at £9,343,903, cash and Government and municipal stocks, &c., are both down, the one £247,686 at £2,964,713 and the other £207,518 at £377,518. Altogether the balance-sheet total of £14,575,697 is larger by £402,003.

MERCHANTS' BANK OF CANADA.

For the year ended April 29 last the nett profits amounted to \$950,713, a decrease of \$44,720 as compared with the previous 12 months. After paying the regular dividends at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, and placing \$150,000 to contingent fund, minor adjustments leave the amount to be carried forward \$4,200 higher at \$250,984. Notes in circulation show an increase of \$1,280,000 at \$7,486,000, deposits not bearing interest an increase of \$4,500,000 at \$17,182,000, and deposits bearing interest an increase of \$4,900,000 at \$54,995,000. Current coin held is nearly a million dollars higher at \$3,681,854, but Dominion notes held are \$4,600,000 lower at \$8,106,000. Altogether, cash assets and securities total \$40,960,000, an increase of \$7,900,000, and discounts, &c., are up \$1,400,000 at \$48,835,000.

W. AND C. T. JONES STEAMSHIP CO., LTD.

The prosperity of the shipping world has nowhere been more strikingly illustrated than in the results obtained by this company for the year ended June 30. Its issued capital is only £280,000, yet it was able to make a nett profit, after providing for excess profits duty, of no less than £204,885, or an increase of £114,010 compared with the previous year. Good use is made of the exceptional profits, as, after raising the dividend from 2s. to 5s. per share, £20,000 more at £60,000 is written off for depreciation, £35,000 more at £40,000 is put to reclassing account, and £14,000 more at £19,000 to insurance reserve. Of the balance, income-tax absorbs an extra £3,342 at £7,113, and £19,748 is carried forward as against £10,975 brought in. The book value of the fleet now stands at £270,963, and the insurance account is £5,132 up at £23,459, against which the reclassing account amounts to £49,138, and the insurance reserve to £40,000. Uncompleted voyages appear this time as an asset for £15,864, compared with a liability of £86,081 last time, and debtors owe £32,338 more at £55,160, while £24,435 more at £50,808 is due to creditors. The most notable changes in the balance-sheet, however, are the increase of no less than £333,358 to £433,839 in cash and investments, and the appearance of a reserve of £324,000 for excess profits duty and income-tax.

DAVID AND WILLIAM HENDERSON AND CO., LTD.

Although this company only became a "controlled establishment" on August 18, it was evidently satisfactorily employed throughout the year ended April 30, as the nett profits, after providing for possible payments under the Finance Acts and Munitions of War Acts, showed an increase of £11,654 at £56,507. With £1,368 more at £3,202 brought in the free balance was £59,709, and of this £15,000, or double last year's amount, is transferred to preference dividend reserve, making that fund £30,000. The depreciation allowance is £3,236 larger at £8,289, and after repeating the dividend of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares and allowing £4,865 for depreciation of investments and directors' commission on profits, £5,395, or £2,103 more, is carried forward. Property account has been reduced by £5,834 to £417,009, and tools and floating stocks by £5,536 to £96,028, while investments are £2,500 down at £8,020. Work in progress, too, is £7,984 smaller at £57,875, but debtors have risen by £92,120 to £143,800, and the company has £68,086 in cash and Treasury bills, against which £96,620, or £49,876 more, is due to creditors.

CROMPTON AND CO., LTD.

Seeing that this company's works were declared a "controlled establishment" in August, it must have done a good deal of Government work in the 12 months ended March 31. The margin of profit, however, would seem to have been very narrow as the gross profit shows a gain of no more than £5,206 at £63,118, while the nett surplus after providing for administration charges, &c., is only £3,800 up at £30,259. Adding £7,691, or £5,502 more, brought forward, the amount to be dealt with is £9,302 larger at £37,950, but the ordinary shareholders have still to go without a dividend because of the liability in respect of excess profits tax, and under the Ministry

of Munitions Act. The preference dividend is met, and of the surplus £6,500, or the same as a year ago, is transferred to reserve, £10,000, or £6,500 more, is put to the special depreciation account, and £1,608 is applied in extinguishing preliminary expenses, leaving £2,788 more at £10,479 to be carried forward. Except for an increase of £31,114 to £69,266 in current liabilities, and a corresponding rise of £38,090 to £115,625 in sundry debtors, the changes in the balance-sheet are small.

MONTREAL WATER AND POWER CO.

Although the gross revenue for the year ended April 30 was in the actual figures very much the same as for the previous 12 months at \$775,519, the company really made excellent progress, because this time all but some \$700 was drawn from its franchise, whereas a year ago the total included \$20,000 from special sources. Operating expenses were reduced by \$9,316 to \$321,179, but the excess of interest payments over receipts was \$1,032 larger, and the available total of \$204,067 was consequently \$8,340 up. In addition to setting aside \$60,000, or \$20,000 more, for general depreciation, the directors write \$7,159 off meters and motor vehicles and \$17,000 for bad debts, compared with \$2,168 off office furniture last time, while the allowances in connection with the bond issue are rather smaller at \$27,340. No dividend is paid, but the balance carried forward subject to war tax is increased by \$102,567 to \$415,232. During the year \$574,208 was spent on the system, making the total cost \$7,699,107, against which the reserves for depreciation, &c., amount to \$494,981. Cash balances are \$371,668 lower at \$65,539, and against the repayment of \$250,000 debentures there is a new item of \$260,104 for liabilities on capital account.

CHAMPDANY JUTE CO., LTD.

The enormous consumption of jute for sandbags, &c., at the front has enabled all the Indian undertakings to reap a rich harvest, and this company is in no way behind its competitors. Including £8,504 less at £4,872 brought in the nett profits for the year ended April 30 showed the enormous increase of £134,567 at £168,260, and the directors take advantage of their abnormal prosperity to benefit the company in permanent fashion. A sum of £90,000, being the entire cost of the recent extension at the Wellington Mill, with further capital expenditure, is written off block account, as compared with £17,000 in reduction of that item a year ago, and £14,000 as against nothing is transferred to reserve, making that fund £100,000. The dividend is then increased from 6 per cent. to 20 per cent., and £24,860, or £19,987 more, is carried forward. Property account is £77,906 down on balance at £211,115, but stocks of cloth, bags, jute, &c., are valued at £324,005, or £100,950 more, and debtors have risen by £33,102 to £35,420, while £7,104 less at £202,345 is due to sundry creditors, but the company has only £242, or £1,684 less, in cash.

HOARE AND CO., LTD.

Profits of this brewery for the 12 months ended April 18 showed a decrease of £3,567 at £172,436, but the allowance for depreciation was reduced by £2,330 to £19,671, and additional licence duty took £2,708 less, so that, after meeting trade charges, the nett surplus was only £950 down at £87,470. Interest charges were lighter, and the available surplus, including £16,552, or £849 less, brought forward, was £393 smaller at £63,759, so the dividend is maintained at 4 per cent., and, by reducing the appropriation to reserve from £17,500 to £15,000, a balance of £18,659, or £2,107 more, is left to be carried forward. Property account shows a decrease of £4,420 at £1,467,550, fixed plant is £3,216 down at £57,900, and loans are £4,284 smaller at £63,885, against which there are reductions of £12,050 to £75,800 in mortgages and £5,000 to £15,500 in liabilities under guarantees on mortgage properties in possession. Book debts, &c., are £5,658 higher at £32,338, and investments are £11,973 up at £51,258, but cash is £6,607 down at £66,100, while, on the other hand, an increase of £14,333 to £67,609 in sundry creditors is partly offset by a reduction of £6,953 to £15,485 in deposits.

JAMES EADIE, LTD.

The restrictions put upon the sale of beer evidently had an appreciable effect on the fortunes of this brewery, which shows a set-back of £9,355 at £54,108 in its profits for the year ended March 31. A much larger balance of £16,824 was brought in, while licence compensation charges took £1,454 less, with the result that the free surplus was only £3,136 down at £35,563. Out of this the ordinary shares again get a dividend of 3 per cent., but only £6,337 as against £15,000 is transferred to the special contingency fund, and the sum carried forward is increased by £6,027 to £22,851. Further small reductions have been made in freehold and leasehold properties and in additional properties purchased since 1806, bringing these items down to £879,435 and £224,281, against which mortgages and loans show a decrease of £4,010 at £40,500. Stocks are £18,524 larger at £81,736, but cash is £10,078 lower at £20,515, and debtors owe £3,146 less at £28,535, while £3,001 less at £41,951 is due to creditors.

ROYAL BREWERY, BRENTFORD, LTD.

The restriction of output, although it only came into force on April 1, no doubt contributed to the decrease of £6,937 to £73,092 shown in the profits for the year ended June 30. Outgoings were heavier, owing to the payment of £1,500 for excess profits duty and an increase of £1,495 in income-tax, and after providing for debenture interest, &c., the nett balance was £8,084 smaller at £25,575, but £16,263, or £13,774 more, was

brought in, so that the free surplus of £41,838 was £5,689 up. The dividend on the ordinary shares, however, is reduced from 12 per cent. to 8 per cent., and £485 less at £2,113 is put to reserve against a moiety of the taxation under the Budget, while the appropriation of £1,000 to the special reserve for "B" debenture stock is not repeated. On the other hand, the sum carried forward is increased by £11,950 to £28,212 in order to provide for repairs, &c., which have been postponed, as well as for the higher cost of working, &c. Additions to property cost £3,556, but after deducting depreciation allowance the total cost is only £1,127 up at £569,175, against which the reserves aggregate £152,187. Cash is £12,852 down at £9,481, but £14,475 has been invested in War Loan.

PARKER'S BURSLEM BREWERY, LTD.

Wonderfully little change is shown in the accounts for the 12 months ended June 2. Gross profits were only £1,483 down at £115,204, and with a reduction in expenses the nett surplus came to £66,195 or £627 less. The balance brought in, however, was £2,706 smaller at £12,994, so that after providing for interest there was £63,834, or £2,860 less, available. Of this, £25,000, as before, is transferred to reserve, and the dividend of 8 per cent. on the ordinary shares is repeated, while £210 is contributed to the British Brewers' Ambulance Convoy, leaving £9,924 to be carried forward. Stocks are valued at £58,020, or £14,610 more, and cash is £19,047 down at £66,498, but the company has invested £22,080 in War Loan. There is nothing else in the balance-sheet calling for notice.

LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE WAGGON CO., LTD.

In the year ended June 30 the revenue from the hiring department increased by £18,214 to £86,632, but £72,095, or £18,844 more, was set aside for replacement of capital invested in wagons and after meeting other charges the nett balance was £2,079 smaller at £7,002. The "works" nett revenue also showed a decrease of £897 at £1,305, but £2,321 more was brought in, and the divisible surplus was consequently only £655 lower at £12,970. A final dividend of 10s. per share and bonus of 4s. per share, less tax, are again paid, and £4,858, or £195 more, is carried forward. Outlay on new wagons built and financed amounted to £90,431, and after making sundry adjustments the debit balance is £27,657 up at £33,044, against which the indebtedness to the bank has risen by £28,253 to £28,333.

BROWN BROS., LTD.

This business of cycle accessories makers did very well in the 12 months ended December 18. Its profits, after providing for depreciation, showed an increase of £15,424 at £42,645, and the amount available, including £16,268 brought forward, was £16,073 better at £58,913. Of this directors' remuneration and income-tax took an extra £3,342 at £7,664, and £5,000 is again transferred to reserve, making that fund £60,000, after which the dividend of 7½ per cent. tax free on the ordinary shares is repeated, leaving £28,999, or £12,731 more, to be carried forward subject to excess profits duty. Stocks are £23,523 larger at £107,790, and debtors owe £52,656 more at £184,516, but cash is £9,744 down at £19,597, while, on the other hand, current liabilities have risen by £49,460 to £150,511. Goodwill and patents have only been reduced by £235, and stand at £149,629, a figure which seems out of all proportion to the total capital of £250,000.

CHILI TELEPHONE CO., LTD.

Satisfactory progress was made in the year ended March 31, the number of subscribers having risen by 212 to 13,307, while the gross revenue from all sources improved by £9,612 to £121,973. Most of the gain was swept away by an increase in working expenses, but the nett profit, including £4,339, or £383 more, brought forward, was still £2,003 larger at £53,924. Of this, £1,194 less at £2,644 was spent on replacements, &c., of plant, and the provision against loss on investments was reduced from £5,000 to £2,000, but £18,577, or £6,233 more, was transferred to general reserve, and after repeating the dividend of 8s. per share, tax free, the balance carried forward is only reduced by £37 to £4,302. Capital expenditure for the year amounted to £6,477, making a total of £399,701, and against this the reserve now stands at £115,000. Stock of instruments, tools, &c., has risen by £6,030 to £18,414, and cash and bills receivable come to £17,616, or £6,215 more.

OREGON MORTGAGE CO., LTD.

The revenue from interest, commission, &c., came in fairly well in the year ended May 31, the total showing an increase of £1,748 at £61,309, and as interest payments were £1,069 smaller, the available income was £2,806 up at £47,470. Taxes at home and abroad, however, took £3,152 more, and after providing for administration charges there was a small decrease of £711 at £31,706, but £7,398, or £3,969 more, was brought forward, and the directors are therefore able to repeat the dividend of 10 per cent. and bonus of 2 per cent., less tax, together with the transfer of £4,000 to accrued interest reserve, and still leave the balance carried forward £3,258 up at £10,728. In compliance with the wishes of the Treasury considerable sums were brought home, and after paying off the remainder of the temporary loans the balance was invested in Government securities. Thanks to this and to an addition of £4,436 at £16,330 in real estate, presumably as the result of foreclosures, the item of loans on mortgage has been reduced by £84,010 to £676,054, while Government securities have risen by £57,836 to £86,980, and drafts in transit form a new asset for £10,000.

Insurance News.

There is evidently still a considerable amount of restiveness in business circles in Central and South America over the continued employment in Mexico City, Buenos Ayres, and elsewhere of German agents by important British insurance companies. Since last autumn, when energetic protests were made in a large number of cases, the German agents were displaced and British agents appointed, but there still seems plenty of room for further action in the matter. It appears that recently a communication was received from the British Legation in Mexico City, in which was embodied a statement from the Foreign Office to the effect that "though it was considered highly desirable that British insurance offices should get rid of enemy agents in neutral countries, it had been found impossible to force them to do so uniformly, and on this account a proclamation had been issued exempting the fire and life business from the scope of the measures prohibiting trading with the enemy." Meetings have been held in Mexico City and resolutions passed by way of a rejoinder to this surprising pronouncement. Three British offices, it is alleged, are still employing German agents in Mexico City, and there is a movement on foot to boycott them unless they reconsider their position.

The Week in Mines.

The mining markets have not yet settled down to the changed conditions brought about by the raising of Bank rate. Although Cape operators now and again sent a few buying orders, the public here held aloof, and the satisfactory nature of the news from the seat of war even failed to stimulate the market in Russian mining ventures. With the public doing little or nothing, it was only natural that jobbers took the opportunity to mark down values, and, generally speaking, members spent an idle and unprofitable week.

SOUTH AFRICANS.

In the South African market, the Modderfontein group again met with a little attention, Modders rising a further $\frac{1}{4}$ to 17 $\frac{1}{2}$, and Deep $\frac{1}{8}$ to 6 $\frac{1}{2}$, but "B's" relapsed 5-32 to 6 $\frac{1}{2}$. Owing to the receipt of private advices giving recent developments at the Knight Central as 8 dwts. over a width of 100 inches, there was a temporary rise in the price of the shares from 12s. 9d. to 15s. 9d. With no official confirmation of the news forthcoming, the quotation came back to 13s. 3d. Knight's Deep fell $\frac{1}{8}$ to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$, while Central Mining eased to 6 $\frac{1}{4}$, Rand Mines to 3 $\frac{1}{2}$, and Spring Mines to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Some activity was shown by City Deep, which marked up to 4, and Geduld at one time touched 43s. 6d., though closing at 42s. 9d. Consolidated Mines Selection came into demand at 17s. 6d., and Brakpan closed firm at 4 $\frac{1}{2}$. Among Rhodesians, Chartered fell from 13s. 6d. to 12s. 9d., the final price being 12s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Some disappointment was expressed at the news of the postponement till October of the meetings of the Tanganyika and Zambesia companies, and prices of the shares weakened to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 16s., sellers, respectively. A small rise to 1s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. occurred in Amalgamated Props, as the result of the statements at the meeting. De Beers fell to 10 $\frac{1}{2}$.

COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Copper shares, though mostly lower, as the result of a further decline in the price of the metal, closed above the lowest points. Anaconda fell $\frac{1}{8}$ to 16 $\frac{1}{2}$, and Rio Tinto $\frac{1}{4}$ to 60 $\frac{1}{2}$, after being 61 $\frac{1}{2}$, but Utah recovered $\frac{1}{4}$ to 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ on American buying, and Mount Morgans were steadier at 37s. 6d. on the results of the past year's working coming to hand. Cornish tin-producing companies' shares held their prices well, in spite of the weaker tone of the market in the metal. East Pools closed at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$, having been 1 $\frac{3}{4}$. As regards the Broken Hill group, Proprietary declined 1s. to 58s. 6d., while North eased to 45s. 9d. and British to 24s. There was a distinct falling off in the volume of business in Russian ventures, in spite of the cheering war news. Shares that came to market were fairly well taken, and on balance prices showed no material decline. Russo-Asiatic closed at 5 $\frac{1}{2}$, Tanalyk at 46s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., Irtysh at 46s. 9d., Kyshtim at 47s., and Russian Mining at 19s. 9d. Nechi preference rose a further 3d. to 15s. 9d., but Oroville relapsed to 18s. Among Mexican shares, Esperanza lost part of the previous week's advance, closing at 12s. 6d. Burma Corporation came back to 64s. 6d. on profit-taking sales, a fall of nearly 2s. 6d. on the week.

MINING NEWS.

ELDORADO BANKET.—The report for the year ended March 31 is a more encouraging document than might have been expected, both as regards results actually achieved and the immediate prospects. During the year 48,880 tons, against 57,073 tons, were crushed, yielding £127,817, against £132,393. The profits amounted to £61,999, against £62,598, and after paying divi-

dends amounting to 15 per cent., as against 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in 1914-15, £45,208 is carried forward, as compared with £30,720 brought in. An interim dividend of 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in respect of the current year will be paid on July 28. At 53,000 tons the ore reserves show the small decrease of 2,000 tons, but the value at 12.1 dwts. is 2.1 dwts. down. The reduction in the monthly tonnage foreshadowed last year is not likely to become effective until the end of the present year, but after that it will be necessary to open up at least three levels every year in order that the tonnage may be maintained. Development on the parallel reef still remains unpayable.

BURMA CORPORATION.—According to the statements made at the meetings of both the Burma Mines and the controlling concern, the Burma Corporation, remarkable progress continues to be made at the extensive Baldwin mine, which apparently contains enormous deposits of silver-lead-zinc ore of unusual richness. At the corporation meeting, Mr. Theodore J. Hoover, the head of the technical committee, explained the present position and prospects. The ore, we may explain, is very high in silver ratio, and is comparatively free from gangue, and the crude ore as mined contains as much zinc as the Broken Hill concentrates with substantially greater quantities of lead and silver. As to the financial position, Mr. Hoover estimates that as from the end of this year £200,000 only will be required to complete the equipment of the property and bring it up to the stage of dealing with 1,000 tons a day. A surplus of £75,000 out of the current year's revenue from lead and silver is looked for, and there is £95,000 of uncalled capital, while the remaining £30,000 should be provided out of next year's earnings. The question as to whether the group shall erect its own zinc smelters has yet to be decided; if it does a greater profit will be obtained than by selling the concentrates, and the capital could be provided largely by the issue of the 35,000 Burma Corporation unissued shares. But even without their own smelters Mr. Hoover thinks a profit of no less than £1,000,000 per annum may be anticipated when production is in full swing in three years' time. The property is undoubtedly a very valuable one, and the shareholders should be receiving substantial dividends when this stage is reached.

MOUNT MORGAN.—The prosperity of this famous mine, though not so startling as it was when the mine was worked chiefly for its gold, is gradually increasing again owing to the high price of copper. Last year the total revenue rose from £1,005,400 to £1,264,792, while the net profit was £120,141 larger at £286,781. As a result the dividend is raised from 4s. to 5s. per share, or 25 per cent., the highest rate paid since 1906, and after transferring £186,992 brought in to contingent account, £36,781 is carried forward. The reserve, insurance, and contingent funds and undivided profits now amount to £429,691, or nearly 50 per cent. of the capital. The work of re-estimating the ore reserves has now been completed, and the figures, having regard to those published four years ago, and depletions since then, show a gratifying increase. The total tonnage is estimated at 4,333,600 tons, of an average grade of 2.6 per cent. copper and 9.9 dwts. gold. Taking high and medium grades only, the new estimate shows a nett increase of 253,100 tons over 1912. In association with the Hampden Cloncurry, the Electrolytic Refining and Smelting Co. of Australia and the British Insulated and Helsby Cables, the Mount Morgan has formed a new concern called Metal Manufactures, Ltd., with a capital of £200,000, of which £60,000 has been issued, the Mount Morgan participation being £20,000. The object of the new company is to establish a new Australian industry, namely, the manufacture of copper wire, sheets, tubes, and it has received assurances of support from the Commonwealth authorities to justify the establishment of the industry. There is, it is stated, an increasing demand for the goods which it is proposed to manufacture, and which have hitherto been imported, largely from Germany.

ZAMBESIA EXPLORING.—The directors have decided that the annual general meeting, which is usually held in the month of July, shall be postponed for a short time in order that it may take place on the same date as that of Tanganyika Concessions, Ltd., as in previous years. The reason for this is that, as the accounts of the Union Minière du Haut Katanga cannot at present be prepared, and without these the Tanganyika Co.'s report would be incomplete, it is considered best in the interests of the shareholders to adopt this course, which is the only alternative.

RUSSIAN MINING CORPORATION.—A circular has been issued by the directors stating that the long delays in getting boilers and pumps to the Zyrianovsk Mine on the Altai Concession, together with other difficulties due to war conditions, have prevented the completion of the unwatering of the mine as early as anticipated. The recent unwatering of the lower levels, however, has allowed of an inspection and some work on all but the lowest level, which is at a depth of 760 ft. The directors are glad to be able to report that an examination by your manager of the lower levels has enabled him to confirm the old reports and maps as to the existence there of an important body of sulphide ore similar in character to the large dumps on the surface referred to in previous circulars, and the cutting of this ore at several points by deep inclined diamond drill-holes from the surface has established its continuance at least to a point about 100 ft. below the lowest level. The manager has thus been able to estimate the present reserves of ore on the dumps, and on one ore body down to the point of intersection of the several boreholes, at probably about 228,000 tons. This ore, though not yet thoroughly sampled, appears likely to show an average gross assay value of about £10 per ton in copper, lead, zinc, silver and gold.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

MANILA RAILWAY COMPANY (1906).

Meetings of the holders of the "A" debenture bonds and debenture stock and of the holders of the "B" debenture bonds and debenture stock of the Manila Railway Co. (1906), Ltd., were held on Tuesday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, for the purpose of considering, and, if thought fit, passing extraordinary resolutions sanctioning and approving and authorising the carrying into effect of a provisional agreement dated December 18, 1915, and made between the Manila Railroad Co. of New Jersey, the Manila Railway Co. (1906), Limited, and the Government of the Philippine Islands. Mr. C. J. Cater Scott presided.

The Secretary (Mr. J. Mackenzie) read the notice convening the meetings.

The Chairman said that nobody regretted more than he did the necessity for calling those meetings. The debenture-holders did not know very much, but the preference shareholders, he thought, knew that for a great many years he had worked very hard, and had done all he could to make the Manila Railway a success, and at various meetings he told them, particularly the one held some three years ago, that he believed the Manila Railway had a future. He did not in any respect change the opinion he then expressed, but he thought that many of them would agree, if they thought over the matter carefully, that the war had changed all conditions. It had put the Manila Railway Co. into a most serious position, and, sorry as he was to ask them to relinquish the control of the railway, he must, in their own interest, recommend them to accept the proposals which had been placed before them, and confirm the scheme. He admitted at once that it meant his effacement as chairman of the company, which, from his point of view, was a serious matter, because he had been so very deeply interested in the company; but, in the interests of the bondholders, the "A's" and the "B's," their only hope of salvation was to pass the scheme. Having explained why it was the meetings had not been called earlier, he went on to deal with the scheme. So far as the "A" debenture-holders were concerned, they were but very little affected by it; on the whole, he thought their position would be rather improved, because if they improved the capital position of the "B's," which he would be able to show they were doing, as the "A's" ranked before them on the same security, they must naturally be improved. So far as the "B" bondholders were concerned, it was true they were asking them to make some little sacrifice by reducing their interest from 4 per cent. to 3½ per cent., but as against that they at once put their capital in a very much stronger position, and whilst to-day, with the security held by the trustee for the "A's" and "B's," the "B's" were not fully covered, by what they proposed and the sinking fund he believed that when those bonds matured the capital would be fully provided for. That was their great reason for asking the "B's" to consent to that reduction of interest. Proceeding, he recalled the conditions under which they had undertaken the liability in 1906 to construct a considerable further mileage of railway, the construction of which they had no option but to agree to. To-day they were suffering from those liabilities. Up to the date of the war the company carried out its contract with the Government to the satisfaction of the Government. New mileage was opened year by year, and as it was operated they had the satisfaction of realising that their anticipations had been well founded, for those new lines were earning the interest on their capital cost. It would be remembered that since 1906, however, the value of money had steadily increased, so that the burden of raising fresh capital was all the time increasing, and had become more onerous. The first time they had to issue 4 per cent. Southern guaranteed bonds they issued them at just about 90; they calculated, according to the concession, that 91 would have paid them, so that there was a small loss. But about a month before the war, finding they could no longer sell those Southern bonds on advantageous terms, they made an issue of 5 per cent. bonds based on 125 per cent. of Southern bonds, which worked out only at about 68, and the underwriters of that issue were stuck. To-day the price of those Southern bonds was down to something like 60 or 62. They were also faced with the difficulty in financing the railway that, whereas the Government only handed over to them guaranteed bonds in payment for work done as sections of 20 miles were completed, they found in practice that they had sometimes to be working at as many as eight different rail heads at one time, which meant that a very large amount of money had to be put into the work before they could get back the guaranteed bonds from the Government. On account of that difficulty, in 1913 they asked the "A" and "B" bondholders to give them authority to issue another £500,000 of each series, which brought the total amount of each up to 2½ millions. Their intent was not to sell those bonds, but to deposit them with various bankers and other people as collateral security for advances. The money obtained by those advances was used for the construction of the line, and the intention was that as they sold the bonds received for work done, the charge on that collateral should be redeemed. In 1914 war broke out, when it was impossible for them to raise further loans here, and construction had to come to a standstill. But they could not come to a standstill without committing a default in their contract with the Philippine Government; they could only reduce construction or shut down completely with the consent of the Philippine Government. It was impossible to raise money in America, as some people suggested, because they had no security to offer. They could not ask the "A" and "B"

debenture-holders to permit a prior lien being put in front of their charge on the northern lines in order to complete the work on the southern lines. Then they could only raise money on the southern lines by putting a prior lien in front of the 4 per cent. guaranteed bonds, and to do that they had to get the consent certainly of the Philippine Government, and he thought of Congress at Washington. Did anyone, the chairman asked, believe that they would ever have got that? Even if they did, what would be the effect on the southern line bonds which the Government guaranteed? How on earth were they ever going to sell those bonds afterwards? Owing to the war they had been unable to issue bonds here, and as soon as the Philippine Government saw that they were in difficulties, they said: "We will not deliver to you bonds which ought to go to you, because we intend to hold those bonds up against you to secure ourselves against the loans we have already made to you and against any claims which we may have against you in the future." So they were at once, unless the Philippine Government was willing to come to their help, in a position to do nothing. In those circumstances, and in August last year, he told the preference shareholders that they had approached the Government and had told them what their difficulties were. The Government suggested that they should make a further loan to the company, but that the money must be spent exclusively in the Philippine Islands. It would thus be seen that the proposed relief would be only of a temporary character, and was insufficient to complete even a very reduced mileage. It only meant a postponement of their difficulties. It did not enable them to make any arrangement with their creditors, and was not, in fact, any solution of the difficulties with which they were confronted. Finding they could get no more money, or more liberal terms from the Government, they put forward the suggestion that the Government should take over the railway. After considerable negotiations they agreed to do so on the basis of the terms now submitted to the meeting, namely, that they should pay for the preference and common stock of the Manila Railroad Co., which was held by their trustees for their security, \$4,000,000, or, say, £800,000; that they should reduce the interest on the 6 per cent. and 7 per cent. bonds to 5 per cent., and that they should add to that \$1,190,000 of 5 per cent. bonds, which the company ought to have had before, but which had been held up, and then that they should pay them a certain amount of 4 per cent. guaranteed bonds which they estimated at \$2,000,000, which would remain free after certain arrangements had been made with their creditors. If the scheme went through the "A" and "B" bonds, which to-day amounted to £2,500,000 each, would be reduced to £2,000,000 and £1,880,000, which was the amount issued to the public before, in 1913, the bondholders gave their consent to the increased amount.

The chairman then proceeded to explain the various clauses in the agreement, and said in regard to clause 16 it covered a point of the greatest importance to the company. There was no denying that they were in default, and that the Philippine Government, if they liked, could take very serious steps against the company. The clause in question stated most distinctly that all defaults by the American company under its concession were waived by the Government. Continuing, he reviewed the position of the "A" and "B" debenture-holders as it would be under the scheme. There would be in the hands of the trustees \$13,236,000 5 per cent. bonds, yielding annually £136,000; \$2,000,000 4 per cent. southern guaranteed bonds, yielding annually £16,500; and about £150,000 of cash, which at 4 per cent. would give £6,770, so that there would be a total income of £159,250. For interest on the "A" bonds they required £80,000, so that there was a margin of £79,250. If the "B" remained at 4 per cent. the amount required for them would be £75,200, and there would only be a margin of £4,050, which, of course, would go to the company. Now if they reduced the interest on the "B" bonds, instead of requiring £75,200 they would require something like £65,800, and the margin would become £13,450, of which £5,000, and the interest on the bonds redeemed by the expenditure of that sum, would go to the "B" debenture-holders for the better protection of their capital. Clause 3 allowed the trustees to give a sum not exceeding £120,000 out of the £180,000 of cash for the purpose of paying certain creditors, such as the Commissioners of Income-Tax, £38,000, and so forth. Clause 5 provided that out of the margin of the income £5,000 a year should be taken before any dividend is payable to the preference shareholders, for the purpose of redeeming debenture stock, and that the interest on the debenture stock redeemed should be added every year to the £5,000, so that gradually they would redeem the whole of the capital of the "B" debentures and leave a considerable margin over for the preference shareholders. If the scheme broke down the securities to be realised would be the 6 per cent. and 7 per cent. bonds of the American Co. They were redeemable at par, and he did not think they could be considered as worth more than par, which was £2,740,000. Then there was the preference and common stock, which they might sell for £400,000, or half what the Government was willing to offer for it to-day. That gave them a total capital amount of £3,140,000. Of that the £2,500,000 "A" debentures, repayable at £105, would absorb £2,625,000, leaving £515,000 for the £2,500,000 of "B" debentures, or less than 20 per cent., and nothing whatever for the preference shareholders. If the scheme went through, on the other hand, they would have \$13,236,000 5 per cent. bonds, or £2,740,000; they would have \$2,000,000 of 4 per cent. guaranteed bonds, or £412,000; and cash of £150,000, after the redemption of the £500,000 "A"

debentures and the £625,000 "B" debentures, giving them altogether £3,302,000, or sufficient to pay off the capital of the "A" debentures when they matured, leaving a surplus for the "B" debentures of £1,302,000, or, say, 70 per cent., as against 20 per cent. if the scheme did not go through, while the action of the sinking fund of £5,000 a year *plus* the interest on the bonds redeemed would, in the opinion of the directors, be more than sufficient some years before the maturity of the "B" debentures to meet their capital in full. Indeed, there would be some considerable margin eventually for the preference stockholders. Those facts were his justification for the scheme.

After some discussion a resolution was adopted by the debenture-holders of each class approving the scheme.

GENERAL ELECTRIC.

The sixteenth annual general meeting of the General Electric Co., Ltd., was held on Monday at Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., Mr. H. Hirst (the chairman and managing director) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. K. Alwood) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—It is once more my privilege to preside at this meeting and to present for your approval the accounts for the last year. I presume I may take it for granted that you have all read the report of the directors, and as we have endeavoured to give in it much fuller information than usual my task to-day is considerably lightened. The outstanding features of the balance-sheet are that we have made a nett increased profit of nearly £31,000, that we have spent, roughly, £80,000 in works extensions, that we have been able to carry on our increased business and yet keep the large sum of £252,000 invested in War Loan and Treasury bills, and, finally, that our proposed appropriation provides for an increase to the reserve fund of £40,000 and an increased carry forward of £11,000. All the other figures are substantially of the same character as those of a year ago, and therefore require no comment. The distribution on the ordinary shares is the same as last year. Dividends absorb a slightly larger amount—namely, £92,000, instead of £87,000. Grants to dependents of men on active service (men who at the outbreak of war voluntarily enlisted) reach a total of £12,960, an item which I know you will heartily approve. The advance we show is all the more remarkable, as a great portion of our previous year's output was for Government requirements, and the prices charged were, almost without exception, the same as those ruling prior to the war; only in certain cases have we asked for advances, and then only in proportion to the increased prices of raw material and labour. The higher profits are mainly due to the fact that under present conditions we have obtained more repetition work than one can expect in normal times, and we have benefited in some manufacturing departments which, under pre-war conditions, showed an annual loss, while under present conditions they have yielded a legitimate profit. Our large reserve stock of standard lines has naturally benefited by the general rise in prices, and this has been a contributory factor to the success of the year. Above all, as stated in the directors' report, our results are mainly due to the loyalty, co-operation, and resource of the staff and the majority of the workpeople, who have appreciated the utility of our products to the country. A goodly number (and I say it to their credit) would not be lured away into the many concerns started since the war which temporarily are offering such tempting and abnormal wages. Such expressions of loyalty have been much appreciated by your directors, and I take this opportunity of publicly expressing from this chair the thanks both of the shareholders and of the board. All the work which they have done, however, does not show itself in actual business returns. Many of our people have been able to advise and give useful assistance to Government Departments and Committees in experiments and in the evolution of scientific problems which the conditions of war have created.

You will agree that this is not a time for thanking of larger dividends. With the ever-increasing difficulty of obtaining raw material, the probable further diminution in the supply of labour, and the necessary limitation to imports and exports, it is impossible to forecast what surprises may be ahead of us before the war is over. We must therefore persevere in our policy of conserving our strength and keeping our assets liquid. We must bear in mind also that a big task confronts the electrical industry in this country. Much is expected of us, and we, the General Electric Co., are anxious to fulfil these expectations. As soon as we have the slightest indication as to what will be the Government policy after the war, and in what way new enterprises will receive the necessary measure of Government assistance which present conditions demand, we shall be willing to open up in new fields and avenues which have hitherto been closed to the manufacturers of this country. The stronger we make ourselves internally the more fit we shall be to wage the fierce commercial and industrial contest which is bound to ensue after the war, and the better shall we be able to make use of the opportunities held out to the electrical industry by our Allies. Our strong financial position and reserves will permit us to go full speed ahead with the constructional work, and our sales organisations overseas (referred to in the directors' report) are so unique and firmly established that we are prepared for any challenge. It is just this desire to keep our overseas branches alive and well organised that is causing us anxiety, as export business is now rendered so difficult, due to lack of tonnage, and we are consequently able to execute only a small percentage of

the orders and contracts which they are offering us. Where an industry never seems to get out of the state of evolution, your directors and managers could not keep pace with the times if, with every experiment and with every fresh step involving expense, they were to feel that they were incurring expenditure which might deprive the shareholders of their dividends. If a portion of the past profits are always available for pioneer work, for testing, sounding, and studying new inventions, and investigating fresh fields of inquiry, one has the greatest chance of remaining at the top of the industry.

As regards the investments, the report gives a full detailed statement. We are committed to a policy, and, according to the present plans of your board, the investment account is likely to be still further increased next year. I presume, however, that so long as this account shows a handsome yield the shareholders will encourage us to go ahead. We have given a full account of our investments, and we shall continue to do so in the future. The shareholders will be interested to learn that through one of our associated companies, the Peel Conner Telephone Works, we have now established a magneto factory near Coventry. Under the title of the Conner Magneto Ignition, Ltd., that company has evolved a magneto for which Government contracts have already been secured. The works have been started on quite a considerable scale, and we hope within a very few months to be able to make good the present deficiency in the supply of so important and essential an appliance. Conditions of war make it impossible to discuss fully and thoroughly all the various operations in which we are engaged, but I can assure the shareholders that if, after the cessation of hostilities, this ban is removed from my lips, I shall be able to tell such a story of "G.E.C." war activities as may well fill both the shareholders and staff with pride. Our labour and resources are being, and will continue to be, used to the utmost to further the end we all have in view—namely, complete victory. I know I shall be acting agreeably to your wishes if, before proceeding with the formal business of the meeting, I make some reference to those of our people who have laid aside their tools in order to fight for British liberty. No fewer than 52 of our men have made the supreme sacrifice, 133 have been wounded, 61 have been invalided, and four are either missing or prisoners of war. This is indeed a heavy casualty list out of a total of 1,500 who have joined the Forces. It can be better understood, however, when it is remembered that most of our men joined at the commencement of hostilities. The company will endeavour, as far as lies in their power, to help the dependents of the fallen. We have created a complete scheme for regularly communicating with and supplying comforts to those serving at the front, and we fervently hope that, at a not far distant date, we may see them back again at their old places in the firm. In the meantime, we are resolved to carry on with the utmost zeal and energy the task with which we at home are confronted. It is now my privilege to propose the following resolution:—"That the report and statement of accounts for the year ended March 31, 1916, be approved and adopted," but before putting it to the meeting I shall be prepared to answer any questions that may be put to me.

Mr. E. G. Byng (vice-chairman) seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

An extraordinary general meeting was held previous to the annual meeting, at which a resolution altering the articles of association to enable the number of directors to be increased to 11 was approved. The Chairman explained that this alteration had become necessary owing to the fact that the expansion of the company's business required a larger board.

HENDERSON'S TRANSVAAL ESTATES, LTD.

IMPROVED FINANCIAL POSITION.

The ordinary general meeting of Henderson's Transvaal Estates, Ltd., was held on Tuesday at River Plate House, E.C. Lord Oranmore and Browne presided, and, in moving the adoption of the report, first dealt with the accounts, and pointed out that sundry debtors showed a decrease of £125,619, due to the carrying out of the Daggafontein scheme, by which the loan to the Daggafontein Gold Mining Company was extinguished. The item "Stocks and Shares at Cost" was increased by £76,057, which was primarily due to the completion of the Daggafontein scheme, less the amount received in respect of shares which had been realised at a profit during the year. The figure of £345,529 included the company's interests in the three Daggafontein companies, the Delagoa Bay Development Corporation, Tweefontein Colliery, the Cement Company, and holdings in Rand Gold Mining shares. Of the total of £345,529, at which the stocks and shares stood in the company's books at March 31 last, stocks representing £314,549 were quoted and £30,980 were unquoted, but the latter figure included their interest in the Cement Company. At July 10 the value of the quoted stocks and shares exceeded the figure at which they appeared in the company's books by nearly £150,000. The result of the year's working was a profit of £33,363, as against £25,317 for the previous year. He felt convinced that shareholders would regard this as most satisfactory. The financial position of the company was considerably stronger than at the close of the last financial year, the total of the liquid resources represented by short loans and

cash being practically the same, while no less than £92,000 was invested in Treasury bills and War Loan, which were equivalent to cash. The dividends received from the Tweefontein Colliery were still maintained, viz., 25 per cent. on the ordinary shares and 10 per cent. on the preference and participating shares. There was every indication of an expansion of the coal trade of the Transvaal, and there was good reason to anticipate that the profits of the colliery would be maintained at their present high level. It had been decided to proceed with the opening up of a further area of about 2,000 acres on the same property, on which the coal seams had already been proved by means of a shaft and boreholes. The results had proved to be quite up to expectations, both as regarded the thickness of the seam and the calorific value of the coal. Arrangements had been made with the South African railways by which a contract had been secured for the supply of coal to the railways at a satisfactory price. Since he last had the pleasure of addressing the shareholders interest in gold-mining circles had been concentrated on that portion of the Witwatersrand known as the Far East Rand. The exceedingly good returns shown by the Modderfontein, Geduld, and Brakpan Mines, and the encouraging development results of the Springs Mines, further tended to focus attention on this district.

FUTURE OF DAGGAFONTEIN.

He thought they could all congratulate themselves on the very satisfactory arrangements for the development of Daggafontein which had resulted from the negotiations started in the spring of last year. He did not think that a year ago anyone, even of the most sanguine temperament, would have regarded as within the bounds of possibility the carrying out of a scheme whereby such a large sum of money was provided for the development of the deep level area, and the fact that this had been possible spoke more than anything for the confidence of those most intimately acquainted with the development of this section of the Rand in the future of Daggafontein. The main shaft on the property had been unwatered, and the shaft station cut. The reef had been sampled at six places round the shaft, the result being equal to 8.6 dwts. over 60 ins. Development had been started, but the directors were advised that this was off the reef, and therefore no values were available. The site of the No. 2 shaft had been located 6,000 ft. due west of No. 1 shaft, and work had already been started. It was anticipated that during the session of the Union Parliament which had just concluded, a Bill would be passed amending the present Gold Law, so as to enable the areas of the East Rand and other similar areas to be exploited in the most economical manner, but, unfortunately, the Legislature closed its session without coming to any decision. With regard to agriculture, at the end of the financial year the company had 89 tenants, as against 93 at March 31, 1915. It had been suggested to the board that, in addition to the declaration of a dividend of 5 per cent. for the year, the directors might be able to propose the payment of a bonus of 5 per cent., but they had not seen their way to adopt this suggestion. If they were to reap the benefits secured under the arrangement which had been come to for the opening up of the Daggafontein mine; if they were to equip and bring to a producing stage Tweefontein No. 1 area; and if they were to leave themselves with sufficient capital to participate in other schemes for the development of further interests of the company in South Africa, it was essential that they should maintain a strong financial position, which alone would enable the company satisfactorily to continue a progressive policy.

Mr. W. L. Castleden (managing director) seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

BRITISH NORTH BORNEO CO.

The sixty-seventh half-yearly meeting of the British North Borneo Co. was held on Tuesday at River Plate House, Finsbury Circus, the Right Hon. Sir West Ridgeway (the chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. Harington G. Forbes) read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman said that on the last two occasions that they met he explained how, unfortunately, the war had prejudiced their finance and checked their progress, and pointed out that, although they had not gone back, they had not made the advance anticipated. The whole of the year under review, 1915, had been prejudiced by the war in a similar way, especially under the headings "Customs" and "Railway." Customs was one of their chief sources of revenue, and reflected more than any other the ill-effects of the war on the prosperity of British North Borneo. During the two years which they might call "war years" the Customs revenue had shown an annual average decrease of about £5,600. If they added to this the automatic increase which they were entitled to expect during those years, viz., £14,000, they would understand that the company had lost about £25,000 under the heading of Customs alone. In 1915 trade recovered itself by more than half from the check suffered in 1914 owing to the war. Substantial increases were shown under rubber and tobacco, while cutch, coal, sago, and other items were responsible for minor increases. Imports, however, showed that the decline which set in as the result of the war persisted, although slightly arrested. In the circumstances, he thought they should be agreeably surprised to find that in 1915 the revenue rose from £209,012 to £234,214, or an increase of £25,401 on the revenue of the preceding year, and that there was a far larger surplus than even in 1913, the year

of unprecedented prosperity—namely, £130,486, the largest surplus which had ever been earned during the history of the company. Two years ago he announced to them the formation of the new Land Settlement Department, which he had initiated on his visit to the territory in 1913. This had worked most satisfactorily, as much as 40,000 acres having been already dealt with by their settlement officers, and the rental which would accrue from this source would form a very handsome addition to their revenue. A healthy sign was the awakening of the natives to the value of land for agricultural purposes. Dealing with the expenditure chargeable against revenue, he said that the net increase in 1915, as compared with 1914, was only £1,846. The railway expenditure showed a small increase of £122. It must not be overlooked that, although the railway standing by itself revealed an actual loss in the year of about £3,000, there was a very great amount of indirect benefit accruing generally to the State through its existence in the country.

In the case of three of their subsidiary companies formed after the "boom" in rubber, the shareholders were given the option of selling their shares at a given date to the British North Borneo Company for either cash at par or for 5 per cent. certificates of indebtedness. Many shareholders in the three companies concerned had exercised their rights, and 5 per cent. certificates of indebtedness to the extent of £175,718 had been issued to them, but in exchange this company had obtained shares in those three rubber companies to the same amount. One of those companies—the North Borneo State Rubber, Limited—had already paid a dividend out of its profits of 6 per cent. for 1915, and the Membakut and Bangawan Rubber Companies were making rapid strides towards the same satisfactory stage, so that they might look forward with every confidence to securing an annual income of more than 6 per cent. on the shares acquired, as against the annual 5 per cent. which they must pay on the certificates of indebtedness. Subject to one or two minor details, they had recently entered into an agreement with the Exploration Company whereby, for the allotment of 7,079 British Borneo shares, being in the proportion of one in 60, they would have the minerals of the territory once more at their disposal. After the war he hoped they might be in a position to provide for a vigorous exploitation of those assets. This rescission of the rights of the Exploration Company would not, of course, affect the oil rights which were at present held by the British Borneo Petroleum Syndicate. When they met last December they had great hopes that the tobacco crop of 1915 would show better results than those of the years immediately preceding, and he also referred to the fact that this company had largely assisted one of the principal companies engaged in that industry. He was glad to say that the prices so far realised for the 1915 crop had been very satisfactory; in fact, they had exceeded the directors' most sanguine expectations. The industry was one of the greatest importance, and they could only trust that the crop for this year would realise equally good prices. He had nothing but good to say of the progress which had been made by their various rubber-growing companies. The bold policy which the court of directors adopted of rendering financial assistance to these subsidiary companies had been fully justified by the event. Considering that, in spite of the losses which they suffered through the war, the revenue receipts were larger than they had ever been in the company's history, some of the shareholders might ask how it was that a higher dividend than 3 per cent. was not paid. At their last meeting he reminded them that 3 per cent. was the highest dividend ever paid by the company until 1907 and 1908, when the dividends were raised to 4 per cent. and in 1909 to 5 per cent. This they were enabled to pay in subsequent years, owing to the rubber "boom" when they secured large sums by the sale of land. In those years they might have declared a dividend much larger than 5 per cent., but they decided to pay only 5 per cent. and to transfer the balance to reserve, so that after providing for depreciation they might have a dividend equalisation fund on which they could draw if necessary. The depreciation of their securities, in consequence of these bad times, however, was so severe that they had ceased to regard their reserve fund as available for the equalisation of dividend, and therefore they had decided to reserve it for depreciation and other extraordinary expenditure. He remarked that the company's financial position was never sounder than at the present time, and, in conclusion, moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. G. E. B. Bromley-Martin seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WELSBACH LIGHT CO.

IMPROVED TRADING RESULTS.

The fifth annual general meeting of this company was held on Wednesday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, Mr. Charles Lock presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. E. J. Butcher) read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman, after expressing regret at the absence, through ill-health, of Mr. Yates (the chairman of the company), said that the year under review had been one of unprecedented difficulties with regard to obtaining both raw materials and labour. Of their male employees, no fewer than 73 had enlisted, and 24 others were waiting to be called up. This might not appear

a large number, but, as mantle manufacturers, they employed mostly female labour, and, therefore, it really represented practically all those who were eligible for military service. The board had allocated a sum of £2,000 per annum for the purpose of assisting the dependents of the men. Up to the present all trading difficulties had been overcome, due in some measure to the strong cash position occupied by the company, and the trading profits had continued on the up-grade.

PROFITS SINCE THE RECONSTRUCTION.

Reviewing the trading results since the reconstruction, he pointed out that, whereas in 1912 there was a loss of £4,345, in 1913 that was turned into a profit of £5,694; in 1914 there was a profit of £13,461, in 1915 of £20,134, and in the year under review of £26,427. The dividend of £14,673 on their shareholding in B. Cars, Limited, was more than double the figure of the preceding year, the dividends received from that company in three years aggregating £25,241 on an investment of £31,500. That result was specially welcome, seeing that no return had been received during the year from their Austrian investment. The net profit of £18,949 was the largest shown in the company's accounts to date, and, having regard to the very difficult conditions under which they had had to work, the increase was highly satisfactory. It was the result of great energy and forethought on the part of the executive, and they might, perhaps, claim some credit for having increased the sales at such a time. What the current year might bring forth it was too early to state, but he might say that they were meeting all the difficulties confronting them with all the energy they could summon. Dealing with the balance-sheet, he pointed out that the goodwill had been reduced to the low figure of £7,304. Part of the increase in plant, machinery, &c., represented outlay in connection with their munitions department. They had already executed large orders for various articles, and at the present time held a number of important contracts from the Ministry of Munitions. This work would not result in any but the most moderate profit, not having been undertaken with that object, but it was felt that the shareholders would be glad that the company should assist the national cause in this direction. The increase of some £9,000 in the stock was in the circumstances a favourable feature.

THE DIVIDEND AND EXCESS PROFITS DUTY.

Including the amount brought forward, the balance at credit of profit and loss was £24,658. This, however, was subject to a claim for excess profits duty, in respect of which they had lodged an appeal to the Special Commissioners. The question being, therefore, *sub judice*, he could not say more about it than that it was a factor which necessarily required the board to take a somewhat conservative view in the matter of dividend. This question of the dividend had received the board's most anxious consideration. The shareholders had now been for some years without a dividend, and the directors would have been only too glad to deal liberally with them, but until the claim pending for excess profits duty was adjusted, they were not in a position to know what cash they would have at their disposal. They had come to the conclusion that, as a commencement, they could safely recommend a modest $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the year. He concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts and the payment of the dividend, as recommended, and added that if this were approved by the meeting, the warrants would be posted not later than the 31st inst.

Lieutenant-Colonel C. M. Crompton-Roberts seconded the motion.

Mr. Frederick Walker congratulated the directors on the fairly satisfactory nature of the report, and, referring to the excess profits duty, said that when a company had the pluck and patriotism to lay down, for the benefit of the Empire and for the purpose of relieving a Government which had not had the common-sense to make the provision for itself, fresh plant, which would, perhaps, have to be "scrapped" when the war was over, it was scandalous that their profits should be subjected to what amounted to drastic confiscation.

After some further discussion, the motion was carried unanimously, and the retiring director (Mr. J. R. Yates) was re-elected.

An extraordinary general meeting followed, at which a resolution was passed altering the articles of association in such manner as to ensure that the directors of the company should be British subjects.

AMALGAMATED PROPERTIES OF RHODESIA (1913).

The annual general meeting of the Amalgamated Properties of Rhodesia (1913), Ltd., was held on Monday at Salisbury House, London Wall, Mr. G. R. Bonnard, the chairman and managing director, presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. E. J. Sloan) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman said the Stock Exchange value of the quoted shares as at December 31, 1915, was £98,137 16s. 2d.; but on June 24 last it stood at £124,284 10s. 11d. Stock Exchange prices certainly do not, in these times, reflect anything like real value. These assets are steadily and surely increasing in

value. The unquoted shares are chiefly comprised in the company's interest in the Rhodesian Cattle and Land Co., and your directors have every reason to be satisfied that here again you hold an asset of increasing value. At the last general meeting I entered at considerable length into the possibilities of your land assets. In dealing, as I did, very fully with ranching, I told you that after having visited Rhodesia, and having obtained whilst there expert advice and assistance, I had come to the conclusion that Rhodesia as a ranching country was right in the forefront. The interval of time which has since elapsed has only confirmed the views of my colleagues and myself in this connection. The possibilities of Rhodesia as a great ranching country unmistakably point to the excellent prospects which this company possesses in connection with its very large blocks of land suitable in every respect for this most important industry. On Thursday last I attended, with representatives of other land companies, a meeting convened by the Chartered Co. for the purpose of considering the question of land settlement in Rhodesia. Sir Starr Jameson presided. The proposals put forward were with the object of effecting co-operation between the land companies and the Chartered Co., and if such co-operation be effected—as I feel confident it will—your land under this heading will materially increase in value. We have a very large area of land most suitable for mixed agriculture and other industries. The requisite features are all present—namely, healthy climate, fertility of soil, good water supply, close proximity to railways, and consequent easy access to markets. Turning next to your mining interests, the directors' report informed you that we had considered it advisable to write off the deep-level claims in the Transvaal, and the expenditure thereon, which had been mainly incurred by the payment of licence fees, &c., to the Government, in order to retain a title to them. Some years ago a high opinion was held as to the value of these claims; indeed, they were capitalised at a very large figure, and it is only comparatively recently that engineers on the Rand came to the conclusion that such deep-level claims were hardly likely to be capable of being turned to profitable account, even if it were possible to provide for the enormous outlay which deep sinking would involve, as development work carried out on other deep-level claims in the vicinity had for some time been pointing to the fact that their profitable working was practically impossible. We hope, and, in fact believe, that it will be possible to obtain a full measure of compensation later on for the loss marked by the abandonment of these claims by and through our two-thirds interest in the farm Maraisdrift, of 4,570 acres, situated in the Eastern Rand. From reports which we have been able to obtain we have every reason to believe that two separate reefs, one of which is the Van Ryn Reef, will be found to run through Maraisdrift at comparatively shallow depths. We intend to carry out, at a later date, boring operations for the purpose of proving whether or not this is the fact. If it be the fact, and the reefs—or some substantial portion of the reefs—carry payable values, then I see no reason why this asset should not turn out to be of very great value, and completely alter the outlook of this company's mining interests.

Mr. F. W. Webb seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

APOLLINARIS AND JOHANNIS.

The nineteenth ordinary general meeting of Apollinaris and Johannis, Ltd., was held on Thursday at the Holborn Restaurant, High Holborn, W.C., the Earl of Bessborough, K.P. (chairman of the company), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. J. Westlake Lack) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: The directors regret that they again are not in a position to submit the usual statement of accounts. I stated last year that the German Government, at the commencement of the war, recognising the British interests in Apollinaris, placed official supervisors in control of the spring, in the same way as the British Government appointed supervisors in control of some concerns in this country where German interests were paramount. These supervisors still remain at the spring. We have but meagre information, but, so far as we know, the spring and property remain intact. I must again remind you that the company is a British enterprise, in which over £3,000,000 of British money have been invested. It has more than 4,500 British shareholders, who hold 97 per cent. of the total capital. As you are aware, the Apenta spring, though a valuable asset of our company, accounted but for a small part of our business. However, it may interest you to know that the Hungarian Government still continues to treat us with every consideration, and has even permitted the British members of the staff to remain at their posts, and to take care of the spring and of our interests. I believe we need not feel any uneasiness about the safety of our property in Hungary. The Owens European Bottle Co., Toledo, Ohio, has made a further return of part of the capital upon the shares held by the Apollinaris Co., amounting to £10,097 12s. 7d. We continue to take means to maintain the company's business connections in every part of the world, and it will be gratifying to shareholders to know that all our correspondents remained most loyal to us. I can assure you that our expenditure has been reduced to the lowest possible figure, and that our staff has been reduced to the lowest limit consistent with efficiency. As mentioned in the report, the debenture interest has been paid to the end of March. The prolongation of the war renders it, however, desirable that the cash resources

of the company should not be further weakened. It is most necessary to husband the liquid resources of the company so as to enable it to recommence operations when the time comes. The board is at present in communication with the trustees for the debenture holders upon the subject, and a scheme is under consideration, according to which the payment of interest on the debentures will be temporarily postponed until a defined time after the conclusion of peace, in which case the debenture holders will be offered deferred interest certificates carrying a reasonable rate of interest, payable in cash, during such temporary postponement. These certificates will probably be saleable. I stated last year that I could not attempt to make any forecast as to the future. I am in the same position to-day. I only wish I had more information on matters connected with the companies to give you, but I have none. I have told you all I know. You are aware that the board and their immediate friends have a very large holding in this company, but apart from this they are as anxious as ever to do, and are doing, the best they can in the interests of the company in these difficult times.

Mr. Francis J. Schilling (vice-chairman and managing director) seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

ASSAM OIL CO.

The 18th ordinary general meeting of shareholders of the Assam Oil Co., Ltd., was held on Friday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Lord Ribblesdale, the chairman of the company, presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. S. Maclean Jack) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said the company had done well in the past year, and the profits earned had been the largest in the history of the company. They must bear in mind that the increase in profits had been largely achieved by the excellent prices obtained—and prices, of course, were subject to fluctuations, and special prices could not go on for ever. The kerosine markets had remained steady, and there had been a satisfactory demand for all the company could supply, whilst prices for batching oil and for wax, the two next most important of the company's products, both showed good increases, and sales of petroleum spirit had also shown a tendency to expand. The company had secured two new lighting contracts with two of the large railway companies, and he hoped that the lighting facilities of petroleum spirit would gradually give the company a good source of income. Against those good market conditions they had to set the higher prices of all materials and stores. The company's refinery had worked well and economically throughout the year, and there was no point of interest in that connection he need comment upon. As regarded the drillery, their crude production, whilst it was not actually increased during 1915, was maintained at a satisfactory level. Last year he explained the board's drilling policy, and that the nature of the work at present was chiefly for the purpose of proving their areas. That was to say, the wells sunk and finished during the year had been on sites which were of more importance from their point of view of extending their proved oil-bearing areas than of obtaining an increase in crude production. Those wells had proved entirely satisfactory. Their policy had been to feel their way gradually East and West from the two main fields in order to prove, as they already believed, that the oil-bearing ground was continuous, though possibly separated by local faulting. Their work in the year had fully confirmed that idea, and though there was a gap, it was so narrow that they felt almost certain that the two fields called Digboi and Bappa Poong were one continuous oil-bearing area. To sum up, the drilling work for the year had been of great value, as they believed they had now proved so far as an oil proposition could be proved, so large an area that the company's supplies of oil on the scale of their present refinery consumption, or even on a considerably increased scale, were assured for a good many years ahead. As regards further new areas, during last cold weather the company, with the permission of the Government, sent officials into the districts east of the concessions to explore, and they examined the indications of oil over a good stretch of country. The indications found were quite promising, and amply repaid the trouble taken. They had received a telegram stating that a well which was started as recently as May 25 had struck oil and was producing satisfactorily. Another well was being drilled and had reached oil sand that week, and a further one was in such a position that it was expected to do so before the end of the month. In regard to the prospects for 1916, the management in Assam were quite hopeful in regard to the production of crude oil.

Sir Walter R. Lawrence, Bart., seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The Standard Bank of South Africa, London.—An agency has been opened at Daarsallaam, near Ermelo, in the Transvaal.

The National Bank of South Africa, Ltd., notifies that the agency at Dullstroom has been converted into a full branch, and that an agency has been opened at Korannafontein, 32 miles from Klerksdorp.

Union Cold Storage.—We are officially informed that the list in respect of the issue of 80,000 6 per cent. preference shares at par to shareholders is now closed, that the amount has been over-subscribed, and that allotment letters have been posted.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1916, and July 15, 1916:—

	Estimate for the Year 1916-1917.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1916, to July 15, 1916.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1915, to July 17, 1915.
Balances in Exchequer on April 1—			
Bank of England	—	25,111,065	81,898,728
Bank of Ireland	—	463,941	1,552,224
REVENUE.		25,575,006	83,450,952
Customs	—	18,474,000	11,235,000
Excise	—	12,735,000	16,305,000
Estate, &c., Duties	—	8,876,000	10,919,000
Stamps	—	2,148,000	1,824,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	—	310,000	320,000
Property and Income Tax and Super Tax	—	23,642,000	12,763,000
Excess Profits Duty	—	8,443,000	—
Land Value Duties	—	70,000	41,000
Post Office	—	9,800,000	8,400,000
Crown Lands	—	110,000	110,000
Receipts from Suez Canal ..	—	—	—
Shares and Sundry Loans ..	—	474,444	6,472
Miscellaneous	—	1,956,840	894,872
Revenue		87,039,284	62,818,344
Total, including Balance		112,614,290	146,269,296
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion		1,350,000	260,000
For Treasury Bills (net amount) ..		5,557,000	—
For War Loan, 1925-1928		—	35,300,000
For 3% Exchequer Bonds, 1920 ..		—	242,345
For War Loan, 1925-1945		424	28,500,000
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919 ..		23,979,000	—
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920 ..		77,441,000	—
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1921 ..		38,137,000	—
For War Expenditure Certificates ..		14,051,600	—
For other Debt created under the War Loan Act, 1915		17,750,000	—
Temporary Advances—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills) £280,000,000 in 1916-1917 and £201,397,000 in 1915-1916		331,000,000	202,397,000
Total		621,880,314	412,968,641
EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.			
EXPENDITURE.			
Permanent Charge of Debt ..	£	9,984,493	11,682,745
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	—	30,911,308	395,649
Road Improvement Fund	—	—	418,951
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c.	—	1,378,121	1,652,260
Other Consolidated Fund Services	—	660,534	763,312
Supply Services	—	475,951,631	306,362,298
Expenditure		524,886,087	321,275,215
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion		1,540,000	345,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		60,914	60,914
For Treasury Bills (nett amount) ..		—	26,493,000
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan (Redemption) Act, 1910		—	16,395,500
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 ..		150,000	830,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 ..		90,000	—
Under Housing Fund, 1914		18,900	500,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8, issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1908		10,000	27,000
Old Sinking Fund—1910-1911: Issued under the Finance Act, 1911—Section 16 (1) (b)		20,000	50,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1911-1912—Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Co. (Acquisition of Capital) Act, 1914		—	250,000
Temporary Advances repaid—Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £40,295,000 in 1916-17 and £2,554,000 in 1915-16)		68,191,500	2,554,000
Balances in Exchequer—			
Bank of England	1916. July 15. £	25,952,468	43,578,227
Bank of Ireland	1915. July 17. £	960,445	604,785
Total		26,912,913	44,183,012
Total		621,880,314	412,968,641

MEMO.—Treasury Bills outstanding on July 15, 1916.... *£811,656,000.

* Includes £426,000 the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the Account.

Treasury, July 17, 1916.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Coming Crash of Peace. By T. C. Elder. (London: Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent and Co., 4, Stationers' Hall Court, E.C.) 2s. nett.

Story of the Canadian Pacific Railway. By Keith Morris. (London: Wm. Stevens, Ltd., Henrietta Street, W.C.) 3s. 6d. nett.

The Recent Economic Development of Japan. Compiled by the Bank of Japan.

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H. G. HOLDERNESS, Deputy Assistant Manager.

H. R. HOARE, Secretary.

L. J. CORNISH, Assistant Secretary.

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Leading Articles:—The New Vote of Credit—Banking Position and Prospects—Hudson's Bay Co.—By-the-Way War Notes (pp. 135-40).

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THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LTD.

Head Office: 15, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.

Capital Authorised	...	£1,500,000
Capital Issued	...	1,125,000
Capital Paid Up	...	562,500
Reserve Fund	...	550,000

Branches:

INDIA, BURMAH, CEYLON, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS
CHINA, AND PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS.

The Bank buys and sells Bills of Exchange, issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, and transacts banking and agency business in connection with the East, on terms to be had on application.

DEPOSITS received for one year at 5 per cent. per annum. Rates for other periods on application.

On **current accounts** interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on daily balances.

THE LONDON & RIVER PLATE BANK (LIMITED).

ESTABLISHED 1862.

Authorised Capital	£4,000,000
Paid-up Capital	1,800,000
Reserve Fund	2,000,000

BRANCHES—

ARGENTINE.—Buenos Aires, Rosario, Mendoza, Concordia, Bahia Blanca, Córdoba, Tucumán, Paraná, Barracas (Buenos Aires), Once (Buenos Aires), Boca (Buenos Aires), Calle Santa Fé (Buenos Aires), Calle B de Irigoyen (Buenos Aires). URUGUAY.—Montevideo, Montevideo Agency (Calle Río Negro), Paysandu (Agency), Salto (Agency). BRAZIL.—Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Santos, Pernambuco, Para, Bahia, Victoria, Curitiba, Manaus (Agency). CHILI—Valparaiso. FRANCE—Paris (16 Rue Halévy). Agency in New York and Agents throughout the world.

Letters of Credit, Drafts, and Cable Transfers issued. Bills negotiated, advanced upon or sent for collection.—7, Princes Street, E.C.

BANK OF NEW ZEALAND.

(Incorporated July 29th, 1861.)

BANKERS TO THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT.

London Office: 1, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL .. £5,500,000

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL.

Four per Cent. Guaranteed Stock	£528,988
"A" Preference Shares issued to New Zealand Government	500,000
"B" Preference Shares issued to New Zealand Government	250,000
Ordinary Shares	1,500,000

Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits .. £2,778,988

Negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange.
Grants drafts on its Offices in New Zealand, Australia, Fiji and Samoa. Remittances made by telegraphic transfer.

ALEXANDER KAY, Manager

THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.

(Registered in Japan.)

ESTABLISHED 1880.

Subscribed Capital	.. ..	Yen 48,000,000
Capital Paid Up	.. ..	Yen 30,000,000
Reserve Fund	.. ..	Yen 20,400,000

Head Office: YOKOHAMA.

Branches and Agencies at

Antung-Hsien.	Harbin.	Nagasaki.	Shanghai.
Bombay.	Honolulu.	Newchang.	Sydney.
Calcutta.	Hong Kong.	New York.	Tientsin.
Changchun.	Kobe.	Osaka.	Tokyo.
Dairen (Dalny).	Liaoyang.	Peking.	Tsinanfu.
Fengtien (Mukden).	Los Angeles.	Ryojun (Port Arthur)	Tsingtau.
Hankow.	Lyons.	San Francisco.	

The Bank buys and receives for collection Bills of Exchange, issues Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit on above places and elsewhere, and transacts General Banking Business.

Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be obtained on application.

London Office: 7, BISHOPSGATE, E.C.

K. TATSUMI, Manager.

PRUDENTIAL

ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED,

HOLBORN BARS, LONDON.

Invested Funds exceed - £94,000,000.

CLAIMS PAID £126,000,000.

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND.

Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1727.

CAPITAL PAID UP .. £2,000,000

REST & UNDIVIDED PROFITS .. £800,986

Head Office: ST. ANDREW SQUARE, EDINBURGH.

ADAM TAIT, Cashier and General Manager.

A. K. WRIGHT, Secretary.

London Office: 3, BISHOPSGATE, E.C.

WILLIAM WALLACE, Manager.

166 Branch Offices throughout Scotland.

Banking Business of every description transacted. Accounts opened for Foreign and Colonial Correspondents. Bills, Cheques, and other documents collected. Deposit received at interest repayable at call or at notice.

LONDON COUNTY & WESTMINSTER BANK, LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED IN 1836.

CAPITAL £14,000,000, in 700,000 Shares of £20 each.

Paid-up Capital - - - £3,500,000.

Reserve - - - - £4,000,000.

Chairman: The Right Hon. The VISCOUNT GOSCHEN. Deputy Chairman: WALTER LEAF, Esq.

HEAD OFFICE: 41, LOTHBURY, E.C.

The Bank is represented by Branches or Agents in all the Principal Cities and Towns of the United Kingdom and has Correspondents throughout the World.

Paris: London County and Westminster Bank (Paris) Limited, 22, Place Vendôme.

SUMS OF £10 UPWARDS RECEIVED ON DEPOSIT, AND INTEREST ALLOWED THEREON
 EVERY DESCRIPTION OF BRITISH AND FOREIGN BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED
 EXECUTOR AND TRUSTEE DUTIES UNDERTAKEN.

STANDARD BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA, LTD.

Bankers to the Government of the Union of South Africa in Cape Province, to the Imperial Government in South Africa, and to the Administration of Rhodesia.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	£6,194,100
PAID-UP CAPITAL	£1,548,525
RESERVE FUND	£2,000,000
UNCALLED CAPITAL	£4,645,575
	£8,194,100

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Wm. Ralston Arbuthnot, Esq.	Horace Peel, Esq.
Sir David Miller Barbour, K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G.	William Smart, Esq.
Robert E. Dickinson, Esq.	Right Hon. Lord Sydenham, G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E.
James Fairbairn Finlay, Esq., C.S.I.	H. L. M. Tritton, Esq.

HEAD OFFICE: 10, CLEMENTS LANE, LOMBARD ST., LONDON, E.C.

Hamburg Agency: 27, ALSTERDAMM.
 New York Agency: 55, WALL STREET.

OVER 220 BRANCHES AND AGENCIES IN SOUTH AND EAST AFRICA.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF BANKING BUSINESS transacted with the Cape Province, Natal, Orange Free State, Transvaal, Rhodesia, Nyasaland, East Africa Protectorate, Uganda, Zanzibar, Portuguese East Africa, South-West Africa Protectorate and the Belgian Congo, and with the Bank's Agencies in New York, and elsewhere.

CURRENT ACCOUNTS are opened on the usual terms.
 DEPOSITS RECEIVED for fixed periods at rates which may be ascertained on application.
 BILLS NEGOTIATED and COLLECTED.

MAIL and TELEGRAPHIC REMITTANCES made.
 LETTERS OF CREDIT and DRAFTS granted on the Branches and Agencies of the Bank.
 THE BANK issues CIRCULAR LETTERS OF CREDIT available in all parts of the world.
 COMMERCIAL LETTERS OF CREDIT issued.
 PURCHASE and SALE of Stocks and Shares effected.
 DIVIDENDS, ANNUITIES, Etc., received.
 EXECUTOR and TRUSTEE BUSINESS undertaken.

The Officers of the Bank are bound not to disclose the transaction of any of its customers.
 FRANCIS SHIPTON, London Manager.

ENGLISH, SCOTTISH, AND AUSTRALIAN BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office—38, Lombard Street, E.C.

Subscribed Capital	£1,078,875 0 0
Paid-up Capital	539,437 10 0
Further Liability of Proprietors	539,437 10 0
Reserve Fund	400,000 0 0

LETTERS OF CREDIT and DRAFTS on the Branches and Agencies the Bank in Australia can be obtained at the Head Office, or through the Agents the Bank, in the chief Provincial towns throughout the United Kingdom.

REMITTANCES made by TELEGRAPHIC TRANSFER.

BILLS NEGOTIATED or forwarded for COLLECTION.

BANKING and EXCHANGE Business of every description transacted with Australia.

E. M. JANION, Manager.

THE LONDON BANK OF AUSTRALIA, LIMITED.

Head Office—71, Old Broad Street, E.C.

Subscribed Capital	£1,278,747 10 0
Paid-up Capital	669,587 10 0
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits	354,791 5 3
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	606,962 10 0

REMITTANCES made by CABLE.
 DRAFTS, LETTERS OF CREDIT and CIRCULAR NOTES issued upon Branches and Agents.

BILLS on Australasia NEGOTIATED or sent for collection.

DEPOSITS RECEIVED for periods and at rates which may be ascertained on application, and Banking Business of every description conducted with Australia.

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BANK.

Established 1841.

Paid-up Capital	£250,000 0 0 (25,000 Shares of £10 each.)
Reserve Fund	£250,000 0 0 | Reserve Profits .. £24,087 0 0
	Reserve Liability of Shareholders £250,000.

Drafts issued, Remittances cabled, Bills negotiated or collected, Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be ascertained on application, and all banking and exchange business connected with Western Australia conducted through the London Agents, The Bank of Adelaide, 11, Leadenhall St., E.C.

BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Established 1817.



Paid up Capital	£3,500,000
Reserve Fund	2,675,000
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	3,500,000
	£9,675,000

Head Office: SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES.

London Directors:

Sir FREDERICK GREEN, Chairman.
 H. L. M. TRITTON, Esq. WALTER S. M. BURNS, Esq.

DAVID GEORGE, Manager. J. S. CAMPBELL, Secretary.
 HALKERSTONE MELDRUM, DAVID GEDDIE,
 Assistant Manager. Accountant.

The Bank has 346 Branches and Agencies in the Australian States, New Zealand, Fiji, Papua (New Guinea), and London, and Agents and Correspondents all over the World, on whom the London Office grants Circular Letters of Credit and Circular Notes. Also issues Drafts on demand. Makes Mail and Cable Transfers. Negotiates and Collects Bills of Exchange. Receives Deposits for Fixed Periods on terms which may be known on application, and transacts every description of Australian Banking business.

London Office: 29, THREADNEEDLE STREET, E.C.

THE BANK OF ADELAIDE.

(Incorporated by Act of Parliament, 1865.)

Authorised Capital - £1,000,000.	Subscribed Capital - £325,000
Paid-up Capital	£500,000
Reserve Fund	510,000
	£1,010,000
Uncalled Capital	125,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	625,000
	£1,760,000

London Office—11, Leadenhall Street, E.C.

BILLS on Australasia purchased or collected.

DRAFTS issued and REMITTANCES cabled.

DEPOSITS received for fixed periods at rates to be ascertained on application.
 PERCY ARNOLD, Manager.

THE UNION BANK OF AUSTRALIA

ESTABLISHED 1837. LIMITED. INCORPORATED 1880.

Authorised and Issued Capital, £8,000,000.

Paid-up Capital, £2,000,000; Reserve Fund, £1,960,000; together	£3,960,000
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	4,000,000
Total Capital and Reserves	£7,960,000

HEAD OFFICE - - - 71, CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.

DRAFTS are granted on the Bank's Branches throughout the Australian States and Dominion of New Zealand.

TELEGRAPHIC REMITTANCES are also made.

BILLS are purchased or sent for Collection.

DEPOSITS are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application.

NO DELUDING PEACE.

By A. J. WILSON.

One Shilling nett. By post 1/1½

LONDON:

"THE INVESTORS' REVIEW,"

Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C.

The Investors' Review.

Vol. XXXVIII.—No. 969. SATURDAY, JULY 29, 1916.
New Series.

(Registered as a Newspaper.) Price 6d.

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The *Investors' Review* is a Subscription Journal, and will be delivered to subscribers in London by the first post, or sent to the country and abroad by the first mail, on Saturday Morning, on the following terms:—

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"*Investors' Review*,"

Norfolk House, Norfolk Street,
London, W.C.

Telephone No.:
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Telegraphic Address:
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The Editors cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

Letters from correspondents must, in every case, be authenticated by the name and address of the writer.

The Editors desire it to be understood that a charge is made for the insertion of reports under the heading of Company Meetings, and they cannot accept responsibility for statements made therein.

ANSWERS TO QUERIES.

One Reply to One Question — One Shilling. Any number of questions may be put and will be answered at the rate of **One Shilling** each. The questions should be numbered and a copy kept, as securities cannot be named with comments in the printed replies. Questions to be answered in the current issue should reach us not later than Friday morning.

For a fee of **One Guinea** per annum paid in advance, **Key** to the previous week's replies will be sent early in the following week.

Deposits of "Query Money" may be made in advance, and will be acknowledged in the "Answers" column. Notice of exhaustion will also be given there.

Telegrams advising about new securities cost **Half-a-Crown** each, plus cost of the telegram.

Private Letters in answer to inquiries can be had if desired. The minimum charge for such letters is **Ten Shillings**, but for this three questions will be answered if desired. For every question beyond three replied to in any one letter the charge is **Half-a-Crown per question**.

Correspondents can have their lists of investments overhauled and advised upon by letter on terms varying according to the time taken.

Groups of Five Stocks for investment supplied at the rate of **One Guinea**, each list different.

Passing Events.

Thanks to the reduction of last week's Treasury outgoings to £27,557,249, which compared with £41,750,000, the total for the preceding week, the Exchequer balances recovered a little, and at £34,263,305 were on Saturday last £7,350,392 better than at the end of the previous week. The total revenue was £1,879,410 better at £6,762,641, but even so it had to be made up by liberal borrowing. Exchequer bonds sold amounted to £5,811,500 during the week, and there was also the sale of £1,515,000 of War Expenditure Certificates, while £19,915,000 was added to the total of Treasury bills outstanding. It follows that the aggregate of Exchequer bonds issued is now £145,368,500, and War Savings Certificates have been sold to a total of £9,450,000, while the total of the Treasury bills outstanding has risen to £831,571,000. War Savings Certificates are shown for the first time, and gave £1,700,000 in the week, which is not so bad perhaps yet poor enough in present circumstances. One way or another the floating debt of all kinds mounts up fast until it is now perilously near £1,000,000,000, and the M.P. who blurted out that the City is getting "nervous" about this floating debt did not much exaggerate. Should anything happen in the United States—and things do happen there sometimes—to force New York to draw gold from us with unusual and sustained insistence, embarrassment might arise on our market, and compel the Government to consolidate most of its floating debt on terms unfavourable to the taxpayer. That, however, may be regarded for the present as a comparatively remote contingency, one more likely to be perilous when peace has been reached than while the war rages. It is, moreover, a favourable point that our dependence upon the United States seems to be diminishing, is bound, indeed, to diminish in proportion as our own munition factories reach complete equipment and full efficiency in production. Probably also we shall this year lessen our indebtedness to the United States under other lines of import than ammunition, and it may be that before so very long the great corn stores of Russia will be at our disposal. Even so, some feasible and not too expensive method of gathering the major part of this floating debt into a permanent

stock ought to be devised in good time, and measures for dealing with all the obligations of the war concerted with our Allies.

Much suggestive information has been made public during the hearing of the Prize Court case this week. Before that Court, the Crown applied to have 3,200 tons of foodstuffs, seized on the American ship *Maracas*, condemned and the ship confiscated on the ground that more than half of its cargo was contraband. There seems to be no doubt of that fact, and we hope American journalists who guide public opinion within the Republic will take note of the evidence produced by Mr. John Hargreaves, a well-known Liverpool provision dealer, illustrative of the enormous increase in the shipments of bacon and lard from the States to Copenhagen and Gothenburg. The cargo, it should be explained, was consigned to their agents in the two cities by Messrs. Armour and Co., Messrs. Swift and Co., Messrs. G. H. Hammond and Co., and the Sulzberger and Sons Co., not directly to Germany. Very high freights were paid and bonuses on success were promised to the captain and some of his officers. The captain admitted that he was to receive \$1,000 for taking the ship through "mines and submarines." This story is illustrative of many similar transactions, and the evidence of Mr. Hargreaves makes it only too plain that these beef-packing firms of Chicago were extensively engaged in the contraband business, in blockade running, because contraband undoubtedly their commodities were and are. Mr. Hargreaves, quoting from the *National Provisioner*, the official organ of the Meat Packers' Association, stated that in the March quarter of 1914 only 30,463 lbs. of bacon and 609,090 lbs. of lard were shipped from the States to Copenhagen, whereas for the first quarter of last year the exports were 13,000,730 lbs. of bacon and 11,579,031 lbs. of lard. Exports to Gothenburg were increased in a manner even more startling. For the first quarter of 1914 no bacon at all was shipped from America and only 107,584 lbs. of lard, but in the first quarter of last year 6,705,774 lbs. of bacon and 30,450,781 lbs. of lard were despatched. And as Sir George Cave, the Solicitor-General, pointed out, the highest total for any single month, 16,397,301 lbs. of lard, consigned to Gothenburg in February, 1915, was

the month in which the *Maracas* sailed. It does not follow that all—we hope not half—these cargoes ever arrived at the ports of consignment—which were undoubtedly mere *entrepôts* for reshipment to Germany—but the fate of the shipments is not now the supreme question. What has to be dwelt upon is the fact that the most powerful combination of provision furnishers in the world deliberately entered into this blockade-running business in the expectation of making excessive profits, and regardless of all moral considerations whatsoever. It did not matter a dime to them that their action might prolong the war and increase the mortality bill by many thousands, perhaps many hundreds of thousands of human beings. They were after the dollars, nothing beyond—and we hope they will be disappointed. What is the bearing of this upon the hubbub now attempted to be raised in the United States over our "Black List" of firms, as it is called? Would any serious politician in the United States stand up and assert before his fellow-men that these firms of meat packers and exporters should be treated like ordinary upright business houses? We should like to see him do it. If he dared not, what ground is there for Washington to complain if our Government puts such firms, not only in the meat trade, but in munition providing, in cereal exporting, and in other lines of commerce which may be hurtful to us during war, in our list of excluded traders? Are we not entitled in self-defence to assume that any firm or individual that freely trades with the enemy and adopts any subterfuge, no matter how mean, to disguise that trade, is on the side of our enemies? Firms like those named are a byword and a shame among civilised—pray say nothing about Christian—people, and degrade the moral position of the country that shelters them. But their behaviour will not be forgotten when peace comes back.

Under the title of "The Coming Crash of Peace and Britain's Mechanical Renaissance"—a title rather sensational—Mr. T. C. Elder has collected a number of essays and addresses bearing upon the present position and future of the home engineering trade. With much that he says we are heartily in agreement, and even when we do not agree, he is so earnest and his suggestions so definite, that the whole pamphlet, published at 2s. nett by Messrs. Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent and Co., Ltd., is well worth perusal. Mr. Elder sees the dangers ahead, not only in the return of vast numbers of men requiring work, but also in the slackness or lack of harmonious effort among our leading manufacturers to seize and keep henceforth the position of leading engineers in the world. In an address delivered in Glasgow on May 16 last he insists upon the necessity of greater harmony between masters and men in pursuing the purpose indicated, and lays down five propositions, the first of which is "that it is necessary for the world's peace that Germany shall be restrained as far as possible from retaining her past and present proportion of military power, and that to accomplish this it is necessary to restrain her engineering industry and to force her populace into peaceful pursuits." Is not that what was said in "No Deluding Peace," what we have been saying all along? And will not the simplest way to reach this desirable end be to deprive Prussia of all the provinces or territories now supplying her with coal and iron? We should like Mr. Elder some time, as he is an able man, apparently always on the move, to deal with the question of future relations between masters and workmen. After the war there must be means found to put an end to the old jealousy and mutual distrust, and that change we can only think possible through the institution of a genuine system of co-partnership, involving the elevation of what are called the "masses," and a descending of the demigods of finance and industry from their artificial isolation.

When the last great famine afflicted India the Editor of this journal was moved to raise a fund to succour a

few of the young there from starvation. It was to be administered by responsible natives of India, and to be, in its modest way, a help in drawing rulers and ruled into closer sympathy. The idea was carried out successfully, and the money collected judiciously expended at no cost whatever to the donors. All the money received went to the needy and perishing. It occurred to us at the outset of the present devouring conflict that a similar fund might be collected for some special friendship-promoting object in France, and when opportunity came, the idea was mentioned to a devoted Frenchwoman, who has from the outset heroically given herself up to work of responsibility in a military hospital in Paris. But there was no need or room for such help as we could have given. An American lady of wealth had nobly come forward and supplied all that that particular hospital required. Nothing came then of the half-formed project which could only have become practical and practicable if and when direct relationship between the helping and the helped had been established. Vague distributions of doles, diffuse charities, with these we could have nothing to do, and the multiplication of begging instrumentalities soon became such as to forbid our mingling in the crowd. Concentration and co-ordination of effort are the reforms wanted, not dispersal and confusion, and so there has not been, and will not be, any direct effort made to raise funds for the wounded and disabled through the medium of THE INVESTORS' REVIEW. But an individual case has been brought to our notice that moves us to enquire whether means—not charity, but practical help—could be provided to enable a heroic young Frenchman to come here and learn English. Here is the story: "One of my employees," writes a well-known and much-esteemed man of business in Paris, "a brave lad of 23 years, decorated with the Military medal, has been discharged from the Army in consequence of the severity of his wounds. The brave fellow—he was a corporal—with his few men, captured 30 German prisoners in one day. He is intelligent and very sympathetic, and no one would suspect from his appearance that he has had his upper jaw almost swept away, and part of his tongue cut off. In spite of his wounds, he is now recovered, and he wants to go to England to learn the language, is willing to stay there as long as may be necessary for that purpose. Naturally, he would like some modestly paid work to do," and that is just what we should be glad to find for him, both for his own sake, and because of the esteem in which we hold his former employer. He has done some journalistic work in provincial France, it seems, but as he does not yet know a word of English that branch of industry is not at present open to him here. There must be something he could do though—about munitionings, or so on, as an interpreter—for his old master vouches for his swiftness in learning, and therefore we venture to make his wants and laudable ambition known, being unable ourselves to find him a niche.

Two more of the important London banks have issued their balance-sheets this week, the figures of which emphasise the readiness with which all these institutions have come to the support of the country in financing the war. The Union of London and Smiths shows an increase of no less than £8,061,893 to £17,232,975 in its investments, with the result that its business in discounts, loans, &c., has been reduced by £4,892,006 to £19,734,151, while cash in hand and at Bank of England is £3,165,680 down at £7,842,776, and money at call and short notice is £79,669 less at £8,070,919. On the other hand, liabilities on current accounts are £2,137,213 higher at £34,566,570, but deposits are £2,651,768 smaller at £13,913,558. Parr's Bank also has increased its investments by £6,195,049 to £17,451,366, against a reduction of £3,270,651 to £22,551,562 in bills, loans, and advances. Cash, however, has risen by £4,638,051 to £9,294,700, and money at call and short notice by £69,035 to £11,348,405, while the liabilities to the public are £2,037,205 up at £60,478,202.

Whether or not the political disturbances have anything to do with it we cannot say, but the Bank of Ireland found the half-year ended June 30 much less prosperous than the corresponding period of 1915. Its gross profits fell off by £26,551 to £295,643, and with a small increase in charges, the nett balance was £27,738 down at £186,383. Adding £25,071 brought forward, the disposable total was £26,907 smaller at £211,454, but the usual dividend is paid at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, less tax, and after appropriating £75,000, as against £90,000, for depreciation of investments £25,684, or £1,362 more, is carried forward. Notes and post bills in circulation show an expansion of £2,212,189 at £8,188,815, and Government and other public deposits have risen by £437,171 to £3,392,654, but there has been a shrinkage in the ordinary business of the bank, and deposits are £964,635 down at £12,893,345, while, on the other hand, bills discounted, advances, &c., come to £1,414,570 less at £7,648,325. Cash is £1,390,408 up at £5,004,793, and money at call and notice £1,594,573 up at £2,590,134, but the holding of British Treasury bills has been reduced by £580,000 to £1,870,000. The British Government debt remains at £2,630,769, but British Government stocks are £1,268,179 higher, while Indian and Colonial Government securities show a decrease of £131,875 at £1,721,603, and other investments one of £699,461 at £2,196,164. Bank premises are £245,564 up at £391,838, and the aggregate of the balance-sheet is £1,672,818 larger at £27,980,499.

We have every disposition to give a hearty welcome to the British Italian Corporation, Limited, which has been formed, with a capital of £1,000,000 in £20 shares, under excellent auspices. That is to say, directors both of the London County and Westminster and Lloyds banks are on the board, which is also reinforced by Sir Henry Babington Smith, a well-known and tried public official, and completed, so far as the English side of it is concerned, by Mr. Joseph Burn, the well-known Prudential actuary, and three Italian gentlemen, one of whom is manager of the Credito Italiano. The English banks named and the Credito Italiano have united to constitute this bank, which is designed to carry on, subsidise, assist, or participate in financial, commercial, industrial, manufacturing, electrical, railway, navigation, land development, mining, and other businesses, and to, we should judge, carry out works, contracts, and operations of all kinds in the British Empire, Italy, and elsewhere, somewhat after the Prussian style, only in honesty. The order is a large one by way of experiment of launching out in new directions, so far as English banking is concerned, but the step is to be welcomed, and deserves prudent imitation, because although wise banking does not allow of direct participation by deposit banks in the furtherance of industries, the promotion of new businesses, the opening of mines, building of railways, and such like, an offshoot company of the kind now proposed, working largely with its own capital, but supported by banks around it within limits of prudence, is eminently calculated to further business of all kinds on the best lines. There must be great scope in Italy and elsewhere for industrial banks and credit associations of the industry-furthering kind after the war, were it only because the French and ourselves will have to assist Italy and other countries to emancipate themselves from the withering obsession of the insinuating Teuton.

Many interesting items of information can be gleaned from the latest circular of the British Bank of South America, Ltd., dated July 25. Regarding Brazil there is not much of a striking kind to be recorded, but good progress seems to have been made in the production of sugar in the State of San Paulo, and in other directions, such as the export of chilled meat, there are signs of progress. Trade, too, both export and import, keeps wonderfully level with that of the previous year, and there was a notable rise of £600,000 in the value of the

rubber exported. In quantity it was 14,283 tons to the end of April last, as against 13,363 tons for the same part of 1915. About Argentina there is the outstanding fact that Dr. Hipolito Irigoyen, who was elected President of the Republic to assume office for six years in October next, was the nominee of the Radical party and topped the necessary majority by two votes. This is the first time that a Presidential election in Argentina has taken place under secret ballot, and we take it to be a good augury. No statement has yet been made by Dr. Irigoyen regarding his own or his party's programme, but he is a man of great experience and cannot fail, we feel confident, to rise to the height of his responsibility. Another interesting item of news is the national census which was taken in the middle of 1914, and whose figures are only now made public. They indicate a population of 7,885,237, of whom 2,227,000 are males, 1,474,000 of these being foreigners, and 3,658,000 females, 884,143 of whom also were born abroad. Compared with 1895 the population has almost doubled. It was then 3,954,911. As for Buenos Aires City, its male inhabitants alone have increased to 849,970, of whom more than half, or 455,507, are of foreign nationality, chiefly Spaniards and Italians. This growing population is doing an excellent trade, and for the first quarter of the current year the balance of export values over imports was \$74,650,516 gold, the imports having been valued, excluding specie on both sides, at \$52,491,534 gold and the exports at \$127,142,050 gold.

Judging by the results of Barclay, Perkins and Co., Ltd., for the year ended March 31 last the brewing business has been hard hit by the war and increased taxation. Sales amounted to 415,637 barrels, a decrease of 71,600, which followed a decrease of 62,740 in the previous year, and the profits are £37,200 lower at £102,248. After paying debenture interest it is proposed to carry forward the balance of £80,640. A year ago 5 per cent. was paid on the preference shares, £40,000 was placed to reserve, and £36,767 was carried forward. It is stated that there has been paid in beer duty, licences, &c., a sum of £482,820, an increase of £169,000, and representing 82 per cent. of the profits, an amount more than double that paid on the larger barrelage of two years ago. There are few changes of importance in the balance-sheet, but cash is down £80,000 and investments are up £40,000, while loans to publicans have been reduced by £22,000.

The business of Threlfall's Brewery Co. appears to have remained on a wonderfully steady level in the year ended June 30. Gross profits showed an increase of £2,822 at £218,897, but most of the gain was absorbed by the larger provision for depreciation, and the nett profit was consequently only £30 up at £159,778. Of this, £10,000 is added to reserve, making that fund £420,000, and £5,000 is put to a contingencies fund, but nothing is written off, compared with £21,500 for increased licence duties, and the compensation levy required £3,072 less at £4,743. After providing for debenture interest, &c., and again transferring £1,000 to the employees' insurance fund, the nett surplus, including £40,869, or £1,177 more, brought forward, was £10,385 better at £121,754, out of which the ordinary shares again receive a dividend of 9 per cent., leaving £51,254 to be carried forward. Property account shows a decrease on balance of £15,721 at £2,535,282, and plant, &c., has been reduced by £3,639 to £61,930. Stocks have risen by £88,950 to £240,999, but the increase has not involved any great resort to credit, current liabilities being only £4,656 up at £99,536 and deposits and interest £6,046 up at £57,903. Debtors, too, only owe a trifle less at £88,091, but cash balances have dropped by £39,562 to £25,268.

Surely something can be done to put Spiers and Pond, Limited, on a sound and durable basis. Here is a business which makes a gross trading profit of £454,000, but expenses absorb £423,500, and after providing for

debenture interest there is a balance on the wrong side of £14,236. That is a pitiable state of affairs, and points to the necessity of a thorough overhauling of the management. Compared with the year to March 31, 1915, the gross profit is down £36,500, but £42,270 was saved on expenses, depreciation, &c., and the debit balance is £5,570 smaller. Last year this was written off reserve, which was reduced to the trifling sum of £1,725, and there is nothing more to fall back upon on this occasion. It is evident, however, that there is a magnificent business to be done if it were properly worked, and it is to be hoped that the receivers now appointed will devote serious attention to pulling the concern into better shape. By order of the Court, Mr. Kemp and Mr. Whinney are appointed joint receivers and managers, with Sir J. S. Harmood Banner as receiver of the properties specially charged to the "A," "B," and "C" debenture-holders, and Mr. John Paterson as receiver on behalf of the "D" debenture-holders. The General Investors and Trustees, Ltd., will co-operate with the receivers in framing an equitable scheme of re-organisation which we are afraid must be painfully drastic, but the chief desideratum is a really competent manager.

In spite of the darkened streets and the Daylight Saving Bill, the Gas Light and Coke Co. in the last half-year was able to raise the sales of gas by 2 per cent., thanks to an increase of 4,575 in the number of consumers, and of 18,097 in the number of gas stoves sold or let on hire. The total quantity sold was 13,714,000 feet, and the gross revenue was £3,032,773, or £493,000 more than in the corresponding half-year to which residual products contributed an increase of £318,750. Expenses, however, were £527,000 higher, and the nett revenue was £33,500 less at £596,500. On the other hand, £62,000 more was brought forward, and the available balance of £823,100 shows an increase of £43,500. The dividend of £4 4s. per cent. per annum on the ordinary stock is repeated, and a balance of £480,512 remains to be carried forward. Contracts have been made for the supply of coal for one year from July 1, a matter of considerable difficulty in which the assistance of the Board of Trade is acknowledged, but prices show a considerable increase over those of last year. Freights continue very high, and boats are difficult to charter, so the directors have increased the company's fleet by the purchase of several steamers. The quantity of coal carbonised during the half-year was 897,700 tons.

As was to be expected, the British Portland Cement Manufacturers experienced a substantial decrease in the demand for cement in the year ended April 30, which was only partly compensated by Government requirements. Production was limited and the cost of manufacture greatly increased by the scarcity and dearth of fuel and labour, and in the circumstances the fact that the revenue showed a decline of no more than £28,318 at £256,796 may be considered satisfactory. The allowance for income-tax is reduced from £12,000 to £2,000, and after again setting aside £42,000 for depreciation, the nett balance, including £6,444 more at £70,767 brought in, was only £11,439 smaller at £199,259. A further reduction in the dividend on the ordinary shares from 5 per cent. to 4 per cent. is made, leaving the balance carried forward £2,387 larger at £73,154. Additions to the property cost £40,773, making a total of £2,375,860, against which £15,169 of the debenture stock was redeemed, while the reserves were increased by £58,917 to £250,561. Stocks have risen by £63,038 to £236,772, but debtors owe £45,823 less at £228,210, against a reduction of £10,320 to £163,523 in the amount due to sundry creditors, while cash is £25,338 down at £65,132, and investments and loans show an increase of £10,914 at £1,427,123.

Several of the works of Wm. Beardmore and Co., Ltd., were declared "controlled establishments" dur-

ing the year 1915, but nevertheless the profits show an increase of £13,000 at £232,200, after providing for contingencies and excess profits duty. This allows the dividend to be raised from 5 to 6 per cent., free of income-tax, and after again appropriating £50,000 to preference dividend reserve, £195,290 (an increase of £2,200) remains to be carried forward. During the year £374,233 was spent on capital account, and land, buildings, &c., now stand in the balance-sheet at £3,584,430. Loose plant and tools have increased by £41,670, and stocks are £531,600 higher at £1,345,740, but sundry debtors are £30,460 lower at £530,626. Debentures for £34,900 were redeemed during the year, but loans have increased by £323,000, and sundry creditors by £582,600, so it is not surprising to find that the cash has been reduced to a trifle of £2,290. The only reserve is £100,000, ear-marked for the preference shareholders, and we are a little doubtful as to the wisdom of increasing the dividend on the ordinary shares.

There is nothing very cheering in the report of the Gordon Hotels, Ltd., for the year ended May 31. On January 20 the Government requisitioned the Hotel Metropole for the use of the Ministry of Munitions, and no compensation has yet been paid or any settlement arrived at, although it is obvious that the loss of business must have been a serious blow to the company. Moreover, the hotels at Monte Carlo and Cannes remained closed, and the Hotel Royal at Dieppe was commandeered by the French Government for a military hospital at the commencement of the war. Under the circumstances it is not surprising that there is a loss on the year's trading of £30,415, which contrasts with a balance of £6,890 last year after paying debenture interest. In fact, the position is worse than stated, as £11,200 has been transferred from share premium account, which is also debited with loss on sale of investments amounting to £61,667. Of course, the company will doubtless be properly compensated by the Government, although the directors merely venture to "hope" that it may be possible to avoid litigation, but apart from that the war must have had a disastrous effect on a business of this description.

The well-known house of Raphael Tuck and Sons has just completed its 50th year, and as may well be imagined, it has been one of considerable difficulty. In the 12 months ended April 30, 1915, the loss on trading account was accentuated by the sequestration of the Berlin branch by the German Government, with the result that there was a deficit of £10,708. This was met by an appropriation from the general reserve, so that the company started the new year with a clean sheet, and business so far recovered that the directors are able to show a small profit of £622, to which is added £5,308, or £1,346 more, from interest, rents, &c. After providing for directors' remuneration there is a surplus of £3,073, and in order to meet the preference dividend the special dividend reserve is further drawn upon for £10,677. In addition to this withdrawal the dividend reserve has been debited with an amount sufficient to bring the investments representing that fund down to market value, so that its total is £22,174 less than a year ago at £16,697. The general reserve has been reduced by £15,000 to provide for depreciation on investments in printing and publishing companies, and now stands at £22,292. Investments in Government, colonial and other stocks have been increased by £19,611 to £66,789, which the directors say is below their actual cost and less than the official quotations at April 30. Cash shows a reduction of £19,261 at £36,796 and debtors owe £2,680 less at £82,237, but stocks are £8,305 larger at £37,361, against an increase of £4,771 to £29,299 in sundry creditors.

It is not very easy to understand why a company like the Cordoba Central Railway should be adversely affected by the war, and it might be interesting to probe

a little deeper into the causes of the troubles in which it finds itself. For the present, however, all we can do is to take the facts as they are stated, and it appears that the gross receipts for the year to June 30 amount to £1,550,000, against £1,692,000 for the previous 12 months, and £1,969,000 for 1913-14. Nett earnings for the corresponding periods were £450,000, £489,250, and £621,000 respectively, the result being that for the past year there is a deficit of about £120,000 in the amount required to pay interest on the debenture stocks and three-year notes. The position was submitted to an informal meeting of the larger stock and note holders in May, and a committee was appointed to confer with the directors. After several conferences with the board the committee recommend a scheme for the payment of interest for the past year in deferred warrants and for the postponement of the due date of the notes from December 15, 1917, to December 15, 1920. Provision is to be made for renewal and sinking funds when the earnings permit, and in course of time the company ought to get into a sounder financial position. Evidently some such compromise must be accepted, and it is too late in the day to offer any criticism.

The New Vote of Credit.

Many journals laid emphasis upon the fact that the £450,000,000 of additional credit asked for by the Government this week was the largest single demand of the kind ever made in this country. It was £50,000,000 more than the amount asked for in November last year, when provision had to be made to enable the Government to pay its way during the winter Parliamentary recess. The magnitude of the vote, however, is not its most important attribute. Added to the £600,000,000 already granted in two equal portions, and spent this year, it means that on the computation of the Government, £1,050,000,000 of extra

money will have been absorbed by the war between April 1 last and, at latest, the middle of next October. The £600,000,000 already gone has lasted barely 112 days, or less than one-third of the year, and if the outlay continues at the same rate until March 31 next, we shall have to provide at least for still another £600,000,000, or perhaps £750,000,000, to bring us to the end of the current fiscal year.

Does anybody stop to inquire what this means to the nation after peace is secured? In his Budget of April last, Mr. McKenna gave a guess or two at the peace, or post-war, position, but he did not pause to try to drive home its lessons in a practical way. He thought that perhaps the permanent expenditure might then be £338,000,000, and he looked to being able to secure a permanent revenue of £423,000,000, so that on this computation there would be a surplus of £85,000,000 to play with or to insure us against mishap. He put the debt charges at £145,000,000, allowing for a "very substantial" sinking fund, and the nett debt caused by the war he placed at £2,640,000,000, assuming that all fighting was over by March 31 next. The prospect is not particularly cheerful, in fact, not at all cheerful, unless we can compel the peoples of the obliterated Empires to work for us and pay back our losses. It seems to us that the position will not be quite as Mr. McKenna anticipates, even should the war end in our complete victory as Mr. Lloyd George expects, and not unreasonably expects, before many months are over. The debt charges to be met will be greater than the Chancellor of the Exchequer anticipated, and the post-war obligations for pensions, for providing work for the released soldiers, and for many other purposes will be considerably more than the £20,000,000 he put down as enough to meet these requirements. Military post-war outlays must likewise remain large for at least five, probably enough for ten, years after the war ends, and the social amelioration requirements will also have augmented in various ways

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as a consequence of the war if our civilisation is to be maintained. Taxpayers, therefore, will have to put out of their minds any idea that the burden of war taxes can be immediately reduced when the enemy is beaten, and we see no chance of any material modification even in the excess profits impost, which Mr. McKenna regards as a temporary burden. We shall need all the money from every source that the wealth and industry of the nation can supply in order to be able to surmount the confusion and disarray of trade and industry the barbarian onslaught has produced. Labour will have to be given work, new sources of wealth must be opened, and much money risked and spent in averting suffering while the transformations are in progress.

Let us not be disheartened because of this prospect. When the victory is won the world will lie open to the Allies to work their will upon, and if they stand together and work together, seeking reasons for accord instead of for differences, it should not be long before many waste places of the earth will begin to yield their riches and so provide compensations to those who have had to suffer and pay. There is always, however, the fear that the Allies may not stand together. Nay, we are almost persuaded sometimes that divergencies may not improbably make their appearance almost as soon as peace becomes assured. Were the affairs of the Allies left in the hands of the professional diplomats and politicians, of potentates and their servitors, quarrels would be almost certain to break out. Only by a linking together of the various democracies, by a diligent cultivation of friendship amongst them, and their uninterrupted instruction in what concerns their own true interests in the higher purposes of civilisation, can we have good hope that all will go smoothly when the dividing up and settling day comes. For a settling and dividing up day there must be. The settlement of the question, who is to inherit the Turkish Empire and into what segments it is to be divided will by itself be one of the most difficult any group of Powers has ever had to deal with. People ask us sometimes why are we apparently sitting still at Salonika? It is perhaps useless to guess, but one reasonable assumption is that a powerful army will be required in the Balkan territory when the Central Powers are beaten to their knees elsewhere in order that Austrian ambitions may be finally crushed, and Serbia have justice done to her. Work like that cannot be done without awaking jealousies, or demanding measures whereby Bulgaria may be put back into that position of disarmed subjection from which her people were never morally qualified to emerge. So the immediate post-war period is going to be a difficult period for years to come, with small chance of ease in finance or even of extensive disarmament. All the more reason why no effort should be spared to economise even now where possible, and the statements made in the debate on the vote of credit were not altogether discouraging on this point, looking at the contemptuous ignorance most so-called educated people display towards everything financial. There does seem to be less fury of waste in some directions, and we try to hope that such scandals or confusions—not necessarily corrupt, but an indication of business incompetence—as were mentioned by Mr. Astley in the House on Tuesday, are now rarer than they were. Wasteful expenditure is inevitable in war-time, but its inevitability does not make it excuseable, as Dr. Macnamara seems to imply, and as the war progresses experience should teach administrators to remedy mistakes and stop that overlapping in authority which always conduces to extravagance. Co-ordination of effort and centralisation of authority are as useful in the civil affairs of the Army and Navy as in the ordering of the battle.

In his exposition of the way the money goes, Mr. Asquith on Monday night, with his usual lucidity, made it clear that although the total expenditure rose lately to over £6,000,000 a day, that overpowering total is by no means all war expenditure. It embraces, as we surmised last week, the entire expenditure, and in that is further included the sums advanced to our

Allies and Dominions. These have amounted to £157,000,000 in the 113 days covered by the two votes of credit of £300,000,000 each already spent in the present Budget year. Most likely these advances will increase as the fighting on all fronts rises to the maximum of its intensity, and other than war demands are certain to keep cropping up. The Prime Minister, for example, mentioned that the Government had recently consented to lend the Commonwealth of Australia £11,000,000 beyond the amount already agreed to, in order that its Government might purchase wheat. But the average expenditure on our Army, Navy, and munitions output is approximately only £3,600,000 a day, and this seems likely to be the average for some considerable time to come. Munitions may absorb more, but the Navy is about at its maximum now, and the outlay on the Army cannot increase much. Nevertheless, it is doubtful whether the £450,000,000 now granted by the Commons will see us to the end of the second week of October, although it is an encouraging fact that only £5,500,000 has been spent in the last 63 days on food supplies and miscellaneous outgoings. This is only one-third of the expenditure in the previous period, but probably the figure will mount again. Here is the abstract as given by the Prime Minister in his speech, showing what has become of the last two votes of credit:—

Navy, Army, and Munitions	£149,000,000
Loans to Allies and Dominions	74,500,000
Food Supplies, Railways, and Miscellaneous Items	17,500,000

making a total of £241,000,000
for the period from April 1 to May 20—50 days.
We have to-day to deal with a period from May 21 to July 22—63 days. The figures are as follows:—

Army, Navy, and Munitions	£230,000,000
Loans to Allies and Dominions	82,500,000
Food Supplies, Railways, and Miscellaneous Items	5,500,000

making a total of £318,000,000
This is £559,000,000 in less than four months. Note the contrast between the amount absorbed on "Food supplies, railways, and miscellaneous" in the first table and in the second. Had the payment of railway dividends anything to do with expanding the earlier total?

Banking Position and Prospects.

We rather miss the half-yearly reviews of business that bank chairmen used to give us in the middle of the year. Soon all London banks will confine their confidences to shareholders to the beginning of the year, for both Barclay's and the Capital and Counties Banks have decided to come into line and publish their reports and balance-sheets only once a year in January. It therefore happens that we have only two important speeches to help us in an interpretation of the summaries of accounts issued more or less fully by the banks in announcing their mid-year dividends, and one abstract of which was given last week. For the last time the Capital and Counties Bank has held its annual meeting in July, but the Bank of Liverpool gives no hint that it means to change its date for making up accounts. Both Mr. Garfit, at the Capital and Counties' meeting, and Mr. F. W. Chance, who presided at the Bank of Liverpool meeting, provided some interesting material for the student of affairs, and we may safely infer that as business has been with these banks so has it been with them all. Indeed, the dividends announced show that the course of affairs was wonderfully satisfactory, all things considered, last half-year, and although we may conjure up visions of difficulties to come, the mere fact that our banks have stood the tremendous strain upon them during almost two years of war without betraying the least sign of weakness should be enough to encourage us to put aside gloomy forebodings about what the after-war time may bring.

In one important respect the past half-year was more advantageous to the banks than the corresponding halves of 1915 or 1914, in that they have enjoyed a larger margin of profit between what they have paid for their money and what they have been able to earn upon it. In the first quarter of 1914 the margin of bill rates received over deposit rates was 15s. 7d. per cent. on three months' bank bills. In the first half of last year it was only 6s. 3d. per cent., whereas for the six months just ended it has been 27s. per cent. Less pronounced, but still more favourable than last year or the year before, was the difference between deposit rates and those obtainable on day-to-day money. The profit margin was 14s. 7d. for the past six months, against 9s. for the first half of 1914, and against an actual loss of 12s. per cent. on the average for the first half of 1915. Day-to-day money is not infrequently profitless to the banker, but for the last six months it showed a decidedly better average profit than usual, thanks to the expanding credit requirements of the markets. Another advantage enjoyed by the banks would seem to have been a diminished necessity to make severe deductions from profits to cover book losses on marketable securities held. As far as they have revealed their figures, most of the banks seem still to have felt it wise to put as much money as possible aside, on that or other grounds; but the steadiness and thoroughness with which this was continually done in past years must have helped materially to diminish the necessity now, and we may say that had it not been for the large increase in current expenses there would have been profit enough shown, by some of the banks at least, to have warranted a larger dividend. No temptation, however, was given to bank boards to pay more, and shareholders have rather reason to be thankful that they have not been called upon to accept further reductions in their dividends.

Necessarily considerable shrinkages have taken place

in various departments of banking business, but whatever may have occurred to restrict the general consumptive demand of the community in some directions has been more than compensated for in others by the large demands of the Government, and the companies or firms called upon to provide for its necessities must have done well, some of them perhaps too well. The maintenance of the war furnishing business has obliged the Government to raise unprecedented amounts of money by the issue of various forms of indebtedness, and in making these issues a success the banks have taken a conspicuous share. Without their help it would have been impossible to finance the requirements of the war, and that these should have been met without in the least degree interfering with the ordinary business of the country, home and foreign, is a remarkable testimony, not only to the efficiency of our credit system, but to the wonderful resources possessed by our banks. For they have had to finance many businesses doing Government work as well as help to provide the Treasury with all it needed. In the year ended June 30 last, Mr. William Garfit told the shareholders of the Capital and Counties Bank, no less than £890,000,000 of new issues were put on the market, and of that total £852,000,000 was borrowed by our own Government, £24,000,000 by the French Government, and about £6,000,000 by Colonial Governments. In one form or other war borrowing is absorbing the savings of the country, and not only that but causing a transfer of the securities which represent such a large portion of these savings to the United States. The fact that we are in various ways either parting with our wealth outright or mortgaging it against a future which may call for sacrifices as great in other ways as are demanded by the war now, should prevent us from exulting in strength, but at the same time give us no impulse to doubt our capacity to hold on to the end and prevail, we and our Allies.

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Current Accounts are kept and Deposits received upon the terms usual with Bankers in London and the Country respectively.

CANADIAN DEPARTMENT.—The Bank is Agent for the Merchants' Bank of Canada and the Bank of Nova Scotia; Letters of Credit and Cable Transfers on all the principal Towns in Canada can be obtained.

have been making money, and agriculture has prospered in a way that its votaries have to look back many a year to find a parallel for. "Thanks to the rise in prices, the farmer who was wont to lean upon his bank for money at certain times of the year, if not always, is now able to keep a balance to his credit," Mr. Garfit said, and in other trades, notwithstanding the drawbacks of war, there is often less hardship than might have been dreaded. Mr. Chance told the Bank of Liverpool shareholders that although the timber trade had been restricted through diminished imports, and although the general building trade is "practically at a standstill," the chemical industry, freed from foreign competition and stimulated by Government demands, "had come into its own." In the cotton trade, too, although there were adverse factors in the shortage of labour, difficulties of transport, scarcity of dyes, with the consequent delays, the position does not seem to be so very uncomfortable, for there also the reduction in exports and in general home demands has been compensated for by Government orders, so that, on the whole, the industries of the country have not suffered too drastically, nor has its foreign trade diminished to the extent that might have been expected. The banking outlook, then, is reasonably satisfactory, and the current business continues to be moderately remunerative. What trade is doing must be sound trade, and the dead weight of pre-war commitments has by now been reduced to such proportions as should involve no great danger of ultimate loss in any quarter.

Hudson's Bay Co.

Various questions—puzzles, we might say—arise in connection with the report of this venerable company for the year closed March 31 last, its contrasts are so startling. A year ago, for instance, no dividend whatever was paid on the ordinary capital, whereas this time it gets 20 per cent., viz., 5 per cent., tax free, out of the land department income and 15 per cent., less tax, out of the trading department profits. Henceforth no dividends will be paid out of trade profits free of this tax. When these, by contrast, liberal distributions have been made, moreover, there will be £167,587 left to carry forward, of which £29,278 will belong to the land account. We have searched through the balance-sheet and profit and loss statements to try and discover the influences which have brought about this welcome change, and cannot be at all sure. The report itself is not very illuminating, and read alone would raise few expectations. It tells us that the dislocation of the fur trade still continues, but that there has been a considerable increase in the values of certain furs. As for the land sales, they have improved in number, but the collection on past sales continues slow, and town lots have been entirely neglected, at the same time that the instalments due on lots previously sold have been collected with great difficulty. The salesshops also continued to suffer for the greater part of the year, but were much helped by the harvest, and no doubt it was the harvest that brought about the great transformation. Thanks to that, even the nett income from land sales enabled 5 per cent. to be given to the ordinary shareholders, with £29,278 remaining to carry forward, which was only £25,348 less than the amount brought in. Half the 5 per cent. dividend from the land dealing, that is to say, was paid out of the balance coming from the previous year, but yet the result was better than anybody a year ago was given any warrant to expect. In the trading account the profit balance jumped up by no less than £236,022 to £266,662, a marvellous leap. Of this increase £183,896 came from salesshops and other trading, which in all gave £247,303. Moreover, there was a profit on the fur trade of £23,090, as compared with a loss a year ago, and other items of income helped to swell the gross increase in revenue by £215,537 to £333,882, at the same time that, in spite of an increase of £8,866 in income-tax, making that

charge £23,803, the current expenses were reduced.

All this is plain enough and welcome enough, but when we come to the balance-sheet we bump against a cross-entry which somewhat puzzles us. On account of salesshops and other trading, apart from the fur trade, there is a decrease of £2,806,722 in the amount owing to sundry creditors, which is thus brought down to £1,405,643, and on the assets side the sundry debtors owe £2,790,148 less at £1,498,646. Some explanation of these tremendous reductions would seem to be called for, because they rather point to a running down of old stocks out of which exceptional profits may have been made, and that next year would not be likely to repeat. But if so, then why are sundry debtors down more than £2,750,000, a decrease that almost balances the reduction in sundry creditors? Has the selling off been for cash, or what? These are the two largest changes, but there are others that point to a restriction in the replacements of assets which might mean that along with a skilful denuding of stocks there has been a curtailment of fresh commitments in a way that might, at least indirectly, help the profits and throw the strain of replenishment forward.

Amongst the assets, for instance, there is "goods and livestock" down £58,468 to £961,648 and "buildings and sites" £36,487 lower at £692,028. "Advances to next outfit," however, show an increase of £18,741, but only then amount to £70,591, and the advances in London for carrying on the trade are £130,636 smaller at £91,466. Naturally such contractions, reducing as they do the company's liabilities as well as its assets, has released large sums of money, and we are not surprised to find the loans against security in London up £381,177 to £613,868, nor that "sundry investments at cost, £59,672," should appear for the first time amongst the assets. The company is rich enough, and one year with another may continue to prosper, but none the less the great reductions mentioned in the trading account, both debit and credit, remain something of a mystery. We were alarmed a year ago, let it be frankly stated, by the enormous overstocking, as it seemed to us, then disclosed, and would very much like to know how an overburden which in the circumstances then looked ominous of further complications should have been so rapidly and completely swept out of sight.

It is interesting to us to note that Sir Thomas Skinner, Bart., who recently succeeded the late Lord Strathcona as governor of the company, has resigned his position, thus parting with it after 26 years as a director. He is replaced amongst the members of the committee by his son, but things will not be quite the same to many people. To us Sir Thomas has been a familiar figure in the City for nearly 40 years.

By-the-Way War Notes.

A Wireless Press message has distributed the following as summary of a speech delivered by the Kaiser during his recent visit to the Somme front. In spirit this speech differs nowise from dozens of similar utterances, and neither spirit nor substance in itself make the man's words worth printing. Harangues of this description, however, have a significance as bearing upon the spirit of the German people. Mad though he may be, the Kaiser would not misrepresent truth with the audacity here shown did he not believe that words and attitude of the kind continue to be grateful in the ears of his dupes. Because, therefore, of the help such statements are to an understanding of the German mind, we make room for the audacious utterance here. How, all unconsciously, the man illuminates in abusing England, the spirit behind German deeds and German aims!

Comrades, it is your especial privilege to fight against the English, which means that you are fighting against the nation that has sworn to destroy Germany.

The English built up during the years before the war the combination of countries which at the given signal fell upon

us and attacked us, the most peaceful and peace-desiring people in the world.

The English led us to believe that they were our friends, when they were actually plotting our destruction. English diplomacy brought about the war, and now the English offensive is intended to carry the operations on to German soil, into our towns and villages, to the peril and undoing of our helpless women and children.

It is your duty to break the English offensive, to prove once more that Germany is invincible, to reduce to despair the relentless enemies of our country, so that they will sue for peace on terms honourable and profitable to Germany.

Reichstag serfs are reported to be determined to heckle the Chancellor about his remissness in abstaining from publishing inspiring and inspired outbreaks like these broadcast over the empire for the people's consolation. They will assuredly need all the comfort they can get soon. But in view of such delirium in falsehood what hope is there of ending this war by any other method than perseverance in slaughter? We can see none, and never have seen any since first we made an effort to penetrate the Prussian type of mind. From this point of view the war represents, one might say, a hopeless problem. We have to go on killing until the last resources in men of the two Empires have been consumed. Until that task is fulfilled it will be impossible to begin to talk about peace. When, however, the day does come—as it probably will now within much less than a year—when terms have to be imposed upon the beaten aggressors, we must beware of entering into negotiations with the tyrant masters of the Austro-German Empires, or what may be left of them, for they cannot be trusted, and would cringe and wheedle and beg only to get time to plot a new betrayal. Long ago we insisted that peace must be made with the peoples of those Empires, not with their rulers or tyrants. These have had their day, and must cease to be if the world is to have the assurance of a long peace. Consequently the war must continue, probably enough for months after the two criminal empires have as empires been humbled in the dust; until

the races and nationalities embraced in them have been delivered, and are free to tell their thoughts.

And humbled the derelict empires will be; of that there can now be no doubt whatever. Their rulers and intellectual leaders are becoming conscious of their impending fate, and betray the apprehensions now gripping them in the very abandon of their brag; the insolence of their lies. But when a man like Dr. Delbrück, once supposed to have sense, reaches the point where hope of salvation can only be seen in "dividing the Allies," we can estimate the greatness of the change that has come over the spirit of the Prussian Junker's dream. "It is possible that we may not need to devise means of producing division among our enemies," says this Teuton philosopher, "and will simply dictate our terms on all sides." Possibly, eh? Let us see how the fight progresses towards that high fulfilment of pan-Germanist dreams.

Misrepresent and lie as it may, the German General Staff cannot much longer conceal the truth from the victimised serfs it and its civil officials have mauled and betrayed. Wherever we turn we see steady progress now being made in the destruction of the aggressor Empires. In the Western war arena it is not the British, French, and Belgian troops that have reached the culminating point or "high tide" of their offensive, but the Germans, who are flinging away their dwindling resources in vain efforts to stay our methodical advance. When our offensive began a month ago this journal besought the people at home to exercise patience, and not to expect instant triumphs, victories in the Marlborough style. They must continue to be patient, but with increasing confidence as they see how systematic and carefully arranged the Anglo-French offensive is. Thanks to wise leading and harmonious action, every object hitherto immediately aimed at has been attained, after more or less strenuous fighting and amid an incredible expenditure of ammunition, but

THE LONDON AND PROVINCIAL BANK, LIMITED.

Subscribed Capital - £2,000,000

Reserve Fund - - £1,750,000

Deposits - - £26,900,020

DIRECTORS.

THE RT. HON. SIR FREDERICK BANBURY,
BART, M.P.

JOHN WOODROW CROSS, Esq.

EDWIN HENRY GALSWORTHY, Esq.

LIEUT.-COL. ALFRED GILBEY.

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RICHARD COBDEN MICHELL, Esq.

THE RT. HON. THE VISCOUNT PEEL.

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Joint General Managers.

WILLIAM CARRUTHERS, Esq.

WILLIAM JOHN STOKOE, Esq.

Secretary.

REES GRIFFITH THOMAS, Esq.

Head Office: 3, BANK BUILDINGS, LOTHBURY, LONDON, E.C.

Branches: 231 Metropolitan and Provincial, and 128 Sub-Branches.

DRAWING ACCOUNTS are opened upon the terms usually adopted by other Bankers.

DEPOSITS.—Money received at Interest and Deposit Books or Receipts issued. Small amounts and Savings received and Interest allowed.

Copies of the last Report and Annual Balance Sheet of the Bank and List of Branches, also terms and particulars on which the Bank is prepared to act as Executor and Trustee, can be obtained at the Head Office and Branches.

attained in a manner that holds and paves the way to further advances. It has been a success honourably attained by wise generalship and heroic fighting, for neither the French soldiers nor ours have descended to the use of expanding bullets, fire-jets, or other murder devices conceivable only by degraded minds. As we write the news is that, after more than a week of strenuous conflict, the Australian soldiers and our own Territorials have obtained complete possession of Pozières. That means dominance of the country to the north and east, and paves the way for a further advance which, though difficult at first, will probably become easier and more rapid henceforth almost with each day that passes. Already the power of the Germans to continue their mad assaults upon the French fortifications protecting Verdun has been crippled. They have had to send the troops to oppose the British in Picardy, and no longer possess reserves sufficient to keep up the fighting at its maximum of fury at all points. That weakness points to coming defeat.

In the East symptoms are also of the best, and not a day passes without giving further evidence that the Russian armies are masters of their opponents all along the line. No matter what the Germans may say, the troops of the two Kaisers are being steadily consumed or pressed back by Russia, and so systematic and universal is the pressure from Riga to the Hungarian frontier that it is no longer possible for the Germans to move troops from one place to another on the Polish front in order to stay the Russian advance. All the more necessary is it for the Prussian authorities to lie, and Mr. Stanley Washburn supplies a neat example of the insane diligence with which the truth is perverted in order that the daft but deluded people may continue to play "Johnny-head-in-the-air" until the pit of destruction yawns at their feet. In a telegram he sent to the *Times* from the Kovel front on July 11, Mr. Washburn gave a vivid account of the fighting along the banks of the Stokhod. The gist of this statement was that the Germans, principally Bavarians, got an awful mauling, that the operations of General Brusiloff's troops had been "extraordinarily successful," and that the loss to Germany in prisoners as well as in killed and wounded had been very severe. His message was condensed by the German Wireless Press Agency into this:—

The correspondent of the *Times* telegraphs from General Brusiloff's headquarters to London that the losses suffered by the Russians during the fighting at the Stokhod were terrific. At one point they were subjected to the concentrated fire of eight German heavy batteries. The Russians are thoroughly exhausted, and the scorching heat has yet augmented the horror of this bloody bath.

From Asia Minor comes the good news that the Turks have not waited to be assailed in Erzinjan. They have evacuated it, and fled before the advancing Russians, who have now entered the city and thereby secured the final conquest of what was Turkish Armenia. Erzinjan is a place of some military value, the headquarters of the Fourth Turkish Army Corps, with extensive barracks and military factories, and the advance base from which, since Erzerum and Trebizond were lost to the Turks, a fresh offensive might be organised. Little can now stand between the Russian armies and the Bosphorus, especially if it be true that the scuttle of the Turkish troops was prompted in some measure by their lack of artillery and ammunition. Probably this is the truth, for it must be growing impossible for the Germans to supply instruments of destruction in full measure on all battle fronts.

We need not linger to say anything about the new Zeppelin and submarine threats, or the menace still childishly paraded against the Suez Canal, or about the position of the Anglo-French Army lying around Salonika. Greater events are taking place elsewhere, and events more immediately bearing upon the approaching solution of the war programme. All goes ill with Austria, even in the Balkans, just because General Sarraïl and his army are, by their very passivity, contributing materially to the complete exhaustion of Austrian resources. Soon the Habsburg "gun-

fodder" will need no pushing towards home, it will scuttle away of itself. And Italy is steadily "doing her bit," as our slang is, and doing it with an heroic resolution and thoroughness inspiring to see, doing it to end for ever the Habsburg incubus on human progress. Even Germans of the most demented type have now had driven into them the truth that the criminal Empires are "besieged," and they will soon understand that the end of the siege must be their destruction.

But how are they continuing to finance their tremendous outlay on efforts at devastation? What has become of that £500,000,000 German loan which was being got ready early in the year, to be launched when Verdun had fallen before the invincible might of the degenerate Crown Prince of Prussia? Verdun has not fallen yet, and the loan has not been issued. We doubt whether it can ever be issued now. If the Germans can lie about victories, can claim a defeat at sea as a "Trafalgar" of German glory, and in all ways defy the truth, they can also deceive with regard to the position of the Reichsbank and of credit in Germany. We have long ago hinted that all the gold claimed to be in the Reichsbank's vaults is not there. It has probably been exported and replaced, to an extent some day to become known, by Imperial certificates of indebtedness, as we might describe the paper which, by decree, ranks equally with gold, and on which notes of the Reichsbank to thrice the nominal value of the bonds can be emitted. That is but one of the devices fallen back upon, but there are many others, and our astonishment is that, even with all the cunning they have shown, the German banks and money-lending institutions have been able to maintain an appearance of stability in any degree for so long. Everything pawnable has been pledged several times over already, and it can only be her present isolation among nations, her beleaguering, that keeps the entire fabric of German credit from crumbling. Financially the Teutons are as exhausted as they are soon to reveal themselves to be on the field of battle, and we are confident that before the winter again comes round, not only will hunger have overtaken many strata of German society that up to now has managed to get enough to eat, or nearly, but that the paper of all types in circulation as money will have depreciated to an extent which must intensify by much the difficulty of procuring the means of subsistence, or of meeting war demands. So far as the Allies are concerned, this is a pity, because we shall want all the gold the country can provide to help in restoring ravaged Belgium and North France. Happily, there must still be an immense amount of loot of a valuable kind as well as of uncoined portable wealth within the German Empire. Food, therefore, must be withheld from it and every commodity that would help it to recover some little fragment of its lost industries, until all stolen goods have been returned and all available native riches surrendered.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

RAILWAYS.

Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway.—Interim on the "A" and "B" preference at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum for half-year ended June 30, payable Sept. 1.

Clonakilty Extension.—2 per cent. per annum on the ordinary for half-year ended June 30, same as a year ago, carrying forward £140, against £159.

Cork, Bandon, and South Coast.—In view of the high cost of coal and of all materials and wages, the directors have decided to carry forward the balance available, after providing for payment of the dividends on the preference stocks for half-year ended June 30. A year ago an interim at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum on the ordinary was paid.

Dublin and South-Eastern Railway.—Interim on the consolidate preference at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum for half-year ended June 30, same as a year ago.

Great Central.—Interest for half-year on all preference down to and including the 4 per cent. preference stock, 1889, carrying forward £14,000; a year ago a similar distribution was made, with £13,326 forward. Payment of interest will be made:—South Yorkshire rent-charge stocks on Aug. 15; other stocks on Aug. 24.

Great Northern (Ireland).—Interim for half-year ended June 30

on the ordinary at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, less tax, payable Sept. 1, same as a year ago.

Great Northern.—At the rate of 3 per cent. per annum on the ordinary, same as a year ago, forward £89,000, against £69,000.

Hull and Barnsley Railway.—Interim of 15s. per cent. on the consolidated ordinary in respect of year ending Dec. 31, same as a year ago, payable Aug. 21.

Lancashire and Yorkshire.—Interim on the consolidated ordinary at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum, same as a year ago, payable Aug. 9.

London and North-Western.—At the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the past half-year, same as a year ago.

London and South-Western.—Interim for first half of 1916 on the ordinary at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, same as a year ago, payable Aug. 11. For the corresponding period of 1915 the same dividend was paid.

London Brighton and South Coast.—Half-year to June 30 of £1 2s. 6d. per cent. on the undivided ordinary, and £2 5s. per cent. on the preferred ordinary, same as a year ago, payable, less tax, 18th prox.

Maryport and Carlisle Railway.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for half-year ended June 30, same as a year ago.

Metropolitan.—Interim for half-year to June 30 at the rate of 1 per cent. per annum on the ordinary, same as a year ago. The Surplus Lands Committee announce an interim at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum for half-year ended June 30, payable Aug. 22.

North London Railway.—Interim for half-year 2 per cent., same as a year ago.

Taff Vale Railway.—Interim for past half-year at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum, same rate as a year ago.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Andrew Knowles and Sons.—Interim of 4 per cent. actual, against 2 per cent.

Aramayo Francke Mines.—First interim on account of current financial year of 6d. per share, tax free, payable Aug. 1, same as a year ago.

Ayer Kuning (F.M.S.) Rubber.—Interim 5 per cent., less tax, payable Aug. 24.

Bank of Montreal.—2½ per cent. for quarter ending July 31, same as a year ago.

B. Morris and Sons.—Interim at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum for six months ended June 30.

Bristol and South Wales Railway Waggon.—Interim of 3s. per share, being at the usual rate of 10 per cent. per annum.

British Oil and Cake Mills.—Interim of 5 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary, payable Sept. 2, same as a year ago.

Broken Hill Proprietary.—1s. per share, payable Aug. 16, same as a year ago.

Canadian Bank of Commerce.—2½ per cent. for three months to Aug. 31, same as a year ago.

Century Insurance.—Interim of 1s. 3d. per share, less tax, same as a year ago.

Champion Reef Gold Mining of India.—Second interim on account of year ending Sept. 30 of 3d. per share, less tax, at the rate of 4s. 9d., payable Sept. 5, against 5d.

City of Buenos Aires Tramways (1904).—1s. 3d. per share (at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum), less tax, for three months ending June 30, payable Aug. 16.

Commercial Banking of Sydney.—At the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, with £39,538 forward, placing £70,000 to reserve, which now amounts to £1,875,000, same as a year ago.

Consett Iron.—Final at the rate of 37½ per cent. per annum for financial year ended June 30, making 50 per cent. on the ordinary, against 12½ per cent.

Consett Spanish Ore Company.—1s. per share.

Eastern Smelting.—Interim on preferred ordinary at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for half-year ended Feb. 29 last, payable Aug. 4, same as a year ago.

English Velvet and Cord Dyers.—Interim on ordinary 3 per cent. actual, same as last year.

Farmers' Loan and Trust, New York.—Regular quarterly of 12½ per cent., payable Aug. 1.

Financial Times.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. on the preference for half-year ended June 30, payable Aug. 25.

Fleming, Reid and Co.—Interim 5 per cent. (free tax) on the ordinary, same as a year ago.

Gedong (Perak) Rubber.—Interim 1s. per share, less 2½d. tax, payable Aug. 1.

Glynn's Lydenburg.—8½ per cent. for period ending July 31, against 10 per cent.

Holzapfels.—Interim for half-year ended June 30 of 4 per cent. on the ordinary, less tax.

Hunter, Barr and Co.—Interim of 2½ per cent., less tax, on the ordinary, same as last year.

International Sponge Importers.—At the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on the ordinary for half-year ended June 30.

Jeremiah Rotherham and Co.—Interim for six months ended July 15 on the ordinary at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, same as a year ago, payable Sept. 1.

John Howell and Co.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. (2s. per share), less tax, for half-year ended July 8, payable Aug. 11, against 1s. 6d. per share.

Kaministiquia Power.—At the rate of 7 per cent. per annum for quarter ending July 31, payable Aug. 15, against 6 per cent.

Kawie (Java) Rubber.—Final of 15 per cent. actual, less tax, making 30 per cent. for year ended March 31 (against 10 per cent.), payable Aug. 9; £3,000 to reserve; £12,000 forward (against £2,380 brought in). Interim dividend of 5 per cent. actual, less tax, for current year, also payable with the final dividend.

Mather and Platt.—5 per cent. actual, compared with 3 per cent. actual last year.

Mergui Crown Rubber Estates.—Final of 10 per cent. (actual), making 20 per cent. for year ended March 31, against 10 per cent.

Metropolitan Electric Supply.—Interim on ordinary for half-year ended June 30 1s. per share, being at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum, payable Aug. 15.

Nelson Brothers.—Interim of 4 per cent., free tax, payable Aug. 15, same as a year ago.

New Charlston Collieries.—Interim of 1½ per cent. (5s. per share), less tax, payable Aug. 18.

North Staffordshire.—Interim at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum on the ordinary for half-year ended June 30.

Perry and Co.—Interim on the ordinary at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, free tax.

Ramsbottom Paper Mill.—For half-year ended June 30 of 10 per cent., tax free, on the ordinary.

Scottish Reversionary.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, less tax, same as a year ago.

Scottish Waggon.—Interim 3½ per cent., less tax, same as a year ago.

Selangor United Rubber.—Final of 2d. per share in respect of year ended March 31, less tax, at the rate of 3s., payable Aug. 10.

Spencer, Turner and Boldero.—Interim at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, against 5 per cent.

Tottenham District Light, Heat and Power.—For half-year to June 30 of the full statutory of 7½ per cent. per annum on the "A" consolidated and 5½ per cent. per annum on the "B," against 7½ per cent. on the "A" and 6 per cent. on the "B."

Tronoh Mines.—Interim of 1s. per share, less tax, payable Aug. 8.

Tubes, Ltd.—The directors state that the accounts to April 30 cannot be prepared at the usual time. They declare a further interim dividend of 15 per cent., free of tax, making 20 per cent., free of tax, for the year ended April 30 last. It is also intended to increase the capital of the company by the creation of a further 50,000 shares of £1 each, and resolutions in this connection will be submitted to the shareholders at the meeting on Aug. 2.

United Serdang (Sumatra) Rubber.—Interim 15 per cent. (actual), payable Sept. 1, equivalent to 3 3-5d. per share.

United States Investment.—Interim 3 per cent. (less tax), same as a year ago.

Waihi Gold Mining.—Interim of 1s. per share, free tax, payable Sept. 1, same as a year ago.

General Hydraulic Power Co.—Receipts for quarter ending June 30, £33,871; 1915, £34,922.

THE LANCASHIRE & YORKSHIRE BANK,

ESTABLISHED 1872.

LIMITED.

Capital Subscribed, £1,725,320.

Capital Paid-up, £862,660.

Reserve Fund, £565,000.

DIRECTORS:

THOS. B. MOXON, Esq., Chairman and Managing Director.

GEORGE COMBER, Esq.

THE RIGHT HON. LORD EMMOTT, G.C.M.G.

R. P. HEWIT, Esq.

CHARLES W. KEIGHLEY, Esq.,

HENRY WHITEHEAD, Esq., M.V.O., Deputy-Chairman.

SIR JOHN B. LONSDALE, Bart., M.P.

THOMAS NORTON, Esq.

SIR FREDERICK H. SMITH, Bart.

JOSEPH WHEATLEY, Esq.

Head Office : 43, SPRING GARDENS, MANCHESTER.

Offices at LIVERPOOL, LEEDS, HUDDERSFIELD, BLACKBURN, BOLTON, BURNLEY, BURY, HALIFAX, OLDHAM, PRESTON, ROCHDALE, and 118 Offices in other towns in Lancashire and Yorkshire.

IRISH RAILWAYS.

	July 21	£	191	100,650	4,667
Belfast and County Down ..	21	4,857	191	100,650	4,667
Grand Canal ..	21	1,115	46	3,300	119
Great Northern ..	21	26,385	15	669,298	+ 13,398
Gt. Southern and Western ..	21	36,378	1,364	908,290	46,492
Midland Great Western ..	21	14,858	+ 2,551	354,095	7,889

* From Jan. 1. † From July 1.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam Bengal ..	June 17	1,15,000	—	9,157	14,00,829 — 1,31,225
Bengal & N.-W. ..	" 17	4,21,030	+	31,103	51,13,855 + 5,56,298
Bengal Nagpur ..	" 10	9,45,000	+	2,00,000	98,89,000 + 15,56,343
Bombay, Baroda ..	July 22	10,80,000	+	1,06,000	2,22,06,000 + 19,94,000
Burma ..	June 17	3,48,074	—	18,582	45,14,258 — 1,27,245
Delhi Umballa ..	July 15	60,700	—	6,387	10,67,493 — 78,184
East Indian ..	" 22	19,65,000	+	28,000	3,58,28,000 + 4,82,000
Gt. Indian Penin. ..	" 22	17,86,400	+	5,35,500	3,28,26,500 + 60,56,683
Lucknow-Bareilly ..	June 17	44,740	+	360	5,61,095 + 82,376
Madras and S. ..					
Mahratta ..	" 24	9,75,000	—	31,168	1,26,17,152 + 6,53,562
Nizam's Gd. (Broad) ..	" 17	1,21,900	+	1,24,515	15,03,589 + 1,07,754
(Metre) ..	" 17	67,691	—	18,609	8,70,383 — 1,01,866
Robikund and ..					
Kumaon ..	" 17	42,425	+	3,994	5,22,039 + 71,911
South Indian ..	" 24	6,17,206	+	28,002	74,29,637 + 3,98,543

a 13 days. † April 1. ‡ October 1.

COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

		£	£	£	£
Belra ..	May *	38,734	+ 10,209	—	—
Canadian Northern ..	July 21	\$985,000	+ \$591,700	\$2,754,000	+ \$1472,600
Canadian Pacific ..	21	\$2,641,000	+ \$971,000	\$7,995,000	+ \$3024,000
Gr. Trk. Main Line ..	21	182,795	+ 22,428	4,885,296	+ 598,098
Gr. Trk. Western ..	21	38,116	+ 8,609	1,061,685	+ 260,593
Detroit G. H. & M. ..	21	13,383	+ 1,702	377,368	+ 95,342
Gr Tk Pac Prairie Sc ..	21	17,106	+ 7,752	48,001	+ 16,687
Mashonaland ..	May *	60,114	+ 19,440	728,934	+ 88,250
Mid. of Westn. Aus. ..	May *	6,941	+ 1,146	83,158	+ 10,632
New Cape Central ..	June 24	2,359	405	39,839	+ 6,761
Rhodesia ..	May *	82,161	+ 19,741	1,179,782	+ 96,352

a 9 days. * Months. † July 1. ‡ Jan. 1. c From Oct. 1.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

		£	£	£	£
Chesapeake & Ohio	June 30†	1,428,000	+ 161,000	48,150,000	+ 8,685,000
Chicago G. W.	" 30†	308,000	+ 22,000	15,041,000	+ 1,114,000
Colorado & South'n	" 30†	365,000	+ 49,000	15,655,000	+ 1,483,000
Denver & Rio Gran.	July 14	462,000	+ 25,000	908,000	+ 21,000
Louisv'e & Nashv'e	" 7	1,138,000	+ 107,000	1,038,000	+ 107,000
Minn. S.P. (Soo) ..	June 21	665,000	+ 159,000	33,721,000	+ 6,593,000
Missouri Kansas ..	" 30†	838,000	+ 114,000	32,416,000	+ 482,000
Northern Pacific ..	" 14	1,499,000	+ 270,000	71,952,000	+ 11,706,000
Southern ..	July 14	1,322,000	+ 155,000	2,676,000	+ 337,000

† 9 days. § Includes Wisconsin Central. † From July 1.

MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

NAME.	NETT EARNINGS FOR MONTH.			NETT EARNINGS TO DATE.		
	Month.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year	Month.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year
		Dols.	Dols.		Dols.	Dols.
Atchafson T. & S. Fé ..	May	4,317,000	+ 1,475,000	II	40,078,000	+ 6,977,000
Atlantic Coast Line ..	"	848,000	+ 282,000	II	9,079,000	+ 2,447,000
Baltimore & Ohio ..	"	2,855,000	+ 258,000	II	29,144,000	+ 4,972,000
Canadian Northern ..	"	727,200	+ 308,600	7	7,552,800	+ 2,176,300
Canadian Pacific ..	"	4,372,000	+ 1,929,000	II	45,536,000	+ 1,639,000
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	"	1,480,000	+ 394,000	II	14,816,000	+ 4,097,000
Chicago & N.W. ..	"	1,014,000	+ 340,000	II	23,836,000	+ 4,331,000
Chicago Burl. & Q. ..	"	2,869,000	+ 1,230,000	II	37,764,500	+ 9,206,000
Chicago G.W. ..	"	246,000	+ 38,000	II	3,813,000	+ 746,000
Chicago Mil. & S.P. ..	"	2,298,000	+ 604,000	II	29,366,000	+ 7,473,000
Chicago, Rock I. & P. ..	"	1,744,000	+ 669,000	II	17,829,000	+ 2,470,000
Colorado & Southern ..	"	447,000	+ 227,000	II	5,317,000	+ 1,457,000
Cuba ..	"	681,003	+ 140,126	II	6,211,534	+ 1,462,441
Do. ..	"	261,131	+ 482	II	2,314,953	+ 626,709
Delaware & Hud. ..	"	794,000	+ 93	5	3,486,000	+ 564,000
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	"	798,000	+ 206,000	II	8,304,000	+ 2,440,000
Erie ..	"	1,801,000	+ 761,000	5	6,924,000	+ 2,139,000
Gr. Tr. Main Line ..	"	£222,500	+ £6,550	5	£886,200	+ £129,550
Grand Trunk Westn ..	"	£49,400	+ £48,200	5	£178,500	+ £185,500
Detroit G.H. & Mil. ..	"	£8,900	+ £16,200	5	£9,700	+ £36,100
Gt. Northern ..	Apr.	1,701,000	+ 1,072,000	10	27,764,000	+ 4,798,000
Illinois Central ..	May	1,287,000	+ 608,000	II	12,666,000	+ 2,268,000
Kansas City Southn. ..	"	347,000	+ 80,000	II	3,359,000	+ 514,000
Lehigh Valley ..	"	1,312,000	+ 92,000	II	11,425,000	+ 1,527,000
Louisville & Nashv. ..	"	1,698,000	+ 848,000	II	16,716,000	+ 7,508,000
Minn. S.P. (Soo) ..	"	1,051,000	+ 714,000	II	12,581,000	+ 4,984,000
Miss. K. & Texas ..	"	418,000	+ 63,000	II	4,706,000	+ 3,538,000
Missouri Pacific ..	Apr.	983,000	+ 97,000	II	11,844,000	+ 631,000
New York Cent. & H. ..	May	5,597,000	+ 1,870,000	5	24,154,000	+ 1,069,000
N.Y. N. Haven & H. ..	"	2,200,000	+ 462,000	II	20,240,000	+ 4,390,000
New York Ont. & W. ..	"	204,000	+ 28,000	II	3,205,000	+ 249,000
Norfolk & Western ..	"	2,463,000	+ 928,000	II	21,231,000	+ 9,345,000
Northern Pacific ..	"	2,422,000	+ 1,101,000	II	28,421,000	+ 8,994,000
Pennsylvania East and West Lines ..	"	10,846,000	+ 4,102,000	5	40,546,000	+ 10,197,000
St. Louis & San F. ..	Apr.	1,043,000	+ 24,000	9	10,018,000	+ 1,164,000
Seaboard Air Line ..	May	575,000	+ 103,000	II	6,524,000	+ 1,515,000
Southern ..	"	2,022,000	+ 684,000	II	19,337,000	+ 7,077,000
Southern Pacific ..	"	4,095,000	+ 1,442,000	II	43,370,000	+ 11,278,000
Union Pacific ..	"	3,380,000	+ 1,558,000	II	37,037,000	+ 9,686,000
Wabash ..	"	1,003,000	+ 708,000	II	9,988,000	+ 4,296,000

§ Includes Wisconsin Central. * Gross earnings. † Surplus.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—HOME.

		£		£		£		£
Bristol	July 21	10,591	+	768	†	281,171	+	10,453
Dublin United ..	" 21	7,033	+	504	†	165,797	+	8,450
Hastings and Dist..	" 21	1,206	+	202	†	25,879	+	731
Isle of Thanet ..	" 22	525	—	52	*	12,278	—	2,199
Lancashire United..	" 19	1,810	—	39	†	50,105	+	1,450
Provincial	" 22	2,698	+	241	*	92,232	+	4,800
Yorks. (Wat. Rdng.)	" 23	1,831	+	196	†	50,943	+	4,517

* From Oct. 1. † From Jan. 1.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.

	£	£	Ms.	£	£
Anglo-Argentine ..	July 22	49,729	+ 494	1,482,045	+ 2,453
Auckland Electric ..	26	21,152	+ 611	253,058	+ 4,949
Brazilian Traction ..	May †	M4,045,000	+ M 51,020	M 18,774,000	+ M 727,350
Brisbane Elec. Inv. ..	Apr.	39,320	+ 3,730	63,000	+ 6,390
British Columbia ..	May †	£62,830	+ £39,116	£797,387	+ £511,190
B.A. Lacroze ..	June	36,212	+ 4,208	499,818	+ 15,324
Burmah Electric ..	July 22	Rs. 3,637	— Rs. 1,263	—	+ Rs. 4,209
Calcutta ..	" 22	Rs. 68,933	+ 179	Rs. 19,85,031	+ 38,221
Cordoba Light ..	"				
P. & T. ..	May	14,868	+ 374	28,921	+ 818
Hongkong ..	June 17	£16,624	+ £5,798	£327,027	+ £73,522
La Plata ..	" b	3,716	+ 110	25,925	+ 161
Lima ..	May †	15,693	+ 69	75,913	+ 1,440
Madras Electric ..	June 15c	Rs. 34,007	+ Rs. 1,921	Rs. 4,04,349	+ Rs. 29,428
Mexico ..	Nov. †	£215,256	+ £108,669	£3,193,106	+ £197,227
Puebla ..	Dec. †	£40,000	+ £25,600	£669,500	+ £44,500
Rangoon ..	June †	4,205	+ 792	23,732	+ 1,764
Singapore Electric ..	May 20	£13,139	+ £1,897	£247,259	+ £29,716
Toronto ..	"	£438,997	+ £65,932	£1,693,709	+ £198,311
United of Monte V. ..	June	25,300	+ 1,034	241,058	+ 14,376
Vera Cruz ..	Mar.	£73,506	+ £32,300	£203,900	+ £103,200
Winnipeg ..	May †	£103,277	+ £16,527	£542,937	+ £5,931

b 28 days. * From Jan. 1. † Net. a From July 1. c Two weeks.

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Week ending	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			W'ks.	GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
		Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	£		Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	
Alcoy and Gandia ..	July 22	Ps. 12,000	—	Ps. 1,000	†	Ps. 418,900	+ Ps. 38,000	
Antofagasta (Chili) ..	23	31,575	—	245	†	963,990	+ 308,515	
Arauco ..	June	10,000	+	4,337	†	144,138	+ 1,782	
Argentine N.E. ..	July 22	6,200	+	204	†	18,402	+ 1,796	
Bilbao R. and Canta ..	June *	4,325	+	669	†	24,777	+ 23,089	
Bolivar ..	"	7,000	+	1,339	9	109,372	+ M195,000	
Brazil ..	May *	M3,472,000	+	M199,000	†	M 1787,000	+ M4,200	
Brazil Gt. Southern ..	Apr.	Mis. 32,750	+	M3,300	†	M 69,250	—	
B. Ayres & Pacific ..	July 22	80,000	+	1,000	†	260,000	+ 32,346	
Do. Gt. South'n ..	23	104,000	+	25,000	†	310,254	+ 2,000	
Do. Western ..	" 23	46,000	+	4,000	†	145,000	+ 82,700	
Central Argentine ..	" 22	114,800	—	3,550	†	340,900	+ 379	
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte V. ..	" 22	10,716	+	573	†	36,314	+ 1,242	
Do. East'n Ex. ..	" 22	3,502	+	102	†	13,198	+ 762	
Do. North'n Ex. ..	" 22	1,754	—	117	†	5,805	+ 310	
Do. West'n Ex. ..	" 22	1,659	+	25	†	5,202	+ 7,188	
Colombian National ..	June *	11,840	+	946	6	65,500	+ 9,900	
Cordoba Central ..	July 22	37,500	—	1,980	†	118,600	+ 50,728	
Costa Rica ..	May 20	5,413	—	986	†	251,583	+ 2,498	
Cuban Central ..	July 22	10,000	+	1,456	†	29,906	+ 400	
Dorada Extension ..	June *	9,500	+	1,100	†	44,900	+ 9,203	
Egyptian Delta ..	30†	5,185	+	1,232	†	43,730	+ 9,500	
Entre Rios ..	July 22	11,700	+	2,800	†	39,700	+ 71,319	
French Sante Fé ..	May	94,572	+	4,945	†	443,607	+ Ps. 325,958	
Gt. South. of Spain ..	July 15	Ps. 79,816	+	Ps. 18,640	†	Ps. 942,487	—	
Gt. West. of Brazil ..	" 22	7,300	+	800	†	264,700	+ 37,900	
Havana Central ..	" 22	5,725	+	859	†	18,030	+ 433	
Inter. of C. Amer. ..	May c*	37,809	+	16,495	†	180,392	+ 71,439	
La Guaira and Car. ..	June *	15,250	+	2,000	†	49,250	+ 7,000	
Leopoldina ..	July 22	26,027	—	3,783	†	610,482	+ 220,563	
Manila (N. & Sth.) ..	15	7,999	+	892	†	290,616	+ 2,396	
Midland Uruguay ..	June	11,796	+	2,346	7	124,302	+ 11,193	
Mogiana ..	May *	M1,492,000	+	M277,000	5	M 6,639,000	— M125,000	
N.W. of Uruguay ..	June *	25,500	+	83,086	9	298,127	+ \$34,844	
Nitrate ..	July 15†	31,009	+	12,186	†	621,766	+ 198,745	
Paraguay Central ..	22	3,020	+	1,220	†	9,460	+ 4,552	
Paulista ..	May *	M1,500,000	+	M126,000	5	M 9,400,000	+ M100,000	
Peruvian Corp'n ..	June *	\$29,500	+	\$170,120	10	\$9,765,497	+ \$1,403,972	
Salvador ..	July 22	£16,500	—	£6,250	†	£72,000	+ £3,250	
S. Paulo (Brazilian) ..	16	29,426	—	6,418	†	659,543	+ 61,242	
Sorocabana ..	May *	M1,269,000	+	M23,000	5	M 6,900,000	+ M292,000	
Taitai. ..	" *	21,143	+	10,643	12	225,909	+ 93,023	
United of Havana ..	July 22	29,800	—	5,428	†	94,185	+ 11,548	
West'n of Havana ..	24 *	5,988	—	712	†	18,720	+ 199	
Zafra and Huelva ..	May *	14,359	—	3,806	†	57,185	+ 21,57	

AMERICAN DOLLAR SECURITIES COMMITTEE.

FIFTH LIST

Of Securities which the Treasury is prepared to Purchase, and which will be subject to Special Income Tax.

Exemption will be granted in respect of those Securities which are lent to the Treasury under the Deposit Scheme.

FURTHER LISTS

Of the Securities in respect of which holders will be liable to the Special Income Tax of 2s. in the £ may be issued from time to time.

- 785 Alabama Great Southern R.R. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1927.
 786 American Cities Co. Coll. Trust Bonds 5 p.c.-6 p.c., 1919.
 787 American Light and Traction Co. 6 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
 788 American Steamship Co. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1920.
 789 American Sugar Refining Co. Common.
 790 American Tobacco Co. Common.
 791 Beech Creek Coal and Coke Co. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1944
 792 Birmingham Terminal Co. 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1957.
 793 Boston and Albany R.R. Guaranteed Shares.
 794 Brooklyn City R.R. 1st Cons. Mort. 5 p.c., 1941.
 795 Brooklyn, Queens County and Suburban R.R. 1st Cons. Mort. 5 p.c., 1941.
 796 Brooklyn, Queens County and Suburban R.R. 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1941.
 797 Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburg Rly. Equipment Mort. 4½ p.c. Bonds.
 798 Buffalo and Susquehanna R.R. Corp. 1st Mort. 4 p.c., 1963.
 799 California Gas & Electric Corp. Gen. Mort. & Coll. Trust 5 p.c., 1933.
 800 Carolina, Clinchfield & Ohio Rly. 10-yr. Gold Coupon Notes 5 p.c., 1919.
 801 Central Illinois Public Service Co. 1st and Refunding 5 p.c., 1952.
 802 Chesapeake and Ohio R.R. 5-yr. Secured Notes, 5 p.c., 1919.
 803 Chicago Gas Light and Coke Co. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1937.
 804 Chicago Great Western R.R. 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1959.
 805 Chicago Junction Rlys. and Union Stock Yards Co. Mort. and Coll. Trust Refunding, 5 p.c., 1940.
 806 Chicago Railways Cons. Mort. 5 p.c., 1927, Series "A."
 807 Chicago Railways Cons. Mort. 5 p.c., 1927, Series "C."
 808 Chicago, St. Louis and Pittsburg R.R. Cons. Mort. 5 p.c., 1932.
 809 Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton Rly. 1st and Refund. Mort. 4 p.c., 1959 (Guaranteed by the B. and O. R.R.).
 810 Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton Railway and Mort. 4½ p.c., 1937.
 811 Cincinnati, Sandusky & Cleveland R.R. Cons. 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1928.
 812 City Electric Co. 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1937.
 813 Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Railway Preferred.
 814 Colorado Springs & Cripple Creek District Rly. 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1930.
 815 Consolidated Gas Elec. Light and Power Co. of Baltimore Common.
 816 Consolidated Water Co. of Utica 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1930.
 817 Consumers' Gas Company 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1936.
 818 Crucible Steel Co. of America 7 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
 819 Denver and Rio Grande R.R. 1st and Refunding Mort. 5 p.c., 1955.
 820 Detroit City Gas Co. 5 p.c. Prior Lien Mortgage, 1923.
 821 Detroit and Mackinac Railway 5 p.c. Non-Cum. Preferred.
 822 Eastern Railway of Minnesota, Northern Div. 1st Mort. 4 p.c., 1948.
 823 Erie R.R. General Mort. Convertible 4 p.c., 1953, Series "B."
 824 Federal Light and Traction Co. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1942.
 825 Gas and Electric Co. of Bergen County Cons. Mort. 5 p.c., 1949.
 826 General Chemical Co. 6 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
 827 General Motors Co. 7 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
 828 Georgia and Alabama Rly. 1st Mort. Cons. 5 p.c., 1945.
 829 Georgia Electric Light Co. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1930.
 830 Georgia Pacific Rly. 1st Mortgage 6 p.c., 1922.
 831 Georgia R.R. and Banking Co. Refunding Debentures 4 p.c., 1947.
 832 Great Falls Power Co. (Montana) 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1940.
 833 Harlem River and Port Chester R.R. 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1954.
 834 Hartford Street Railway Co. 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1930.
 835 Havana City 1st 6 p.c., 1939.
 836 Havana City and 6 p.c. Bonds.
 837 Hocking Valley Railway Equipment Notes.
 838 Housatonic R.R. Cons. 5 p.c., 1937.
 839 Houston East and West Texas Rly. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1933.
 840 Hudson & Manhattan R.R. 1st Lien and Refunding Mort. 5 p.c., 1957.
 841 Illinois Central R.R. 4½ p.c. Equipment Trust Certificates.
 842 Illinois Central R.R. Springfield Div. 1st Mortgage 3½ p.c., 1951.
 843 Illinois Northern Utilities Co. 1st and Refunding 5 p.c., 1957.
 844 International Mercantile Marine Co. Mort. and Coll. Tr. 4½ p.c., 1922.
 845 International Navigation Co. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1929.
 846 International Nickel Co. Preferred.
 847 International Paper Co. 1st Cons. Mort. 6 p.c., 1918.
 848 Joliet and Chicago R.R. 7 p.c. Guaranteed Stock.
 849 Joplin Union Depot Co. 1st Mortgage 4½ p.c., 1940.
 850 Kansas City Southern Rly. 1st Mortgage 3 p.c., 1950.
 851 Kayser (Julius) and Co. 7 p.c. Cum. 1st Preferred.
 852 King's County Electric Light and Power Co. Con. Deb. 6 p.c., 1922.
 853 Laclede Gas Light Co. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1910.
 854 Laclede Gas Light Co. Refunding and Ext. Mort. 5 p.c., 1934.
 855 Lehigh Coal and Navigation Co. Common.
 856 Lehigh and Hudson River R.R. General Mort. Guar. 5 p.c., 1920.
 857 Lehigh and New York R.R. 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1945.
 858 Lehigh Valley Coal Sales Co. Capital Stock.
 859 Long Island R.R. Co. Ferry, 1st Mort. 4½ p.c., 1922.
 860 Los Angeles Rly. Corp. 1st and Refunding Mort. 6 p.c., 1940.
 861 Louisville, Cincinnati and Lexington Rly. General Mort. 4½ p.c., 1931.
 862 Louisville Gas and Electric Co. 1st and Refunding Mort. 6 p.c., 1918.
 863 Louisville and Jeffersonville Bridge Co. 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1945.
 864 Louisville and Nashville R.R. Equipment Trust Certificates 5 p.c., 1916-23.
 865 Louisville and Nashville Terminal Co. 1st Mort. 4 p.c., 1952.
 866 Mackay Companies 4 p.c. Preferred.
 867 Mackay Companies Common.
 868 Michigan Air Line R.R. 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1940.
 869 Milwaukee, Lake Shore and Western Rly. (Ashland Div.) 1st Mort. 6 p.c., 1925.
 870 Milwaukee and Northern R.R. 1st Mort. (Extended) 4½ p.c., 1934.
 871 Milwaukee and Northern R.R. Cons. (Extended) 4½ p.c., 1934.
 872 Minneapolis and Pacific Railway 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1936.
 873 Minneapolis, St. Paul and Sault Ste Marie and Cent. Term. Rly. Co. 1st Mortgage Chicago Term. 4 p.c., 1941.
 874 Minneapolis, St. Paul and Sault Ste Marie Rly. 4 p.c. Leased Line Stock Certificates.
 875 Minneapolis Street Rly. and St. Paul City Rly. Joint Cons. 5 p.c., 1928.
 876 Minneapolis Union Railway 1st Mortgage 6 p.c., 1922.
 877 Mississippi Central R.R. 1st Mortgage S.F. 5 p.c., 1949.
 878 Mobile and Birmingham R.R. 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1945.
 879 Mobile and Ohio R.R. St. Louis Div. Mort. 5 p.c., 1927.
 880 Moline Plow Co. 1st 7 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
 881 Montana Central Railway 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1937.
 882 Montana Central Railway 1st Mortgage 6 p.c., 1937.
 883 Montana Power Co. 7 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
 884 Morris and Co. 1st Mortgage S.F. 4½ p.c., 1939.
 885 Mutual Terminal Co. of Buffalo 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1924.
 886 Nassau Electric R.R. 1st Mortgage Consolidated 4 p.c., 1921.
 887 National Enamelling & Stamping Co. Rfdg. 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1929.
 888 Naugatuck R.R. 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1954.
 889 New England Navigation Co. Collateral Coupon Notes 6 p.c., 1917.
 890 New England R.R. Consolidated Mortgage 4 p.c., 1945.
 891 New England R.R. Consolidated Mortgage 5 p.c., 1945.
 892 New England Telephone and Telegraph Co. 5 p.c. Debentures, 1932.
 893 New Orleans City and Lake R.R. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1943.
 894 New Orleans and North Eastern R.R. Prior Lien Mort. Extended 5 p.c., 1940.
 895 New Orleans Railway and Light Co. General Mortgage 4½ p.c., 1935.
 896 New York and Erie R.R. 1st Extension Mortgage 4 p.c., 1947.
 897 New York and Erie R.R. and Extension Mortgage 5 p.c., 1919.
 898 New York and Erie R.R. 3rd Extension Mortgage 4½ p.c., 1923.
 899 New York and Erie R.R. 4th Extension Mortgage 5 p.c., 1920.
 900 New York and Erie R.R. 5th Extension Mortgage 4 p.c., 1928.
 901 New York and Greenwood Lake Railway Prior Lien 5 p.c., 1946.
 902 New York and Harlem R.R. Guaranteed Stock.
 903 New York & New England R.R. Boston Term. 1st Mort. 4 p.c., 1939.
 904 New York & New Jersey Telephone Co. Gen. Mort. S.F. 5 p.c., 1920.
 905 New York and Northern Railway 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1927.
 906 Norfolk and Southern R.R. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1941.
 907 Northern Railway of California 1st Cons. Mort. 5 p.c., 1938.
 908 Northern Central Railway Capital Stock.
 909 Northern Electric Co. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1939.
 910 Northern Pacific Rly. Gen. Lien Rly. & Land Grant Mort. 3 p.c., 1945.
 911 Northern Pacific Terminal Co. of Oregon 1st Mort. 6 p.c., 1933.
 912 Old Colony R.R. 4 p.c., 1924.
 913 Old Colony R.R. 4 p.c., 1925.
 914 Old Colony R.R. 4 p.c., 1938.
 915 Pacific Coast Co. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1946.
 916 Pacific Coast Co. 1st Non-Cum. 5 p.c. Preferred.
 917 Pacific Gas and Electric Co. 1st 6 p.c. Preferred.
 918 Pacific Gas & Electric Co. and 6 p.c. Preferred (Original Preferred).
 919 Pacific Telephone and Telegraph 6 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
 920 Paterson & Passaic Gas & Electric Co. 1st Cons. Mort. 5 p.c., 1949.
 921 Pennsylvania R.R. Gen. Freight Equipment Trust 4 p.c. Certificates.
 922 Pennsylvania & Mahoning Valley Rly. 1st & Refunding 5 p.c., 1922.
 923 Pennsylvania & Maryland Steel Co. Joint Mort. Cons. 6 p.c., 1925.
 924 Pennsylvania Water and Power Co. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1940.
 925 Pensacola and Atlantic Railway 1st Mortgage S.F. 6 p.c., 1921.
 926 Peoria and Pekin Union Railway 1st Mortgage 6 p.c., 1921.
 927 Peoria and Pekin Union Railway and Mortgage 4½ p.c., 1921.
 928 Philadelphia, Baltimore & Washington R.R. 1st Cons. Mort. 4 p.c., 1943.
 929 Philadelphia Co. Cons. Mort. and Collateral Trust 5 p.c., 1951.
 930 Philadelphia and Reading R.R. Mortgage 5 p.c., 1933.
 931 Pittsburgh Junction R.R. 1st Mortgage 6 p.c., 1922.
 932 Pittsburgh Steel Co. 7 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
 933 Pittsburgh, Virginia and Charleston Railway 1st Mort. 4 p.c., 1943.
 934 Pittsburgh, Youngstown and Ashtabula Railway Preferred.
 935 Portland Terminal Co. 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1961.
 936 Puget Sound Power Co. 1st Mortgage Guaranteed 5 p.c., 1933.
 937 Pullman Co. Capital Stock.
 938 Railway Steel Spring Co. (Inter-Ocean Plant) 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1932.
 939 Railway Steel Spring Co. (Latrobe Plant) 1st Purchase Mortgage 5 p.c., 1921.
 940 Rensselaer and Saratoga R.R. Guaranteed 8 p.c. Capital Stock.
 941 Richmond and Danville R.R. Debentures 5 p.c., 1927.
 942 Richmond-Washington Co. Guar. Coll. Trust Mort. 4 p.c., 1943.
 943 Rio Grande Western Railway 1st Cons. Mortgage 4 p.c., 1949.
 944 Rochester & Pittsburg Coal & Iron Co. Helvetia Property Purchase Money Mortgage 5 p.c., 1946.
 945 Rochester Railway 1st Consolidated 5 p.c., 1930.
 946 St. Joseph Railway Light, Heat and Power Co. 1st Mort. 5 p.c., 1937.
 947 St. Louis and Cairo R.R. 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1931.
 948 St. Louis Peoria & North-Western Rly. 1st Mort. Guar. 5 p.c., 1948.
 949 St. Louis Southern R.R. 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1931.
 950 St. Louis South-Western Railway 1st Cons. Mort. 4 p.c., 1932.
 951 San Antonio & Aransas Pass Railway 1st Mort. Guar. 4 p.c., 1943.
 952 Santa Fé, Prescott & Phoenix R.R. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1942.
 953 Seaboard Air Line Railway Adjustment Mortgage 5 p.c., 1949.
 954 Seaboard Air Line Railway Refunding Mortgage 4 p.c., 1959.
 955 Seaboard and Roanoke R.R. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1926.
 956 Shamokin, Sunbury and Lewisburg R.R. 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1925.
 957 Shamokin, Sunbury and Lewisburg R.R. and Mortgage 6 p.c., 1925.
 958 Silver Springs, Ocala & Gulf R.R. & Land Grant 1st Mort. 4 p.c., 1918.
 959 Springfield Railway and Light Co. 1st Lien 5 p.c. S.F., 1926.
 960 Standard Gas Light Co. of New York 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1930.
 961 Standard Milling Co. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1930.
 962 Standard Milling Co. Preferred.
 963 Syracuse Lighting Co. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1951.
 964 Texas and New Orleans R.R. Cons. Mortgage 5 p.c., 1943.
 965 Twenty-Third Street Rly. Impvt. & Refunding Mortgage 5 p.c., 1922.
 966 Twin City Rapid Transit Co. Common.
 967 United Fruit Co. Common.
 968 United States Smelting, Refining & Mining Co. 7 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
 969 United States Smelting, Refining & Mining Co. Common.
 970 Utah Copper Co. Capital Stock.
 971 Utah Light and Power Co. Cons. Mortgage 4 p.c., 1930.
 972 Utah and Northern Railway Cons. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1926.
 973 Utah and Northern Railway 1st Ext. Mortgage 4 p.c., 1933.
 974 Utah Securities Corporation 10-yr. Gold Notes 6 p.c., 1922.
 975 Utica Electric Light and Power Co. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1950.
 976 Utica Gas & Electric Co. Refunding & Extn. Mortgage 5 p.c., 1957.
 977 Virginia Carolina Chemical Co. 8 p.c. Cum. Preferred.
 978 Virginia and South-Western Railway 1st Cons. Mort. 5 p.c., 1958.
 979 Virginia and South-Western Railway 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 2003.
 980 Wabash R.R. and Mortgage 5 p.c., 1939.
 981 Washington Central Railway 1st Mortgage 4 p.c., 1948.
 982 Westchester Lighting Co. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1950.
 983 Western Transit Co. 4½ p.c. Bonds, 1923.
 984 West Penn. Traction Co. 6 per cent. Secured Notes, 1917.
 985 Weyman-Bruton Co. 7 p.c. Non-Cum. Preferred.
 986 Wichita Union Terminal Railway 1st Mortgage 4½ p.c., 1941.
 987 Wilkes-Barre and Eastern R.R. 1st Mortgage 5 p.c., 1942.
 988 Worcester & Connecticut Eastern Railway 1st Mort. S.F. 4½ p.c., 1943.

THE AMERICAN DOLLAR SECURITIES COMMITTEE,

NATIONAL DEBT OFFICE.

19 OLD JEWRY, LONDON, E.C.

July 26, 1916.

SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1824.

FUNDS OVER £10,500,000.

FIRE (INCLUDING LOSS OF PROFITS), LIFE, ACCIDENT, ILLNESS, ANNUITIES, PENSIONS, LEASEHOLD, BURGLARY, CLASS BREAKAGE, TRANSIT OF SECURITIES, FIDELITY, PROPERTY OWNERS' LIABILITIES, HORSE DRIVING ACCIDENTS, MOTOR CAR RISKS, THIRD PARTY, EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY AND MARINE INSURANCES EFFECTED ON THE MOST FAVOURABLE TERMS.

Edinburgh: 38, St. Andrew Square.

London: 5, Walbrook, E.C., and 5, Pall Mall, S.W.

PHENIX ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1782.

Head Office: PHENIX HOUSE, KING WILLIAM STREET, LONDON, E.C.

Total Assets Exceed £16,000,000.

Claims Paid Exceed £94,000,000.

Chairman—Rt. Hon. LORD GEORGE HAMILTON, P.C., G.C.S.I.

FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT. MARINE.

Loss of Profits following Fire, Workmen's Compensation, Fidelity Guarantee, Burglary, Trustee and Executor, &c.

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General Manager—SIR GERALD H. RYAN.

ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE.

Incorporated A.D. 1720.

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FIRE. LIFE. SEA. ACCIDENTS. MOTOR-CAR. PLATE

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Special Terms to Annuityes where health is impaired.

Apply to
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The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 6 PER CENT. (Increased from 5 per cent. on Thursday, July 13.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

Supplies of credit in the Money market have undergone a steady reduction this week, partly no doubt because of the continued demand for Treasury bills and other forms of short-term debt of the Government, but partly also because some of the joint-stock banks were calling in balances. The demand for accommodation has consequently been keen, and the margin has at times been so narrow that on one day a little had to be borrowed from the Bank for a week at $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and on another a small sum which fell due had to be renewed. In the market the general charge for both day-to-day and weekly advances remained at 5 per cent., but in the early part of the week borrowers had occasionally to pay up to $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for their day-to-day needs, and there was very little "bad" money offered below 5 per cent. During the last day or two, however, credit seemed to be rather more plentiful, and it was possible to arrange part of the business at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Business in the discount market has been on a very small scale, but quotations have on the whole remained fairly steady under the influence of the harder rates for money. A parcel of Russian credit bills was renewed at $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and a further small batch placed at the same figure, which was also the minimum for fine three months' remitted paper. Most houses quoted an alternative $5\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., but it was impossible to make that rate really effective owing to the existence of a Continental inquiry, which was met at a lower figure than the regular quotations, and acted as a check upon the ordinary business. Short-dated Treasury bills were in good demand on account of the joint-stock

banks, and August maturities changed hands at $5\frac{1}{8}$ per cent., September at $5\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., and early October at $5\frac{3}{8}$ per cent.

Movements in the foreign exchanges have not been of much importance. The Dutch and Italian both moved in favour of this country, although there was some slight set-back towards the end of the week, and the Spanish rate has also advanced. Paris has remained steady at about 28.13 throughout, and Petrograd, after touching 158 at one time, fell back to 157. The New York cable rate has been firm at $4.86\frac{1}{16}$, and amongst South Americans Rio advanced to $12\frac{1}{2}$ d., but has since relapsed to 12 19-32d.

Gold has again left the Bank this week, and in spite of the receipt of £903,000 from abroad the return showed a further decrease of £575,000 in the stocks of coin and bullion. The note circulation expanded by £85,000, making a reduction of £660,000 to £38,791,000 in the reserve, but the proportion to liabilities is nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. higher at 28 per cent. Government disbursements exceeded receipts by £5,078,000, leaving the Public Deposits at £52,990,000, but the whole of this and more has come off "Other" Securities, which are £5,569,000 down, and Other Deposits are consequently £1,202,000 lower at £85,241,000.

According to the official statement for the week ended July 26, currency notes amounting to £3,089,694 in £1 and £1,099,494 in 10s. notes were issued, against which £2,683,923 in £1 and £1,001,051 in 10s. notes were cancelled. There was therefore an increase of £205,214 in the amount outstanding at a total of £115,806,289 10s., make up of £88,029,419 in £1 notes and £27,776,870 10s. in 10s. notes. No currency note certificates were issued or cancelled, so that the amount outstanding remains at £9,680,000. There is also an investment reserve account of £1,948,555 1s. 1d. Against these £28,500,000 is held in gold, £92,457,336 19s. 2d. in Government securities, and £6,337,507 11s. 11d. at the Bank of England, while £104,000 has been advanced to bankers other than Scottish and Irish banks of issue, and £36,000 to the Trustee Savings Bank.

SILVER.

A decline in the Chinese exchange and some offering of silver by that country in India led to sales on this market. American supplies were also rather larger, and although the demand for coinage purposes remains good the price relapsed to $29\frac{1}{16}$ d. per oz. At this level, however, the bazaars turned round and sent buying orders, with the result that the loss was not only recovered, but the quotations improved to $30\frac{5}{16}$ d. per oz.

Applications for the Rs. 30,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 4,50,000 in bills, Rs. 1,54,00,000 in deferred telegraphic transfers, and Rs. 51,000 in immediate telegraphic transfers. Of these Rs. 83,000 were allotted in bills, Rs. 25,50,000 in deferred transfers, and Rs. 3,67,000 in immediate transfers, tenders for bills and deferred transfers at rs. 4 1-32d. and for immediate transfers at rs. 4 $\frac{1}{16}$ d. receiving about 8 per cent. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is again Rs. 30,00,000. Between April 1 and July 25 the total sales were Rs. 7,13,73,566, realising £4,787,749.

The Bank of Montreal have received the following cable from their head office:—"Crops reported excellent condition, damage by hail and rust slight, harvesting August 15 to 20."

The directors of the Beira Railway Co. announce that, as a result of war conditions, the earnings of the railway for the year ended September 30 last are insufficient to pay any interest on the 6 per cent. income debenture stock for that period.

Birmingham Bankers Clearing.—The clearing for the week ended July 22 shows a decrease of £702,375 at £1,760,620. The total to date, however, shows an increase of £6,338,143, the figures for the current year being £55,144,849, against £48,806,706 to July 24, 1915. The return deals principally with local cheques, and does not include those passing through the country clearing in London.

BANK OF LIVERPOOL

ESTABLISHED 1831.

LIMITED.

**Subscribed Capital, £13,871,120. Paid-up Capital, £1,733,890.
Reserve Fund, £900,000.**

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SIR WM. H. STEPHENSON, D.L.**General Manager**—JAMES H. SIMPSON.**Deputy General Manager**—J. J. RITCHIE.**Assistant General Manager**—J. C. M. JACOBS.

District General Managers.

Northern District—F. W. CREWDSON.

North Eastern District—BRODRICK DALE.

Superintendent of Branches—T. FISHER CALDWELL.**Sub-Manager (Head Office)**—T. A. TROTTER.

London Agents—GLYN, MILLS, CURRIE & CO.; BARCLAY & COMPANY, LTD.; WILLIAMS DEACON'S BANK, LTD.;
COUTTS & CO.; and UNION OF LONDON AND SMITHS BANK, LTD.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF BANKING, TRUSTEE, AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the
Week ending on Wednesday, July 26, 1916.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued	72,802,760	Government Debt	11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	54,352,760
		Silver Bullion	—
	£72,802,760		£72,802,760

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital ..	14,553,000	Government Securities ..	42,188,131
Reserve	3,370,643	Other Securities	75,219,090
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts) ..	52,989,880	Notes	36,757,730
Other Deposits	85,241,272	Gold and Silver Coin ..	2,023,251
Seven Day and other Bills	33,407		
	£156,188,202		£156,188,202

Dated July 27, 1916.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared
with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the
corresponding return last year.

Last year, July 28.	July 19, 1916.	July 26, 1916.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	£	£	£	£
3,404,008	Rest	3,325,472	3,370,643	44,171
177,636,201	Pub. Deposits ..	58,068,078	52,989,880	5,078,198
95,540,497	Other do. ..	86,443,050	85,241,272	1,201,778
44,583	7 Day Bills ..	26,830	33,407	6,577
	Assets.		Decrease.	Increase.
53,157,910	Gov. Securities ..	42,188,185	42,188,131	54
192,195,214	Other do. ..	80,788,352	75,219,090	5,569,262
45,825,165	Total Reserve ..	39,440,893	38,780,981	659,912
			6,279,976	6,279,976
			Increase.	Decrease.
33,531,335	Note Circulation ..	35,960,240	36,045,030	84,790
60,906,500	Coin and Bullion ..	50,951,133	54,352,760	575,122
16 1/2 p.c.	Proportion ..	27 3/4 p.c.	28 0 p.c.	7 p.c.
5	Bank Rate ..	6	6	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week £903,000 n.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1916.	1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
January	1,071,948,000	918,685,000	153,263,000	—
February	1,107,655,000	960,743,000	146,912,000	—
March	1,364,599,000	1,231,392,000	133,207,000	—
April	1,090,356,000	976,204,500	114,092,000	—
May	1,447,416,000	1,104,194,000	283,222,000	—
June	1,147,630,000	960,200,000	187,421,000	—
July 5	340,561,000	300,466,000	40,095,000	—
" 12	319,832,000	289,141,000	30,691,000	—
" 19	290,135,000	394,307,000	—	104,172,000
" 26	288,665,000	332,781,000	—	44,116,000
Total ..	8,468,797,000	7,543,132,000	940,615,000	—

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken
place at the Bank of England since our last issue:—

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
£	£
Wednesday—Bars	782,000
Thursday—Bars	25,000
Friday—Bars	8,000
	£815,000
	£815,000

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For 7 days ended July 22.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
£	£
Customs	1,342,000
Excise	2,770,000
Estate, &c., Duties	757,000
Stamps	42,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	—
Property and Income Tax ..	947,000
Excess Profits Tax	602,000
Land Values	10,000
Post Office	100,000
Crown Lands	—
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares ..	21,450
Miscellaneous	171,191
Bullion advances repaid	100,000
For Treasury Bills (nett amt.)	13,756,000
War Loan, 1925-8	—
War Loan, 1925-45	—
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919 ..	1,233,000
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920 ..	923,500
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1921 ..	3,655,000
War Expenditure Certificates ..	1,595,500
War Savings Certificates ..	1,700,000
Other Debts created under War Loan Act, 1915	—
Telegraph Money Act, 1913 ..	—
Under Post Office Rly. Act, 1913	—
Under Military Works Acts, 1897-1903	—
Under Housing Act	—
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920 ..	—
East Africa Protectorate Loan repayments	—
Cunard Loan—repayment on account of principal	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	—
China Indemnity	—
Ways and Means Advances ..	24,937,000
Decrease in Exchequer balances	—
	£54,662,641

£	£
National Debt Service ..	£539,157
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	1,368,092
Development & Road Impvt. Payments to Local Taxation ..	—
Other Consolidated Fund Charges	—
Supply Services	25,650,000
Bullion Advances	50,000
For Advance for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	—
For Treasury Bills (nett amt.) ..	—
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan Redem- ption Act, 1910	—
Issues under Section 1 of War Loan Act, 1915	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913	—
Under Post Office (Lon- don) Railway Act, 1913 ..	—
Under Housing Act	—
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8 ..	—
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11 ..	—
E. Africa Protectorate Loan Cunard Loan repayment is- sued to reduce debt under the Cunard Agreement ..	—
Deficiency advances repaid China Indemnity issued to reduce debt under Finance Act, 1903	—
Ways and Means Advances repaid	19,705,000
Increase in Exchequer balances	7,350,392
	£54,662,641

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	July 22, 1916	July 15, 1916	July 8, 1916	July 24, 1915
£	£	£	£	£
Loans	635,600,000	645,426,000	656,434,000	512,266,000
Reserve held in own Vaults ..	84,740,000	80,448,000	80,068,000	88,262,000
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk.	32,650,000	31,112,000	31,034,000	25,078,000
Reserve held in Other Depos.	10,560,000	11,260,000	11,728,000	6,814,000
Nett Demand Deposits	622,820,000	627,992,000	640,036,000	504,818,000
Nett Time Deposits	36,808,000	36,026,000	35,672,000	27,040,000
Circulation	6,298,000	6,312,000	6,312,000	7,578,000
Excess Lawful Reserve	20,772,000	14,900,000	12,822,000	33,520,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the
Time Deposits.

NEW YORK STATE BANKS & TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.).

	July 22, 1916.	July 15, 1916.	July 8, 1916.	July 24, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Loans	144,722,000	145,802,000	145,884,000	119,036,000
Specie	12,080,000	12,092,000	12,002,000	9,742,000
Deposits	151,466,000	153,360,000	153,364,000	122,898,000
Legal Tenders ..	1,830,000	1,916,000	1,876,000	1,870,000

FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	June 30, 1916.	June 23, 1916.	June 16, 1916.
	£	£	£
Gold coin and certificates ..	52,407,600	53,128,600	52,410,400
Gold Redemption Fund ..	357,870	378,800	366,600
Gold Settlement Fund ..	22,586,200	21,220,200	20,820,200
Legal tender notes, silver, &c.	5,489,600	2,805,200	2,724,400
Total reserves	80,841,200	77,532,800	76,321,600
5% redemption fund against F.R. bank notes	90,000	90,000	..
10-day bills and loans	2,290,200	2,890,200	2,410,000
30-day bills and loans	3,307,800	2,583,600	3,710,200
60-day bills and loans	5,698,400	6,336,000	5,745,400
90-day bills and loans	6,122,800	5,167,200	4,286,800
Maturities over 90 days ..	1,037,400	963,600	922,600
Total	18,456,600	17,940,600	17,075,000
Investments—			
U.S. Bonds	10,587,800	10,575,000	10,575,000
One year U.S. Treasury notes	838,000	838,000	838,000
Municipal Warrants	4,534,200	4,326,400	4,503,400
Federal Reserve notes—nett.	4,636,400	4,602,600	4,883,800
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—nett.	4,082,800	3,857,400	4,273,000
All other assets	924,400	877,400	1,107,600
Total assets	124,991,400	120,640,200	119,577,400
Paid-up capital	10,970,800	10,972,800	10,972,800
Government Deposits	20,230,400	14,899,800	11,156,200
Reserve deposits—nett. ..	91,300,600	94,522,600	95,456,600
Note circulation—nett. ..	1,888,000	1,845,600	1,600,600
Fed. Res. notes in circulation	344,200	344,600	345,200
All other liabilities	57,400	55,000	52,000
Total liabilities	124,991,400	120,640,200	119,577,400
Gold reserve against nett liabilities	68.8%	70.9%	70.8%
Cash reserve against nett liabilities	73.8%	73.6%	73.4%

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	July 27, 1916.	July 20, 1916.	July 13, 1916.	July 29, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold in hand	191,460,520	191,211,120	191,021,720	165,173,760
Silver in hand	13,581,800	13,663,720	13,664,520	14,720,760
Bills discounted	17,971,360	16,970,680	17,178,000	11,199,640
Advances	47,668,400	47,834,400	48,108,920	23,893,040
Note circulation	643,632,720	643,748,920	644,527,000	503,701,160
Public deposits	3,017,200	2,481,360	2,564,440	8,843,880
Private deposits	90,930,680	88,788,200	88,976,240	95,195,920
Foreign Bills	70,360	26,200	97,240	61,600

Proportion between bullion and circulation 31.86 per cent., against 31.82 per cent. last week. Advances to the State £332,000,000, unchanged. The adjoined payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium amounted to £26,307,160, decrease £126,280, and at the branches to £31,337,560, decrease £112,120.

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	July 22, 1916.	July 15, 1916.	July 7, 1916.	July 23, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Total Coin & Bullion ..	124,891,150	124,839,600	124,779,350	122,119,650
Treasury Notes	28,421,400	20,973,400	16,831,100	14,367,200
Bills discounted	304,582,000	320,836,250	316,339,600	227,580,050
Advances	613,600	647,750	611,650	685,000
Note circulation	342,014,650	346,981,650	354,430,400	265,739,100
Deposits	119,150,450	119,269,550	99,733,100	85,977,600

Clearing House returns during June, £257,755,660 against £276,664,805 in May.

NETHERLANDS BANK (12 Florins to the £).

	July 22, 1916.	July 15, 1916.	July 8, 1916.	July 24, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold and Silver	49,303,100	49,071,750	48,696,916	31,011,972
Bills and Advances	10,384,583	10,634,166	10,405,916	14,585,103
Note circulation	54,298,416	54,751,166	54,870,416	41,807,234
Deposits	8,626,166	8,121,333	7,404,416	3,901,340

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	July 15, 1916.	July 8, 1916.	July 1, 1916.	July 17, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	42,654,787	42,397,067	41,555,333	27,860,124
Silver	30,430,581	30,436,379	30,679,359	29,644,053
Foreign Bills	3,835,376	3,744,696	3,854,759	4,901,033
Discounts and Short Bills ..	23,630,659	23,950,209	23,603,950	27,074,248
Treasury Account, &c. ..	34,659,602	32,572,296	31,063,177	31,480,278
Notes in Circulation	88,657,131	88,320,345	86,742,675	79,846,354
Current Accounts, Deposits	31,915,696	31,409,972	30,587,534	27,171,436
Dividends, Interests, &c. ..	2,151,888	2,555,925	2,675,395	2,298,297
Government Securities ..	1,148,029	1,542,951	1,783,319	2,662,441

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	June 10, 1916.	May 31, 1916.	May 20, 1916.	June 10, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Total cash	45,231,720	45,573,920	45,669,520	55,228,600
Inland Bills	16,726,800	16,749,800	17,091,520	36,524,160
Foreign Bills	834,360	836,120	833,480	835,360
Advances	8,325,400	8,899,400	8,715,200	8,698,440
Government securities	8,334,360	8,345,520	7,410,480	8,305,360
Circulation	126,598,560	123,563,000	120,248,800	115,363,280
Deposits at notice	13,674,880	12,342,200	11,798,840	12,561,480
Current accounts	18,332,280	18,374,600	16,873,800	18,976,800

BANK OF SWEDEN.

	July 15, 1916.	July 8, 1916.	July 1, 1916.	July 17, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	9,221,000	9,227,000	9,229,000	6,298,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills	9,117,000	8,997,000	8,614,000	4,721,000
Swedish and Foreign Govt. Securities	3,455,000	3,438,000	4,334,000	2,695,000
Discounts and Loans ..	3,130,000	2,579,000	5,013,000	8,212,000
Notes in circulation	17,907,000	18,184,000	19,619,000	14,947,000
Deposits at notice	6,095,000	4,875,000	5,023,000	5,873,000

IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	July 14, 1916.	July 6, 1916.	June 29, 1916.	July 14, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Notes in reserve	9,160,000	9,191,000	8,900,000	8,943,500
Gold	154,320,000	154,100,000	154,030,000	157,886,100
Gold in reserve abroad ..	168,300,000	168,300,000	158,860,000	9,996,700
Treasury Bonds	382,370,000	373,400,000	379,520,000	—
Circulation note issue ..	662,830,000	653,300,000	644,310,000	384,500,000
Treasury deposits	20,650,000	27,580,000	20,020,000	22,633,500

SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	July 15, 1916.	July 7, 1916.	June 30, 1916.	July 15, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold and silver	13,306,268	12,479,236	12,449,184	11,868,628
Bills	6,940,956	7,595,212	7,054,348	5,666,560
Note circulation	16,515,284	16,934,624	17,326,204	16,105,600
Current and deposit accounts	6,051,740	5,715,184	5,005,140	3,847,568

BANK OF NORWAY.

	July 15, 1916.	July 7, 1916.	June 30, 1916.	July 15, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	6,579,000	6,614,000	6,650,000	3,598,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills	5,570,000	5,429,000	5,299,000	3,216,000
Gov't Securities	762,000	761,000	762,000	637,000
Discounts & Loans	5,518,000	5,028,000	5,519,000	4,348,000
Notes in Circulation	12,077,000	12,323,000	12,276,000	8,115,000
Deposits at notice	3,871,000	3,207,000	3,466,000	1,114,000

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.
Paris	chs.	28.13	28.13	Antwerp	short	—	—
Brussels	chs.	—	—	Italy	sight	30.57	30.85
Amsterdam	sight	11.50	11.51	Constantinople	3 mths	—	—
Berlin	chs.	—	—	Rio de Janeiro.	90 dys	124.7d.	124.7d.
Hamburg	chs.	—	—	Buenos Aires ..	90 dys	484.7d.	484.7d.
Vienna	sight	—	—	Calcutta	T.T.	1/4.33d.	1/4.33d.
Petrograd	3 mths	156.7	157	Bombay	T.T.	1/4.7d.	1/4.7d.
New York	cable	4.76 1/2	4.76 1/2	Hong Kong	T.T.	2/0.8d.	2/1.8d.
Lisbon	sight	34 1/2	35 1/2	Shanghai	T.T.	2/9.8d.	2/10d.
Madrid	sight	23.48 1/2	23.55	Singapore	T.T.	2/4.33d.	2/4.33d.
				Yokohama	4 mths	2/1.8d.	2/1.8d.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	July 25, 1916.	July 27, 1916.
		Buyers.	Sellers.
Amsterdam	Cable transfers	11.51	11.54
	Three months' bills	11.67	11.72
Paris	Cable transfers	28.11	28.15
	Three months' bills	28.50	28.55
Marseilles	Cable transfers	28.50	28.55
Switzerland	Cable transfers	25.15	25.25
	Three months' bills	25.55	25.65
Petrograd	Cable transfers	156 1/2	157 1/2
Genoa, &c.	Cable transfers	30.70	30.80
	Three months' bills	31.15	31.25
Spain	Cable transfers	23.45	23.55
	Three months' bills	48 1/2	49 1/2
Lisbon and Oporto ..	Cable transfers	34 1/2	35 1/2
	Three months' bills	nom.	nom.
Scandinavia	Cable transfers	16.50	16.65

* Nominal

TREASURY BILLS.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months	5 1/2	5 1/2
Six months	5 1/2	5 1/2
Nine months	6	6
Twelve months	6	6

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted	5 1/2	5 1/2
Three months	5 1/2	5 1/2
Four months	5 1/2	5 1/2
Six months	5 1/2	5 1/2
Three months fine inland bills	6 1/2	6 1/2
Four months	6 1/2	6 1/2
Six months	6 1/2	6 1/2

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	6	6
" " short loan rates ..	6 1/2	6 1/2
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	4	4
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	4 1/2	4 1/2
" 7 and 14 days' notice ..	4 1/2	4 1/2
Current rates for 7 day loans	5	5
" " for call loans	4 1/2—5	4 1/2—5

The Week's Stock Markets.

When people were told that the Stock Exchange had put up its contango rates in consequence of the advanced Bank rate, some may have wondered where contangoes came in nowadays. New business of a speculative kind cannot be done on the Stock Exchange, and there are consequently no contango rates existing on current transactions, but there was a considerable open account carried in the market when war broke out, and that is not yet wholly liquidated. It is upon these old speculations that the contango rates have been raised. Happily the amount of stock thus held must now be very small, and in no way a danger to credit, so that high contangoes need give no ground for anxiety.

At the same time, dearer money must tend to restrict business and to flatten prices. These consequences always flow from dear credit, no matter whether there is much speculation to be hurt by it or not; but investment business of the kind which is now transacted should not be much curtailed, and were the Government's borrowing policy to be clearly defined, it is probable that larger sums drawn from profits than are now offering would be finding their way into the market. We do not, however, look for any activity of a pronounced kind during the next five or six weeks, and the state of money in New York seems likely to be against a pronounced advance in prices at any point. There will be chases after individual securities like, say, Courtaulds' shares, which have naturally risen on the doubling of the dividend, and shipping shares will probably continue attractive because of the record profits for the past year they have dazzled us by; but nothing like real speculative activity can develop among these or at any point, at any rate so long as money continues dear, and money cannot become cheaper while New York is finding its credit resources insufficient for its necessities and sucking in gold from us.

There is nothing at all useful to say about Home Railway dividends, because since the war the railways have abstained from issuing accounts of any kind, so the firmness or weakness of Home Railway stocks cannot be caused by anything they say, and dividends alone will move the market very little. So far most of the announcements reveal a continuance of previous payments, and that is the best that can be expected in the circumstances. "Would you sell your Home Railway ordinary stocks now in view of the after-the-war confusion?" It depends; for the holding on there is the chance of nationalisation, for the selling the fear that the companies may be left to their own devices, with electrification facing them, an enormous mass of capital to carry, and a pinched and perhaps surly money market to appeal to. Each must judge for himself, and all have to consider where the capital released by sales can be re-invested.

As the result of the advance in the Bank rate the joint-stock banks have raised their charge for loans to the Stock Exchange by 1 per cent. to 6 per cent. per annum, and a similar advance has been made in the rates of interest on loans and in contango rates for the end of July account. That is to say, the ordinary loan rate in the Stock Exchange is now 7 per cent., while contangoes on the best stocks in the Official List are 7 per cent. and 8 per cent. where the borrowers did not put up a margin. On other stocks quoted in the Official List the charge will be 7½ and 8½ per cent. respectively, and on securities not quoted 8 and 9 per cent.

Markets showed a distinct rally in the early part of the week, business being stimulated to some extent by the war news, but during the last day or two money has exercised more influence, and there has been some inclination shown to offer gilt-edged securities. Consols, after touching 59½, relapsed to 59½, and the 4½ per cent. War Loan reacted from 96½ to 96, while the 3½ per cent. issue, which was dealt in at one time at 88½, closed unchanged on the week at 88. Local Loans recovered to 62½ and Irish Land to 56½, and there were also substantial improvements in London County Council 3 per cents. and Water Board "B" stock. Amongst Colonial Government securities the new Commonwealth loan rose ½ to par, but business, on the whole, has been very quiet in this section, and the majority of the few changes shown were adverse. In Foreign Government bonds the French War Loan was at one time down to 86½, but recovered and finished ½ up at 87½. Brazilian stocks were generally better on the improvement in the Rio exchange, and

several other South American descriptions were harder. A good deal of support was forthcoming for Japanese loans, and the 4 per cents., 1910, rose to 72½, while the 4 per cent., 1905, put on ½, and the 4½ per cents. and 5 per cents., 1907, were all ½ to 1 better. One or two Russian stocks were also higher, notably the 4 per cents., which touched 72.

In the Home Railway market the dividends declared during the week were up to expectations, and the general tone was, on

	Last Week	This Week		Last Week	This Week
Consols.....	59½	59½	N.S.W. 4½% 1922-7	96	95½
War Loan 3½%	88	88	" 5% 1921-3	99½	99½
India 3%	95½	96	New Zealand 4%	88½	88½
" 3½%	60	60½	Queensland 4%	86	85½
Australian 5½%, 1920-22 ..	70	70½	" 4½% new	96½	96½
Canada 4%, 1940-60	86½	86½	Union of S. Africa 4½% ..		
" 4½%, 1920-5	95½	95½	" 1920-5	94½	94½
N.S.W. 4%	86½	86½	Victoria 4½%, 1920-5	98	95½
" 4½% 5 yr. b	98	98	Westn. Aus. 4%	83	83½
Belgian 3%	62½	62½	French War Loan, 5% ..	87	87½
Brazil, 1913	66½	67½	Japan 4½% (1st)	94½	95
" New Funding	80½	81½	" (2nd)	92½	93
Chinese 1896	93½	93½	Russia 4%	71½	72
" 1913	76½	77½	" 4½%	80½	80½
Egypt Unified 4%	80	80	" 5%	90½	90½
Brighton defd.	65½	66	London and S.-W. dfd.	26½	26½
Caledonian defd.	104	10	" Do. new pf.	100	100
Chatham ord.	9½	9½	Metropolitan	26½	26½
Gt. Central pf.	16½	17½	" Do. 5% New pf.	91	91
" dfd.	8½	8½	Met. District	19½	19
Gt. Eastern	39½	39½	Midland dfd.	64	64½
Gt. Northern dfd.	40½	40½	Nth. British dfd.	17	17
Gt. Western	99½	100½	Nth.-Eastern	107½	107½
Lanes. and Yorks.	76	76	Nth.-Western	108	108½
			Sth.-Eastern dfd.	29½	29½
Canadian Pacific	189½	189½	Chesapeake	64½	63½
" Do. 6% Notes	108½	108½	Erie	37½	36½
E. Indian Guar. 4½% debts.	92½	92½	Milwaukee	101½	99½
Grand Trunk ord.	12	12	N. Y. Central	108½	108½
" Do. 3rd pf.	28	28	Southern	25	24½
" Do. 5½% 3-yr. Notes ..	100	100	Southern Pacific	102½	101½
" Do. 5½% 5-yr. "	98	98	Union Pacific	144½	142½
Atchison	110	107½	U. S. Steel	98½	90½
Baltimore	91½	90½			
Antofagasta dfd.	128	128	Cent. Argentine ord.	79½	79½
" Do. 6% Notes ..	100½	100½	" Do. 5% Notes ..	98	98
Brazil Common	78	78	" Do. 6% " ..	101½	101
B. A. & Pacific	47	47	Leopoldina	38½	39½
B. A. Gt. Southern	86½	86½	Mexican ord.	17½	17½
B. A. Western	87½	87½	San Paulo (Brazilian) ..	194½	194½
			United of Havana	84	84½
Bank of Australasia	119½	119½	London City & Midland ..	8½	8½
Barclay & Co. "A"	84	84	London County & West. ..	15½	15½
" Do. "B"	112	112	London Joint Stock	21½	21½
Capital & Counties	23½	23	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (£100 pf.)	28½	28½
Chartered of India	61	61½	" Do. (£12 pf) ..	31½	31½
Hongkong & Shanghai ..	80	79½	Parr's	30½	30½
Lloyds	25½	25½	Standard of S.A.	11	11
London & Provincial ..	174½	17	Union & Smiths	25½	25
London & S.W.	112½	112½			
Apollinaris ord.	12	12	Forestral Land	50/6	50/6
Armstrong, Whitworth ..	37/9	37/9	Furness, Withy	49/3	50/6
Associated Cement	3½	3½	Hudson's Bay	62	64½
Birmingham Small Arms	45/1	45/1	Imperial Tobacco pf.d. ord.	23/3	23/3
Borax dfd.	34/1	34/9	" Do. dfd. 'A' ..	35/6	36/6
Bovril	20/9	20/9	Kynochs	33/1	32/6
Brazil Traction	62/1	63/1	Lever Bros. "C" pf.	20/9	21/1
British Amer. Tobacco ..	89/1	86/1	Lyons, J.	4½	4½
Brown (John), & Co.	32/6	32/6	Marconi	320½	320
Brunner, Mond	4½	4½	Maypole Dairy dfd.	24/1	23/9
Cannell-Laird	6½	6½	Mond Nickel ord.	38½	38
Castner-Kellner	3½	3½	National Steam Car	19/6	21/6
Coats	68	68	Pears, A. & F.	1½	1½
Cunard	88/1	88/6	P. & O. dfd.	335½	336
Dennis Bros.	33/1	32/6	Royal Mail	126	129
Dorman, Long	32/6	34/1	South Durham Steel	31/6	31/6
Eastmans	7/9	7/9	Underground Inc. Bds.	88½	90½
English Sewing Cotton ..	46/9	46/9	Vickers	37/1	37/1
Fine Cotton Spinners ..	28/9	29/3			
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	7/3	7/3	Mexican Eagle pf.	1½	1½
Baku (ros.)	3/3	3/1½	North Caucasian	27/1	27/1
Burmah	4½	4½	Roumanian Cons.	14/6	14/6
Lobitos	35/9	35/6	Royal Dutch (100 gulden)	45½	45½
Maikop Combine (ros.) ..	2/6	2/6	Shell	5½	5½
Maikop Pipeline	4/1	4/1	Spies (10/-)	14/1½	14/1
Mexican Eagle	1½	1½	Ural Caspian	35/6	35/6
Anglo-Java Rub. (a/-) ..	5/10	5/9	Merlimau 2/-	51½	51½
Anglo-Malay 2/-	11/6	11/7½	Patallang 2/-	33/9	33/6
Ayer Kuning £1	33/6	33/6	Port Dickson 2/-	3/1	3/1
Bukit Mertajam 2/-	4/10½	4/10½	Rubber Trust £1	22/10½	22/10½
Bukit Sembawang 2/- ..	3/4½	3/6	Sapunkalkand £1	21/9	21/9
Carey United £1	35/1	35/1	Selangor United 2/-	2/10½	2/11
Grand Central £1	25/6	25/4½	Selangor £1	65/6	64/9
Gula Kalumpung £1	2/10	2/7/6	Singapore Para 2/-	3/10½	3/10½
Highlands £1	52/6½	53/1	Singapore United 2/- ..	3/1	2/10½
Java Para £1	31/1	32/9	Sungei Buaya £1	46/6	46/6
Johore Rubber Lands £1 ..	26/9	26/1	Taipang 2/-	3/2	3/2
Langen Java £1	44/9	45/1	Tanjong £1	76/6	75/6
Linggi 2/-	20/6	20/6	Tanjong Malim £1	25/1	25/1
London Asiatic 2/-	7/1	7/1½	United Serdang 2/-	12/1	12/1
Malacca £1	4½	87/6	United Temaling 2/- ..	3/1	3/1
Malayalam £1	29/6	29/3	Vallambrosa 2/-	17/3	17/3
Abbottiakoon (10/-)	7/3	7/1	De Beers dfd. (£2 ros.) ..	10½	11
Brakpan	4½	4½	East Rand	14/6	14/3
Broken Hill Prop. (8/-) ..	58/3	59/3	Gt. Boulder (2/-)	13/1	13/3
Cam & Motor	12/6	6½	Meyer & Charlton	6½	6½
Central Mining (£12)	6½	6½	Modder "B"	6½	6½
Chartered	12/10½	13/3	" Do. Deep	6½	6½
City Deep	3½	3½	New Modder (£4)	17½	17½
Cons. Gold Fields	1½	1½	Rand Mines (5/-)	3½	3½
Cons. Langlaagte	1½	1½	Rio Tinto (£5)	60½	60½
Crown Mines (10/-)	2½	2½	Van Ryn Deep	3½	3½

the whole, good until near the end, when prices suffered some set-back. Great Western advanced to 100½, North-Western to 108½, and Midland deferred to 64½. Brighton deferred touched 66½, but relapsed to 66, and South-Eastern deferred, after being up to 29½, closed only ½ better at 29½. A demand sprang up for Underground income bonds, which rose sharply to 90½. Canadian Pacific shares have shown wide fluctuations, and close with a loss of ½ on balance at 189½, after being down to 188 and up to 180½, while Grand Trunk stocks were quiet, with irregular changes. American Railroad shares have been influenced

entirely by Wall Street, and are mostly down on balance. United States Steel shares jumped to 92½ on the declaration of an extra dividend of 1 per cent., in addition to the usual quarterly dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, making the largest distribution in the company's history, but they weakened again to 90½ in sympathy with the rest of the list. Argentine Railway stocks have been quiet, and changes in price are small, and the same may be said of other Foreign Railways.

Business in Bank shares has settled down to very modest proportions, and in the majority of cases prices have been unaltered throughout the week. Parr's, however, improved ½ to 30½ xd., while London Provincial and National Provincial 10½ paid both dropped ½. Hongkong and Shanghai Bank shares were ½ lower and National of India and London and Brazilian lost ¼ each, but Chartered of India and Canadian of Commerce both put on the latter fraction. Amongst Shipping shares Prince Line came in for a good deal of attention, and have jumped to 5½ on rumours of the possibility of the fleet being sold. There has also been a good deal of activity in Union of New Zealand, which were offered and fell to 52s. 6d., but sufficient support was forthcoming to bring about a rally to 58s. P. and O. deferred improved to 338, and Royal Mail rose to 129. Marconi shares have fluctuated within narrow limits and closed dull. There was again a good inquiry for National Steam Car shares, which rose to 22s. 3d., but relapsed to 21s. 6d. on profit-taking. Brazilian Traction improved to 63 xd. on the exchange. Hudson's Bay shares were bought to a moderate extent on the report, but closed ¼ down at 6¼. and Forestal Land have given way slightly, while British North Borneo and Duff Development have been easier. The Borax Consolidated deferred after rising to 35s. 3d. fell back to 34s. 9d. Associated Cement and British Aluminium both hardened on a little support, Salt Union after dropping to 34s. 3d. recovered to 37s., and British Oil and Cake Mills improved to 30s. 9d. United Alkali were wanted on the declaration of an interim dividend of 1s. per share, or the same as paid for the whole of 1915. Armament shares have been quiet with an easier tendency in some cases, but Colliery shares met with a fair amount of support. In Catering things both Lyons and Aerated Bread were a fraction higher. Gordon Hotels fell on the report, but Liebig's advanced to 21. Courtalds gave way on realisations, but rallied sharply on the interim dividend, which is double that paid a year ago at the rate of 12½ per cent. In Textiles Coats were sold and declined to 68.

Apart from a good inquiry for "Shell" shares business in the Oil share market has been extremely quiet. "Shell" improved steadily to 5½, and Royal Dutch closed ½ up at 45½ after being as high as 46. Ural Caspian and North Caucasian remained steady at previous prices, but New Caucasian and New Schibafieff were a shade harder and Spies gave way slightly. On the whole, the Rubber share market has been inclined to be dull, but Anglo-Johore improved on the report and Rubber Estates of Johore rose to 43s. United Serdang, Vallambrosa, Golconda, Sialang, and Linggi amongst other favourites were offered. Java descriptions met with a fair amount of inquiry and Anglo-Dutch and Java Para improved, while Kawie Java were helped by the dividend. Trust companies' issues have moved within narrow limits, and generally close a shade lower on the week.

LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

SUGAR.—There is a good steady consumptive demand, and the comparatively small supplies coming to hand from time to time pass readily into consumption, while no alteration was made in official quotations. Stocks at the three chief ports of the U.K. amount to 49,500 tons, against 93,200 same time last year.

COFFEE.—General tone continues distinctly quiet, but with no pressure on the part of importers recent rates were realised for the small parcels disposed of. Good bold Vera Paz, sold, 83s. 6d.; Costa Rica, 75s. The terminal market disclosed a quiet, steady state of affairs. September, sold, 46s. 6d. to 46s. 7½d.; December, 48s. 3d., 48s. 1½d., and 48s. 6d.

COCOA.—A moderate business was effected during the week at easy rates, but particulars were mostly withheld, and no auctions took place.

TEA.—9,000 packages Indian were submitted, and sold steadily at recent prices, but 38,000 packages Ceylon proceeded quietly, common and thin liquoring descriptions being slightly weaker, with better kinds steady. 4,000 packages Java fetched fairly steady values.

SPICE.—Supplies at auction were mostly withdrawn, while by private treaty a quiet, steady tone ensued. Singapore black pepper, September-November, steamer, sold, 7½d.; white ditto, 9d. Cloves dull, and Zanzibar, August-October delivery, sold, 6½d. Tapioca unaltered as a rule, but quiet.

RICE.—Only retail transactions occurred this week, but at full values. Bran steady. Rangoon beans dearer, with business in aboat parcels at £17 to £17 5s.

FIBRES.—Jute fully steady on reserved offers and firm advices from Calcutta, where local mills are operating freely. Native first marks, August, sold, £29 10s., and single mark ditto to Dundee at £29 15s. Hemp quiet and without new feature. Coarse, August-October, sold, £46 15s.

SHELLAC.—Stronger though slightly unsettled. T.N., fair on spot, sold, 106s. to 108s.; with fine marks of orange up to 126s. 6d. Futures: August, sold, 107s., 106s., and 108s.; October, 109s., 108s., and 110s.; December, 111s. 6d., 110s., and 112s. 6d.

RUBBER opened quietly, but improved later and a fair business was transacted. Crepe, spot, sold, 2s. 1½d. to 2s. 3½d.; October-December, 2s. 3½d. to 2s. 4½d. Ribbed smoked sheet, spot, sold, 2s. 1½d. to 2s. 3d. Fine hard Para on spot, sold, 2s. 10½d.; and

August-September, 2s. 9d. Ball, August-September, 1s. 10d. value.

COPRA.—Very quiet, but sellers equally reserved and prices manifested but little alteration. Ceylon, August-September, Mar-seilles, sold, £35 15s.

METALS.—Copper: The standard market manifested an upward tendency until the middle of the week, on better inquiries and reserved sellers, cash delivery reaching £100, and three months £98. At Thursday's session a further advance was established, while values of these dates closed at £105 and £103 respectively. Tin irregular. An easier tone prevailed last Monday, realisations

CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING JULY 28, 1916.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
Sugar —per cwt.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Wool —per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
duty 14½, 98% polarisation			Australian		
Tate's Cuba No. 1	2 7 1½	2 7 1½	Scoured Merino	2 3 2½	1 3 3 10½
Ditto, H.T.S.	2 6 7½	2 6 7½	Scoured Cr'sabr'd	2 3 2½	1 9 1 3 2
Fine granulated	nom.	nom.	Greasy Merino	1 1½ 2 7	1 0½ 2 3
Lyle's granulated	41 7½ 42 1½	41 7½ 42 1½	Greasy Crossbred	1 3½ 1 10 1 4	1 1 1 1 1
Foreign granulated, first marks f.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	New Zealand (scoured) Merino	3 3 3 10 3 2	3 10 3 10
German Cubef.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	1 3½ 1 9 1 2	1 10 1 10
French Cube	nom.	nom.	Cape snow white	2 9 3 1 2	10 3 2
Crystallised, West India	nom.	nom.	Indiarubber p.l.b.		
Beet, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Plantation, Spot		
Tea —per lb., duty s. d. s. d. s. d. s. d.			Crepe	0 2 2½	0 2 3½
Indian Pekoe	0 10 1 0 10 1 1½	0 10 1 0 10 1 1½	Coal —per ton		
Broken	0 10 1 0 10 1 0½	0 10 1 0 10 1 0½	Durham, best	nom.	nom.
Orange	0 10 1 0 10 1 0½	0 10 1 0 10 1 0½	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 11½ 1 0 10 1 2	0 11½ 1 0 10 1 2	East Hartlepool	nom.	nom.
Pekoe Souchong	0 9½ 1 1½ 0 9½ 1 1½	0 9½ 1 1½ 0 9½ 1 1½	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Ceylon Pekoe	0 9½ 1 1½ 0 9½ 1 1½	0 9½ 1 1½ 0 9½ 1 1½	Stearns, best	48/ 50/	40/ 45/
Broken	0 9½ 1 1½ 0 9½ 1 1½	0 9½ 1 1½ 0 9½ 1 1½	Seconds	40/ 45/	37/6 40/
Orange	0 9½ 1 1½ 0 9½ 1 1½	0 9½ 1 1½ 0 9½ 1 1½	Lead —per ton.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Broken	0 10 1 0 10 1 1	0 10 1 0 10 1 1	English Pig	29 5 0	29 0 0
Pekoe Souchong	0 9 10 0 9 10	0 9 10 0 9 10	Foreign soft	25 15 0	28 0 0
Cocoa —per cwt.	s. s. s. s.	s. s. s. s.	Quicksilver —per bottle firsthand	£178-£173	£178-£173
duty 6d. per lb.			Tin —per ton		
Trinidad—per cwt.	80 0 85 0 78 0 83 0	80 0 85 0 78 0 83 0	English Ingots	£172-£173	£172-£173
Grenada	74 0 80 0 71 0 78 0	74 0 80 0 71 0 78 0	Do. bars	£173-£174	£173-£174
West Africa	nom.	nom.	Standard cash	£168 7 0	£165 5 0
Ceylon Plantation	76 0 90 0 76 0 90 0	76 0 90 0 76 0 90 0	Tin Plates, per box	29/6-30/0	28/6-29/0
Guayaquil Ariba	95 0 102 0 95 0 103 0	95 0 102 0 95 0 103 0	Copper —per ton.		
Coffee —per cwt.			English, Tough	nom.	nom.
duty 42/- per cwt.			per ton		
East India	67 0 95 0 67 0 95 0	67 0 95 0 67 0 95 0	Best Selected	£122-£120	£123-£120
Jamaica	62 0 120 0 62 0 120 0	62 0 120 0 62 0 120 0	Sheets	£146	£146
Costa Rica	62 0 85 0 62 0 85 0	62 0 85 0 62 0 85 0	Standard	£90 0 0	£111 0 0
Provisions —			Jute —per ton.		
Butter, per cwt.			Native firsts for sb'pmt. August	£29 10 0	£30 10 0
Australian finest	158/-160/-	nom.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Irish Creameries	156/-162/-	160/-164/-	Oils —		
Dutch ditto	nom.	nom.	Linseed, per ton	£348-£358	£358-£364
Russian finest	nom.	nom.	Rape, ref. English, barrels	£48-£50	£48-£50
Normandy baskets	nom.	nom.	Brown English, naked	nom.	nom.
Danish finest	172/-174/-	174/-178/-	Cott'n Seed, crude	£40 0 0	£39 10 0
Brittany rolls	14/6-17/6	14/6-17/6	Ditto, refined	£448-£454	£448-£454
doz. lb.			Petroleum Oil, per 8 lbs.	1/1	1/1
Bacon —per cwt.			Water White	1/1	1/1
Irish	109 0 115 0	109 0 117 0	Oil Seeds, Linseed		
Continental	94 0 114 0	90 0 116 0	Calcutta—per 40 lbs.	3 12 0	3 13 6
Canadian	96 0 104 0	98 0 106 0	lbs., July-Aug.	60/6	61/1
American	81 0 88 0	86 0 90 0	Rape, Toria	nom.	nom.
Hams —per cwt.			Iron —per ton		
Irish	134/-150/-	136/-150/-	Cleveland Cash	nom.	nom.
Canadian	98 0 100 0	100/-102/-	Tobacco — duty, unmanufactured		
American	67 0 99 0	67 0 104 0	5/6 to 6/24 per lb.		
Cheese —per cwt.			Maryland & Ohio		
Edam	nom.	nom.	per lb. bond	0 6 0 10	0 6 0 10
Canadian	88 0 90 0	88 0 92 0	Virginian leaf	0 5½ 1 6	0 5½ 1 6
Gouda	nom.	nom.	Kentucky leaf	0 6 0 10	0 6 0 10
English Cheddar	94 0 106 0	94 0 106 0	Latakia	0 4½ 1 0	0 4½ 1 0
Wilts leaf	nom.	nom.	Havana	1 0 6 0	1 0 6 0
New Zealand	88 0 92 0	88 0 92 0	Manilla	0 6 2 0	0 6 2 0
Rice —per cwt.	s. d. s. d. s. d. s. d.		Cigars, duty 10/6 per lb.	2 0	2 0
Garden Siam			Timber —Wood.		
spot	17 3 17 6	17 3 17 6	Dantsig and Memel Fir, per load	130/-150/-	130/-150/-
Rangoon 2 stars	15 9	15 10 3	Indian Teak	250/-600/-	250/-600/-
Eggs —per 120.			Flour —per sack.		
English	18 0 19 0	17 6 18 6	Town households, official	45/	48/
Irish	16 6 17 0	16 0 16 6	American, 1st patents	43/6 upds	45/ upds.
Danish	18 0 20 0	17 6 19 0	Copra —		
Malabar —London			Aug.-Sept.	33 5 0	33 0 0
Ceylon	32 0 0	32 0 0	South Sea	31 0 0	30 10 0
F.M.S.	31 5 0	31 5 0			

being frequent and buyers scarce. The downward movement was prolonged until the middle of the week, standard cash receding to £165 15s., and three months to £166 10s. At Thursday's session a quiet but steady tone existed, final figures of these dates being £166 and £166 15s. Lead steadier. English, £29; soft foreign, July, £28; October, £26 10s. Spelter dearer. G.O.B., July, £59, and October, £53. Quicksilver, unaltered.

CORN (Mark Lane).—A good tone asserted itself this week, and business progressed quietly, while wheat and flour displayed the main share of stability among principal staples. Wheat: English whites, delivered up, range to 59s. 6d., and reds, to 59s. per qr., 504 lbs. Of imported grades, No. 1 Northern Manitoba, 58s. 9d. ex ship, and 59s. 9d. landed. Flour, American first spring patents,

43s. 6d. upwards, landed. Grinding Barley: American, ex ship, due, 43s. 3d.; La Plata, landed, 43s. to 45s., as to quality. Oats: La Plata, landed, 30s. 6d. upwards, and American white clipped, No. 2, 31s. 6d. ex quay. Maize, La Plata (sound), new, 51s., ex quay.

COTTON (from our Manchester Correspondent).—Operations in the market during the past week have not been on a very extensive scale, but the turnover in both yarn and cloth shows an improvement on recent previous weeks. The tone has been firm, the tendency, if anything, being towards hardening rates. Some sections have not participated in the larger trade, but it is believed in many quarters that we are at the beginning of a freer movement in the way of fresh orders being placed with producers. Varied advices are being received relating to the outlook for the new American cotton crop, and prices in the raw material have been well maintained. Many of our best customers are afraid to place contracts for distant delivery at a time when the future course of prices is so uncertain, but in some directions further delay in purchasing is not thought advisable, and necessary supplies to cover the near future are being obtained. In cloth for India a considerable inquiry has been dealt with, and although most of the buying in grey shirtings has been in the lower qualities, the bids in the medium and better makes are gradually being raised. In bleaching, printing, and finishing cloths a steady trade has been done from day to day for the several outlets of our Dependency, and some producers have extended their engagements. For China there has been rather more testing of prices with isolated sales, but it is quite evident buyers are nervous as to committing themselves very far ahead at current rates. A little more activity has been reported for Java. Better remittances are said to be coming in from Egypt than for a long time back, and dealers on the other side are evidently experiencing a healthy demand. Some Burnley manufacturers continue rather busier. The depression in Blackburn and district is not quite so acute as a month ago. In home trade circles increased activity has shown itself in light fancy materials, there being pressure for delivery in certain printed descriptions. American yarns for home consumption have been firmer in quotation, and certain spinners have sold more freely than for some time back, the bulk of the demand being in the medium and finer counts. In the export section some special lines have been put through for Russia in coarse numbers, and some of the offers in both single and twofold descriptions for India are gradually improving. Bolton spinnings have been well held, with a steady demand, chiefly in the finer counts.

Insurance News.

The valuation return of the Clergy Mutual Assurance Society as at May 31 is now available. The war has affected the society in various ways; the accession of new members has naturally been affected, and the aggregate depreciation in Stock Exchange securities which has to be written off is heavy. Expenses of management, however, during the past five years have been only £7 1s. 9d. per cent. on the total premium income, as against £7 4s. 2d. per cent. in the previous five years, this rate of expenditure being little more than one-half of the general average rate of ordinary British life offices. Although the war has disturbed the mortality experience of the society by the direct loss of members killed, yet the general experience was very favourable, the actual claims in the five years being less than the amount expected to the extent of £409,056, or about 23.8 per cent. An exhaustive examination has been made into the nature and value of all the securities held, and the depreciation in Stock Exchange securities amounting to £461,478 is written off, while certain securities were sold at a loss of £18,130. In view of the prevailing financial conditions it was not considered reasonable on this occasion to assume the low rate of interest of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum, which has been assumed since 1891 in the valuation of the liabilities. In other respects the basis of valuation is the same as that employed in 1911. The rate of interest assumed throughout has been 3 per cent., and the effect of the alteration is to release from the reserve hitherto held against liabilities an amount of about £165,000, which has been used towards meeting the depreciation in the value of securities. The surplus finally disclosed is £90,502, which contrasts with a surplus of £517,935 at the previous valuation. It is obvious that, had it not been for the depreciation in securities and other causes attributable to the war, the directors would have been able to allot bonuses at the exceptionally high rates declared in 1911, after a valuation of the liabilities on the basis then adopted. But the directors consider the general interests of the members will be best conserved by the amount of the surplus being carried forward, instead of distributing

at the present time any part of it by way of bonus. It has, however, been resolved, on the recommendation of the actuary, that on all participating policies which may become claims before June 1, 1921, there shall be paid an interim bonus at the rate of £1 per cent. on the sum assured in respect of each year's premium due and paid since May 31, 1911, the rate of allotment for completed ages over 65, at the date of death or survivorship, to be higher by one-twentieth for each year of age over 65. Thus, at age 70, at the date of death or survivorship, the rate of interim bonus would be £1 5s. per cent.; at age 75, £1 10s. per cent.; at age 80, £1 15s. per cent.; and so on.

A highly satisfactory valuation period has just been brought to completion by the Clerical, Medical, and General Life Assurance Society, the surplus disclosed being £40,000 more than that of the previous valuation period, in spite of the fact that £390,000 has been written off the securities during the five years ended June 30, 1916. Stock Exchange securities have been taken at the prices current on that date, an adequate deduction being made in the few cases where minimum prices were still existing at that date. The valuation has been made at the same rate of interest— $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. throughout—as adopted on the last five occasions, and by the same mortality tables as were used in 1911, further sums exceeding £197,000 being added to the reserves so brought out. The result of the valuation was to disclose a surplus of £796,219 (the divisible surplus on June 30, 1911, was £756,070), and the directors propose at the meeting to be held on November 3 next to declare the sum of £795,924 as the divisible surplus of the quinquennium. The rate of bonus to be then declared to the policyholders will exactly reproduce the scale allotted in 1911, a result upon which the directors and managers of this fine old office are to be warmly congratulated.

American Business Notes.

Quite overpowering was the prosperity of the Federal revenue in the fiscal year ended June 30. Only preliminary figures are as yet available, but they will probably remain almost unaltered when the ultimate results are tabulated. As they stand, an income of £168,000,000 is shown, and an expenditure of nearly £152,000,000. Consequently, the year ended with a surplus of about £16,000,000, which compares with a deficit of about £12,000,000 shown for the previous year. All branches of revenue seem to have flourished, and not least the long-resisted income-tax, which yielded in round figures £25,000,000 last year, as against about £16,000,000 in the previous year. Of the total about £11,400,000 came from corporations taxed and £13,500,000 from individuals. The internal revenue yielded £102,550,000, and even the Customs revenue, in spite of the lowered tariff of the Democrats, gave £42,373,000, or £3,200,000 more than the estimate, and nearly £600,000 more than in the previous year. Altogether, the Treasury record for 1915-16 is one of exhilarating prosperity.

And one may say that prosperity of this solid kind has contributed powerfully to enable the iron and steel

AUSTRALIAN MUTUAL PROVIDENT

Estd. SOCIETY. 1849.

The Largest Mutual Life Office in the Empire.

Funds, £34,000,000.

Annual Income £4,000,000.

MODERATE PREMIUMS.

LIBERAL CONDITIONS.

WORLD-WIDE POLICIES.

Every Year a Bonus Year. Whole-life Policies, 20 years in force, show average increase of the sum assured by Bonus exceeding 50 per cent.

ENDOWMENT ASSURANCE RESULTS ALSO UNSURPASSED.

37, Threadneedle Street, London, E.C.

interests to triumph over the "pacifists" in the Budget assignment for the current year. What the United States wants a huge army on the German model for, or a fighting navy to rank alongside our own and take the place of the German one, sensible people cannot imagine. After the war all military expenditure everywhere will have to be reduced. But the passing flush of money tempts to extravagance, and, given the fine prosperity shown by the revenue of the past year, what is there to hinder the Government of Washington from rushing into an imitative career in extravagance that can have but one end and when the need for spending wastefully is about over. Against whom is this army and this navy to be launched? Is there any intention of fighting the United Kingdom for supremacy in the world's trade, for dominance in China, for any other malignant object? Or is it merely that Japan is to be coerced and wiped out as a Power? Or will the desire to dominate all the American continents, north and south, with their island dependencies, develop into an active war propaganda against the world when once the weapons of offence are ready? You may ask any question you like on this point, questions beyond belief in their insanity, questions plausible as a Kaiser's "whopper," and be sure that no intelligible answer can be supplied to any one of them. That does not matter in the least. The money is supposed to be there, "so let us spend it." Accordingly the Army Appropriation Bill for the current year puts the expenditure on the land forces and their murder machinery at £66,120,000, which is £29,600,000 more than the figure suggested to Congress. That provided for an outlay of only £36,400,000. The increase has been worked up, it would seem, in the Senate exclusively, and is the greatest triumph the steel trusts and manufacturers of warlike furniture have been able to secure for many a day.

But what has been done as regards the army is, one may say, a trifle compared with the naval programme. It has apparently been settled that during the next three years £118,000,000 extra shall be spent in building up the navy, and of that amount £63,200,000 is to be laid out in the current fiscal years for "maintenance, upkeep, and increase" of the said navy. Consequently, there need be no fear now that when the Allies in Europe, fighting to destroy Prussian militarism, no longer require to give orders to the United States Steel Trust, the Bethlehem Company, or other manufacturers of artillery and munitions, they will forthwith have to discharge most of their hands and blow out many of their furnaces. Domestic outlay is going to take the place of European demands, and holders of shares in the armour-plate, gun and munition companies may henceforth sleep without anxiety. Their market will not go to pieces because our war stops. More than half the three years' extra spending is to fall in the first year. What more is needed to barricade prices against a slump?

Never before in its history has the United States Steel Trust been able to give its ordinary shareholders more than 5½ per cent., but so abounding is its wealth, thanks to Europe's war necessities, that for the June quarter it has raised the dividend to 6 per cent. That is to say, the usual quarterly distribution at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum was declared and an extra 1 per cent. per annum added. Even then the surplus left will amount to \$47,964,000, and no wonder. The earnings of the trust for the quarter came to \$81,126,000, which was just \$53,176,000, or £10,640,000 more than the earnings of the corresponding quarter two years ago and upwards of \$20,000,000 above those of the 1915 June quarter. All this excess may be regarded as extra profit for the nett revenue of \$71,380,000 was upwards of \$51,000,000 higher, and the balance available for dividends \$51,133,000 higher than two years ago. Is this prosperity likely to continue? The New York market seems to be a little in doubt, but it none the less put up the price of Steel Common.

Dealing with the last three calendar years some figures have been published by the Office of Foreign

and Domestic Commerce in Washington illustrative of the trade done by the United States with other parts of the world. British Dominions are far ahead, both as purchasers from and vendors of commodities to the Republic. The United Kingdom and her colonies sold to the United States about £115,000,000 worth of goods in 1913 and £125,000,000 in 1915. That was a notable jump, taking account of the way trade has been hampered by the war, but nothing compared to the expansion of United States exports to Britain and British Dominions. These were valued at £224,000,000 in 1913 and at nearly £338,000,000 in 1915. Compared with this enormous trade, American exports to French territories also rose notably, but the totals were small that is to say £32,000,000 in 1913 and £101,400,000 in 1915, or 14 per cent. of the total in 1915, as compared with only 6½ per cent. in 1913. Other European countries also took more, always excepting Germany, Belgium, and Austria. Exports to Germany fell from £70,400,000 in 1913 to £2,400,000 last year, and those of Belgium from nearly £13,000,000 to £4,600,000. Even the latest of these figures seem rather surprising, but when we take into account the extent to which contraband trade has been carried on and blockade-running practised, with the help of the Danish and Swedish, as also of many Dutch traders, these figures cannot be accepted as any real indication of what has gone on. Happily for the coming of peace, we are more and more depriving the insane Teutons of the means of existence.

An inquiry has been made into the number of deposit accounts in the National Banks of the United States. The previous return of this kind was made in 1910, since which time the number of depositors has increased by 86 per cent., or from 7,690,468 to 14,288,059. The largest increase has taken place in the Middle West States, where development has been most conspicuous, and where the largest increases of population have taken place. In these Middle Western States, for instance, the number of depositors increased by 1,773,370. In the Southern States, however, the number of depositors was 1,272,746 on June 30, 1910, whereas on May 1 of this year, the date of the latest returns, the number had increased to 2,814,508. This was an increase of 121 per cent., or 1,541,762, so that relatively the expansion is greatest in these Southern States, although the actual figures are smaller, and we welcome this proof of their increasing prosperity. The Pacific States also increased the number of their depositors in National Banks by 117 per cent., or 592,689, and the New England States by 84 per cent., or 388,923. Many other particulars are given in the return, but they have very little meaning for British readers.

President Wilson is decidedly averse to entering upon the conquest of Mexico, and we thoroughly sympathise with him. He asked, in his recent speech delivered at the annual dinner of the New York Press Club, whether his hearers thought that "the glory of America would be enhanced by a war conquest of Mexico?" and went on to say that "the ideals of America are written plain upon every page of American history," which is poetical but not illuminative. Has not the United States of North America on more than one occasion torn away a portion of Mexican territory from its inhabitants? Has it not annexed Cuba and the Philippine Islands? But as sentiment this saying is quite nice, and we hope the idea of benevolent humanitarianism it no doubt embodied in President Wilson's mind will be illustrated by the policy followed towards Mexico. "I got off a train yesterday," said the President, "and as I was bidding good-bye to the engineer he said, in an undertone, 'Mr. President, keep us out of Mexico,' and if one man has said that to me, a thousand have said it to me as I have moved about the country." If that is the true sentiment of the American people—and apart from the financiers interested it probably is—then the Mexican difficulty should gradually clear itself away. Indeed, there is a distinct change for the better in the

attitude of the Carranza Government to that of Washington, and with the withdrawal of the United States troops to the frontier the way should again be open for friendly intercourse and perhaps for what is known as "peaceful penetration" of a healthier sort than the Prussian by and by.

Tea, Oil and Rubber.

During its year ended March 31 the Anglo-Johore Rubber Estates carried through a scheme for the reduction of its capital, with the result that the balance-sheet shows a paid-up capital of £53,242, or £69,743 less. On the other hand, property account has been reduced by £19,186 to £58,628, some 6,000 acres having been surrendered, while £36,670 for expenditure on development has disappeared, together with preliminary and debenture issue expenses of £13,692 and the small debit of £335 standing to profit and loss account. Along with this drastic reorganisation, the actual results for the twelve months were very much better, although the crop of 238,105 lbs., while 77,761 lbs. above that of the previous year, was not quite up to the estimate owing to an unusual drought in the first two and a half months. The "all-in" cost includes .18d. for manager's commission for the first time, and the whole of the depreciation, but nevertheless shows a reduction of 3.52d. at rs. 4.20d., while the gross price realised was 7.47d. better at 2s. 7.57d. Nett profits were £12,341 up at £14,232, and thanks to the disappearance of the dead assets, the company is able to enter the dividend-paying list with a distribution of 7½ per cent., less tax. Out of the balance £7,668 is put to debenture redemption reserve, bringing it up to the actual amount redeemed, and £330 is written off for costs of reduction of capital, leaving £2,241 to be carried forward. For the current year the crop is estimated at 270,000 lbs. at an f.o.b. cost of 11½d., and forward contracts have been made for the sale of 22 tons of smoked sheet at a gross average of 2s. 7d. per lb.

The Eastern International Rubber and Produce Trust has suffered many vicissitudes since its birth in "boom" times, but conditions in the year ended June 30 were more in its favour, and some little progress was made. The improved condition of the market in the securities of plantation companies gave the directors opportunities to realise some of the holdings "at a satisfactory profit," of which £2,018 was added to the reserve for depreciation and £4,605 went to swell the profit and loss account. Including this, the income for the twelve months was £8,823 up at £30,470, and

after providing for general expenses and setting aside £5,000 to establish a general reserve, compared with £10,000 transferred to the investment depreciation fund a year ago, the available surplus, with £12,435 brought in, was £11,654 larger at £34,089, and a dividend of 5 per cent., tax free, is paid, the first since 1912-13, leaving £9,890, or £2,545 less, to be carried forward. Investments, which show a reduction of £25,008 at £390,329, consist chiefly of shares in companies cultivating rubber and other products, and of these 72 per cent., or 9 per cent. more than a year ago, are now yielding revenue. The valuation of the securities at the close of the year showed an appreciation of £106,866, as compared with a depreciation of £63,570 in June, 1914, no valuation having been made a year ago on account of the conditions which then prevailed. Outstanding loans have been reduced by £19,908 to £8,442 but cash has risen by £36,840 to £47,351, and in addition the company has £38,481 in Treasury bills.

MANCHESTER NORTH BORNEO RUBBER.—With an increase of 58 acres to 550 acres in the area tapped on the Melalap Estate the output for the year ended March 31 rose by 59,898 lbs. to 229,236 lbs., and the price was 3.35d. better at 2s. 6.89d., while the cost was reduced by 2.55d. to rs. 0.48d. On the Kinarut Estate tapping only commenced in July, and the crop amounted to 15,377 lbs., but in view of the estate having been newly opened no figures are given as to either cost or selling price. Profits, including £9,576, or £1,572 more, brought forward, were £10,055 up at £26,863. Out of this a dividend of 6 per cent. is paid, as against 4½ per cent. in the previous year, and £924 is written off preliminary expenses, leaving £16,040, or £6,465 more, to be carried forward. An interim dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. is also declared for the three months ended June 30. The directors state that an arrangement has been come to with the British North Borneo Co. to liquidate the debt for guaranteed dividends account by repayments in yearly sums extending to 1918-19, so that the company is released from the restriction on the distribution of dividends in excess of 6 per cent., and this liability will disappear in future accounts. Property account has been increased by £10,580 to £166,958, which is rather more than the paid-up capital, and the directors have obtained the necessary authority from the shareholders to issue a further £20,000 in the form of 7 per cent. cumulative preference shares when the present Treasury restrictions are removed. Crops for the current year are estimated at 260,000 lbs. from Melalap and 70,000 lbs. from Kinarut, and 73,695 and 10,470 lbs. respectively were obtained in the first six months, while forward sales of 38 tons have been made at an average equivalent to about 2s. 8½d. landed terms.

KALIDJEROEK RUBBER.—Owing to the drought in the previous year the coffee crop for the 12 months ended March 31 showed a decrease of 1,375 piculs at 2,417 piculs. The rubber crop, however, was 36,889 lbs. larger at 80,912 lbs., and the f.o.b. cost was reduced by 1½d. to 10½d., while the price was 5½d. better at 2s. 4d., with the result that after again writing off £500 for depreciation the nett profits were £2,822 up at £7,578. Adding £1,528 brought forward the divisible total was £9,106.

PARR'S BANK LIMITED.



CAPITAL.

Authorised	-	-	-	-	£15,000,000
Issued	-	-	-	-	£12,117,650
Paid up	-	-	-	-	£2,423,530
Reserve Fund	-	-	-	-	£2,100,000

CECIL F. PARR, Chairman.

R. W. WHALLEY, Deputy Chairman.

JOHN STEWART, } Joint General Managers.
JOHN RAE, }
F. W. INGALL, Assistant General Manager.

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or £3,278 more, and the dividend is raised from 8 per cent. to 15, but instead of repeating the appropriation of £1,500 to reserve, £3,856, or £2,328 more, is carried forward. Estimates for the current year are 100,000 lbs. rubber and 4,000 piculs coffee.

The Week in Mines.

Although there was no evidence during the week of the rise in contingencies on pre-war carry-over positions leading to much realising, yet it was not a favourable factor, but the chief reason for the dulness of Mining markets throughout the greater part of the week was "official" sales on behalf of alien enemy holders for the benefit of British creditors through banks controlled by the Board of Trade. Naturally, while this was in progress the trend of prices was in the downward direction. The quotation for standard copper once more passed the £100 mark, but the market in the shares of the leading copper-producing companies was dull and uninteresting.

SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

At the outset of the week the South African market brightened up a little owing to the receipt of buying orders for some of the Cape favourites. The buying soon ceased, and when, as already stated, some authorised realisation of alien holdings was reported, prices were unable to hold up. The better class of shares which came to market were, however, readily absorbed at only modest reductions. Thus Meyer and Charlton fell a mere $\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 $\frac{1}{2}$. Rand Mines, after being a shade higher, finally closed unchanged on balance at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$. Spring Mines rose $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 $\frac{1}{4}$, the recent favourable development rumours and the expectation of crushing being started very shortly bringing in a few buyers. Welgedacht fell 3-32 to 1, Transvaal Consolidated Land rs. 6d. to 15s. 6d., and General Mining 9d. to 6s. 3d., while, on the other hand, Bantjes rose rs. to 14s., and Gold Fields $\frac{1}{2}$ to 17-32. Knight Central, after rising to 14s., closed unaltered at 13s. 3d. In the Rhodesian section Cam and Motor dropped from 12s. to 10s., the decline being accompanied by rumours of capital reorganisation. This story met with a flat official denial, but the shares only recovered 6d. from the lowest point. Chartered, after changing hands freely in small lots up to 13s. 6d., left off 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. higher on balance at 13s. 3d. Eldorado lost rs. at 10s. 6d., and Giant reacted from 7s. 9d. to 6s. 3d. Tanganyika met with a little support, the price hardening from 238 to 240; the final price was 240. Zambesia rose rs. to 17s., and closed at 16s. 6d. De Beers deferred put on $\frac{1}{2}$ at 11. Small declines occurred in a few of the West African group.

COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Copper shares failed to benefit from a further advance in the price of the metal; in fact, Rio Tinto closed $\frac{1}{2}$ lower on the week at 60 $\frac{1}{2}$, having been 60 $\frac{1}{2}$. Utah rose $\frac{1}{2}$ to 16, and Anaconda $\frac{1}{2}$ to 16 $\frac{1}{2}$. Mount Lyell at 26s. and Hampden at 36s. were unchanged. Tin shares had an easier appearance, Dolcoath and Pahang both falling to 11s., Siamese to 25s., and South Crofty to 15s. 9d. Tronoh at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ was unaffected by the interim dividend. Barrier shares maintained their prices, and Broken Hill Proprietary closed 9d. higher at 59s. Indian descriptions were easier, Nundydroog closing at 27s., and Champion Reef at 6s. 3d. Burma Corporation slipped back to 3 $\frac{1}{2}$, in spite of the receipt of a cable reporting good developments. A demand for some of the Russian ventures found the market but poorly supplied with shares. Sissert rose to 23s., Russo-Asiatic touched 6 $\frac{1}{2}$, and Russian Mining went from 19s. 9d. to 23s., buyers. In other directions, Camp Bird fell rs. to 8s. 6d., El Oro 6d. to 6s., Esperanza rs. to 11s. 6d., Oroville 9d. to 17s. 3d., and Waihi 3d. to 37s. 9d.

MINING NEWS.

ABBONTIAKON.—Profits continue to dwindle, and for the year ended December 31 amounted to £60,865, as against £67,399 for the previous year and £70,908 for 1913. Adding £46,764 brought forward, there was a total of £107,629, or £33,140 less, to be dealt with, of which the final dividend of 5 per cent. for 1914, and the interim dividend for 1915 at the same rate, took £63,200, and £9,375 was paid on surrender of options on shares, leaving £35,054. Owing to the increasing difficulties of obtaining delivery of materials in this country, it has been considered desirable to make heavy purchases of mining stores, explosives, and fuel in order to avoid any shortage and consequent curtailment or stoppage of operations at the mine. In view of this the profits are not at present available in cash for payment of a further dividend, but the directors promise to make a distribution as soon as they are in a position to do so. During the year 133,103 tons of ore were milled, or an increase of 1,341 tons, and the value of the gold recovered rose from 38s. 6d. to 39s. 3d., but working expenses were heavier at 20s. 6d. against 28s. 11d. In the first six months of the current year 59,928 tons were milled for a yield of 38s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., but the costs rose to 21s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Ore reserves at December 31 showed a further reduction of 99,410 tons at 522,641 tons.

VRVFIELD (NATAL) RAILWAY, COAL AND IRON CO., LTD.—This company has not yet managed to earn its preference dividend, but it made good progress in the year ended Jan. 31. An output of 312,097 tons was obtained, or 50,400 tons more than

in the previous year, and although the company only had the benefit of the advance in the price of shipping contracts for one month, the net profits were £7,691 up at £13,853. Having regard, however, to the necessary outlay on capital account, no distribution is attempted, and the whole amount, with £10,598 brought in, or £24,451 in all, is carried forward. Capital expenditure for the twelve months only amounted to £2,036, making a total of £495,935, and as the debenture debt was increased by £18,280 to £100,000, loans for £27,000 were paid off and £2,433 was added to the cash balances, increasing them to £7,702.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1916, and July 22, 1916:—

	Estimate for the Year 1916-1917.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1916, to July 22, 1916.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1915, to July 24, 1915.
Balances in Exchequer on April 1—			
Bank of England	—	25,111,065	81,898,725
Bank of Ireland	—	463,941	1,532,224
REVENUE.		25,575,006	83,430,952
Customs	—	19,816,000	12,123,000
Excise	—	15,505,000	17,615,000
Estate, &c., Duties	—	9,633,000	12,036,000
Stamps	—	2,190,000	1,864,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	—	310,000	320,000
Property and Income Tax and Super Tax	—	24,589,000	13,243,000
Excess Profits Duty	—	9,045,000	—
Land Value Duties	—	80,000	41,000
Post Office	—	9,900,000	8,400,000
Crown Lands	—	110,000	160,000
Receipts from Suez Canal ..	—	—	—
Shares and Sundry Loans ..	—	495,824	6,472
Miscellaneous	—	2,128,931	1,000,093
Revenue	—	93,801,925	66,808,564
Total, including Balance		119,376,931	150,259,516
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion	—	1,450,000	280,000
For Treasury Bills (net amount)	—	19,313,000	—
For War Loan, 1925-1928	—	—	35,300,000
For 3% Exchequer Bonds, 1920	—	—	242,345
For War Loan, 1925-1945	—	424	178,590,000
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919	—	25,212,000	—
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920	—	78,364,500	—
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1921	—	41,792,000	—
For War Expenditure Certificates	—	15,647,100	—
For War Savings Certificates	—	9,450,000	—
For other Debt created under the War Loan Act, 1915	—	10,000,000	—
Temporary Advances—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £304,937,000 in 1916-1917 and £201,783,000 in 1915-1916)	—	355,937,000	202,783,000
Total		676,542,955	567,364,861

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Estimate for the Year 1916-17.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1916, to July 22, 1916.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1915, to July 24, 1915.
EXPENDITURE.			
Permanent Charge of Debt ..	—	10,523,650	11,686,546
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	—	38,279,400	396,324
Road Improvement Fund	—	—	529,082
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c.	—	1,378,121	1,652,260
Other Consolidated Fund Services	—	660,534	763,312
Supply Services	—	501,611,631	525,170,295
Expenditure	—	552,443,356	349,315,422
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion	—	1,590,000	345,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	—	60,914	60,914
For Treasury Bills (net amount) ..	—	—	26,478,000
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan (Redemption) Act, 1910	—	—	16,395,500
For Repayments to the Bank of England ..	—	—	96,041,667
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913	—	150,000	—
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1915 ..	—	120,000	—
Under Housing Act, 1914	—	—	500,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8, Issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1905	—	10,000	27,000
Old Sinking Fund—1910-1911: Issued under the Finance Act, 1911—			
Section 16 (1) (b)	—	20,000	50,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1911-1912—Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Co. (Acquisition of Capital) Act, 1914	—	—	250,000
Temporary Advances repaid—Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £59,000,000 in 1916-17 and £7,751,000 in 1915-16)	—	87,266,500	7,751,000
1916. July 22.	1915. July 24.		
642,279,650	488,942,503		
Balances in Exchequer—			
Bank of England	33,004,860	27,285,572	—
Bank of Ireland	1,258,418	686,725	—
Total		676,542,955	567,629,273

MEMO.—Treasury Bills outstanding on July 22, 1916, £1,871,000

* Includes £353,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the Account.

Treasury, July 24, 1916.

What Balance Sheets Tell.

HIBERNIAN BANK, LTD.

Very little change is shown in the net profits for the half-year ended June 30, a small increase of £800 to £60,140 in gross profits being neutralised by a rise of £752 in expenses, so that the net profits were only £138 up at £24,752. Adding £3,754 brought forward, the divisible total was £871 better at £28,506, out of which a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent., less tax, is paid as usual, but £7,500, or £2,500 less, is transferred to reserve, and after writing £1,000 off bank premises, as against nothing a year ago, the balance carried forward is £2,371 larger at £5,006. Liabilities on deposit and current accounts show a small expansion of £26,501 at £4,590,384, and the amount due to sundry agents is £3,042 up at £4,018. On the other hand, cash has risen by £77,099 to £709,494, and investments are £33,868 up at £1,444,102, exclusive of £35,000 in War stock on account of the officers' superannuation fund, which appears for the first time. Sundry agents owe £21,725 more at £41,134, but bills discounted have been reduced by £72,454 to £632,261, and advances are £47,660 down at £2,212,164.

ASSAM-BENGAL RAILWAY CO., LTD.

Considerable damage was done to the lines by the abnormal rains in the spring and early summer of 1915, and some 75½ miles had to be closed, of which barely one-third had been reopened by January last. The effect is reflected in the report for the year ended March 31 by a drop of 143,363 in the number of passengers and of Rs. 2,56,322 in the receipts from coaching traffic. Goods traffic, including the company's own material, showed an increase of 132,069 tons in the tons lifted, but receipts were practically stationary. Expenditure rose by Rs. 1,02,811 to Rs. 52,56,876, making the ratio to receipts 3.05 per cent. up at 77.90 per cent., and net profits were Rs. 2,40,906 smaller at Rs. 14,90,502. This sum is retained by the Secretary of State in reduction of the charges for interest incurred by him, but the usual guaranteed dividends of 3 per cent. per annum have been paid. The arrangements for the construction of the Mymensingh-Bhairab Railways have been modified, and the actual work has been handed over to the owning company, but the line, when made, will be worked as originally arranged by the Assam-Bengal Railway. Two other extensions are to be built, for which the capital will be provided by the Chaparmukh Silghat Railway and the Katakhal-Lala-Bazar Railway, two undertakings which have been formed in Calcutta for the purpose.

D. AND J. FOWLER, LTD.

The war and the drought in Australia again had their effect on the business of this company in the year ended March 31, but, on the whole, the falling off was much less than might have been expected. A large proportion of the "record" harvests had not been realised in cash during the period under review, owing to freight difficulties, and although the Government allowed farmers to draw up to 3s. a bushel against the wheat under its control, the advance was not sufficient to liquidate liabilities incurred during the drought. After making provision, however, for all accrued taxation, including £3,100 for excess profit taxes for the two years to March 31, the profits were only £4,223 down at £34,755, which was not a very serious decline in the circumstances. Of this total the preference dividend reserve gets £672 less at £1,470, bringing it up to £31,845, or almost enough to cover the dividend for four years. The ordinary shares then receive a dividend of 7 per cent., or the same as for the previous year, and £2,500 is again transferred to the reserve in anticipation of debenture expenses, leaving £13,600 to be carried forward, compared with £14,366 brought in. Stocks are £35,857 larger at £170,950, and cash and bills receivable have risen by £5,745 to £26,514, against which the bank overdraft has been increased by £22,403 to £40,781, and £16,897 more at £126,529 is due to creditors and on bills payable.

DAILUAIN-TALISKER DISTILLERIES, LTD.

This company was evidently amongst the distilleries which have been supplying alcohol for making high explosives, with the result that it is able to show a fair expansion in its profits for the year ended June 30. After writing off £2,500, or £1,500 more, for depreciation and providing for liability under the Finance Act, the net profits were £799 up at £13,702, and with £1,640 brought in gave £15,342, or £1,638 more, available. The dividend on the ordinary shares is maintained at 5 per cent., but nothing is set aside, compared with £1,000 transferred to reserve last time, and the balance carried forward is therefore £2,638 higher at £4,776. Stocks have been reduced by £12,713 to £62,682, and cash is £536 down at £1,434, but sundry debtors owe £19,105 more at £65,801, while current liabilities have only risen by £524 to £16,757. The offer made on behalf of the Distilleries Co. and three of the large blending houses to take over the shares of this company having been accepted by all but a small minority of the shareholders, has now been made absolute as regards the assenting holders.

W. H. CHAPLIN AND CO., LTD.

In spite of a long tale of woes created by the restrictions imposed on the liquor trade during the war, this old-established firm of wine merchants managed to increase its profits by £1,200 in the year ended March 31 last. They amounted to £11,100, and it would have been possible to raise the dividend, but the directors prudently recommend that it should remain at 7 per cent. It is also proposed to give an honorarium of 1,000

guineas to Mr. W. H. Chaplin, the late managing director, and £3074, or £500 more, will remain to be carried forward. Stocks show an increase of £4,000 at £113,150, and sundry debtors are £5,500 up at £93,130, while creditors have increased £38,000 to £88,000. It is a creditable record, achieved under admittedly difficult conditions.

S. HOFFNUNG AND CO., LTD.

Trading profits for the year ended March 31 showed a small recovery of £1,653 at £80,403, and after providing for administration charges, interest, &c., the net profits, including £5,490, or £252 more, brought in, was £1,268 up at £65,508. The ordinary shares again get a dividend of 15 per cent., and £10,000, or the same as a year ago, is transferred to reserve, leaving the balance carried forward the above-mentioned amount better at £6,758. Stocks are £35,680 larger at £385,474, and debtors have risen by £40,591, but cash and bills receivable come to £4,082 less at £51,596. On the other hand, sundry creditors are £73,100 up at £246,183, while the liability on mortgages has been reduced by £5,000 to £50,000, and on deposits by £8,077 to £27,836. Goodwill stands at £150,000, or the amount of the ordinary shares, and property account is also unaltered at £153,170, against which the reserve now amounts to £106,000.

C. ARTHUR PEARSON, LTD.

Like all newspaper and magazine owners, this company was badly hit in the year ended May 31 by the increase in the price of paper and other commodities. Its profits fell off by £6,862 to £30,003, but there was a reduction in administration expenses, and the amount available, including £15,054, or £9,090 more, brought forward, was £3,704 up at £41,258. It is therefore possible to repeat the dividend of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares and to leave the balance carried forward higher at £18,758. Stocks of paper are £11,319 larger at £17,717, debtors owe £3,294 more at £35,845, and investments have been increased by £8,428 to £31,511. Cash, however, has been reduced by £33,098 to £27,757, while, on the other hand, there is a reduction of £14,809 to £26,008 in current liabilities.

Monte Video Water Works.—Gross revenue for May, £17,037; increase, £2,850; aggregate from January 1 to May 31, £88,366; increase, £11,724.

New Dollar Securities List.—The American Dollar Securities Committee on Thursday issued the fifth list of securities which the Treasury is prepared to purchase. The securities are subject to the special income-tax of 2s. in the pound, but exemption will be granted in respect of those securities which are lent to the Treasury under the deposit scheme. The list will be found elsewhere in this issue.

New Zealand.

A Wealthy Country, Splendid Climate, Fertile Soil, Plenty of Water.

An Ideal Country for the farmer, the percentage of grain and lambs being phenomenally high.

New Zealand, a country as large as the United Kingdom, with but a million population, has an annual export of raw products exceeding Twenty Million Pounds sterling.

New Zealand is rich in COAL, IRON, TIMBER, GUM, GOLD AND SILVER. Total yield of Minerals, over One Hundred and Twenty Million Pounds.

Over Eighteen Million Pounds have been advanced by Government to Farmers and Workers for Improvements and Buildings at a low rate of interest.

The Railways, 3,000 miles, Telegraphs and Telephones, 124,000 miles, are owned and operated by the State.

New Zealand has the highest wealth-rate and the lowest death-rate in the World.

To those desirous of making a home in a new country, New Zealand offers solid advantages.

Excellent Steamship Services are run direct to New Zealand by the Shaw Savill and Albion Company, Limited, New Zealand Shipping Company, Limited, and the Federal and Shire Lines.

Full information is supplied free by

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR NEW ZEALAND,

413-416, STRAND, W.C.

(ESTABLISHED 1834.)

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	...	...	£8,750,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL	...	....	1,750,000
RESERVE FUND	....	....	800,000

WILLIAM GARFIT, Esq., *Chairman.*

HERBERT J. W. JERVIS, Esq.
SIR HENRY KIMBER, Bart.
GEORGE BUTLER LLOYD, Esq., M.P.
SAMUEL SAMUEL, Esq., M.P.
SIR GRIFFITH THOMAS.
ERNEST D. VAISEY, Esq.

LIABILITIES.

LIABILITIES.				£	s.	d.
Capital, viz. :—						
175,000 Shares of £50 each, £10 paid	...	...	...	1,750,000	0	0
Reserve Fund	...	...	...	800,000	0	0
Amount due on Current, Deposit and other Accounts, including provision for bad and doubtful debts and depreciation of Investments				48,240,177	1	7
Acceptances and Endorsements on behalf of Customers				961,192	9	9
Net Profits...	...	...	£444,280 15 3			
January Dividend subject to deduction of Income Tax				122,500	0	0
July Dividend subject to deduction of Income Tax				122,500	0	0
Reduction of the cost of Premises				15,000	0	0
Reduction of the cost of Investments				70,000	0	0
Officers' Superannuation Fund				10,000	0	0
				340,000	0	0
				104,280	15	3

NOTE.—This Statement of Liabilities does not include the Bank's Guarantee of £89,286 to the Yorkshire Penny Bank, Limited.

£51,855,650	6	7
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NOTE.—This Statement of Liabilities does not include the Bank's Guarantee of £89,286 to the Yorkshire Penny Bank, Limited.

ASSETS.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Cash at Head Office, Branches and Bank of England	8,877,892	18	6			
Money at Call and Short Notice	3,830,720	18	0			
				12,708,613	16	6
Investments :—						
War Loans, at cost, and other Securities of, or Guarantees by, the British Government (of which £541,800 is lodged for Public Accounts, and under Treasury Minute of the 17th November, 1915)	14,233,809	0	2			
India Government Stocks, British Railway Debenture and Preference Stocks, and Colonial Government Stocks, and Bonds	1,194,051	2	0			
English Corporation Stocks and other Investments ...	556,229	11	1			
				15,984,089	13	3
				28,692,703	9	9
Bills discounted, loans, and other accounts, including pre moratorium Stock Exchange loans	21,128,377	3	8			
Liability of Customers for Acceptances and Endorsements, as per contra	961,192	9	6			
Banking premises in London and country at cost, less amounts written off for depreciation	1,073,377	3	5			
				£51,855,650	6	7

W. GARFIT,
HENRY KIMBER,
G. BUTLER LLOYD. } *Directors.*

G. A. HARVEY, } *Joint General*
E. D. VAISEY. } *Managers.*

ED. SMITH,
Chief Accountant.

AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE SHAREHOLDERS.

We have obtained all the information and explanations we have required, and having satisfied ourselves of the correctness of the Cash Balances, and examined the Securities held against the Money at Call and Short Notice, and those representing the investments of the Bank, and having examined the foregoing Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account, and compared them with the Books at the Head Office, and with the certified Returns from the Branches, we are of opinion that the Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Bank's affairs, according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us, and as shown by the Books of the Bank.

14th July, 1916.

TURQUAND, YOUNGS & CO., Auditors.

Ural Caspian Oil.—Total production, week July 20, 161,608 poods (or 2,607 tons).

Armstrong, Whitworth and Co.—The twenty-second ordinary general meeting will be held at Newcastle on August 3, at 11 a.m., but the directors' report and balance-sheet cannot be completed for presentation at this meeting, which is arranged to satisfy the requirements of the Companies Acts. The only resolution proposed will be that the meeting stand adjourned until such time as the accounts for the past year are ready.

"MATHIESON'S HIGHEST AND LOWEST PRICES," which has just been issued for the first half of 1916, is useful as giving the record of actual prices for all the securities quoted, except British Corporations and Indian Railways, the minimum prices for which were not removed until July. In addition, the highest and lowest business marked in the most active stocks during each of the 12 months to June, 1916, is set out, together with the figures for the six preceding years, and a list of dividends paid by certain selected undertakings since 1911 makes the publication a most handy reference work. The price is 2s. 6d.

Arauco Co.—A cable message received from Chili states that the estimated profit for the first half of current year is £78,420, to which the railway contributed £28,970 and the collieries £49,450.

In a way that is quite interesting and readable, Mr. Keith Morris has told "The Story of the Canadian Pacific Railway," in a little book published by Wm. Stevens, Ltd., at 3s. 6d. nett. It contains the whole wonderful romance, except the inner financial portion of it, which need not now be gone back upon. We commend the little book to those interested in the progress of the Empire and of Canada.

Messrs. Price, Waterhouse and Co. announce that, in conjunction with Messrs. W. B. Peat and Co., they have opened an office at 16, Gogol Street, Petrograd, under the style of Price, Waterhouse, Peat and Co. The business will be conducted under the personal supervision, as resident managers, of Mr. G. D. H. Pidcock, A.C.A., and Mr. B. Gastra, C.F.A., who have for many years been senior members of their staff in London and New York.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

BANK OF LIVERPOOL, LIMITED.
LARGE SUBSCRIPTIONS TO WAR LOANS.

The annual meeting of the Bank of Liverpool, Ltd., was held on Tuesday last, Mr. Frederick W. Chance, D.L., chairman, presiding.

In moving the adoption of the report and accounts the Chairman referred to the death of Sir John S. Barwick, Bart., the chairman of the North-Eastern local board, who had been succeeded in that office by Mr. Benjamin Noble.

Amongst the directors who still retained their places on the general board were Colonel Reynolds and Lieutenant Neilson, both of whom were on active service, the former having been mentioned in despatches. Some 400 members of the staff were serving with the colours, and the directors were grieved to report that 18 of them had laid down their lives.

Having referred to changes in connection with the general management of the bank, the Chairman remarked that the past year, like the year before it, had been one of great pressure, and the work had to be discharged under circumstances of increasing difficulty, as men were withdrawn for service in the Army and Navy. To fill the vacancies a large number of ladies and some junior clerks had been secured, and it was most satisfactory to be able to report that the new employees had thrown themselves into the work with zeal and earnestness, and had rapidly become efficient in the discharge of their duties.

The outstanding feature of the year, so far as finance was concerned, was that the bank agreed to take £4,800,000 of 4½ per cent. War Loan, and the customers also subscribed for several millions. Further, the bank had subscribed for French War Loan, and had been frequent takers of Treasury bills, and the bank's customers had also subscribed largely for Treasury bills and Exchequer bonds. All this implied that they had parted with large sums of money during the year for investment in Government securities, but as the Government had freely disbursed moneys they had borrowed, and those disbursements had found their way back into the banks, no difficulty had been experienced in financing the large sums the Bank of Liverpool had been called upon to pay.

LOANS TO CUSTOMERS.

Another feature of the balance-sheet was that loans and advances to customers showed a reduction of nearly 2½ millions, as compared with the previous year, this being largely accounted for by the fact that general commercial enterprise, as distinguished from transactions arising out of the war, was on a moderate scale, and there seemed to be a wise indisposition to engage in new undertakings while the war was on. Besides the assistance given to the Government in regard to their issues of War Loan, Treasury bills, &c., as well as in connection with their American dollar security scheme, the bank had joined with the chief banks of the country in granting certain credits in connection with the American and Russian exchange, and in other directions relating to the financing of the war. This explained the increase of over £400,000 in the item of contingent liabilities on indemnities and credits. The money in the bank's hands belonging to customers had been well maintained throughout the year, and on June 30 last exceeded by one million the corresponding figure of June 30, 1915. On the other hand, the amount of bills accepted by the bank which was swollen last year by special acceptances on Government account and stood at £2,800,000, had this year returned to the more normal figure of £1,250,000.

INCREASED EXPENSES EXPLAINED.

The profits of the year had been quite satisfactory, and had it not been for the large increase of £39,000 in general expenses they would have considerably exceeded the profits of the previous year, which were a record. The increase in expenses was chiefly due to the fact that, while maintaining a large proportion of the salaries of the staff serving with the colours, the directors had to incur the expense of those brought in to replace them. It was also due to the further fact that a war bonus had been granted to all members of the staff whose salaries did not exceed £400 a year. The directors could not altogether ignore the increase in the cost of living, which bore heavily upon persons of moderate income, nor the excessive work to which the staff had been exposed since the war began. He was sure the shareholders would approve of the action of the directors in this matter. (Hear, hear.) As it was, however, the profits were large, and it must be borne in mind that in addition to the profits shown the directors had applied a considerable amount of money to the internal funds of the bank, in conformity with their usual policy. Out of the profits shown in the annual report, which, together with the balance

brought forward from last year, amounted to about £438,000, they had applied £260,000 to the payment of dividend at the usual rate, transferred £75,000 to investment reserve account, and they had increased the amount carried forward to next year by over £25,000; but out of this balance carried forward they would have to pay a certain amount to the Chancellor of the Exchequer for excess profit duty. The report fully explained the basis upon which they had valued the investments and their reason for transferring money to the investment reserve account this year instead of adding it to the reserve fund.

Summing up the experiences of the year, the Chairman said the Bank had done its share in regard to war finance, had rendered its customers the services which they required, had maintained the dividend in spite of war conditions, and had amply provided for unforeseen contingencies which might arise after the war. He thought the shareholders would agree this was a satisfactory achievement. (Hear, hear.)

THE SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

Reviewing the state of trade in the area served by the bank, the Chairman said shipping continued to be fully employed at remunerative rates. The shipbuilding, armament, engineering, iron and allied industries had been kept in a condition of unceasing activity, chiefly in connection with Government requirements. Colliery proprietors had only been limited in their output by shortage of labour, a difficulty which had been acutely felt in all industries throughout their territory. The timber trade, as a whole, had been restricted through diminished imports. The general building trade was practically at a standstill. Chemical industry, freed from foreign competition and stimulated by Government demands, had come into its own.

Reports from agricultural districts indicated keen demand and high prices, and farmers as a whole appeared to be experiencing a prosperous time. Against this, however, must be set the greatly increased cost of lean cattle, feeding stuffs, fertilisers, seeds, and other commodities, but it was believed that when the balance was struck the result would be substantially on the right side. If the abundant hay crop was successfully harvested, this would be a factor of extreme importance.

The important staple trades showed varying experiences. Cotton importers on the whole had no reason to be dissatisfied with the results of their season, notwithstanding reduction of turnover. The cotton trade generally had found adverse factors in the shortage of labour, difficulties in transport, scarcity of dyes, and delays in dyeing and finishing their goods; while the export trade was much curtailed. On the other hand, concerns engaged on Government work had been kept fully and remuneratively employed. In these circumstances spinning and manufacturing results had not been uniformly favourable. In the case of the woollen trade, Government orders had been more extensive. Mills and factories had been working at high pressure, and the results of business had been distinctly good.

THE COMMERCIAL COMMUNITY AND THE WAR.

In conclusion, the Chairman said: When we realise the tremendous nature of the struggle in which our country is involved, and its far-reaching effects in every direction, we must congratulate the commercial community on the great measure of prosperity which it is enjoying. It is important for our future welfare that our leading industries have managed to hold their own so well during these trying years, and when peace comes about we ought to be in a good position to consolidate and develop our world-wide trade. I trust we may meet a year hence without the shadow of war hanging over us. (Applause.)

LIPTON.

The eighteenth ordinary general meeting of Lipton, Limited, was held on Monday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. C. Williamson Milne (deputy-chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. S. B. Sledmere) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: As indicated in the report, Sir Thomas, in fulfilment of his generous promise, paid over the sum of £110,000 during the last financial year and the balance of £137,812 on May 17 last, making a total contribution in cash of £247,812 to the funds of the company. The business of Lipton, Limited, as it stands to-day, has been considerably improved throughout its entire organisation, and in nearly every department there is evidence of greater vitality and a much healthier tone. The results will take time to show themselves, but already good progress has been made, despite the difficulties which exist in abnormal times such as these through which we are now passing. In a business in which the turnover runs into millions it would be foolish to suggest that the new directors, in the short period during which they have been in office, had been able to travel very far in the work of reorganisation. So far as we have gone the progress has been

satisfactory, but we realise that an immense amount of spade work has yet to be done, and several sections of the business have yet to be dealt with by way of improvement. The fact that three-fourths of the balance of profit shown in the accounts was earned in the second half of the financial year—that is, between September and March—is sufficient indication that the business is responding well to the improved methods and arrangements which have so far been introduced. The gross profit on trading at factories, stores, and branches, after deduction of wages and working expenses, and including the profits from the estates in Ceylon, amounts to £293,756, compared with £269,952 in the previous financial year, an increase of £23,804. On the other side the expenses of management, etc., amount to £106,204, compared with £123,542 last year, a decrease of £17,338, which is at least a step in the right direction. Furthermore, this item includes a war service allowance of £8,074, a considerable increase on the contribution of last year, which was £4,804. The total number of the staff who have joined the Colours since the commencement of the war is now not less than 1,700. The nett profit for the year carried to the balance-sheet is £124,339, compared with £80,796 in the previous year—an increase of £43,543. This increased profit has been earned despite a considerable all-round increase in the cost of labour and materials, increased freights, war risk and other increased insurance premiums. As pointed out in the report, the profits suffice for the payment of a dividend, but the conditions under which the company is working at the present time are such that ordinary commercial common sense dictates the conserving of the profits just now as the only wise and prudent course open to the company. While we fully recognise the hardship which this entails upon the ordinary shareholders, the fact that the money is required for the development of the company's business can easily be demonstrated. A business which is standing still can be worked on a comparatively narrow cash margin, but a business such as ours, which is now steadily increasing—and I frankly believe that I am well within the mark when I say that Lipton, Limited, has taken a new lease of life—requires that ample cash capital should be available. Apart from that, the general conditions of business which obtain at present necessitate heavy payments for increased duties and larger outgoings for the increased cost of commodities. For instance, tea, sugar, and coffee alone utilise at present in respect of increased duty and enhanced prices £55,000 more of our working capital than they did a year ago, and this figure will tend to increase during the current year. The profits from our estates in Ceylon for the period which ended at December 31 last were very satisfactory. It has always been the custom to include the accounts from the estates only to December 31 in each year. Last year was a good year for tea planters generally, satisfactory prices being realised for the tea crop. There is an old adage that what may prove to be "one man's meat may prove to be another man's poison," and while we benefit from the increased market price per pound which we realise for our tea crop, it must not be forgotten that this enhanced price materially reduces the percentage of profit which we are able to earn from our retail tea trade. Except so far as the increased duty on tea required, we have neither increased our price nor lowered the quality of our tea, and I am glad to say that our sales continue from week to week to show a steady and satisfactory increase, which, in the long run, is bound to prove advantageous to the shareholders. To put it briefly, high market prices for tea, while it means increased profit at the estates, means reduced profit at the shops where tea is sold by packet at a fixed price. We have several hundred acres of rubber in bearing and a considerable number of rubber trees interplanted with tea on various estates. The estimated rubber crop for last year was 96,100 lbs.; the actual crop harvested was 112,604 lbs. The revenue from this source is not at present very large, but it is capable of expansion. The estimated rubber crop for the ensuing year is 155,000 lbs., and if the quantity harvested continues to be in excess of the estimate, this may, before long, become a not inconsiderable source of revenue to the company. With regard to our tea rooms, we have now only four, all in London, having closed our Islington shop, which was being carried on at a heavy loss—it cost us over £500 to do so, and the amount is included in the sum written off for depreciation. The four remaining shops are now doing a trade in excess of that done formerly by the five, and all of them are now earning profits, besides giving more satisfaction to customers. In a Lipton tea room to-day a cup of tea or coffee costs the same as it did in pre-war days, and that cannot be said of many of our competitors. In our tea rooms, as in our grocery stores, we aim at giving the best possible value for cash. With one exception, the profit at our foreign depots is satisfactory, although capable of improvement, and this particular exception has been dealt with, and we hope for very different results from it before long. The future of this company, however, must rest mainly upon successful trading at its retail branches, and it is in that direction that I believe there is the greatest room for improvement.

Mr. H. L. Peters (managing director) seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

ROBURITE AND AMMONAL.

The 26th ordinary general meeting of Roburite and Ammonal, Ltd., was held on Thursday at the London Chamber of Commerce, Oxford court, Mr. H. A. Krohn, Chairman and Managing Director, presiding.

The Secretary, Mr. J. H. Browne, read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman said: In existing circumstances you will not expect from me the usual detailed statement of the course of business during the year under review. You will, I hope, be content with a very brief outline of our operations. Our industrial trade, which had suffered considerably on the outbreak of the war in 1914, recovered its lost ground, and, indeed, produced results somewhat superior to those of previous years. But that was only a small portion of our operations, as it turned out. At the beginning of the year we received from the Government what then seemed to us a very large order for military ammonal, and not long afterwards we were invited to contract for regular monthly supplies in still greater quantities. We were able to meet these demands owing to the facilities of which I have already spoken, but in order to do so it was necessary to double our staff, to recruit and train hundreds of new workpeople, to design and erect the requisite buildings, plant, and machinery, to make arrangements with sub-contractors, and, in short, to create and organise a business on a scale hitherto unknown in the history of this company. That business has absorbed nine-tenths of our time and attention, and that business is the source of more than two-thirds of the nett profits with which we have to deal to-day. Now, in considering these nett profits—whether to you they seem large or small—I should like to remind you of what is an axiom in the explosives trade. In the manufacture of a high explosive, however safe in its nature, and whatever precautions you may take to ensure that safety, the greater the output the greater the risk. If proof were needed we have had it during the last few months in the first and only explosion that has occurred at Gathurst in 28 years' working. Fortunately, the buildings affected were insured; fortunately, also, owing to the way in which the factory is laid out, the interruption to manufacture was only temporary. But what we most regret is that some few of our men were killed in a gallant attempt to extinguish the fire, while others were injured by flying debris. We feel that those poor fellows sacrificed their lives and their limbs quite as much in the cause of their country as any of our gallant soldiers overseas. After dealing seriatim with the various items of the balance-sheet and accounts, the Chairman proceeded: We are thus left with a balance of £36,095 8s. 4d. for appropriation. Out of this we have already paid an interim dividend on the preference shares in December last, which absorbed £2,564 15s., and we have now transferred £3,609, being 10 per cent. of the nett profits, to reserve account, as provided by our articles of association. We then have a balance of £30,120 5s. 10d. available for distribution, and out of this we propose to pay a final dividend on the preference shares of £2,564 15s., and to devote £15,668 to a dividend of 20 per cent. on the ordinary shares, leaving £11,887 10s. 10d. to be carried forward to the next account. That, of course, is a very large sum as compared with the figures of the previous balance-sheet, but it is really small in comparison with our turnover, and, as a fact, we require every penny of it, and more, for working capital. Now, a word as to the present position and prospects of the company. Here, again, as in dealing with the history of the past year, for obvious reasons I cannot go as closely into detail as I should wish, but there are certain facts which it is only fair to state, and which I wish to commend to your consideration in order that you may draw your own inferences from them. In the first place, our industrial trade is bound to be adversely affected by the present greatly increased cost of raw materials and by other war conditions, so that it is unlikely that it will produce as good a result this year as last year. In the second place, though we are producing very large quantities of military ammonal, we are working for the Government under terms and conditions widely different from those of last year. Thirdly, on March 6, we were declared a controlled establishment—not, I may say, at our own wish or request, but because the Minister of Munitions so ordained—and under the Munitions of War Act we are liable to a levy of 80 per cent. of our nett profits. Finally, I hope, and, what is more, I certainly believe, that we have at last come to "a turning in the long lane," and that a victorious ending to the great war is within measurable distance. When that time comes we shall have in our small way a very difficult and delicate situation to face. It is hardly to be expected that we shall be able to reduce our establishments, both of staff and labour, and generally to contract our organisation to its former modest proportions, without at least some loss, and there is also the very serious question of a valuation of stocks which will appeal to any man of business who is here to-day. What the conditions of trade will be after the war it is impossible to say. I will not say the wisest of us, but the boldest of us, can do no more than predict that they will be very different from what they have been in past years. I can only assure you that your directors will continue to watch your interests with the greatest care, and will protect them to the best of their ability. Before concluding, I should like to express the directors' high appreciation of the hard work and self-sacrifice of their staff during the past 18 months. Both in London and at Gathurst they have responded cheerfully to every call that has been made on them, and they have worked when required, literally night and day. What is true of the staff is also true of our workpeople, with whom our relations have been throughout most satisfactory. I hope that you, ladies and gentlemen, will send to all of them through us a very hearty message of thanks for the splendid work they have done. I now have the pleasure of moving: "That the directors' report and the accounts and balance-sheet for the year

ended December 31, 1915, be and are hereby received and adopted."

Mr. W. T. Spark seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

THE DISTILLERS' COMPANY.

The fortieth ordinary general meeting of the Distillers' Company, Limited, was held at Edinburgh on the 21st inst. Mr. W. D. Graham Menzies, chairman of the company, presided. The Chairman said: I think I am entitled to congratulate the shareholders on the excellent result of the year's operations as disclosed by the figures before you. The net working profit shows an increase of no less than £95,000, and we are left with £85,000 more to deal with than in the previous year. That sum your directors recommend should be disposed of by increasing the appropriation to general reserve by £50,000, bringing that fund up to the substantial total of £700,000, while the remainder has been added to the total carried forward. It has been the declared policy of your directors for a great many years past to aim at paying a steady dividend rather than to divide the profits up to the hilt, which would give a fluctuating yield to the shareholders. By this policy we have built up a reserve fund which is a source of strength to a company such as ours that is ever liable to interference from legislation or from other quarters. While this, however, has been the directors' avowed policy, I am glad that we have not been altogether unmindful of the shareholders' claims, as, while many companies which formerly paid their ordinary dividends free of tax have had to abandon that convenient method of giving a bonus to their shareholders, your directors are adhering to their usual practice and continuing to pay the ordinary dividend free of tax. At the present high rate of income-tax this represents quite a substantial bonus of fully 3½ per cent. on your nominal capital, therefore in these abnormal times I think we are more than ever justified in adhering to our conservative policy in the matter of dividends. Now, as regards the causes which have led to the gratifying results of the past year, I think I may claim, in the first place, that the company is benefiting from the safe policy adopted in previous years. Our reserve fund is almost entirely invested in the business, and, while some financial critics may regard this as a weakness, your directors, on the contrary, consider that it is a source of strength, as well as profit. With this surplus cash we have been able to develop our business without increasing the nominal capital of the company. These investments are bearing fruit and must undoubtedly assist to maintain dividends. A branch of the company's business which has extended very much in recent years is that of the export trade, and as a further step towards fostering this connection, your directors acquired the shares of two export houses during the past year. Quite recently an offer was also made on behalf of this company and three of the large blending houses to take over the shares of the Dailuaine-Talisker Distilleries, Limited, which own three large malt distilleries and other property in the North of Scotland. This offer has been accepted by all but a small minority of the shareholders, and steps are at present being taken to complete the necessary transfer of the shares. I refer to these matters for two reasons. First, because it is pretty well known that the company has been supplying the Government with large quantities of alcohol during the past twelve months for the making of high explosives, and I do not wish it to be inferred that the company has been making an undue profit out of the country's needs. That is the last thing we would wish to do, and I am sure the Minister of Munitions, if appealed to, would admit that the patent still distillers of the United Kingdom have been most reasonable to deal with. And, secondly, I would not have it supposed that we have been exacting an undue toll out of our regular customers. Prices have had to be raised, of course—raised in proportion to the advance in the cost of raw materials, wages, etc., but had we wished to exact the full advance obtainable in the market for our various products we might easily have doubled our profits. Your directors have taken a longer view of the position. This company is not in business for to-day only, but, I hope, will still have many years of usefulness before it, and our policy has been to conserve the future and act in the best interests of the whole trade. As an example of this policy I might just mention that, in addition to requisitioning large quantities of alcohol from those distilleries which are still allowed to work, the Government have indicated their intention of entirely taking over certain distilleries for purposes of their own. This will not affect our company to any great extent, as we shall continue to have a large number of distilleries at work, but the chief hardship will fall on those concerns owning only one distillery, and whose connection for the time being might thus be seriously impaired. Your directors have accordingly joined with those other distillers similarly favoured in assisting the less favourably placed distillers to maintain their pro rata share of the trade. Your directors again record their appreciation of the valuable services rendered during the past year by their whole staff—an appreciation, I am sure, which will be fully shared by you. To our managing director, Mr. Ross, we are specially indebted for the great skill and ability he has displayed throughout the year in the numerous meetings and extra correspondence he has had with the officials of the Munitions Department of the Government and in the inter-trade arrangements between the distillers themselves. I think I may go further and say that not only this company, but the trade generally, recognise the

important services he has rendered to the Government, which are highly appreciated. I wish, in one word, to refer to the special services ungrudgingly given by our colleague, Mr. Archibald Walker, in the country's cause, in putting his technical knowledge and experience at the disposal of the Ministry of Munitions. The report was adopted unanimously.

MOUNT AUSTIN (JOHORE) RUBBER ESTATES.

The sixth ordinary general meeting of the Mount Austin (Johore) Rubber Estates, Limited, was held on Tuesday, at the Council Room of the Rubber Growers' Association, 38, Eastcheap, E.C., Sir Ernest W. Birch, K.C.M.G., presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. H. Gunter) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman said: The net profit for the year was £68,270 15s. 1d., or almost double that of the previous year. With the carry forward from last year there is a balance of £73,471 19s. 2d. to be dealt with. The directors propose to pay a dividend of 14 per cent., less income-tax, to write off the balance of the amalgamation expenses, and to carry forward £4,471. Yours is an immense estate of 10,927 acres, of which 10,705 acres are planted with rubber. At the end of the financial year under review there were 4,392 acres in bearing. The estate consists of five divisions: there are 2,419 acres in bearing in the Mount Austin division, 1,044 acres in bearing in the Pandan division, and 929 acres in bearing in the other three divisions of Kangka, Plintong, and Orient. There was harvested from the whole estate 1,016,599 lbs. of rubber, exceeding the estimate given to you at our last meeting by 96,599 lbs. Towards this crop Mount Austin contributed 700,000 lbs., Pandan 200,000 lbs., and Kangka 100,000 lbs. The other two divisions were only, in certain portions of their cultivated area, just coming into bearing, and as they jointly contain about 4,800 acres you will be able to see that there is a considerable future before you. At the beginning of the financial year there were 2,950 acres in bearing; at the end there were, as I have said, 4,392 acres being tapped. Your manager estimates that 2,000 acres will come in in the current year, over 2,000 acres in the year ending March 31, 1918, over 1,000 acres in the following year, and that in the year commencing in April, 1919, the whole estate will be in the tapping round. When new areas come into tapping the yield is necessarily small from them, but it is to be recollected that all the older areas will be a year advanced in age and their yield will, of course, be greater. The directors consider that the company has now turned the corner, and that you may look forward to steady profits. The crop for the current year will, it is hoped, reach an amount of 1,350,000 lbs., of which 262,693 lbs. have been collected in the first quarter, and we have sold forward approximately 25 per cent. of the estimated output at an average price of 3s. per lb. The question of factories on so large an estate has naturally for a long time engaged the serious attention of the directors. Many proposals entailing great expenditure of money have been put before us, and we can congratulate ourselves that we arrived at no hasty decision. The final settlement is as follows: To extend the present factory on Mount Austin and to establish small factories on each of the other divisions. All first latex is manufactured in the form of smoked sheet, and I am glad to say that our sheet is now a recognised mark with rubber buyers. A factory is being erected on the Kangka division, but the more expensive machinery will not be required until the summer of 1918. The total expenditure of £12,000 will be distributed over a period ending in March, 1919. Our visiting agent, Mr. E. Macfadyen, has made two exhaustive reports on the estate, and his advice in regard to the factory question has been of much service to us. The crop for the year under review was harvested at a cost f.o.b. of 11.97d., say 1s. per lb., and the "all-in" cost, including depreciation and a proportion of the debenture interest, was 1s. 4d. per lb. These figures are practically the same as last year. The crop was sold at a gross average price of 2s. 7.34d. per lb., giving a profit of over 1s. 3d. per lb., as against an average price last year of 2s. 3.02d. per lb. and a profit of 10¾d. per lb. The process of thinning out is being, and will be, pursued until there are anything from 85 to 100 trees per acre. There is no doubt in the minds of all experienced planters that the effects of thinning out are most beneficial.

Mr. J. Madsen-Mygdal seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

SPIES PETROLEUM.

The seventeenth ordinary general meeting of the Spies Petroleum Co., Ltd., was held on Thursday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. J. Annan Bryce, M.P. (the chairman), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. H. G. Trew, F.C.I.S.) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman said: If exchange had been normal the amount of profit which would have been available, after providing for this year's depreciation and Russian and British taxes, would have been £230,000, equal to 23 per cent. on the capital. The report gives the main reasons why it is not proposed to pay a dividend, but even if it had been possible to do so there is the added consideration of the desirability of maintaining, in these difficult times, the resources of the company in as strong a position as possible, particularly in view of the development of our newly-acquired properties. The mention of the new pro-

perties leads me to the policy of the board in connection with our purchases at the recent auctions. Oilfields are in their nature essentially wasting assets, and ever since they have been able to afford it it has been the policy of your directors to replace by fresh properties those which were becoming exhausted. In pursuance of this policy we have successively acquired four main groups of properties. I need hardly say that these various purchases of land have, of course, necessitated a very large capital expenditure for equipment, but this has been liberally, it might even be said too liberally, depreciated, and a full return on this capital expenditure can only be realised by a prolongation of the life of the company, which depends in the long run on the acquisition of fresh lands. If you were to come to the end of your supplies, then all this fixed capital expenditure on plant, and so forth, for working the properties would, of course, become one of sacrifice, and would be no longer of value as expenditure in a young concern. That, therefore, is the reason for taking fresh properties, if you had any reason to expect good results from them. Under all the circumstances, your directors felt it necessary, if they were to endeavour to ensure a continuance of life to the company, not to let slip the opportunity which might never present itself again of acquiring a considerable block of the last available proved land in the field which must after all be their main stand-by, and in which so much of your money has been invested in buildings and plant. There are all the barracks for the workmen; installations, &c., which are already there close at hand for the working of the existing plots. I may add another merit which is corollary upon this merit—namely, that we protect our own plots Baskakoff and South Baskakoff by taking in new plots, because most of them form with the new plots a continuous run of ground, and we in this manner eliminate neighbours. If the life of an oil company is to continue it is certainly necessary to go on acquiring fresh lands, and a choice has to be made between acquiring lands at a higher price in a proved region and at a lower price in an unproved one. The latter course is tempting, but after all the cost of the land is the smallest item in expenditure, especially in an unproved region distant from a company's existing field. There everything has to be provided—buildings, plant, transport, labour, and even the commonest necessities of life for the support of labour. The nature of the strata and the other circumstances of exploitation have to be learned by a costly experience, while the result is speculative. Our own experience at Maikop will be recalled. It does not encourage us to depend for the maintenance of the life of your company on the acquisition of land in an unproved district, although I do not say that promising opportunities should be altogether neglected.

Mr. G. Grinnell-Milne seconded the resolution, which was carried.

INTERNATIONAL TEA STORES.

The twenty-first annual general meeting of the International Tea Co.'s Stores, Ltd., was held on Thursday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. G. A. Tonge (the governing director) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. E. Davies) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: I would like to point out that, though the profit shows a falling off from last year, the £137,000 with which we have to deal, in addition to the amount brought in, is about up to the average of previous years, and it enables us, after paying the preference dividend of 6 per cent., to pay 7 per cent. on the ordinary shares, place £20,000 to reserve account, depreciate fixtures, fittings, &c., by £22,000, and carry forward an amount of £7,948 15s. 4d. There are various circumstances which have contributed to this result which are absolutely outside our control. I may tell you that many of our branches are situated in agricultural centres, where the population has been depleted by men joining the Army, and generally these districts do not come within the area affected by munition work. Another feature is that we have a large number of important branches in the Eastern Counties in seaside towns. The trade in these has been seriously crippled, there being few visitors, and many of the lodging and boarding house keepers are passing through very adverse times. Further, carriage and cartage alone on goods to our branches and customers is £20,000 in excess of the previous year. Wages at branches, warehouses, factories, and offices—owing to the increased cost of living, which, you know, has been enormous—have advanced £24,000, and there are many other expenses occasioned by the war which cannot be dealt with in detail. There has been a huge increase in the cost of most of the goods we manufacture and sell, and, although, of course, the public are bearing a large share of this extra cost, I am afraid in many instances they are not shouldering all the burden. I think there are indications that we may have a more prosperous time in the coming 12 months than in the past, but it is impossible to forecast this with any certainty. Turning to the balance-sheet, I may say, roughly, that most of the figures on both sides have increased solely on account of the high price of goods. This applies to the amounts we owe and to the amounts owing to us, and it applies above all to our stock-in-trade. There is one further fact I think may interest you. The amount spent since the formation of the company on our shop fittings, plant at our Bethnal Green, Southall, and Whitechapel factories, and fittings of offices and warehouses has been £342,560. We have depreciated them to the extent of £185,389, and they now stand at, to my mind, the very small sum of £157,170. I have often had it suggested to me that our depreciation has been too drastic. I do not think so; it is only that policy of depreciation, adding to reserve and leaving the money so added in the business,

instead of losing half of it by putting it in outside investments, that has placed us in the sound position we are to-day. I think you will like to know that we have been enabled to send nearly 2,000 men to join the Army. I often think it was fortunate that when war broke out we had someone here who knew what woman labour was capable of, and this led us to start immediately training them for every responsibility; with the result that to-day we have nearly half our branches not only staffed by women, but managed by them, and in most cases managed very efficiently, too. Our female office staff has also been very largely augmented by reason of the calls of the military.

Mr. G. Collier seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

FORUM RIVER (NIGERIA) TIN.

The fourth ordinary general meeting of the members of the Forum River (Nigeria) Tin Co., Ltd., was held on Thursday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. James Gardiner presiding.

The Secretary, Mr. William H. Stentiford, F.C.I.S., having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: The cost of production works out at £44 4s. 4d. per ton at the mine, showing a saving of £4 5s. 3d. per ton on that of the previous year. The "all-in" cost is £90 9s., as against £88 2s. 4d. last year. Your board consider these figures eminently satisfactory in view of the conditions which have prevailed during the past 12 months. The total area of the property is nearly 14 square miles in extent, the bulk of which is held under exclusive prospecting licences, only 2,074 acres being covered by mining leases. The output of 316 tons shows an increase of 31 tons on the preceding year, but the greater part of this tin (271 tons) was won from the area Forum No. 1, which returned 87 tons more than before. On going through the accounts, you would doubtless notice one rather important item—namely, the £2,100 placed to reserve—which should, in the ordinary way, have been included in the amount brought forward into the accounts available for distribution. This amount the Inland Revenue authorities, I am sorry to say, have demanded from us as excess profits duty for the year ended March 31, 1915. Needless to say, against this we have lodged an appeal. I brought the matter forward at a council meeting of the Nigerian Chamber of Mines, and an application by that body is pending in connection with the question of special rate of interest on the capital embarked in our undertaking to be allowed to us, in common with other Nigerian alluvial mining companies, in lieu of the statutory percentage of 6 per cent. allowed by the Finance Act. We cannot believe that the authorities will refuse to allow a special rate. I am sure, gentlemen, 6 per cent. must be considered by the Chancellor of the Exchequer as a wholly inadequate allowance upon capital embarked in development of a new field of industry in this far-away part of his Majesty's dominions, where (as pioneers, for such we are, together with others) we have invested a large amount of capital, and at great risk, to prospect and develop the mineral resources of the colony. It is a well-known fact that, up to the present, of the many companies operating on the plateau, few are able to give any adequate return to their shareholders, while as a result of our enterprise we have to pay to the Government large sums for rentals, royalties and railway rates, which aggregate over £25 per ton. With regard to the prospects on the field, you will be interested to hear that recent discoveries show that payable ground exists in places where the first prospectors never thought it possible. To sum up the position, your directors consider that, having regard to all the circumstances which have been expected to adversely affect the company, namely, shortage of European staff, low price ruling for tin during the first half of the company's financial year, large increase in cost of provisions and other goods shipped from England, heavy increase in freight, insurance and other charges, difficulties of procuring necessary supplies owing to congestion of labour, &c., the fact that we are able to appear before you and recommend the payment of a dividend of 10 per cent. and to carry forward a substantial sum into the current year's accounts is one upon which the shareholders are to be congratulated. You will all appreciate that had we not had to make provision for excess profits duty we should have been in a position to recommend at least a 15 per cent. dividend. Gentlemen, I am sanguine enough to think that this is only delayed.

Mr. W. S. Coutts seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

ELECTRIC SUPPLY CORPORATION.

The annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Electric Supply Corporation, Ltd., was held on Friday at the company's registered offices, Salisbury House, London Wall, E.C., Mr. John G. B. Stone, chairman of the company, presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. W. Abbott) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in the course of moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: The increase in the number of lamp connections during the year has much exceeded the average growth, the increase being from 214,715 to 254,700 during the year; about 75 per cent. of this is due to demands for power in Dumbarton, leaving to our other towns approximately their usual growth, which in these times is not unsatisfactory. The Hendon Co., in which we are large shareholders, has increased its dividend by 2 per cent., whilst during the year the Dum-

barton Tramways Co. again paid us a small dividend of 1½ per cent. As to our revenue account, the war has proved a very disturbing factor. It has increased the demand for current for power, but, on the other hand, it has reduced the demand for lighting, particularly for street lighting. The latter is especially so in Chelmsford, but under the terms of our contract with that town, and in view of a recent decision in the Appeal Court, we understand we are entitled to recover the full amount of the contract, and this has been included in our accounts. The contract terminated last March, and we are now negotiating with the Town Council for a renewal on the basis of our making them a considerable allowance in regard to the payment due for 1915, when the lighting was so very much restricted. We raised prices generally for the last half of the year under review, and this year we have found it necessary to make a further increase to meet the heavier costs. The nett result in our revenue account is that Chelmsford, Exmouth, and Falmouth show increased profits; Hitchin, St. Andrews, and Totnes are practically the same as last year; Dalkeith, Dollar, Dumbarton, and Jedburgh and Melrose show a decrease. In the case of Dumbarton the decrease is nearly £700, due to the costs being exceptionally heavy during the transfer of the load from our plant to that of the Power Co., we having to use both. The change over is now completed, and we shall therefore only have one set of costs in future. With regard to coal, the management are giving the question of cost their closest attention. The coal market is a very difficult one, and I am sorry to say that the effect of the Coal Prices Limitation Act leaves much to be desired. Not only have we to pay enhanced prices, in some cases far beyond the limits made under the Act, but we have great difficulty in obtaining supplies, even with the assistance of the Board of Trade. The nett revenue account is much the same as last year, except that the amount transferred to repairs and renewals fund is increased by £950. The repairs and renewals fund account has once again to bear heavy charges for battery renewals, particularly in Hitchin, St. Andrews, and Totnes. In Falmouth also we renewed half of the battery, the other half having been done the previous year. As stated at our last general meeting, we are maintaining this fund at £10,000. Shareholders will no doubt be anxious to know how our business is affected by the new summer time. There is no doubt that it is making serious inroads into our revenue this summer, but we are not yet in a position to state to what extent the yearly revenue may suffer. With regard to the dividend we propose to declare 2 per cent. as against 2½ per cent. last year, our policy being to let the year's dividend bear part of the reduction in profit, and our carry forward bear the balance. The Chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. Francis Reeves seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. F. R. Reeves was re-elected a director; Messrs. Duncan, Belcher, and Co. were reappointed auditors; and a vote of thanks was passed to the staff at the various works and London offices.

The proceedings then terminated.

KINTA KELLAS RUBBER ESTATES.

The sixth ordinary general meeting of Kinta Kellas Rubber Estates, Limited, was held on Monday in the council room of the Rubber Growers' Association, 38, Eastcheap, E.C., Mr. Edward Bedford, C.E. (chairman of the company), presiding.

A representative of the secretaries (Messrs. Taylor, Noble, and Co.) having read the notice calling the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: Since the formation of the company, as the crop has increased, there has been very great reduction in costs. Thus, the total cost against crop, which stood at 3s. 2.11d. in 1912, was brought down to 1s. 0.63d. in last year's accounts. For the year under review we expected some temporary rise in average costs, inasmuch as a large area of young rubber was coming in for the first time, and you will remember that we estimated to get 35,000 lbs. from this young area at a cost f.o.b. of 2s. per lb. The actual crop from this area was 52,103 lbs., at a cost f.o.b. of 1s. 9.38d. per lb. The rubber on this area is estimated to produce 125,000 lbs. this year, at a cost of 1s. 5.72d. per lb. f.o.b. Our latest information as to this area is that the rubber is doing exceedingly well, and we expect to get very much more than the estimate at a much lower cost. With regard to our old rubber, the estimate for last year was for 280,000 lbs., at a cost f.o.b. of 9.38d. per lb. The actual crop was 260,254 lbs., at a cost of 10.28d. per lb. f.o.b. This is slightly below the estimate, but, as you know, this year the wintering was earlier than usual, also very severe, and its effect all fell upon the financial year which ended on March 31. For the current year the total estimated crop from the two divisions is expected to be 445,000 lbs., produced at the average f.o.b. cost of 11.7d. per lb. As we have already in the past nine weeks of the year secured 111,692 lbs., or one-fourth of the crop, an increase of 100 per cent. upon the previous year's corresponding result, we are, I think, certain to get our estimate, and I think it is exceedingly possible that we shall greatly improve upon the estimate of both crop and cost of getting it. In the following year our whole present planted area should be in bearing, and our costs at a normal level of, we hope, well under 9d. per lb. f.o.b. Turning now to the accounts, we have for the year had a crop of 312,257 lbs. of rubber, which has given us a gross profit of 1s. 7.72d. per lb., as compared with 190,400 lbs., giving a gross profit of 1s. 0.92d. per lb. for the previous year—a very great improvement. The balance at credit of profit and loss, including the

amount brought in, was £26,078, as compared with £13,516 last year, or nearly double. As we indicated last year, we have closed our capital account, and we are taking advantage of the good year to put our estates in thorough order to replace the area we lost through flooding, bring up our factory to the future requirements of the estate, and bring our whole new producing area into bearing out of revenue.

Mr. A. T. Macer, in seconding the motion, said: Last year they had written £4,500 off their swampy areas, and several papers had thought fit to poke a little fun at the company on this account. But it was to be remembered that rubber was an agricultural product, and in this country, where agriculture was less uncertain than in the tropics, the Government had nevertheless thought fit to exclude farmers from the operation of the excess profits duty. He well understood that any Government in the position that the present one was would want a contribution from the rubber industry, but he thought this would have been better raised by a duty levied on rubber of, say, 1d. or 2d. per lb. The excess profits duty would affect a company like Kinta Kellas, but big concerns that had been deriving an enormous revenue for years would escape. So would "dollar" companies, because they were registered on the other side. Yet all these companies were in British colonies and absolutely depended on the protection of the British Fleet. He thought it would be very unfair if the Government levied its excess profits duty on the basis of 7 per cent. being considered an adequate return on capital invested in a rubber company. Even in the height of a rubber boom it would be impossible to get people to invest their money in tropical agriculture unless a better return than that was offered.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Answers to Correspondents.

* * A Key to these Answers will be posted early each week for a subscription of ONE GUINEA per annum, 11s. for six months, or 5s. 9d. for three months.

Deposits against future queries may be lodged with the Publisher.

Kettle.—Excellent, if you can get them. Before giving names, though, it would be necessary to find out whether there were any shares to be had, and that means an answer by letter.

Blackie.—They seem an attractive purchase. The company has a large part of its area still to bring into bearing, and should do well.

Douglas.—(1) This is quite a young producer, but it has prospects, and might be bought to hold. (2) Also a long lock-up, but the company is in good hands.

W. W. A.—Yes. The company has a good business, and the shares appear to be a very fair industrial security.

T. D. B.—(1) On their present rate of profits they are high enough, but this property is large, and if you are not forced to sell you may get better returns in the future. (2) This has had quite a good year, and we see no reason to sell, as it also should do better.

L. L. S.—Not very brilliantly, but a little better than it was. It seems a pity to sell now, as the business should recover again.

Judex.—If you do not require to realise, the stocks are quite fair investments. (1) is well secured and is redeemable in about 25 years. (2) There is not much margin of profit for this, and working expenses are likely to remain high; still, the interest should be fairly sure. (3) Dividends are not likely to rise for some time, but the stock seems worth keeping, as the company should do better again when conditions are more normal.

F. M. T.—Apply to your broker, who can attend to the matter for you. The interest should be safe enough, but the company has had two poor years.

C. C. R.—We don't. Leave them alone.

L. R. G.—The report is quite good, but expenses are likely to increase rather than decrease at present. Still, we think you might average, as the concern is sound.

Sam.—Not if you obtained them as an investment. The security is quite good, and the interest as safe as any can be.

EDINBURGH CANADIAN MORTGAGE CO., LTD.—In the year ended May 31, the nett profit, including £1,744 more brought forward, was £2,059 up at £16,304. Out of this £3,500, or £1,000 more, is transferred to reserve, and the ordinary shares again get a dividend of 5 per cent., less tax, leaving £2,804, or £1,059 more, to be carried forward. Investments in loans on mortgages were increased by £26,935 to £312,508, and there is a new item of £7,586 for investments, but loans on bonds amounting to £22,521 have disappeared. Throughout the year the company has been receiving money on terminable debentures at 4½ and 5 per cent. for three, four, or five years, and these, together with deposits, show an increase of £3,432 at £115,255, while in addition the company has had to borrow £5,200 from its bank.

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SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	-	£22,947,804
PAID-UP CAPITAL	- -	4,780,792
RESERVE FUND	- - -	4,000,000

Deposit and Current Accounts (30th June, 1916)	£157,539,256
Cash in Hand and at Bank of England	- - 38,888,014
Money at Call and at Short Notice	- - 8,570,085
Bills of Exchange	- - - 13,047,412
Investments	- - - 37,918,265
Advances, etc.	- - - 65,159,660

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The Investors' Review

FOUNDED BY A. J. WILSON, FEBRUARY, 1892.

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Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits	354,791	5	3
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	606,962	10	0

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Total Capital and Reserves	£7,960,000

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Passing Events.

Last week's Treasury return showed a revenue of £5,471,002, or £991,639 less than that of the previous week, but it was a mere accident of account decrease, as may be understood when Excise produced only £440,000 as compared with £2,770,000 the previous week. According as the money is paid over, or as the fixed dates for tax-collecting from subordinates fall in one week or another, do these fluctuations occur. As the expenditure amounted to £36,871,219, which was slightly over £5,250,000 a day, the borrowing had to be more strenuous, and consequently the nett increase in the Treasury bill debt was nearly £11,000,000, making the total now £842,378,000, or £10,807,000 more than the previous week. There was also £4,586,000 obtained by the sale of Exchequer bonds, or less than it should have been looking at the efforts made by the "war savings" device, and otherwise to stimulate the inflow of money. War expenditure certificates, however, to some degree made good the backwardness, and their total of £6,958,000 probably represents some part of the effect produced by the same advocacy. At any rate, in the preceding week the total obtained on this form of debt was only £1,595,500. War Saving certificates also did well, yielding £2,700,000, and probably represented most directly the product of a week's strenuous thrift advocacy. The total of Exchequer bonds outstanding on July 29, the date of this latest return, is £149,955,000, but all the receipts of the week, borrowed, and other, were not sufficient to maintain Exchequer balances which lost £9,211,000, bringing them down to £25,052,388.

Of the new, the third, Commonwealth Loan for £50,000,000 launched in Australia this week, no less than £20,569,400 was subscribed in two or three days. This Mr. Higgs, the Commonwealth Treasurer, thinks very satisfactory, with reason, remembering what has been already done, and gives hope that, by and by, some part at least of the remaining £30,000,000 may be found among the wealthy and wealth-accumulating farmers and squatters without coming to London. Reuter advises that 24,000 applicants in New South Wales offered £9,800,000, and 32,000 in Victoria

£7,300,000. What the other four States did is not yet announced, but surely there must be much more wealth in existence, if it can be tapped and made available.

It interests, and now and again amuses us, to note the persistence with which Protectionists are endeavouring to twist round the demand for German exclusion in the trade of the future to serve their essentially selfish Protectionist ideals. Here is Sir George Foster, the Minister of Trade and Commerce in the Canadian Dominion, taking advantage of a lunch given to him by the Council of the Royal Colonial Institute at the end of last week, to declare that "he did not hold out the least hope in the world that the Empire could be brought together on the basis of Free Trade." Of course not, if the outlying portions of the Empire are to provide for the payment of their debts, without a confession by their politicians and financial exploiters that all the time they have been leading them along the "primrose way." "It is essential," he asserted, "that we should get together as soon as possible, and hammer out a policy for the future. Let the Empire treat itself and its partners a little more favourably than it treated those who did not belong to its family, and let us say to others, 'We will not be unreasonable with you, but we will be just to our own.'" Now what is the real meaning of language of this description? Is it not an expression of the most undisguised selfishness, the accapareur's confession of faith? How is Canada, for instance, going to benefit by shutting out products of the United States, or those that come from tropical countries, or from Japan or China, from anywhere outside the Empires now allied? We presume that Sir George Foster would not just yet ask that French, Russian, and Italian producers be treated a little less favourably than those of the outlying portions of the Empire. But if he does not, how is he going to frame his enriching, protecting, stimulating tariff? How would he frame it so as to suit all interests and pinch no toes? We presume Sir George to be a sensible man, and in ordinary life one who endeavours to behave as such; would he therefore kindly try to formulate for his own guidance and our instruction a tariff of universal "Empire and Allies" application which would raise revenues all round for every part of the Empire—and for these Allies, too, who will all

need tremendous amounts of money—and at the same time inflict no hardship on workmen, consumers, any helpless or ignorant class of the people? We are persuaded that the more he tries to think out a workable scheme, the more he will discover that language such as he employed a week ago amid cheers must be described either as arrant nonsense or as the rhetoric of the man who has never really thought humanely and does not know how. No basis of commercial intercourse between our Allies in this war and of portions of the British Empire can be permanently arranged except upon a Free Trade or "giff-gaff" foundation. Therefore, self-seekers, or their bagmen and dupes, who regard the amassing millions by oppressing their fellow-men, or cheating them, or in other ways taking advantage of them through the agency of a tariff as the height of wise economy, must reconcile themselves to the inevitable. Till they do that we suppose they will continue to deafen our ears with fantastic assertions and mock patriotic declarations about "keeping the Empire together," "shutting out the Germans," and so forth, all by help of a magic tariff, good only to help the enslaver. Germany meanwhile is busy shutting herself out, and will probably have to endure boycott for many a year in punishment for her crimes, but that is altogether a different affair, and has nothing strictly to do with either Protection or Free Trade.

At the request of the Earl of Selborne, until lately President of the Board of Agriculture, Mr. T. H. Middleton, its assistant secretary, has prepared a memorandum exhibiting the results of his study of agriculture in Germany in contrast with the United Kingdom. Many of the facts set forth in this memorandum are unusually interesting. A German farmer, Mr. Middleton says, produces about the same weight of cereals and potatoes per acre as the British, but a much greater weight per hundred acres of cultivated land. He also produces about the same weight of meat, but nearly twice as much milk per hundred acres as the British farmer, and he feeds from 70 to 75 persons per hundred acres of cultivated land, whereas the British farmer feeds only from 45 to 50. Yet the soil and climate of Germany are less favourable to agriculture than those of Britain. Our methods of tillage are not inferior to the German, why then this difference? It is due chiefly to the circumstance that here more than two-thirds of the cultivable land is now in grass, whereas in Germany less than one-third is. Nevertheless, the German area of grass land seems to be on the increase. We have two-thirds of the cultivable land now under grass, and the Germans less than one-third, but the German proportion in grass is slightly on the increase; ours, on the other hand, has risen by about 26 per cent. in the last 40 years. We have become a grazing instead of a corn-growing country, and may soon wish we hadn't. The real source, however, of the difference would seem to lie in the fact that German land is mostly tilled by peasant owners, whereas here we have tenants more or less completely under the thumb of the feudal and too often mere incubus landowner. Co-operation, too, almost non-existent here, has been largely resorted to in Germany, and organised credit has been called in to aid good farming, a help which cannot be made available here to any large extent or good purpose as long as the land and all that is upon it is in the hands of a class that accepts no responsibilities. Other contrasts and differences are dwelt upon, and Mr. Middleton in his summing-up points out that the present differences between the average British and German farmers are not so much differences of quality as of quantity. German methods are certainly no better, German breeds of live-stock certainly not so good as ours, but the German is able to till two-thirds of his cultivable land against the British farmer's one-third. He, however, admits that we do not lack well-managed and profitable farms, and only lack system to get improved methods extended. He bears testimony also to the willingness of the British farmer to learn if he is approached in the

right way. And we say, develop a system of genuine community of interests between all classes interested in the land and directly labouring upon it, and we shall soon see what the land of England and its tillers can do. We are no advocate of confiscation, of robbery in any form at the will of the majority, but we do insist that the owner of land who lives now entrenched behind his feudal, law-buttressed "rights," as he calls them, will court high-handed interference with, perhaps confiscation of, these so-called rights unless he steps down from his pedestal and, alongside the farmer and day labourer together, takes a hand in the work of redeeming the land from its sterility to the profit of all.

In addition to the information given last week about the new British Italian Corporation, Ltd., there are these further particulars now available. No public issue of capital will be made; it has been privately subscribed, chiefly amongst the banks. And no wonder, for our Government has agreed to contribute a subsidy of £50,000 per annum for the first ten years of the corporation's existence. That is to say, it guarantees 5 per cent. on the capital of £1,000,000, or if the million is not fully paid up, then on whatever the actual cash capital may be. In return for this grant the Government is to receive half the surplus profits earned above this cumulative 5 per cent. dividend, the sum thus accruing to be arrived at after the directors have made such provision for bad and doubtful debts and a reserve as they may think desirable. No interest will be charged upon the subsidy, all that is stipulated for is a return of the principal sum advanced, and that only as free earnings permit. A twin company, moreover, is to be started in Italy under Italian laws, to be called the Compagnia Italo Britannica, and will have a capital of 10,000,000 lire, or £400,000, half to be taken by the British Italian Corporation, Ltd., and half by the Credito Italiano and their friends. Out of the nine directors of the Italian Company, three will be appointed by the British Italian Corporation, Ltd. Thus two institutions will have been created to work together towards the development of Italian wealth and industry and towards the emancipation of Italy from the Prusso-Semitic domination in industry and trade, into the meshes of which it had been gradually drawn during the somnolent years preceding the war.

Dublin riots and other troubles seem to have no effect on the wonderful business of Arthur Guinness, Son and Co., Ltd., except to increase its prosperity. In the year to June 30 the profit on brewing amounted to £5,470,250, an increase of £1,290,000 over the previous 12 months, which in turn showed an increase of £1,430,000 over 1913-14. Of course, this meant a big advance in excise duties, which claimed £3,881,520, an increase of £1,242,000, following an advance of £1,207,000 in the previous year. Nett profits were consequently £50,000 up at £1,510,800, and £20,000 more was received in interest. On this occasion £200,000, or £100,000 less, is placed to reserve, and no provision has to be made for depreciation of investments, which last year required £250,000, but income-tax absorbs £138,000 more, and £296,000 is set aside for two years' excess profits duty. Even so, the final dividend and bonus are raised to 11 per cent., making 16 per cent for the year, against 14 per cent., but the carry forward is reduced £102,000 to £104,443. Creditors show an increase of £95,000, debtors are up £80,000, stocks £55,000, investments £140,000, and cash balances £320,000, while, after adjustments, property, plant, &c., are practically unchanged at £5,863,000 nett. It is truly a marvellous record, and shows what can be done by capable management, even in face of restrictive legislation and heavy taxation.

Comparatively unimportant changes have occurred in the results of Mitchells and Butlers, Ltd., the Birmingham brewers. Trading profit for the year to June 30, after making all necessary provisions, amounted to £249,097, an increase of £2,000, but

interest, directors' fees, &c., required £2,000 less, and £22,000 more was brought forward, so that the available balance of £407,166 shows an increase of almost exactly £26,000. The dividend of 15 per cent. is repeated, £1,000 more is placed to superannuation fund, and £25,000 more to reserve fund, leaving the balance practically unchanged at £194,875. As the reserve fund will now amount to £980,000, the directors consider it advisable to capitalise part of it, and therefore propose to issue to the ordinary shareholders 299,020 fully-paid shares in the proportion of one new share for every two now held, the new shares to rank for dividend as from July 1, 1916. Resolutions to carry the scheme into effect will be submitted in due course. The only changes in the balance-sheet that need be mentioned are an increase of £160,000 in sundry creditors and of £200,000 in stocks. It has always been a well-managed and prosperous business, and we are glad to see it maintaining its position. The directors pay a warm tribute to the loyal service of the staff and workpeople under strenuous conditions due to the fact that over 800 employees have joined the Forces.

Although the gross revenue of Watney Combe Reid and Co., Ltd., for the year to June 30 showed an increase of nearly £11,000 at £896,410, the nett profit of £386,036 is £28,750 lower, which is roughly accounted for by a corresponding increase in bad debts. Repairs and depreciation required £9,150 less and the compensation fund levy £12,230 less, but increases in other items of expenditure just about counterbalanced these savings, leaving the nett result as stated. With £7,800 more brought in the available balance is £96,400, but in consideration of the present high prices of materials and the restrictions on brewers and licensed victuallers the directors have decided to recommend a final dividend of only 1½ per cent. on the preferred ordinary stock, making 2½ per cent. against 3½ per cent. for the year, and leaving £48,620, or £14,640 more, to be carried forward. It is a poor enough return, and it leaves about £800,000 of deferred ordinary stock without any dividend or prospect of one until conditions greatly improve. During the year only £16,600 debenture stock and £5,400 first preference stock were purchased and cancelled, the corresponding figures for the previous year being £143,240 and £64,000 respectively. It would not be safe to assume from this that the directors consider the present values of the company's securities unattractive from a buyer's point of view, but the fact is at least suggestive, while the falling off in profits is less than might reasonably have been expected. Sundry creditors have been reduced by £38,600 to £258,340, but the other changes in the balance-sheet are comparatively unimportant. The company may be congratulated on maintaining its position so well under adverse conditions, but we cannot even hazard a guess what the immediate future may have in store for it.

In spite of all the restrictions imposed by the Liquor Control Board, Whitbread and Co., Ltd., managed to increase their profits in the year to July 6. No profit and loss account is furnished, which we think is a pity in the case of such an old-established well-managed business, but the nett results show an improvement of £17,000 at £164,829, and as £7,200 more was brought forward, the total available is £24,200 higher at £218,480. The directors, however, are content to repeat the dividend of 2 per cent. on the ordinary shares, which absorbs £19,350, and leaves £79,380, or £25,700 more, to be carried forward. Without whining about the wickedness of the Government, the report mentions that the sum of £840,038 was paid during the year for beer and licence duties, an increase of no less than £214,500, and at the end of the year £146,350 was still owing, but that is a decrease of £18,500 as compared with last time. Debentures for £37,000 have been redeemed, and deposits have been reduced by £52,330 to £74,780. Loans to customers are £143,000 lower at £608,140, but cash and invest-

ments are up £15,000 at £302,570, and the stock of malt and hops is £70,500 higher at £212,000, while the freehold brewery in Chiswell Street has been written down £15,000 to £585,800. Quite a creditable showing, all things considered.

A statement of its affairs as at June 30 last has been issued by the Sheffield Banking Co., Ltd., and may be studied with interest and profit both by its shareholders and customers, although the figures are necessarily condensed. Deposit, &c., liabilities, for example, have risen £968,128 on the year, and now amount to £5,175,188, but advances and loans have shrunk £250,056 to £1,868,558, and cash and short loan money make an entry also £218,401 down at £1,332,184. The holding of Treasury bills, however, has doubled, and is now £1,000,000. Also the investments in British Government securities have risen £473,802 to £980,363, and miscellaneous investments are £31,610 up at £364,275. But bills of exchange are £9,549 down at £251,559, this item and the other entries, call cash and short loan money, and advances and loans, indicating that the general trade of the district served by the bank has been somewhat contracted. It may also be more of a cash trade than it used to be, but the resources set free by these and other influences find ready employment with the Treasury.

The fact that Farrow's Bank caters for the man of small means, to whom a bank account is a great convenience, and also for the small investor, probably goes far to account for its continued progress. Nett profits for the year ended June 30, it is true, showed a set-back of £4,091 at £33,615, but that is not surprising in the circumstances, and the directors are able to maintain the dividend at the old rate of 6 per cent, less tax. The appropriation to reserve is cut down from £15,000 to £10,000, which, however, is still £2,500 above the assignment to that fund made two years ago, and as £2,208 more at £10,312 was brought in, the balance now carried forward is £1,850 up at £12,162. Current accounts show a further expansion of £126,341 at £559,393, and deposits subject to notice have risen by £92,702 to £1,108,923, making the total liabilities to the public £1,668,316. Against these, cash amounts to £143,317, or an increase of £31,235, investments are £28,215 up at £518,478, and loans, bills discounted, &c., come to £166,799 more at £1,313,475. Including £62,500 of investments "ear-marked" for the reserve and £76,764 for bank premises, &c., the aggregate of the balance-sheet is £233,646 higher than a year ago at £2,114,535.

Mr. C. J. C. Scott, chairman of the Manila Railway Co. (1906), has issued a circular to the preference and ordinary stockholders asking them to support at the meeting next week the scheme of arrangement already

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passed by the "A" and "B" debenture bondholders. Although the position is a deplorable one, we are afraid that at this stage the only alternative to accepting the scheme is a receivership and the annihilation of all the share capital. A year ago the shareholders were warned that, owing to the low selling value of the bonds which the company had to accept for construction work done and the impossibility of obtaining Treasury sanction to the issue of new capital, the position had become extremely serious. The Philippine Government were approached, and agreed to make certain cash advances, provided the money was spent in the island—a Gilbertian proposition, seeing that the necessary construction materials had to be imported. Efforts to raise funds in the United States proved futile, and it is certain that an issue of prior lien bonds which it might have been possible to place would have been opposed by the "A" and "B" bondholders, and it would have been mere waste of time and money to put such a suggestion forward. When a company is in this helpless plight it is at a terrible disadvantage in negotiating terms, and it may be doubted whether a better arrangement than the one entered into could have been made in the circumstances, unless some powerful financial backer had come to the rescue. But no one has appeared anxious to fill that rôle, and mere grumbling or cursing does not help. Under the scheme the preference holders ought to receive a certain income of $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 per cent., which in course of time will gradually increase, and we are afraid it is a case of either accepting that crumb of comfort or nothing.

A year ago the directors of Henry Briggs, Son and Co., colliery proprietors, were not over happy because owing to the reduced output the margin of supplies after providing for contracts was too small to let them take much advantage of the high prices ruling. No such complaint can be made with regard to the 12 months ended June 30, but there is still a fly in the directorial ointment. The nett profits were up by no less than £97,329 at £178,289, but owing to the necessity of concentrating their efforts on the getting of coal a large expenditure on dead work had to be deferred, and will have to be borne in future. So £30,000 is set aside to meet this, and as the appropriations to reserve and investment depreciation are both doubled at £20,000, the directors do not see their way to increase the dividends by more than 5 per cent. This means, however, that the distribution on both "A" and "B" shares is 25 per cent., and as it is paid tax free the shareholders have every reason to be well satisfied. Excess profits duty having also to be provided for the balance carried forward is increased by £26,320 to £64,609. Property account, which includes stocks of coal, farm stock, &c., has risen by £13,594 to £436,578, and against this the reserve will now stand at £215,640. Investments are £54,205 up at £223,794, debtors owe £128,857, or £30,241 more, and cash and bills are £13,109 higher at £62,658, while £136,385, or £16,632 more, is due to creditors.

It is impossible to say from the interim report of the British Oil and Cake Mills that last year's phenomenal success has been continued in the first six months of the current year, but the directors state that despite a considerable reduction in output the results of trading are satisfactory, and they accordingly repeat the payment of an interim dividend of 5 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary shares. An agreement has been made for the purchase of the freehold of the Rotherhithe Mill hitherto held on lease, payment for which is to be made in debenture stock and preference shares, and in addition the company has bought the old-established seed-crushing business of John Robinson and Co., of Bristol, for which payment will be made by an issue of preference and ordinary shares. When these transactions have been carried through the present authorised share capital will be practically exhausted, and it has therefore been decided to increase the capital to £2,000,000 by the creation of 500,000 new ordinary shares of £1

each. The directors intend to apply to the Treasury for permission to issue some part of these shares in the near future.

The difficulties encountered by the British Motor Cab Co. in the year ended March 31, 1915, were even more accentuated in the 12 months ended March 31 last. A large number of its employees are in the Army, and it has been difficult to recruit drivers owing to the fact that the company is now only teaching men who are over military age, or who are discharged as unfit from the Army and Navy. The great scarcity of cabs provided some little compensation for the loss of the use of a good many of these vehicles, and some help has also been obtained from the munition work undertaken, but the nett earnings, after providing for depreciation, were only £8,397 up at £16,997. With £11,345, or £4,061 more, brought forward, the available total was £12,458 better at £28,342, and the directors resume payment of dividends with a distribution of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., less tax, on the preferred ordinary shares, leaving £17,490 to be carried forward. Fixed assets of various kinds have been reduced by £83,569 to £838,639, but floating assets are £20,480 up at £103,438, and investments at market value are £83,250 up at £298,598, while, on the other hand, £2,710 less at £52,599 is due to sundry creditors.

Another notable example of how the shipping industry has been prospering on the nation's needs is furnished by the report of the Hain Steamship Co., Ltd. In spite of the fact that during the year to June 30 two steamers were sold, one was wrecked, and four were sunk by enemy submarines, the earnings, including £7,680 brought forward, amounted to £514,485—£15,000 more than the whole of the issued capital. So the directors can afford to be generous in giving £5,000 to war charities, in doubling the bonus to masters, officers, and engineers at £20,000, and in also doubling appropriations to various funds at £300,000. Then there is enough to pay a dividend of 35 per cent. for the year against 20 per cent., but this reduces the free balance by £2,000 to £5,635. During the year £200,000 $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. debenture bonds were paid off, but sundry creditors have jumped up £600,000 to £855,250. Value of steamers and investments, lumped together, is £113,600 higher at £1,305,940, debtors are up £131,000 at £166,110, and there was a snug balance of £441,000, an increase of £331,500, cash in hand. It should be mentioned that profits are arrived at "after making provision for war taxation," but nothing is said about the amount of War stock and Exchequer bonds subscribed for.

All things considered, the South Metropolitan Gas Co. did extremely well in the half-year to June 30. Consumption of gas was practically the same as in the corresponding six months, the effects of daylight saving and the enforced restriction of lighting being counter-balanced by the heavier demands due to increased industrial activity. With the higher price charged for gas and the improved value of residuals, the total receipts amounted to £1,510,610, an increase of £254,770, gas and by-products contributing almost equally to this result. Expenses, of course, were higher—£213,730 up at £1,280,430—and the nett revenue of £230,180 is only £41,040 to the good. After providing for the sliding scale dividend at the rate of £4 8s. per cent. per annum, the same as last time, and placing £20,000, against £6,000, to insurance fund, the balance forward is £21,750 up, or just a trifle less than the increased amount brought in. Thanks to the saving in freight effected by the purchase of steamers, the directors are enabled to announce a reduction in the price of gas from 2s. 10d. to 2s. 8d. per 1,000 ft. as from midsummer, and this will allow the dividend, which was reduced £1 1s. 4d. per cent. a year ago, to be restored to the extent of 5s. 4d. per cent. per annum. It is something in these times to find any commodity reduced in price, and we congratulate the directors, as

well as the consumers, on the achievement. Relief from the trouble of labour shortage has been obtained in many departments by the employment of women, with promising results, and the co-partnership continues its work in maintaining the identity of interest between the company and its staff. In this connection the company has suffered a considerable loss by the death of Mr. Laurence Rostron, who was a staunch advocate of co-partnership between capital and labour. The company's Bill to raise additional capital has received the Royal Assent, and the board will ask authority to issue new stock as and when required. There is no immediate necessity for this, but stocks of coal and other materials have been allowed to run low. Changes in the balance-sheet are of no particular significance, except that a temporary loan of £360,000 has been reduced to £185,000. If all public service companies were as well managed as the South Metropolitan, there would not be much excuse for municipalisation or nationalisation.

We can but sympathise with the troubles which have overtaken Millars' Timber and Trading Co., Ltd., through no fault of its own, but owing to the conditions created by the war. The impossibility of obtaining sufficient vessels to carry on the export trade, except to a small extent, compelled the directors to close down most of the company's mills in Australia, and in other directions business was hampered, with the result that the nett profit for 1915 shows the severe reduction of £101,800 at £75,172. After setting aside £25,000, or £4,300 less, for depreciation, a perfectly justifiable reduction in the circumstances, and paying the preference dividend, the balance to be carried forward is £22,600 less at £50,810. We are afraid the ordinary shareholders must go without any dividend until after the war is over, as there is no prospect of an improvement in the freight market till then, and their only consolation meantime is that their assets are not wasting, and that there is likely to be a great demand for timber afterwards. Sundry creditors are down £72,000, while interests in subsidiary companies have increased £46,400 to £376,900, stocks are £77,300 lower at £434,300, and sundry debtors have been reduced by £64,000 to £125,400. May better times return soon.

The incidence of the excess profits duty as affecting mining companies has been exercising the minds of directors for a long time past, and the Council of the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy has now convened a private meeting of representatives of the industries, other than those of coal and iron, to be held on August 8, to discuss the question. Since October last the institution has been in communication with the Chancellor of the Exchequer with a view to effecting an adjustment of the incidence of the tax on the basis of the recognition of the principle that mines are wasting assets, and that their profits should be regarded as in a large measure amortisation of capital. This principle applies particularly to gold mines, the profits of which, moreover, have been seriously affected by reason of the fact that while the price of gold is fixed, the cost of labour, machinery, freight, and supplies is not fixed, but, on the contrary, has greatly increased. The institution has reason to believe that this principle will be given full consideration by the Board of Referees appointed under the Finance Acts, to whom the institution proposes to submit an appeal on behalf of the mining industry generally. Resolutions will be submitted to the meeting dealing with the procedure in regard to the appeal, and appointing a committee of 12 to act with the council. The circumstances of mining are so complicated that a more equitable and satisfactory solution should be obtained by an appeal made through such a body as the institution than by individual applications, and it will save time too.

A branch of the Anglo-South American Bank, Ltd., has been opened at Daseado, Santa Cruz Territory, Argentine Republic. Union Bank of Australia, Ltd., has opened a branch at Jasper Hill, Western Australia.

By-the-Way War Notes.

AFTER TWO YEARS, WHERE DO WE STAND?

Yesterday two years of war were completed. Few of us thought the struggle would last so long when first it burst upon the world. We were all less instructed in German designs and preparations, and much more unreasonably hopeful than the late Earl Kitchener, who warned us of a probable three years' conflict. The war has gone on for two years, and it will probably be his Lordship's third year before all, nay, perhaps before the worst, is finished. German strength in machinery, in training, in the infatuation and ignorance of the drilled serfs, and in perfect emancipation from every restraining moral scruple, have all been greater than we reckoned on, so that we have come to congratulate ourselves, not on victory or the imminence of victory, but upon the success with which we have kept back the consuming hordes by whom our civilisation and our liberty to exist has been threatened. And that is a great gain. We begin this third year of the war with greater confidence and a more surely grounded expectation of success than we had even after the Battle of the Marne or in the autumn of last year. "Victory is certain," declares General Joffre; "the successes in July in Picardy are only the beginning of a new era," declares General Haig, whose whole-hearted testimony to what France has done to hold back the Prussian beast these last two years goes not a syllable beyond her just due. France has suffered and fought with a chivalrous heroism that is sublime, and she and we are more hopeful to-day than two years ago, because she stands chivalrous and unconquerable by our side.

Contrast the positions of the enemy at the beginning of this third year of war. "For two years," said General Joffre to the soldiers of the Republic, "you have borne without flinching an implacable onslaught. You have wrecked all the plans of our enemies, you have conquered them on the Marne, stopped them on the Yser, and beaten them in Artois and Champagne, while they vainly strove for victory on the Russian plains. By your heroic resistance in the five months' battle you have smashed the German efforts before Verdun." Yes, the French armies, the people of France, have done all that, and have held back the mad flow of barbarism on land, just as unfailingly as we have destroyed German commerce and restrained German murderous activities at sea. All through the dark days of the Russian retreat in 1915 the two Western Powers, but chiefly France, comrades in arms, held firm, and never since they first took to earth have the Germans made any headway against us. But the Kaiser still continues to boast to the citizens of his empire about his ever-victorious armies, about the "victory" of his fleet in the North Sea, about the prowess and performances of his immune and invincible aircraft, &c., even while actualities daily reveal the falseness of his brag. If our fleet had been the vanquished, as he claims, in that Jutland battle, it would not now have been necessary for the German Admiralty to fall back upon the Zeppelin scare-alls or on skulking submarines—courageous only when they think themselves safe from danger—in order to maintain the German population in its conceits and dreams of approaching triumph. All the time, too, that the German hosts have been held pinned down in the West the Austro-Germans have been stopped in their progress towards Constantinople, and the mercantile marines of both Empires kept impotent to relieve the growing hunger within, the Allies have been getting ready, growing stronger in trained citizens and in abundance of munitions and inventions of war, so that now, vaunt as he may, the Kaiser finds himself confronted by enemies thoroughly organised for victory, and more determined than ever to secure it. "This third year of war will bring the deserved chastisement of Germany," says Sir Douglas Haig, and he does not chatter at random. On every side the signs multiply that he is right.

The arch-criminal of the Hohenzollerns—for William II. is that, whatever else he may be—may boast of the triumphs of his serf hosts, who fight in their ignorance

with the bravery of the eighteenth century Paraguayan half-breed, but even he cannot hide the fact that the war has brought a strain upon him and upon his Empire which his very shouts of "Victory, victory!" proclaim in the sight of all but his dupes. Passing by his reiterated "thumper" that "even where England's tyranny was uncontested, namely, on the free waves of the sea, you have victoriously fought against gigantic superiority," what are we to say of his admission that "the strength and will of the enemy are not yet broken"—not even after two years of glorious unbroken German victories!—or of his declaration that "the enemy's hopes to outstrip our production of war material will prove as unattainable as their plan to secure by starvation what their sword could not attain"? These boasts are confessions of defeat. And in the still further significant admissions that "hard times are ahead," that, "after the terrible storm of two years the desire for sunshine and peace is stirring in all human hearts," we behold a man becoming conscious that behind him is arising a Germany he may fail to cheat, as he has cheated the millions who have gone to their death at his orders.

Then why does war continue? "War continues," pleads the Kaiser, "because the battle cry of the enemy Governments is still the destruction of Germany"—not of Hohenzollern domination and Prussian swineishness, observe, but of Germany. The blame for further bloodshed falls only on our enemies—"Please, sir, it wasn't me," the defence of the boy expectant of a whipping. He is, because he must be, convinced that "Germany is invincible in spite of the superior numbers of our enemies," and asserts that "every day confirms this anew." But he does not point in stagey triumph to the numbers of his reserves, nor recall that the 1918 recruits are being summoned to the colours. Germany will lack males to renew the race if this war should last another year.

Read vauntings of this description in the light of events, contrast them with the facts, and surely the hearts even of those most ready to despair—and we have always such among us—will be stirred to welcome a little courage. Remember, too, that the Kaiser is compelled to brag because his whole system of government in Germany, and the pretexts upon which this war was entered upon by him and his soldiers, were founded on pretence and falsehood. From the beginning onwards it has, therefore, been necessary to misrepresent, to twist the truth until it often became doubly a lie; and the nearer the day is when justice and right shall be victorious over Prussian brutality and lust of world domination, the more furious must be the lying, because of the mere instinct of self-preservation. But through all this vaunting there now runs the skulking acknowledgment that Germany is besieged, that there is danger of hunger greater than ever this coming winter, in spite of all that may be stolen from Belgian, Pole, and Frenchman, for little or no food can be drawn from any part of Turkey or Bulgaria, Serbia is devastated, and Rumania hostile. Probably enough the German power to continue "exporting and retailing" instruments of death with the insolent lavishness always hitherto displayed, is coming to an end, or is past its maximum, else why need the Kaiser have assured his deluded subjects that the Allies were "unable to outstrip Germany in production of war material?" Reasoning from experience, we should say that the probability was just the other way.

To us such an attitude of mind as the Kaiser always exhibits is so grotesque as to be almost unbelievable. There is cunning adroitness in his folly though, as we see when we catch a glimpse of what the Germans themselves think and dream about to this hour. Then, and then only, may we judge whether the Kaiser's comic opera heroics' attitude and vapourings are attuned to the understandings of the Teuton masses. And Wednesday's *Times* gave some extracts from a letter written by an officer at the front descriptive of the behaviour of two captured German officers which

throw opportune light upon just this point—Teuton mentality as it at present is. The two prisoners of war officers resented being placed "like a monkey" behind iron bars and along with their men, although a wire divided them from actual contact with the dolts they are accustomed to thrash and kick into courage and fighting energy. One of the officers was wearing a rather light pair of kid gloves, which seemed to give him "an almost comedian's touch, so absurd did gloves appear in his present surroundings"—for both bipeds were bedraggled after two days' without a shave or wash, and the one who wore a Prussian blue uniform, with his long blue coat looking very dirty and worn, was the most bedraggled, but his soul was high. "You have won five kilometres, but it is a hundred from here to Brussels; but you will get no further." They were very much concerned, though, as to whether there was any danger of being torpedoed when going over to England, as they heard very few boats ever got across. "I told them they might get across safe, but in all probability they would be sent to the Isle of Man, in which case there was a very good chance of going under. They replied, 'Isn't there a signal given on the steamer that it is carrying German prisoners?'" which, adds the officer, "I thought was rather priceless." It is, indeed, priceless. Here you have the "chosen and sacred in the eyes of God Junker brigand mind as it has been trained into the perfection of doltish pride by the servile professor and courtier theologian, by the philosopher and dreamer of social reorganisation"—like some of those enthusiasts of unbalanced mind whom M. Gaston Riou met in his pilgrimage through Germany the year before the war—rigidly standing to-day at the point whence they started two years ago on their way to subdue the world. The Kaiser must play up to that automaton of *Kultur* or perish. And the rigidity of the Prussian-formed Teuton mind, its vanity and amazing ignorance, give the best reply possible to the Kaiser's question, "Why does the war continue?" It continues because the Kaiser is at the head of an empire drilled into an imbecility in pride, insolence, and stupidity that no experience can modify. The German peoples must go on being "victorious" in their inner consciousness until none are left to don kid gloves and brag in rags and dirt.

Coming to the actual position on the strife arenas, is it not everywhere full of encouragement? People say "we British are moving on too slowly," forgetting always that the French and ourselves are conducting our part of a great siege. Only a month has passed since Sir Douglas Haig began his systematic offensive, and you have but to look at the map of German entrenchments already conquered by the British troops to see how wonderful the success obtained in that month has been. But a siege requires to be conducted with method and in reasoned-out sequence, and Sir Douglas Haig is conducting his portion of the attack with the scientific regularity and orderliness of an industrial enterprise. He saves his troops as much as possible by the full and skilful use of his powerful artillery, and he never works one relay of fighters too long at a time if he can possibly help it. The divisions immediately engaged in the Somme offensive are divided into squads, so to say, and each squad takes its allotted turn in the fighting. Its "bit" done, it is relieved by the next in sequence, and so on, turns of rest being given to all. Day by day the steady pounding wins ground—it may be but a few yards, it may be a mile, it may be an end of a trench or a whole network of trenches, but whatever it be, what is won is held.

On the French part of the containing lines and offensive it is the same—a steady pressure, the besiegers continually baulking the attempts of the besieged to try to break through or to recover ground lost—and, therefore, a greater source of loss always to the besieged than to the besiegers, a steady wearing down of the pressed back, goaded German dupes of Empire. Already in the past two years this must have gone so far, this unweariness in slaughter, as to render it impossible even for a mendacious Kaiser to boast to-day

of the numbers he can still oppose to the on-pressing, never-halting armies of freedom.

And how great is the contrast to last year on the Russian frontier! There for two months past it has been progress of the most brilliant kind, until it begins at present to look as if within this August month, or almost, the Russians might be again at the gates of Cracow, and in a position to block the retreat of Hindenburg and all the "army groups," as the Berlin High Staff pompously phrases it, under his command. The Russians are manoeuvring to get in the rear of the German invaders, who, taking advantage last year of Russian insufficiency of armaments, dashed through Poland and up almost to the gates of Riga, only to find themselves baulked, with no alternative but to dig themselves in and wait for their defeat. It is now at hand. The progress of Russia in Asia is equally brilliant, and promises an early end to the centuries-old incompetent tyranny of the Turk, the recalling to life and hope of a world long dead. Italy, too, is making way without pause amongst the mountains of her northern frontier, progressing yard by yard and trench by trench as we are; and probably the hour is near when the hosts under General Sarrail likewise will be set free to deal with the mixed mob of dispirited troops confronting them on the lines drawn north and east of Salonika, and to make an end for ever of Bulgarian ambitions, *Junker* inspired.

But the Prussians and their Kaiser must play brag-gart to the last hour, and boast of abundance to the last loaf. That is the fate they have brought on themselves by their treachery towards all at home or abroad. Their lies and spyings and savagery of all kinds are bringing the due retribution. Consequently, as we have often had to insist, the nearer we come to the final overthrow of this hydra-headed abomination of German militarism—Cæsarian despotism—the more strenuous and defiant will be the efforts made to avert the impending judgment. No Government possessed of a particle of common sense or perception of the relative importance of deeds done, measured by their morality or inevitable consequences, would have shot Captain Fryatt any more than Miss Cavell, but when these pride-inflated masters of Empire get to understand in their inner consciousness that their own doom is inevitable—as the chiefs, at least, of the Prussian autocracy must already do—they being without a standard of rectitude of their own to guide them, the wilder and more desperate are likely to be their displays of fiendish brutality. We shall have Zeppelins coming over—manned by cowards, as is proved by the fact that they fly so high in the air as to be unable to distinguish what they would fain throw bombs on below—and submarines preying upon the defenceless shipping with increasing regardlessness of any law unrecognised in hell; and on land, every description of chemical or mechanical killing instrument that can be laid hold of enlisted to work mischief in coward fashion upon the steadily victorious Allies. All will be in vain, but for some time yet the sufferings inflicted will often be severe, and only the stern resolution ever rising higher and higher within the Allied armies will bear us through to the triumphant close. Is our temper here at home attuned to the height of our duty? Possibly not yet; the spirit of self-abnegation and ungrudging sacrifice is not yet all-prevailing, but it rises without halt, and will grow stronger, more compelling as the success of our efforts to drive back the barbarian overflow becomes more marked. The third year begins well.

The Debate on the Paris Conference and the Channel Tunnel Scheme.

Wednesday's debate in the House of Commons on the Paris Conference resolutions does not seem to carry us much further into the heart of the problem involved. Now and again a good deal of bitterness was displayed by Free Traders or trade anarchists or visionary doctrinaires, who thought that the resolutions embodied "a betrayal" of Free Trade principles, and saw visions. Again and again Mr. Asquith was denounced

and sneered at because of his supposed *volte-face* on Free Trade. "There are very few older and there is no more ardent Free Trader in the House of Commons than myself," he declared, in answer to the snarlers, whereupon Mr. Snowden viciously ejaculated, "You were a Voluntarist, and you carried Conscription." There you have the "cultivated idiot" at his stupidest, but such ejections of venom are only too typical of a spirit of which too much display was given in the House last Wednesday. Indeed, as a whole, the Commons is frequently acting just now in a way that would tend to make us an adherent of Sir Edward Carson on the question of a fresh election, were not his demand grotesque to the verge of open disloyalty from a practical point of view, while the agony of the war surges to its maximum. Cannot these men of words and wails see that the Paris resolutions do not really raise the question of Free Trade *v.* Protection at all?

What was in the view of, at any rate, the wise among the delegates was the necessity for increased State control over the industries and exchange of products between nations. Those who conferred in Paris were aiming at discovery of the methods by which the Allied nations and their Empires, such as ours and the French, might organise their productive capacities in a way that would be most beneficial to their peoples and least burdensome to the workers as a whole. It is State communism, in short, that is in question far more than the now petty-looking wrangle over Free Trade. The resolutions from this point of view are definite enough, as far as they go, and although they may seem occasionally to imply a universal system of Protection—not only of Protection as adjusted between the members of the Alliance, but Protection erected against the extruded Central Empires—they none the less point the way we must follow if we are to attain to that higher accord wherein the good of the community will be worked for first of all, and the power of the individual to absorb wealth *ad lib.* much restricted. When this war is over, the State, so called, that is to say the democracies composing free political entities, must, through their representatives, take in hand the guidance of the national energy, and supervise the distribution of the national wealth to an extent never before dreamed of, an extent greater even than anything Germany has attained to by an intricate system of *cartels*, or price and production controlling trusts, except possibly in the now completely State-regulated Potass combine. We shall all have to attune our minds to a new standard of public duty, and that will involve much more than the control of industries; it will imply a redistribution of profits among all who contribute directly to their distillation, and a share in these profits to be given to the "State," to enable it to perform its duties and sustain the credit of its finance.

A concrete instance of what must come in the new life that looms ahead, which will illustrate our meaning and tend to show how vain was most of Wednesday's criticism in the House of Commons, is furnished by the Channel Tunnel project. All of a sudden and without any prompting by the English Channel Tunnel Co., or, so far as we know, the French one either, an agitation has been started and much energy and eloquence expended in advocacy of the immediate execution of this

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excellent and now imperatively necessary enterprise. Last week a luncheon was given in London at which the Tunnel propaganda was vigorous and to the point. In France, too, the project has been stirred up somewhat, though not so "pushingly" as here. We welcome all such efforts, but they bring us immediately face to face with the question—by whom are the tunnels to be bored, by private companies as originally projected, or by the French and English Governments? Who are these men working for who met in London on Friday, July 28, to lunch together and "talk Tunnel"? Some of them are distinguished public men, but none of them are, we gather, connected with the companies created many years ago when Governments were everywhere in more rudimentary relations towards the people, their work, and their interests, than they are to-day. Are the fervid volunteer projectors pioneers for the Government? We ask, not because interested in the English Channel Tunnel Co., but because we believe that neither it nor its French *confrère* can now carry out this work as it should and must be carried out. Their concessions will therefore have to be surrendered to the two Governments so that work may get done by these Governments, and so that the tunnels shall from the start be under official public control and official or "State" management. Whether the cost is to be £16,000,000 or £20,000,000 is a minor question, and whether or not the arrangement interferes with the freedom of the individual or the "joint-stocked" are problems of no practical use. There can be no question of Protectionism or Free Trade in any sense in relation to the boring of the Tunnel. It must be a public work carried out at the public expense, and whatever benefits arise from it ought to accrue to the nations as a whole on each side of the Straits, who have borne the charges imposed by its execution.

The Assassination of Captain Fryatt.

To hold the hand and keep calm in the face of such crimes as the deliberately schemed judicial murder of Captain Fryatt is very difficult for everybody, yet the country must not be drawn into indiscriminate reprisals. Mr. Asquith struck the right key when he said:—"His Majesty's Government have heard with the utmost indignation of this atrocious crime against the law of nations and the usages of war. Coming, as it does, contemporaneously with the lawless cruelty towards the population of Lille and other occupied districts of France, it shows that the German High Command, under the stress of military defeat, have renewed their policy of terrorism. It is impossible, of course, to conjecture to what further atrocities they may proceed. His Majesty's Government therefore desire to repeat emphatically their resolve that such crimes shall not, if they can help it, go unpunished. (Loud cheers.) When the time arrives, they are determined to bring to justice the criminals, whoever they may be and whatever position they may occupy. (Loud cheers.) In such cases as these the authors of the system under which such crimes are committed may well be the most guilty of all."

In these words we have a pledge that must never be violated, and especially must we hold to the determination to bring to justice the actual criminals. That cannot be done to-day, but when the war ends there ought to be a high judgment seat established by the victorious Allies, before which the guilty of all degrees, and emphatically those of the higher and highest degrees, could be arraigned and publicly tried, each receiving sentence according to his proved crimes, call he himself Kaiser or mere corporal. They should have a fair trial, every one, but, sentence given, swift justice should be meted out to the guilty, and those found worthy of death forthwith hanged in the sight of all men. Cringing or any form of servile deference to men of the stamp of Kaiser Wilhelm and his Junkers must be for ever banished from our diplomacy and from our conduct towards our fellow men.

But what meantime can we do? There are various ways by which some little conception of their criminality

might be forced in upon depraved German minds. The rigour of our blockade must be still further increased, and wherever it is possible places in Germany itself must be attacked, not necessarily or by preference the unfortified towns or those portions of them where only the poorer class civilians are, but the districts where palaces lie, the arsenals and factories, the railway depots, where death tools and gun fodder abound. Above all, now that the dry, hot weather has come, the forest regions of Germany easiest reached from the Allied lines ought to be systematically fired. To destroy the forests, and with them as much as possible the ripening crops, would be a perfectly legitimate retaliation, and one that, if effectually carried out, might contribute powerfully to bring the German people to their senses, as also to end the war. The German peoples are still in a benighted condition, hypnotised and "blinkered"—there is no better word—by their masters, their Kaiser, their hireling theologians and professors, taught to call evil good with an obliviousness to right and wrong no one would have thought it possible any race claiming to be civilised two years ago could sink to. Debased savages, thus tutored and led by the baffled warriors whom servile instructors have successfully turned into demons in human shape, demand resort to the most extreme legitimate measures in self-defence. This enslavement of the population of Lille, for instance, demands the sternest reprisals and the most prompt. They ought to be directed against the German authorities, the fiends responsible first and most persistently of all, and surely the daring and ingenuity of the French and ourselves will be equal to finding the ways and means of getting at them. And there must be no easy relenting whenever the beasts begin to howl and plead for mercy, as they certainly will when their own skins are scratched or in danger. The world has to be delivered from the horror of a race of slaves gone insane and in eruption, dominated by the most inhuman caste of ruffians known to history. And these inhuman ruffians still have many friends and admirers here. Therefore our democracies must be ever vigilant.

American Business Notes.

We are not going to say more about this squabble regarding our "Black List" of American firms. It is unnecessary to say more, because, plainly, the United States people understand what the "caustic" Note of the Washington Government really means just as well as we do. The Presidential election comes off next November, and between now and then we must be prepared for many exhibitions of catch-vote patriotism, not always pleasant to look upon, but not fairly citeable as a genuine manifestation of American sentiments, either on our rights as belligerents in this and other matters, or towards us as the "Mother" Country, whatever that may now mean. A speech has been made by Mr. Hughes, the Republican candidate, in which he vigorously finds fault with President Wilson's handling of the war problems he has had to deal with and his muddling in Mexico. It seems to have been a fine speech, but it concerns campaigning, and we are not in the fight.

The latest return showing the stock of money in the United States was made up on July 1, and is interesting as showing how notable has been the increase in the gold accumulated in the Republic during the year previous. Actually the gold coin and bullion compared with the same date of the previous year increased by about £16,000,000, and the gold certificates are no less than £67,000,000 larger in amount, so that the accumulation of gold has been about £74,000,000 within the twelvemonth ended July 1 last. This makes the total gold coin and bullion in circulation at the beginning of last month fully £126,000,000 and the gold certificates outstanding £283,000,000, raising the total amount of gold now accumulated in the Treasury or circulating amongst the banks and people to £409,000,000. No wonder European countries are beginning to feel pinched.

Tea, Oil and Rubber.

There has been a firmer tone in the rubber market, and the price of standard has recovered to 2s. 2½d., which, although a long way below the level producers would like to see maintained, is a decided improvement on last week's figure. But the advance has not stimulated share dealings to any appreciable extent, and business in this section of the Stock Exchange has been very slack. Probably the supply of buyers is becoming exhausted, for it must be remembered that there has been an enormous turnover of shares in the past few months, and it would not be surprising if rubber investors had nearly reached the limit of their resources. Other causes have doubtless contributed. Most of the interest for a long time past has centred on the younger estates just entering or approaching the dividend stage, and these are the most severely mulcted by the excess profits duty, the operation of which was, perhaps, not fully understood by the majority of the public. Moreover, it is beginning to be dimly appreciated that by the time these estates come into full bearing it is very likely that the price of rubber and the rate of profit will be very much lower than it is at present. That will hit all the companies proportionately, but meantime some of the older concerns have a decided advantage over their younger brethren, and can strengthen their position in various ways that may react unfavourably on the latter in the future. Take the case of the Vallambrosa. Its profits last year advanced from £24,900 to £49,600, but it escapes excess duty because the pre-war average was £61,000. Consequently the directors can raise the dividend from 37½ per cent. to 100 per cent., and they could tuck away comfortable amounts as reserves, which may come in very useful later on. An ideal method of annexing war profits has not been and probably will not be discovered, as there are bound to be anomalies in almost any system adopted, but certainly, as far as the rubber industry is concerned, the present arrangement works very one-sidedly. As we have previously pointed out, a tax on the amount of rubber produced would be a much more equitable method of securing the revenue which the country requires.

The Vallambrosa Rubber Co. made very satisfactory progress in the year ended March 31, the crop of 599,815 lbs. being nearly 19,000 lbs. in excess of the estimate and 57,612 lbs. larger than in the previous 12 months. Owing to heavier freight and insurance charges the "all-in" cost rose by .45d., but even then it was remarkably low at 11.10d., while the gross price realised was 8.35d. better at 2s. 10.23d. Nett profits, after charging the whole of the development expenditure on the two younger properties, showed an increase of £24,739 at £49,612, of which £5,000 is again transferred to reserve, making that fund £50,000, or only £600 less than the paid-up capital. The dividend is raised from 37½ per cent. to 100 per cent., less tax, and as nothing is written off compared with £1,473 off cost of estates a year ago, the balance carried forward is £550 up at £7,309. For the current season the crop from Vallambrosa and Bukit Kraiong is estimated at 645,500 lbs. Tapping was begun on Athlone towards the end of October, and 18,646 lbs. were harvested. Naturally the f.o.b. cost was very high at 1s. 11d., but the output for this year is expected to reach 80,900 lbs., and the cost should come down rapidly from now onwards.

Both the Tali Ayer Rubber Estates and the Rubana Rubber Estates, which are under the same control, show substantial recoveries in the year ended April 30 from the set-back which occurred in the previous 12 months. The Tali Ayer especially did well, its crop exceeding the estimate by 100,000 lbs., and the previous output by 178,732 lbs. at 640,778 lbs., while the average price rose by 5.09d. to 2s. 6.59d. "All-in" costs, excluding .47d., or .18d. more, for war risk insurance were 1.18d. heavier, but were still low at 1s. 1.35d., and the nett profits improved by £19,451 to £46,295. With £5,209 brought in, the disposable

surplus was £51,504, or £16,295 more, and about half of this gain is used to increase the dividend from 10 per cent. to 12½ per cent., and leaving the balance carried forward £8,795 up at £14,004, in order to provide for excess profits duty. A crop of 837,000 lbs. is expected for the current year. Owing to the investment in War Loan having been increased by £20,487 to £29,987, cash balances are £20,820 down at £15,332. The Rubana was not quite so successful as its companion, although it also was able to raise its dividend from 10 per cent. to 12½ per cent. The crop fell a little short of expectations, but was 59,743 lbs. larger than that of the previous year at 571,405 lbs., and the price improved by 3.85d. to 2s. 5.13d., against which the "all-in" cost, excluding .49d. for war risk insurance, was .63d. up. Even so, however, it only amounted to 1s. 0.67d., and with £2,384, or £463 less, brought in, the nett profits were £9,371 better at £39,255. After paying the dividend of 12½ per cent., £3,121 more at £5,505 is carried forward. The crop for 1916-17 is estimated at 651,000 lbs.

With an increase of 135,289 lbs. to 437,598 lbs. in its crop for the year ended April 30, the Sumatra Consolidated Rubber Estates was able to effect a further reduction of 1.26d. in the all-in cost, bringing it down to the very satisfactory level of 11.96d. At the same time the price realised was 6.10d. better at 2s. 8.88d., and the nett profits, after again writing off £1,500 for depreciation, showed an improvement of £20,971 at £40,009. Advantage is taken of this prosperity to correct last year's error of judgment by transferring £16,000 to reserve, as against nothing, but the apparent prudence is to some extent due to provision for excess profits duty being included. It, however, means that most of the gain in profits is retained, and the dividend is therefore only increased by 5 per cent. to 25 per cent., leaving £942 to be carried forward compared with £1,954 brought in. Additions to property account included an increase in the factory and drying shed accommodation, and the total cost is £5,309 up at £109,558, but the company is well provided with funds, having £22,916 in Treasury bills and £10,208 in cash, while its rubber stocks were valued at £20,675. The crop for the current year is estimated at 500,000 lbs.

Highly satisfactory results were obtained by the Kawie (Java) Rubber Estates in the twelve months ended March 31. The average area in tapping was 1,213 acres, and with a yield of 315 lbs. per acre, the total output not only exceeded the estimate by a substantial amount, but was 203,738 lbs. above the previous year's crop at 383,642 lbs., while the price was 4.06d. better at 2s. 3.15d. Coffee, although 205 cwts. down compared with a year ago, was still above the estimate at 2,783 cwts., and the price rose by no less than 12s. 5d. to 49s. 4d. Profits, after again allowing £1,000 for depreciation, were £23,256 up at £33,566, but as £5,879 less at £1,991 was brought forward, the nett gain was £17,377 at £35,557. The appropriation to estates reserve is reduced from £9,000 to £3,000, and the dividend is increased from 10 per cent. to 30 per cent., leaving £12,157, or £9,796 more, to be carried forward. For the current year the crops are estimated at 450,000 lbs. rubber and 4,250 cwts. of Robusta coffee. Forward sales have been made of

PRUDENTIAL

ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED,

HOLBORN BARS, LONDON.

Invested Funds exceed - £94,000,000.

CLAIMS PAID £126,000,000.

32½ tons of rubber at 2s. 8d. per lb. f.o.b., and 3,035 cwt. of coffee have been sold at prices equal to about 76s. 7d. per cwt. Java.

The directors of the Selangor United Rubber Estates came very near the mark with their estimate of 140,000 lbs. as the output for the year ended March 31, the actual crop being 143,869 lbs., or 41,464 lbs. more than for the previous season. A very satisfactory improvement of 8.01d. to 2s. 10.22d. was shown in the gross price, and although the "all-in" cost was 1.08d. heavier, it was not out of the way at 1s. 2.17d. Nett profits were more than doubled at £12,254, and with a larger balance of £1,412 brought in the amount available was £7,926 up at £13,666, out of which a dividend of 12½ per cent. is paid compared with 5 per cent. a year ago, and after writing £345 off London expenditure £3,330, or £1,722 more, is carried forward. The output for 1916-17 is expected to reach 185,000 lbs.

A very belated report, covering the year ended December 31, 1914, is issued by the Russian General Oil Corporation. In that period misfortune appears to have dogged the footsteps of the company, a strike having broken out in the Baku district in the end of May, which lasted about two months, and caused boring work to be delayed. Then came the outbreak of war in the middle of the navigation season at the time when work on the oil wells was at its height, with the result that a number of oil companies in which this corporation is interested were either unable to pay dividends at all, or had to reduce their distributions, and the receipts from this source amounted to only Rs. 1,300,000, or Rs. 2,305,663 less than in the previous year. The corporation's own trading operations in mazout and crude oil were also adversely affected, and resulted in a loss of £140,269. After providing for interest on advances, and administration expenses in London and Russia, including directors' remuneration for the 18 months ended December 31, 1913, and allowing £4,835 for loss on exchange, the nett outcome of the year's working was a loss of £197,901, as against a profit of £348,084 in the previous eighteen months. From this loss is deducted £10,584 brought forward after the payment of two interim dividends of 6 per cent. and 7½ per cent. respectively in the earlier period, leaving a debit balance of £187,317 to be carried forward. Investments have risen by £150,800 to £4,206,923, chiefly through the purchase of 1,000 new shares in the Moscow-Kavkaz Co., and the liability on advances against security of the corporation's investments has risen by £296,579 to £2,087,044. Stocks of naphtha products are £100,837 larger at £930,771, and deposits with the Russian Government come to £29,949 more at £82,747. Debtors are £283,202 down at £907,110, but the directors say that these are all absolutely good as the greater part of the customers are located in the Volga district, which has been less affected by the war than any other. Cash, too, has been reduced by £112,547 to £149,579, while, on the other hand, £30,589 less at £984,375 is due to sundry creditors.

SUMATRA PROPRIETARY RUBBER.—After providing for debenture interest and writing off £500 for depreciation, the accounts for the year ended April 30 show a surplus of £1,740, which is carried forward. The crop was 47,163 lbs. larger at 93.416 lbs., and the price rose by 7.05d. to 2s. 8½d., but with the estate only in the early stage of production, the directors say nothing about the cost. The vendors' guarantee with regard to dividends came to an end with the payment in May, 1915, so that the shareholders will now have to depend upon the property itself for any return.

JURU ESTATES.—The rubber crop for the year ended March 31 was 41,090 lbs. larger at 116.134 lbs., and realised 5.19d. more at 2s. 7.42d., while the "all-in" cost was reduced by 1.56d. to 1s. 2.19d. Coconuts, however, were a disappointing crop, as the number fell off by 237,632 to 687,037, and the price was 14s. 9d. down at £4 16s. 11d. per 1,000, against an increase of £2 16s. 2d. to £5 17s. 4d. in the "all-in" cost. Thanks to rubber, the nett profits, after providing an extra £358 at £834 for depreciation, including £1,411 brought in, was £3,495 better at £8,906, and the company pays its first dividend of 5 per cent., less tax, but £500 less at £3,500 is transferred to reserve, leaving £1,406 to be carried forward. The company has paid

off £2,500 of its loan from the London and Colonial Investment Corporation, reducing it to £5,250, and has £3,351 in cash. For the current year the crops are estimated at 150,000 lbs. rubber and 700,000 coconuts.

JERAM RUBBER ESTATES.—After debiting revenue with 50 per cent. of management expenses against 75 per cent. in the previous year, profits for the 12 months ended March 31, including £1,868 brought forward, were £7,817 up at £18,324. Out of this the dividend is increased from 15 per cent. to 20, but is this time paid less income-tax, instead of tax free as a year ago, £1,000 is again transferred to reserve, and the allowance for depreciation is doubled at £1,000, leaving £9,453, or £4,645 more, to be carried forward subject to excess profits duty. The crop was 61,948 lbs. larger at 226,860 lbs., and realised 5.23d. more at 2s. 6.82d., but the directors give no particulars as to the "all-in" cost.

MABIRA FOREST (UGANDA) RUBBER.—Very little encouragement is to be extracted from the report for the year ended December 31. The coffee crops were well above the estimate, but the nett income from all sources was only £1,513 up at £2,955, and after providing for London office charges and writing off £1,898, or £720 less, for depreciation, there was a loss of £2,477 compared with one of £4,706 a year ago, and the debit balance now amounts to £22,112. In addition, the company is carrying as assets £33,000 for costs of acquiring lease and £30,000 for outlay to December 31, 1909, underwriting commission, &c. Against this item there is a leasehold redemption account of £12,368, but even so the outlook is by no means promising.

BRITISH AND CONTINENTAL TEA PLANTATIONS TRUST.—The revenue from the tea crops on two estates was again credited to development account in the year ended March 31, but the profit from other sources, including £1,502, or £414 more, brought forward, was £2,704 better at £4,706, out of which £3,000 as against £500 is written off investments and £1,706 is carried forward. Investments, after writing off the £3,000 from revenue, show a reduction of £19,411 at £59,749, and according to a summary given by the directors 54 per cent. of this amount is in tea in South India, 10 per cent. is in rubber and 20 per cent. in rubber and other produce. Property account, after deducting £1,223 derived from the sale of green leaf, has risen by £8,972 to £49,673, and debtors owe £4,272 more at £2,211, while £10,863 has been temporarily invested in Treasury bills.

BATAVIA PLANTATION INVESTMENTS.—Rubber yields for May, 72,277 lbs.; increase, 6,417 lbs.; five months, 261,159 lbs.; increase, 24,847 lbs.

Romanian Consolidated Oilfields, Ltd.—Production for July 22, 772 tons.

Mississippi River Power.—Nett operating results for June, \$113,045; increase, \$1,858.

European Oilfields.—Production week 30th ult. was 101,400 poods.

Kaministiquia Power.—Nett earnings for June, \$25,168.19; increase, \$669.57. Aggregate from November 1, \$215,212.02; increase, \$16,565.39.

Bank of Liverpool, Ltd.—Mr. Charles Booth, jun., has been appointed chairman, and Mr. Edward Paul and Mr. Isaac H. Storey have been appointed deputy-chairmen.

Mr. R. B. Stoker, Heather Lea, Green Walk, Bowdon, Cheshire, has been elected a director of the Manchester Ship Canal Co., in place of Mr. John E. Newton, who has resigned.

The Government of the Republic of Colombia, having lodged £15,000 for the purpose of resuming the redemption of bonds of the 6 per cent. external debt, the General Investors and Trustees, Ltd., as trustees of the redemption fund, and at the request of the Colombian Government, invites offers of bonds for cancellation. Offers must be lodged not later than noon on the 9th instant, and should be enclosed in a sealed envelope, marked outside "Offer of Colombian Government 6 per Cent. Bonds." The price quoted must include the coupon due September 1, 1916. No offer may be withdrawn prior to the 12th instant.

Japanese Progress.—Compiled by the Bank of Japan, a handsome volume has recently been issued by it, entitled "The Recent Economic Development of Japan." For many years back the Government itself has published a "financial and economic annual," and we used to get it for the asking; but for some reason, perhaps because we have not remembered to go after it, it has not been seen by us. All the more welcome is this really admirable and well-arranged volume of more than 400 pages. It gives a review of the economic state of the country, the condition and progress of its agriculture, including its tea-growing, and says much about the manufacturing industries and their development, a marvellous story, as also about the domestic and foreign trade of the empire, the whole being a storehouse of well-digested facts which would be still more valuable for reference if the book, in its next issue, were endowed with a good index. Appended to the text are a number of diagrams of a type much favoured by Japanese statisticians in setting forth the developments of their empire's resources and wealth. Amongst the maps is an outline of the islands composing the empire, and the mainland coast illustrative of the sea routes created and worked by the Japanese people. Another map shows the distribution of forests, still another the position of the principal in-shore fisheries, and another that of the mines in Japan proper. So altogether the book is a valuable one to have at hand for reference.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

RAILWAYS.

Barry.—Interim for half-year ended June 30 at the rate of $9\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., same as last year.

Cardiff.—Interim for half-year ended June 30 at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on the preference, 4 per cent. per annum on the preferred, and 3 per cent. per annum on the second preferred.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Interim at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on ordinary for half-year ended June 30, payable Aug. 28.

Great North of Scotland.—Interim at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum on preferred ordinary, and on the deferred at the rate of 1 per cent. per annum, same rate as last year.

Highland.—Interim on the preference stocks for six months to June 30 at the full rates. The directors have resolved not to pay any interim dividend on the ordinary stock for the same period.

Midland Great Western of Ireland.—The directors state that, in view of the uncertainty of the future regarding prices of coal, materials, &c., they consider it wiser to declare an interim dividend on the consolidated stock at the rate of 1 per cent. per annum only (against 2 per cent.) for half-year ended June 30, less tax, payable Sept. 14.

North British.—The directors of the North British Railway Co. are unable in the meantime to declare an interim dividend on the preferred ordinary, as a sum of about £100,000, being the increase of expenditure on the repair of wagons during the year 1915, has been called in question by the Railway Executive Committee of the Government. A further large sum similarly incurred during the half-year ended June 30, 1916, will depend upon the ultimate decision as to the amount incurred in the year 1915. Failing agreement the matter will fall to be decided by the Railway and Canal Commission. Pending a settlement the accounts for the half-year ended June 30, 1916, cannot be completed to the extent necessary for the declaration of an interim dividend other than on the preference stocks. Interim dividends are declared for the six months at the full rates per cent. per annum on all the preference stocks payable—except as regards the interim dividend on the consolidated lien stock paid on July 1—on September 6. Immediately a settlement has been reached the directors will meet further to consider the position.

Vale of Glamorgan.—Interim at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, against $4\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. a year ago.

MISCELLANEOUS.

American Cyanamid.—6 per cent. on the cumulative preferred for 12 months ended June 30, 1915, payable Dec. 1, 1916. All arrears of dividends on these preferred shares will then have been paid.

Anglo-Sumatra Rubber.—Third interim in respect of year to May 31, 1916, of 10 per cent., less tax, making 30 per cent. for year to date.

Bank of New South Wales.—Interim quarterly at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, payable Aug. 25.

Besoeki Plantations.—At the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., less tax, for year ended Dec. 31, 1915.

Birmingham Railway Carriage and Wagon.—Interim of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum on the ordinary for half-year ended June 30, same as a year ago.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for half-year ended June 30 on the ordinary, against 4 per cent.

Charing Cross, West End, and City Electricity Supply.—Interim on the ordinary of West End undertakings for half-year ended June 30 at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, same as a year ago, payable Aug. 15.

Coliseum Syndicate.—Interim of 25 per cent.

Dominion Bank.—The nett profits for the six months ended June 30 last are \$445,000, comparing with \$420,000 in the corresponding half of 1915.

Fife Linoleum.— $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the ordinary, against 5 per cent.

Grantham Gas.—For half-year at the rate of 5 per cent.

Grantham Waterworks.—At the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

Hackney and Shepherd's Bush Empire.—Interim of 5 per cent.

Hudson's Bay Co.—Dividend warrants on the ordinary will be posted on the 8th and payable on the 9th inst.

Ionian Bank.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, free tax, for half-year ended July 13, payable Sept. 5.

John Watson.—Interim at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, less tax, same as last year.

Kensington and Knightsbridge Electric.—Interim on the ordinary for half-year ended June 30, at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

Leicester Palace Theatre.—Interim of 10 per cent.

Manchester Hippodrome and Ardwick Empire.—At the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, less tax, for half-year ending June 30.

Metropolitan Gas of Melbourne, Australia.—6s. 6d. per share for half-year, same as a year ago; £35,000 to reserve, against £38,800; forward, £54,156, against £36,600.

Middle West Utilities.—Regular quarterly of \$1.50 per share on preferred, payable Sept. 1.

Milners' Safe.—At the rate of 3 per cent. per annum, less tax, for year to May 31. For the previous year no dividend was paid.

Newbiggin Collieries.—Interim 5 per cent., less tax.

Price's Patent Candle.—Interim of 15s. per share for half-year ended June 30, and a bonus of 5s. per share, less tax, payable Sept. 29. A year ago an interim was 16s. per share, but no bonus was paid.

Provident Clerks' and General Guarantee and Accident.—Interim for half-year to June 30 at the rate of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum, less tax, same as a year ago.

Read Brothers.—Interim for six months ended June 30 at the

rate of 5 per cent. per annum on ordinary, payable Sept. 1, less tax, against 8 per cent.

Rosehaugh Tea and Rubber.—Interim of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. (actual), free tax in respect of 1916, against 5 per cent.

Rubberine.—5 per cent. for half-year ended June 30, at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, payable Sept. 1, against 15 per cent.

Scottish Insurance.—Interim 10 per cent. for half-year ended June 30, payable Sept. 4, same as a year ago.

Scottish Western Investment.—Interim at the rate of 9 per cent. per annum, less tax, on the ordinary, same as last year.

Shelton Iron, Steel, and Coal.—Interim of 6d. per share, less tax, payable Aug. 12.

South American Stores (Gath and Chaves).—Interim on the ordinary of 3 per cent. (7 1-5d. per share), less tax, for year ended July 31, 1916, payable Aug. 7.

South Staffordshire Waterworks.—Interim for half-year on the ordinary at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, less tax, same as a year ago.

Stock Conversion and Investment Trust.—The dividends declared and announced for the two half-years ended June 30, 1916, by the London and North-Western Railway will, after payment in full on the $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. first charge and 4 per cent. second charge preferred stocks (London and North-Western Railway ordinary stock) permit of a dividend of 7s. per cent. on the deferred charge stock for the year, compared with 7s. 6d. per cent. a year ago. The dividends declared and announced for the same period by the North-Eastern Railway will, after payment in full on the 3 per cent. first charge preferred stock (North-Eastern Consols) permit of a dividend of £1 17s. 6d. per cent. on the deferred charge stock for the year, same as a year ago.

Tekka.—rs. 6d. per share, less tax, payable Aug. 7, against rs. 3d., tax free.

Thos. Wallis and Co.—Interim for half-year to July 31 at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, less tax at 4s. 3½d., on the ordinary, same as a year ago.

Vickers, Limited.—Interim for half-year ended June 30 of rs. per share (free tax) on the ordinary, same as a year ago, payable Aug. 29.

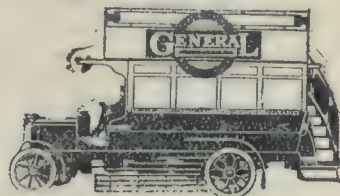
Walter Scott.—10 per cent. on the ordinary, making 15 per cent. for year to June 30, against $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Wankie Colliery.—Further interim of 5 per cent., less tax, on account of year ending Aug. 31, payable 22nd inst.

Western Wagon and Property.—Interim at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for half-year ended June 30.

Westminster Electric Supply.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, less tax, for half-year ended June 30, payable Sept. 1, against 6 per cent.

Wm. France Fenwick and Co.—Interim on ordinary at the rate of 5 per cent., together with a bonus of 5 per cent., payment Sept. 1. A year ago an interim dividend of the same amount, but no bonus.



FURTHER BUS WITHDRAWALS AND READJUSTMENTS.

The following alterations are now in operation:—

Route No.

35A. CAMBERWELL GREEN & WOOD ST., WALTHAMSTOW.

Service withdrawn on weekdays.

38A. VICTORIA & WOODFORD.

Curtailed on weekdays from Woodford, and runs to Wood St., Walthamstow. Also diverted from Graham Rd. (Dalston) to Pembury Rd.

ON AND FROM SUNDAY, AUGUST 6th.

Route No.

35A. CAMBERWELL GREEN & CHINGFORD.

Service withdrawn.

103. CUBITT TOWN & HIGHAMS PARK.

Service withdrawn as between Highams Park and Baker's Arms, Leyton, and extended to Hoe St. Station, Walthamstow.

162. PECKHAM RYE & BEXLEY.

Service withdrawn.

ON AND FROM MONDAY, AUGUST 7th.

Route No.

15. PUTNEY COMMON & UPTON PARK.

Service withdrawn weekdays and Sundays.

23A. OXFORD CIRCUS & UPTON PARK.

New Service on weekdays to cover eastern portion of withdrawn 15 Route.

22. PUTNEY & HOMERTON.

Curtailed on weekdays and Sundays at Putney Bridge, and diverted to Putney Common via Lower Richmond Road.

27A. WOOD GREEN & SHOOTERS HILL.

Service withdrawn weekday and Sundays.

91. LEWISHAM & SHOOTERS HILL.

New Service on weekdays and Sundays to cover southern portion of withdrawn 27A Route.

The London General Omnibus Co., Ltd.
Electric Railway House,
Broadway, Westminster, S.W.

Insurance News.

Copies of the Finance Bill as amended in Committee are now available, and the exact effect of the new clauses relating to the relief of income-tax allowed in respect of life assurance premiums can be seen at a glance. The main points it is well to place on record. Policies issued after June 22 will not be entitled to relief at a greater rate than 3s. in the pound, and comparatively little opposition was evoked by this proposal, as this limit means that the full value of the concession is obtained, as the income-tax stands at present, in the case of earned incomes up to £1,500, the interests of the smaller policyholders thus being fully protected. For the future, therefore, policyholders will be divided into two groups, one of which will obtain a higher rate of abatement than the other. Concessions are made to naval and military men, as the heavy additional premiums paid by them for war risks are no longer to be taken into account in calculating the limit of one-sixth of the year's income on which abatement is allowed. The clause which to all intents and purposes imposed a tax on surrender values, and which undoubtedly would have created considerable dissatisfaction, has been withdrawn.

The City Equitable Fire Insurance Co. has secured the consent of the Treasury to a further increase in capital, the result of which is that a further sum of £115,000 will be added to its funds. As now increased, the capital will be £375,000 subscribed, of which £75,000 is paid up, or an increase of 50 per cent., and in addition a sum of £90,000 in cash has been received by way of premium on the new issue, this sum being invested in British Government War loans and added to the general reserves.

A new prospectus has just been issued by the London Life Association, and among other items of interest is one worthy of special notice. This is the association's scheme for leaving moneys on deposit. Should a man wish his wife to have the income of his estate during her life, instead of reinvesting the policy money, which again may have to be sold at the wife's death, the executors can leave the policy money or a portion of the amount with the association, the risk of depreciation thus being eliminated. Interest on the amount left would be paid half-yearly, the rate accruing from April 6 in any year being 10s. less than the average gross rate of interest per cent. yielded by the total funds in the previous year as set forth in the report. The rate of interest earned by the company in 1915, it may be noted, was £4 12s. 9d. gross, and the total funds on December 31 amounted to over 5½ millions. Any beneficiaries under the will of a policyholder can avail themselves of the advantages of this scheme.

HOME RAILWAY DIVIDENDS.

The following railway companies have intimated the dates on which their half-yearly dividends are likely to be declared:—

Date.	Company.
8th August	Caledonian
8th August	Glasgow and South-Western
11th August	Furness

Mr. Harold Chamberlin, of Great Yarmouth, has joined the York and Country Advisory Board of the London Joint Stock Bank, Ltd.

National Trust Co. have received a cable from their head office at Toronto, which states:—"Grain maturing rapidly. Crop conditions good; weather warm, showery; large amount of land breaking in new districts."

The London office of the Union Bank of Canada has received the following cablegram from its head office, Winnipeg:—"Crop conditions excellent. Very little damage by hail so far, and weather all that could be desired. Phenomenal results, however, not expected, only exceptionally good average."

Dalgaty and Co., Ltd., have received the following cable from their Sydney branch, under date of August 1: "Wool sales new season opened to-day; 10,000 bales available. Small instalment new clip included. Competition animated. Best merinos, 5 per cent. higher than June sales; others par. Cross-breeds in good demand; best scoured, unchanged; medium inferior, irregular, with lower tendency."

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1916, and July 29, 1916:—

	Estimate for the Year 1916-1917.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1916, to July 29, 1916.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1915, to July 31, 1915.
Balances in Exchequer on April 1—	£	£	£
Bank of England	—	25,111,065	81,898,728
Bank of Ireland	—	463,941	1,552,224
REVENUE.		25,575,006	83,450,952
Customs	—	21,138,000	12,886,000
Excise	—	15,945,000	18,090,000
Estate, &c., Duties	—	10,537,000	12,528,000
Stamps	—	2,322,000	1,996,000
Land Tax and House Duty	—	310,000	320,000
Property and Income Tax and Super Tax	—	25,711,000	13,425,000
Excess Profits Duty	—	10,106,000	—
Land Value Duties	—	80,000	41,000
Post Office	—	10,500,000	8,900,000
Crown Lands	—	160,000	160,000
Receipts from Suez Canal	—	—	—
Shares and Sundry Loans	—	495,894	6,472
Miscellaneous	—	2,178,033	1,000,093
Revenue	—	99,572,927	69,359,505
Total, including Balance		125,147,933	152,810,512
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion		1,500,000	280,000
For War Loan, 1925-1928		—	35,300,000
For 3% Exchequer Bonds, 1920		—	242,345
For War Loan, 1925-1945		424	273,500,000
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919		26,092,000	—
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920		79,014,500	—
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1921		44,848,000	—
For War Expenditure Certificates		16,407,909	—
For War Savings Certificates		12,150,000	—
For other Debt created under the War Loan Act, 1915		10,000,000	—
Temporary Advances—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £345,000,000 in 1916-1917 and £267,457,000 in 1915-1916)		401,396,500	208,457,000
Total		716,557,257	670,589,862

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Estimate for the Year 1916-17.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1916, to July 29, 1916.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1915, to July 31, 1915.
EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£
Permanent Charge of Debt ..	—	10,940,351	11,690,848
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	—	39,298,351	396,324
Road Improvement Fund	—	—	529,622
Payments to Local Taxation	—	—	—
Accounts, &c.	—	1,628,121	1,852,260
Other Consolidated Fund	—	—	—
Services	—	680,701	774,078
Supply Services	—	536,767,031	357,961,298
Expenditure	—	589,314,555	373,204,490
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion		1,690,000	345,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		60,914	60,914
For Treasury Bills (nett amount)		1,331,000	23,534,000
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan (Redemption) Act, 1910		—	16,395,500
For Repayments to the Bank of England ..		—	96,041,667
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913		150,000	830,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 ..		90,000	—
Under Housing Act, 1914		18,900	500,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8, issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1908		38,000	27,000
Old Sinking Fund—1910-1911: Issued under the Finance Act, 1911—			
Section 16 (1) (b)		20,000	50,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1911-1912—Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Co. (Acquisition of Capital) Act, 1914		—	250,000
Temporary Advances repaid—Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £67,895,000 in 1916-17 and £15,420,000 in 1915-16)		98,791,500	15,420,000
Balances in Exchequer—			
July 29, 1916.	£	£	£
Bank of England	24,035,343	143,253,192	—
Bank of Ireland	1,017,045	678,099	—
Total		716,557,257	670,589,862

MEMO.—Treasury Bills outstanding on July 29, 1916 *£842,378,000.

* Includes £636,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the Account.
Treasury, July 31, 1916.

Mr. Granville Tyser has been admitted a partner in the firm of Paines, Blyth and Huxtable, solicitors, of 14, St. Helen's Place, London, E.C.

Messrs. Spillers and Bakers, Ltd., announce that the conversion of the existing £10 preference shares of the company into £1 shares will take effect on and from September 1 next. All transactions must, therefore, be made upon the new basis on and from that date. Transfer deeds received by first post on the 22nd inst. will, if found in order, be registered, the accruing dividend paid to the transferees, and the corresponding certificates, in the new form, will be issued during next month.

IRISH RAILWAYS.

		£	£	£	£
Belfast and County Down..	July 28	4,873	+ 718	105,523	- 3,949
Grand Canal..	" 28	1,169	+ 93	4,409	- 211
Great Northern ..	" 28	25,790	+ 40	695,089	+ 13,438
Gt. Southern and Western..	" 28	35,311	+ 1,050	943,601	- 47,542
Midland Great Western ..	" 28	13,769	+ 2,786	367,864	- 5,103

* From Jan. 1. † From July 1.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam Bengal ..	June 17	1,15,000	- 9,157	14,00,829	- 7,31,225
Bengal & N.W. ..	" 17	4,21,030	+ 31,163	51,13,855	+ 5,56,298
Bengal Nagpur ..	" 10	9,45,000	+ 2,000,000	98,69,000	+ 15,56,343
Bombay, Baroda ..	July 29	11,51,000	+ 1,77,000	2,33,51,000	+ 21,71,000
Burma ..	June 17	3,48,074	- 18,582	46,14,258	- 1,27,245
Delhi Umballa ..	July 22	58,200	- 48	11,23,390	- 75,938
East Indian ..	" 29	19,32,000	+ 1,68,000	3,77,60,000	+ 6,50,000
East Indian Penin. ..	" 29	18,28,600	+ 5,65,900	3,46,35,100	+ 64,81,859
Lucknow-Bareilly ..	June 17	44,740	+ 360	5,61,095	- 82,376
Madras and S. ..	" 24	9,75,000	+ 31,168	1,26,17,152	+ 6,53,562
Mahratta ..	" 24	1,15,326	+ 19,463	16,09,591	+ 1,07,893
Nizam's Gd. (Broad) ..	" 24	73,162	+ 11,864	9,34,840	- 1,00,707
Robilkund and (Metre) ..	" 24	42,425	+ 3,994	5,22,037	+ 71,911
Kumaon ..	" 17	6,17,206	+ 28,002	74,29,637	+ 3,98,543
South Indian ..	" 24				

a 13 days. † April 1. ‡ October 1.

COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

		£	£	£	£
Beira ..	May *	38,734	+ 10,209	2,754,000	+ 147,600
Canadian Northern ..	July 21	985,000	+ 591,700	7,995,000	+ 304,000
Canadian Pacific ..	" 21	2,641,000	+ 971,000	5,187,191	+ 64,495
Gr. Trk. Main Line ..	" 28	301,895	+ 46,398	1,114,855	+ 269,758
Gr. Trk. Western ..	" 28	53,170	+ 9,66	394,367	+ 95,991
Detroit G. H. & M. ..	" 28	16,999	+ 649	48,001	+ 16,687
Gr Trk Pac Prairie Sc	" 21	17,106	+ 7,752	728,934	- 88,250
Mashonaland ..	May *	60,114	+ 19,440	83,158	- 10,632
Mid. of Westn. Aus. ..	May *	6,941	+ 1,146	41,766	- 6,569
New Cape Central ..	July 1	1,926	+ 191	1,179,782	- 96,352
Rhodesia ..	May *	82,161	+ 19,741		

a 9 days. * Months. † July 1. ‡ Jan. 1. c From Oct. 1.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

		£	£	£	£
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	July 21	895,000	+ 67,000	13,735,000	+ 36,000
Chicago G.W. ..	" 14	314,000	+ 24,000	908,000	+ 21,000
Colorado & South'n ..	" 21	464,000	+ 15,000	2,171,000	+ 229,000
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	" 14	462,000	+ 25,000	33,721,000	+ 6,593,000
Louisv'e & Nashv'e ..	" 14	1,133,000	+ 122,000		
Minn. S.P. (Soo) ..	June 21	665,000	+ 159,000		
Missouri Kansas ..	July 21	680,000	+ 110,000		
Northern Pacific ..	July 14	1,490,000	+ 270,000	71,952,000	+ 11,706,000
Southern ..	July 14	1,322,000	+ 155,000	2,676,000	+ 337,000

§ Includes Wisconsin Central. † From July 1.

MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

NAME.	NETT EARNINGS FOR MONTH.			NETT EARNINGS TO DATE.		
	Month.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year	No. of Mths.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year
Atchafalpa T. & S. Fé ..	May	4,317,000	+ 1,475,000	11	40,978,000	+ 6,977,000
Atlantic Coast Line ..	June	848,000	+ 282,000	12	9,079,000	+ 2,447,000
Baltimore & Ohio ..	"	3,204,000	+ 2,000	12	32,348,000	+ 4,458,000
Canadian Northern ..	"	985,000	+ 591,700	8	8,537,800	+ 2,808,000
Canadian Pacific ..	"	3,690,000	+ 1,012,000	12	42,226,000	+ 15,651,000
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	May	1,480,000	+ 394,000	11	14,816,000	+ 4,097,000
Chicago & N.W. ..	"	1,014,000	+ 340,000	11	23,836,000	+ 4,331,000
Chicago Burl. & Q. ..	"	2,869,000	+ 1,230,000	11	37,764,500	+ 9,266,000
Chicago G.W. ..	"	246,000	+ 38,000	11	3,831,000	+ 746,000
Chicago Mil. & S.P. ..	"	2,298,000	+ 604,000	11	29,366,000	+ 7,473,000
Chicago, Rock I. & P. ..	"	1,744,000	+ 669,000	11	17,829,000	+ 2,470,000
Colorado & Southern ..	"	447,000	+ 227,000	11	5,317,000	+ 1,457,000
Cuba ..	"	681,003	+ 140,126	11	6,211,534	+ 1,462,441
Do. ..	"	261,131	+ 482	11	2,314,953	+ 626,709
Delaware & Hud. ..	"	794,000	+ 93	5	3,486,000	+ 564,000
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	"	798,000	+ 206,000	11	8,304,000	+ 2,440,000
Erie ..	"	1,861,000	+ 761,000	5	6,924,000	+ 2,139,000
Gr. Tr. Main Line ..	June	£277,450	+ £2,350	6	£1,163,650	+ £137,900
Grand Trunk Westn ..	"	£61,000	+ £34,300	6	£239,500	+ £219,800
Detroit G. H. & Mil. ..	"	£11,403	+ £15,100	6	£21,100	+ £41,200
Gt. Northern ..	Apl.	1,701,000	+ 1,072,000	10	27,764,000	+ 4,798,000
Illinois Central ..	May	1,287,000	+ 608,000	12	12,666,000	+ 2,268,000
Kansas City Southn. ..	June	301,000	+ 162,000	12	3,660,000	+ 676,000
Lehigh Valley ..	May	1,312,000	+ 92,000	11	11,425,000	+ 1,527,000
Louisville & Nashv. ..	"	1,098,000	+ 848,000	11	16,716,000	+ 7,508,000
Minn. S.P. (Soo) ..	"	1,051,000	+ 714,000	11	12,581,000	+ 4,984,000
Miss. K. & Texas ..	"	418,000	+ 63,000	11	4,706,000	+ 3,538,000
Missouri Pacific ..	Apl.	983,000	+ 97,000	11	11,844,000	+ 661,000
New York Cent. & H. ..	May	5,597,000	+ 1,870,000	5	24,154,000	+ 10,659,000
N.Y. N. Haven & H. ..	"	2,200,000	+ 462,000	11	20,240,000	+ 4,390,000
New York Ont. & W. ..	"	204,000	+ 28,000	11	3,205,000	+ 249,000
Norfolk & Western ..	"	2,463,000	+ 928,000	11	21,231,000	+ 9,345,000
Northern Pacific ..	"	2,422,000	+ 1,101,000	11	28,421,000	+ 8,994,000
Pennsylvania East and West Lines ..	"	10,846,000	+ 4,102,000	5	40,546,000	+ 20,197,000
St. Louis & San F. ..	Apl.	1,043,000	+ 24,000	9	10,018,000	+ 1,164,000
Seaboard Air Line ..	May	575,000	+ 108,000	11	6,524,000	+ 1,515,000
Southern ..	"	2,022,000	+ 684,000	11	19,337,000	+ 7,077,000
Southern Pacific ..	June	4,821,000	+ 1,223,000	12	48,191,000	+ 12,501,000
Union Pacific ..	May	3,386,000	+ 1,558,000	11	37,037,000	+ 9,080,000
Wabash ..	June	967,000	+ 755,000	12	10,955,000	+ 5,051,000

§ Includes Wisconsin Central. * Gross earnings. † Surplus.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—HOME.

		£	£	£	£
Bristol ..	July 28	11,415	+ 1,236	292,586	+ 11,689
Dublin United ..	" 28	7,629	+ 1,356	173,427	+ 6,822
Hastings and Dist. ..	" 28	1,321	+ 122	27,242	+ 853
Isle of Thanet ..	" 29	523	+ 165	12,851	+ 2,364
Lancashire United ..	" 26	2,163	+ 244	52,273	+ 1,700
Provincial ..	" 29	2,913	+ 290	95,205	+ 5,162
Yorks. (Wst. Rding.) ..	" 30	1,980	+ 204	52,923	+ 4,721

* From Oct. 1. † From Jan. 1.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.

		£	£	Ms.	£	£
Anglo-Argentine ..	July 29	46,346	- 790	a	1,528,391	- 3,223
Auckland Electric ..	June 26	21,152	+ 641	a	253,058	+ 4,949
Brazilian Traction ..	May 3	M4,043,000	+ M 51,020	5	M18,774,000	+ M 727,350
Brisbane Elec. Inv. ..	Apl.	30,320	+ 3,730	2	62,600	+ 6,390
British Columbia ..	June 3	£56,399	+ £52,621	10	£853,782	- £458,569
B.A. Lacroze ..	" 29	36,212	- 4,308	12	490,818	- 15,324
Burmah Electric ..	July 29	Rs. 3,437	+ Rs. 289	-	-	+ Rs. 3,920
Calcutta ..	" 29	Rs. 66,960	+ 3,720	-	Rs. 20,51,991	+ 91,941
Cordoba Light ..	" 29					
P. & T. ..	June 1	14,129	+ 70	2	45,050	+ 888
Hongkong ..	July 1	£15,226	+ £4,008	a	£355,626	+ £79,087
La Plata ..	June 6	3,736	- 140	6	25,925	+ 161
Lima ..	May 3	15,693	+ 69	4	75,913	+ 1,440
Madras Electric ..	June 31	Rs. 32,762	+ Rs. 2,272	a	Rs. 31,700	+ Rs. 31,700
Mexico ..	Nov. 3	£215,256	- £108,669	*	£3,193,106	- £197,227
Puebla ..	Dec. 3	£40,000	- £25,600	*	£669,500	- £44,500
Rangoon ..	June 3	4,205	+ 792	*	23,732	+ 1,164
Singapore Electric ..	May 20	£13,139	+ £1,897	8	£247,259	+ £29,176
Toronto ..	" 3	£438,997	+ £65,938	3	£1,693,709	+ £198,311
United of Monte V. ..	July 2	25,220	+ 59	9	266,288	+ 14,435
Vera Cruz ..	Mar. 3	£73,500	+ £32,300	*	£203,900	+ £103,200
Winnipeg ..	June 3	£87,571	- £2,926	4	£630,508	- £8,564

b 28 days. * From Jan. 1. § Nett. a From July 1. c Two weeks.

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
	Week ending	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	Wks.	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.
			£		£	£
Alcoy and Gandia ..	July 29	Ps. 11,000	—Ps. 1,000	†	Ps. 429,900	+ Ps. 39,000
Antofagasta (Chili) ..	" 23	31,575	— 245	†	993,990	+ 308,515
Arauco ..	June 23	10,000	+ 4,337	†	144,138	+ 16,316
Argentine N.E. ..	July 29	6,500	— 260	†	24,902	— 2,042
Bilbao R. and Canta ..	June *	4,325	+ 669	1 6	24,777	+ 1,796
Bolivar ..	" *	7,000	+ 1,339	9	109,372	+ 23,086
Brazil ..	" *	M3,864,000	+ M32,770	†	M 226,800	+ M69,480
Brazil Gt. Southern ..	Apr. *	M18,32,750	+ M3,300	†	M 69,250	— M4,200
B. Ayres & Pacific ..	July 29	81,000	+ 9,000	†	341,000	+ 13,000
Do. Gt. South'n ..	" 30	91,000	+ 15,000	†	401,254	+ 47,346
Do. Western ..	" 30	48,000	+ 2,000	†	193,000	—
Central Argentine ..	" 29	111,000	— 1,400	†	451,908	+ 84,100
C. Ur'g'ay of Mts V. ..	" 29	10,624	+ 965	†	46,938	+ 586
Do. East'n Ex. ..	" 29	3,268	+ 163	†	16,466	+ 1,405
Do. North'n Ex. ..	" 29	1,842	— 45	†	7,647	+ 428
Do. West'n Ex. ..	" 29	1,321	+ 116	†	6,523	+ 7,188
Colombian National ..	June *	11,840	+ 946	6	65,500	+ 12,050
Cordoba Central ..	July 29	38,500	— 2,160	†	157,100	—
Costa Rica ..	May 20	5,413	— 986	†	251,583	+ 50,728
Cuban Central ..	July 29	9,182	+ 2,503	†	39,088	+ 5,000
Dorada Extension ..	June *	9,500	+ 1,100	†	44,900	+ 4,000
Egyptian Delta ..	" 30	5,185	+ 1,232	†	43,730	+ 9,203
Entre Rios ..	July 29	12,000	+ 2,700	†	51,700	+ 12,200
French Sante Fé ..	May *	94,572	+ 4,945	†	443,607	+ 71,319
Gt. South. of Spain ..	July 22	Ps. 84,596	+ Ps. 23,737	†	Ps2,027,083	+ Ps349,705
Gt. West. of Brazil ..	" 29	7,900	+ 2,000	†	272,600	+ 35,900
Havana Central ..	" 29	5,560	+ 509	†	23,590	+ 942
Inter. of C. Amer. ..	May c*	37,809	+ 10,495	†	180,392	+ 71,429
La Guaira and Car. ..	June *	15,250	+ 2,000	†	49,226	+ 2,000
Leopoldina ..	July 29	27,444	+ 4,000	†	537,926	+ 7,000
Manila (Nr. & Sth.) ..	" 29	7,710	+ 1,200	†	298,326	+ 1,696
Midland Uruguay ..	June *	11,796	+ 2,346	7	124,302	+ 11,193
Mogovana ..	May†	M1,492,000	+ M277,000	†	M 6,639,000	- M125,900
N.W. of Uruguay ..	June *	£25,500	+ £3,086	†	£265,127	+ £34,844
Nitrate ..	July 31b	29,898	+ 9,553	†	621,664	+ 208,298
Paraguay Central ..	" 29	2,780	+ 720	†	1,240	+ 4,260
Paulista ..	May *	M1,500,000	+ M126,000	5	M 9,400,000	+ M100,000
Peruvian Corp'n ..	June *	599,500	+ 5170,126	10	59,763,497	+ M1,403,792
Salvador ..	July 29	£14,380	+ £3,620	†	£86,386	+ £6,780
S. Paulo (Brazilian) ..	" 23	35,895	— 335	†	695,438	+ 66,157
Sorocabana ..	May *	M1,260,000	+ M23,000	5	M 6,900,000	+ M29,000
Taital ..	June *	21,143	+ 10,643	12	225,909	+ 93,043
United of Havana ..	July 29	29,025	+ 4,809	†	123,210	+ 16,657
West'n of Havana ..	" 29	6,238	+ 802	†	24,758	+ 1,001
Zafra and Huelva ..	May *	11,359	+ 3,806	†	57,758	+ 21,571

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The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 6 PER CENT. (Increased from 5 per cent. on Thursday, July 13.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

Government disbursements at the end of the month were evidently on a very large scale, and a good deal of credit found its way into the Money market through unusual channels, with the result that supplies soon proved to be very much in excess of the demand. Except at the clearing banks, which adhere to 5 per cent. as their charge for day-to-day or weekly fixtures, borrowers were able to renew their existing loans at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and in some instances to obtain fresh money at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., while balances were freely offered at 4 per cent. or less. As the week progressed a good part of the surplus was drawn away again, but the inquiry for accommodation remains small, and there is still sufficient margin to make the position a very comfortable one. Less "bad" money was perhaps available overnight, but the rate for day-to-day loans rarely exceeded $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and it was still possible to secure balances at 4 per cent. For weekly fixtures the general quotation outside the banks has been $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

So far as ordinary remitted paper was concerned, the discount market has had little to do. Very few bills have come forward, and even for these the competition was far from keen, but, with a little Continental inquiry, rates drooped. There has, however, been a good inquiry for short-dated Treasury bills, August maturities especially being sought after during the first few days by the banks as affording temporary employment for dividend money in their hands. Transactions took place at 5 per cent., while early September were quoted at $5\frac{1}{16}$ per cent., and second half of September at $5\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. To-day not only had the demand for August completely disappeared, but the best rate for any date in September was 5 per cent., and business in bills maturing in the first few days of October was said to have been done at $5\frac{1}{16}$ per cent. Large amounts of Treasury bills mature this month, but apart from the renewal of these, the business at the Bank is understood to have been only moderate. Some vague talk has been indulged in of the selling rates being further advanced in order to stimulate the inquiry, but the market generally is not anticipating any change.

Very little business has taken place in the foreign exchange market. In the early part of the week the Italian and Spanish rates advanced sharply, but they have reacted almost as rapidly, while the Dutch rate

has fluctuated within very narrow limits. The Scandinavian rates moved in favour of this country, although closing below the highest. New York cable transfers have been steady at about $4.76\frac{7}{16}$, and amongst South Americans Rio, after dropping to $12\frac{1}{2}$ d., recovered to $12\frac{1}{8}$ d.

The Bank of England has wisely discontinued for the present its old-established practice of exhibiting a daily record of its gold transactions. Under normal conditions the information was undoubtedly of great value to the Money market as providing a guide as to the probable course of money, but owing to the necessities of the war it has been impossible to make a full disclosure of the movements. The bulletin has consequently been for a long time past incomplete, and therefore misleading, so that its suppression will be a benefit rather than otherwise to the market, while it lessens the opportunity of the enemy to obtain information which might be useful to them.

While the daily announcements of gold movements are no longer made, the weekly return of the Bank of England still shows the actual position, and according to this week's figures there has been a further decrease of £1,492,000 in the stocks of coin and bullion to £54,884,000. As the note circulation expanded by £612,000 in connection with the end-of-the-month requirements, the reserve was reduced by £2,104,000 to £36,677,000, and the proportion to liabilities is 1.1 per cent. lower at 26.9 per cent. Other movements were comparatively small, Public Deposits being £1,980,000 down, while "Other" Securities rose by £438,000, and £276,000 was added to "Other" Deposits.

According to the official statement for the week ended August 2, currency notes amounting to £3,979,893 in £1 and £1,301,024 in 10s. notes were issued, against which £2,310,449 in £1 and £932,349 10s. in 10s. notes were cancelled. There was therefore an increase of £2,038,118 10s. in the amount outstanding at a total of £117,844,408, made up of £89,698,863 in £1 notes and £28,145,545 in 10s. notes. During same period currency note certificates for £200,000 were issued, and £50,000 were cancelled, so that the amount outstanding was increased to £9,830,000. There is also an investment reserve account of £2,253,919 1s. 3d. Against these £28,500,000 is held in gold, £92,704,722 7s. 6d. in Government securities, and £8,583,604 13s. 9d. at the Bank of England, while £104,000 has been advanced to bankers other than Scottish and Irish banks of issue, and £36,000 to the Trustee Savings Bank.

SILVER.

Offerings of silver from the United States have been on a very small scale, and as China remains out of the market at present, supplies have been exceedingly moderate. The requirements for coinage continue to absorb all the metal available, with a little help from speculators. India came in as a buyer in the beginning of the week, and this additional demand sent the price up to $30\frac{9}{16}$ d. per oz. A slight reaction to $30\frac{1}{4}$ d. per oz. was followed by a renewal of the bazaar buying, which carried the price up to $30\frac{1}{8}$ d. per oz.

Applications for the Rs. 30,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 2,90,000 in bills, Rs. 1,59,00,000 in deferred telegraphic transfers, and Rs. 61,00,000 in immediate telegraphic transfers. Of these Rs. 55,000 were allotted in bills, Rs. 21,31,000 in deferred transfers, and Rs. 8,14,000 in immediate transfers, tenders for bills and deferred transfers at 1s. 4 1-32d. and for immediate transfers at 1s. 4 1-8d. receiving about 14 per cent. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is again Rs. 30,00,000. Between April 1 and August 1 the total sales were Rs. 7,46,75,713, realising £5,008,650.

The Bank of England has issued a notice drawing the attention of the public to the following amendment in the Regulations made under the Defence of the Realm Acts contained in last Friday's *London Gazette*:—"A person shall not melt down, break up, or use otherwise than as currency any current gold coin, and if any person acts in contravention of this Regulation he shall be guilty of a summary offence against these Regulations."

It is with a sense of real loss that we hear of Mr. R. W. Whalley's death, which occurred suddenly this (Friday) morning. He had been out of health for some time, but nobody suspected his end to be so near. We have known Mr. Whalley since first he came up from the country to assist the late Mr. John Dun in the management of Parr's Bank, and the longer we knew him the greater became our respect for his character. He was a Lancashire business man of the very best type, cool-headed, shrewd, enterprising, and honourable and upright always; incapable of meanness, and in friendship true as steel. He died young—only 61—and yet his career as a banker has been long and eventful, for he entered the office of Parr's Bank in Warrington—then its head office—in 1873, and rose in its service by his ability, until he became general manager in 1902. That responsible post he held with credit to himself and profit to the bank until April last, when he retired, to become deputy-chairman in place of another old friend, Mr. Arthur John Fraser, who outlives him. Little did we suspect that this change implied an end so near, a yielding to the warnings of ill-health. And now we shall see his face no more. Almost the only man left in the bank, to whose "parlour" we were a daily visitor from the old "Alliance Bank" days of 1874 onward until the other year, with whom we can claim old acquaintance is one of its directors, who remembers us at school.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, August 2, 1916.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued	71,360,195	Government Debt	11,015,100
		Other Securities	75,657,166
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	52,910,195
		Silver Bullion	—
	£71,360,195		£71,360,195

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital ..	14,553,000	Government Securities ..	42,188,361
Real	3,410,042	Other Securities	75,657,166
Public Deposits (including		Notes	34,702,570
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,974,239
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	51,009,979		
Other Deposits	85,517,391		
Seven Day and other Bills	31,924		
	£154,522,336		£154,522,336

Dated Aug. 3, 1916.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year.

Last year. Aug. 4.		July 26, 1916.	Aug. 2, 1916.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,450,561	Rest	3,370,643	3,410,042	39,399	—
147,058,621	Pub. Deposits ..	52,989,880	51,009,979	—	1,979,901
84,221,335	Other do. ..	55,247,272	85,517,391	276,119	—
41,081	7 Day Bills ..	33,407	31,924	—	1,483
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
46,874,146	Gov. Securities ..	42,188,131	42,188,361	—	230
155,264,727	Other do. ..	75,219,090	75,657,166	—	438,076
47,185,725	Total Reserve ..	38,780,981	36,676,809	2,104,172	—
				2,419,690	2,419,690
				Increase.	Decrease.
£	Note Circulation	£	£	£	£
33,486,030	Coin and Bullion	36,045,030	36,657,625	612,595	—
62,221,755	Proportion	56,376,011	54,884,434	—	1,491,577
20 p.p.c.	Bank Rate	28.0 p.p.c.	26.9 p.p.c.	—	1.1 p.p.c.
5 "		6 "	6 "	—	—

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1916.	1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
January	1,071,948,000	918,685,000	153,263,000	—
February	1,107,655,000	960,743,000	146,912,000	—
March	1,364,599,000	1,231,392,000	133,207,000	—
April	1,090,356,000	976,264,000	114,092,000	—
May	1,447,416,000	1,164,194,000	283,222,000	—
June	1,147,630,000	960,209,000	187,421,000	—
July	340,561,000	300,466,000	40,095,000	—
" 12	319,832,000	289,141,000	30,691,000	—
" 19	290,135,000	394,307,000	—	104,172,000
" 26	288,665,000	332,781,000	—	44,116,000
August 2	290,541,000	260,768,000	29,773,000	—
Total ..	8,759,338,000	7,788,950,000	970,388,000	—

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For 7 days ended July 29.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
£	
Customs	National Debt Service .. £416,701
Excise	Interest, &c., on War Debt .. 1,018,951
Estate, &c., Duties	Development & Road Impvt. —
Stamps	Payments to Local Taxation 250,000
Land Tax and House Duty.	Other Consolidated Fund —
Property and Income Tax .. 1,122,000	Charges 20,167
Excess Profits Tax 1,151,000	Supply Services 35,165,400
Land Values	Bullion Advances 100,000
Post Office	For Advance for Interest
Crown Lands	on Exchequer Bonds under
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	Capital Expenditure
Miscellaneous	(Money) Act, 1904 —
Bullion advances repaid 50,000	For Treasury Bills (nett amt.) 20,644,000
For Treasury Bills (nett amt.)	For Exchequer Bonds issued
War Loan, 1925-8 —	under the War Loan Re-
War Loan, 1925-45 —	demption Act, 1910 —
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919 .. 880,000	Issues under Section 1 of
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920 .. 650,000	War Loan Act, 1915 —
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1921 .. 3,056,000	Under Telegraph (Money)
War Expenditure Certificates	Act, 1913 —
War Savings Certificates .. 2,700,000	Under Post Office (Lon-
Other Debts created under	don) Railway Act, 1913 .. —
War Loan Act, 1915 —	Under Housing Act —
Telegraph Money Act, 1913	Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8 .. 28,000
Under Post Office Rly. Act,	Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11 .. —
1913	E. Africa Protectorate Loan
Under Military Works Acts,	Cunard Loan repayment is-
1897-1903	sued to reduce debt under
Under Housing Act —	the Cunard Agreement —
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920	Deficiency advances repaid
East Africa Protectorate	China Indemnity issued to
Loan repayments —	reduce debt under Finance
Cunard Loan—repayment on	Act, 1903 —
account of principal —	Ways and Means Advances
Suez Canal Drawn Shares .. —	repaid 10,895,000
China Indemnity	Increase in Exchequer
Ways and Means Advances 45,459,000	balances —
Decrease in Exchequer	
balances 9,210,917	
£68,538,219	£68,538,219

FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	July 14, 1916.	July 7, 1916.	June 30, 1916.
£	£	£	£
Gold coin and certificates ..	53,920,400	52,248,400	52,407,600
Gold Redemption Fund ..	394,000	402,200	357,800
Gold Settlement Fund ..	23,726,200	24,520,000	22,586,200
Legal tender notes, silver, &c.	2,055,800	7,376,400	5,489,600
Total reserves	80,096,400	84,547,000	80,841,200
5% redemption fund against	—	—	—
F.R. bank notes	90,000	90,000	90,000
10-day bills and loans	2,122,600	1,593,400	2,290,200
30-day bills and loans	5,151,000	4,158,800	3,307,800
60-day bills and loans	7,088,200	6,333,200	5,698,400
90-day bills and loans	5,746,000	5,458,400	6,122,800
Maturities over 90 days ..	911,800	882,400	1,037,400
Total	21,019,600	18,426,200	18,456,600
Investments—			
U.S. Bonds	10,517,800	10,517,800	10,587,800
One year U.S. Treasury	—	—	—
notes	909,200	909,200	838,000
Municipal Warrants	5,484,800	5,047,200	4,534,200
Federal Reserve notes—nett.	4,152,000	4,822,600	4,636,400
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—			
nett	4,011,200	4,084,400	4,082,800
All other assets	1,648,800	828,000	924,400
Total assets	127,926,300	129,272,400	124,991,400
Paid-up capital	11,035,200	10,971,600	10,970,800
Government Deposits	19,495,200	22,884,000	20,230,400
Reserve deposits—nett. ..	94,988,400	93,029,400	91,500,600
Note circulation—nett. ..	2,019,600	1,999,400	1,888,000
Fed. Res. notes in circulation	344,000	344,200	344,200
All other liabilities	47,400	44,800	57,400
Total liabilities	127,929,800	129,272,400	124,991,400
Gold reserve against nett			
liabilities	69.4 %	67.8 %	68.8 %
Cash reserve against nett			
liabilities	71.2 %	74.3 %	73.8 %

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	July 29, 1916	July 22, 1916	July 15, 1916	July 31, 1915
£	£	£	£	£
Loans	637,518,000	635,600,000	645,426,000	504,232,000
Reserve held in own Vaults ..	85,540,000	84,740,000	80,448,000	89,364,000
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk.	32,754,000	32,650,000	31,112,000	26,442,000
Reserve held in Other Depos.	10,564,000	10,560,000	11,260,000	7,812,000
Net Demand Deposits	624,438,000	622,820,000	627,992,000	508,420,000
Net Time Deposits	37,556,000	36,808,000	36,026,000	28,058,000
Circulation	6,298,000	6,312,000	6,312,000	7,362,000
Excess Lawful Reserve	21,340,000	20,772,000	14,900,000	35,730,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits.

NEW YORK STATE BANKS & TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.).

	July 29, 1916.	July 22, 1916.	July 15, 1916.	July 31, 1915.
£	£	£	£	£
Loans	143,256,000	144,722,000	145,802,000	117,502,000
Specie	12,022,000	12,080,000	12,092,000	9,556,000
Deposits	150,854,000	151,466,000	153,360,000	120,994,000
Legal Tenders	1,822,000	1,830,000	1,916,000	1,738,000

NETHERLANDS BANK (12 Florins to the £).

	July 29, 1916	July 22, 1916	July 15, 1916	July 31, 1915
£	£	£	£	£
Gold and Silver	49,302,333	49,303,100	49,071,750	31,312,910
Bills and Advances	10,535,083	10,384,583	10,634,166	14,144,036
Note circulation	55,381,666	54,298,416	54,751,166	42,725,611
Deposits	7,437,000	8,626,166	8,121,333	2,981,813

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Aug. 3, 1916.	July 27, 1916.	July 20, 1916.	Aug. 5, 1915.
Gold in hand ..	191,727,640	191,460,520	191,211,120	168,883,320
Silver in hand ..	13,562,480	13,581,800	13,663,720	14,734,160
Bills discounted ..	18,669,520	17,971,360	16,970,680	12,185,480
Advances ..	47,587,400	47,668,400	47,834,400	23,812,800
Note circulation ..	647,869,200	643,635,720	643,748,920	509,015,360
Public deposits ..	3,100,040	3,017,200	2,481,360	8,756,160
Private deposits ..	86,332,920	90,930,680	88,788,200	91,123,320
Foreign Bills ..	61,640	70,360	26,200	53,840

Proportion between bullion and circulation 31.72 per cent., against 31.86 per cent last week. Advances to the State £332,000,000, unchanged. The adjourned payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium amounted to £26,238,440, decrease £68,720, and at the branches to £31,278,000, decrease £59,560.

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	July 22, 1916.	July 15, 1916.	July 7, 1916.	July 23, 1915.
Total Coin & Bullion ..	124,891,150	124,839,600	124,779,350	122,119,650
Treasury Notes ..	28,421,400	20,973,400	16,831,100	14,367,200
Bills discounted ..	304,382,000	320,826,250	316,339,600	227,580,050
Advances ..	613,600	647,750	611,650	685,000
Note circulation ..	342,014,650	346,981,650	354,430,400	265,739,100
Deposits ..	119,150,450	119,269,550	99,733,100	85,977,600

Clearing House returns during June, £257,755,660 against £276,664,805 in May

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	July 22, 1916.	July 15, 1916.	July 8, 1916.	July 24, 1915.
Gold ..	42,979,700	42,654,787	42,397,067	27,899,251
Silver ..	30,493,191	30,430,581	30,436,379	29,738,354
Foreign Bills ..	3,877,271	3,835,376	3,744,606	4,988,787
Discounts and Short Bills ..	23,924,266	23,630,059	23,950,209	26,627,113
Treasury Account, &c. ..	30,447,620	32,650,602	32,572,296	31,202,386
Notes in Circulation ..	88,372,209	88,657,131	88,320,345	79,901,136
Current Accounts, Deposits ..	30,813,006	31,915,696	31,409,972	26,801,467
Dividends, Interests, &c. ..	2,106,130	2,151,888	2,555,925	2,300,012
Government Securities ..	985,745	1,148,029	1,542,951	2,833,034

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	June 20, 1916.	June 10, 1916.	May 31, 1916.	June 20, 1915.
Total cash ..	45,121,040	45,231,720	45,573,920	55,052,440
Inland Bills ..	17,310,880	16,726,800	16,749,800	35,232,160
Foreign Bills ..	841,360	834,360	836,120	859,040
Advances ..	8,289,720	8,325,400	8,989,400	7,704,320
Government securities ..	8,559,160	8,334,360	8,345,320	6,219,600
Circulation ..	130,097,160	126,598,360	123,503,000	115,001,880
Deposits at notice ..	14,207,720	13,674,880	12,342,200	12,861,800
Current accounts ..	16,096,480	18,332,280	18,374,600	19,819,120

BANK OF SWEDEN.

	July 22, 1916.	July 15, 1916.	July 8, 1916.	July 24, 1915.
Gold ..	9,218,000	9,221,000	9,227,000	6,299,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	8,862,000	9,117,000	8,997,000	4,491,000
Swedish and Foreign Govt. Securities ..	3,848,000	3,455,000	3,458,000	2,665,000
Discounts and Loans ..	3,145,000	3,130,000	2,579,000	7,453,000
Notes in circulation ..	17,349,000	17,907,000	18,184,000	14,575,000
Deposits at notice ..	6,624,000	6,095,000	4,875,000	5,184,000

IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	July 29, 1916.	July 21, 1916.	July 14, 1916.	July 31, 1915.
Notes in reserve ..	11,180,000	10,340,000	9,160,000	7,328,900
Gold ..	154,740,000	154,570,000	154,320,000	157,899,100
Gold in reserve abroad ..	186,800,000	186,770,000	168,300,000	9,368,000
Treasury Bonds ..	376,220,000	380,710,000	382,370,000	—
Circulation note issue ..	675,310,000	671,160,000	662,830,000	387,000,000
Treasury deposits ..	21,000,000	20,410,000	20,650,000	21,347,000

SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	July 22, 1916.	July 15, 1916.	July 7, 1916.	July 23, 1915.
Gold and silver ..	13,359,680	13,306,268	12,479,236	11,834,172
Bills ..	5,285,884	6,940,956	7,595,212	5,830,784
Note circulation ..	16,275,284	16,515,284	16,934,624	15,926,400
Current and deposit accounts ..	4,448,516	6,051,740	5,715,184	4,033,780

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.
Paris	ohqs.	28.13	28.13½	Antwerp	short	—	—
Brussels	ohqs.	—	—	Italy	sight	30.85	30.75
Amsterdam	sight	11.51	11.52½	Constantinople ..	3 mths	—	—
Berlin	ohqs.	—	—	Rio de Janeiro ..	90 dys	128½	128½d.
Hamburg	ohqs.	—	—	Buenos Aires	90 dys	483½d.	483½d.
Vienna	sight	—	—	Calcutta	T.T.	1/4½d.	1/4½d.
Petrograd	3 mths	157	156½	Bombay	T.T.	1/4½d.	1/4½d.
New York	cable	4.76½	4.76½	Hong Kong	T.T.	2/10d.	2/10d.
Lisbon	sight	35½	35½	Shanghai	T.T.	2/10d.	2/10d.
Madrid	sight	23.55	23.47½	Singapore	T.T.	2/4½d.	2/4½d.
				Yokohama	4 mths	2/10d.	2/10d.

BANK OF NORWAY.

	July 22, 1916.	July 15, 1916.	July 7, 1916.	July 22, 1915.
Gold ..	6,326,000	6,579,000	6,614,000	3,603,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	6,156,000	5,570,000	5,429,000	3,116,000
Gov't Securities ..	767,000	762,000	761,000	637,000
Discounts & Loans ..	5,020,000	5,518,000	5,028,000	4,234,000
Notes in Circulation ..	11,807,000	12,077,000	12,323,000	8,325,000
Deposits at notice ..	3,992,000	3,871,000	3,207,000	1,271,000

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Aug. 1, 1916.	Aug. 3, 1916.
		Buyers.	Sellers.
Amsterdam ..	Cable transfers ..	11.49	11.51
	Three months' bills ..	11.65	11.70
Paris ..	Cable transfers ..	28.11	28.11
	Three months' bills ..	28.50	28.50
Marseilles ..	Cable transfers ..	28.50	28.50
Switzerland ..	Cable transfers ..	25.18	25.18
	Three months' bills ..	25.55	25.55
Petrograd ..	Cable transfers ..	156½	157½
Genoa, &c. ..	Cable transfers ..	30.82	30.58
	Three months' bills ..	31.25	31.00
Spain ..	Cable transfers ..	23.63	23.45
	Three months' bills ..	48	48½
Lisbon and Oporto ..	Cable transfers ..	34½	35½
	Three months' bills ..	nom.	nom.
Scandinavia ..	Cable transfers ..	16.75	16.80

* Nominal

TREASURY BILLS.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months ..	5½	5½
Six months ..	5½	5½
Nine months ..	—	—
Twelve months ..	6	6

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted ..	5½—5½	5½
Three months ..	5½—5½	5½
Four months ..	5½—5½	5½
Six months ..	5½—5½	5½
Three months fine inland bills ..	6—6½	6—6½
Four months ..	6½	6½
Six months ..	6½—6½	6½—6½

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate ..	6	6
short loan rates ..	6½	6½
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	4	4
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call) ..	4½	4½
" 7 and 14 days' notice ..	4½	4½
Current rates for 7 day loans ..	5	4½—5
" for call loans ..	4½—5	4½—5

The Week's Stock Markets.

A sort of apathy has come over markets, partly because we have now entered the chief holiday month of the year. Over all things, moreover, the shadow of the war rests, and it grows increasingly difficult for people to give their minds to anything else. Were people, for instance, at liberty to think or investigate they might begin to try to fathom the position of our railway stocks, but we never remember a time when less active interest was taken than there is now in their prospects or probable fate when the clean-up comes after the war. We do not know in the least how the dividends being announced are arrived at, why most companies should continue to pay at the same rate as a year ago, or why an old wobbler like the North British should pay nothing. Is it the amount of Government business or the variations in the private business handled, or some readjustments of the proportion of outgoings charged against revenue in relief of capital or other singularity of British railway finance that causes the difference? What is the use of asking except just to give a hint to people not altogether to forget that the behaviour of our railways during the war-time when their transactions are hidden may have no small influence upon the price given for the properties when the nation takes them over, as take them over it must? After this war there can be no return to the old order of things. Even if the finances of the companies were all clean and the overburden of worn-out capital a negligible quantity, the mere fact that henceforth our industries must be consolidated and interlinked with the industries of our Allies, and that all users of the railways must have fair play in the struggle for existence, will render it imperative that railway charges and the conduct of their business shall be taken out of the hands of amateurs and put under publicly supervised, skilled control.

Another consideration which must continue to weigh upon markets and affect the movement of prices is the continually increasing amount of our war debt. In the first two years of the conflict we have borrowed £2,241,000,000, and less than £1,000,000,000 of that takes the form of long-dated securities. There is, as we point out elsewhere, £840,000,000 of Treasury bills alone to be funded by and by at the opportune moment, besides about £330,000,000 in Exchequer bonds. As long as possible the Government must postpone any comprehensive funding scheme, and continue to finance its requirements by such temporary expedients as may be available, because until the turn of the tide in the war on land has definitely become visible to the least instructed eye a favourable market for a great permanent or long-dated stock could not be found. None the less does the steadily accumulating floating debt tend to prevent business from gathering any strength upon the Stock Exchanges of the three kingdoms. It is a small investment business at best, and the volume of that will probably become a mere trickle for the next five or six weeks should nothing startling cause a passing spasm or two of activity. This being so, we rather look for dragging prices, and it is to be noted that the scamper after the shares of shipping companies at advancing, and in some cases already ridiculously high, prices has stopped. The market for such is consequently weaker, and as it was the liveliest of them all for a little while, the weakness is sure to become contagious.

A holiday air has pervaded stock markets this week, and as business has been exceedingly quiet owing to difficulty in bringing buyer and seller together, prices have tended downwards in nearly every section. Consols fell to 58½, and both War Loans were ½ lower. Apart from a relapse of 1 in Irish Land stock, other Government stocks showed little change, but London County Council issues gave way, and Bank of England stock was marked down 3. Colonial Government stocks have been idle, but here and there small gains were recorded, while Queensland 3½ per cent. was marked up as much as 1½ to 75. In Foreign Government bonds there has been some demand for the small bonds of the French War Loan, which have risen to 87½, as against 86½ for the larger denominations. Japanese bonds hardened on the announcement of the cancellation of a further £250,000 of each series of the 4½ per cent. loan. Brazilian Stocks were dull and inclined to sag.

Prices in the Home Railway market have been heavy from sheer lack of business, but the changes for the most part were small. North-Western fell ½, Midland deferred 1, and Lancashire and Yorkshire ½, while Brighton and South-Western deferred dropped 1 and 7½ respectively and South-Eastern deferred was ½ lower. An unpleasant surprise was occasioned by the announcement of the North British that no interim dividend would be paid on the ordinary stock, owing to a dispute with the Government over an increase of £100,000 in expenditure under the head of wagon repairs. The market, however, took the hopeful view that the matter would be settled satisfactorily, and would involve no more than a postponement of the distribution. Canadian Pacific shares sagged to 187½, but Grand Trunk stocks have hardly moved on the week. American Railroad shares gave way at first, and although they hardened later under the lead of Union Pacific, which spurted on talk of an extra dividend, a fresh relapse followed on unfavourable crop reports. South American Railways were dull, Buenos Aires Great Southern losing 1 and the preferred 2, while Buenos Aires Western, Buenos Aires and Pacific, and Central Argentine were ½ to ¾ down. Leopoldina relapsed to 38, San Paulo dropped 2½ to 192, and United of Havana was ½ down at 83½.

Dealings in Bank shares have shrunk to very small proportions, and changes in price were few. Joint Stock and Parr's both put on ½, but Lloyds fell ¾, National Provincial £12 paid ½, and County and Westminster ¾. In the Foreign and Colonial group Bank of Australasia was marked down 1, and Chartered receded ½. Shipping shares have again been fairly active, but there has been a good deal of profit-taking, and prices have fluctuated widely. P. and O. deferred improved to 339½, and Royal Mail to 130, but relapsed to 338 and 127 respectively. Prince Line were dealt in between 5½ and 6½, and closed 1½ better on the week at 5½, while Union of New Zealand has dropped back to 50s. A big business was done in Furness, Withy, but they also closed well below the best at 53s. xd. Marconi shares enjoyed a little temporary activity on the new regulations under the Defence of the Realm Act, requiring all British ships of 3,000 tons and upwards to be equipped with wireless, but the movements in price were trifling. National Steam Car were again in demand in the beginning of the week, and touched 23s. 3d., but they have since relapsed to 22s. 6d. Brazilian Traction fell to 62½, and Cities Services ordinary was marked down 10 to 340. Hudson's Bay shares were offered, but finally closed unchanged at 6½. Forestal Land and Leach's Argentine Estates met with a good inquiry, and

Niger also improved. British Oil and Cake Mills were active, and improved to 33s. 6d., partly under the stimulus of the interim statement, and partly because it is hoped that the new capital will provide a bonus to the shareholders. Engineering things have been quiet but firm, with small gains in the majority of cases. It is now definitely announced that the Ebbw Vale will make an issue of £200,000 to £250,000 of new

	Last Week	This Week		Last Week	This Week
Consols.....	59½	58½	N.S.W. 4½ 1922-7	95½	95½
War Loan 3½.....	88	86½	" 5% 1921-3	99½	99½
India " 4½.....	95	95½	New Zealand 4%	88½	88½
" 3½.....	60½	60½	Queensland 4%	85½	85½
Australian 5½, 1920-22 ..	70½	70½	" 4½ new.....	96½	96½
Canada 4½, 1940-60	86½	86½	Union of S. Africa 4½%,		
4½, 1920-5	95½	95½	1920-5	94½	94½
N.S.W. 4%	86½	86½	Victoria 4½, 1920-5.....	95½	95½
" 4½ 5 yr. b	98	97½	Westn. Aus. 4%	83½	83½
Belgian 3%	62½	63	French War Loan, 5% ..	87½	86½
Brazil, 1913	67½	67	Japan 4½ (1st)	95	95½
" New Funding	81½	80½	" (2nd)	93	93½
Chinese 1896	93½	93½	Russia 4 %	72	71½
" 1913	77½	78½	" 4½ %	80½	80½
Egypt Unified 4%	80	80½	" 5%	90½	90½
Brighton defd.	66	65	London and S.-W. dfd. ..	26½	25½
Caledonian defd.	10	10	Do. new pf.	100	100
Chatham ord.	92	92	Metropolitan	26½	25½
Gt. Central pf.	17½	16½	Do. 5% New pf.	91	88½
" dfd.	8½	8½	Met. District	19	19
Gt. Eastern	39½	39½	Midland dfd.	64½	61½
Gt. Northern dfd.	40½	40	Nth. British dfd.	17	16½
Gt. Western	100½	99½	Nth. Eastern	107½	105½
Lancs. and Yorks.	76	74½	Nth. Western	108½	107½
			Sth. Eastern dfd.	29½	28½
Canadian Pacific	189½	187½	Chesapeake	63½	63
Do. 6 % Notes	108½	105½	Erie	36½	37
E. Indian Guar. 4½ debs.	92½	92½	Milwaukee	99½	99½
Grand Trunk ord.	12	12	N. Y. Central	108½	108½
Do. 3rd pf.	28	28	Southern	24½	24½
Do. 5½ % 3-yr. Notes	100	96½	Southern Pacific	101½	102½
Do. 5½ % 5-yr. "	98	96½	Union Pacific	142½	144½
Atchafalpa	107½	106½	U. S. Steel	90½	90
Baltimore	90½	89½			
Antofagasta dfd.	128	129	Cent. Argentine ord.	79½	79
Do. 6 % Notes ..	100½	100	Do. 5 % Notes ..	95	97½
Brazil Common	78	77½	Do. 6 %	101	100½
B. A. & Pacific	47	46½	Leopoldina	39½	38
B. A. Gt. Southern	86½	85½	Mexican ord.	17½	17½
B. A. Western	87½	87½	San Paulo (Brazilian)...	194½	192
			United of Havana	84½	83½
Bank of Australasia.....	119½	118½	London City & Midland..	8½	8½
Barclay & Co. "A"	8½	8½	London County & West...	15½	15½
Do. "B"	11½	11½	London Joint Stock	21½	22
Capital & Counties	23	23	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (£10½ pd)	28½	28½
Chartered of India	61½	61	Do. (£12 pd)	31½	31½
Hongkong & Shanghai ..	79½	79½	Parr's	30½	31
Lloyds	25½	25½	Standard of S.A.	11	11
London & Provincial ..	17	17	Union & Smiths	25	25
London & S.W.	11½	11½			
Apollinaris ord.	1½	1½	Forestal Land	50½	50½
Armstrong, Whitworth ..	37½	37½	Furness, Withy	53½	53½
Associated Cement	38	38	Hudson's Bay	61½	61½
Birmingham Small Arms	45½	45½	Imperial Tobacco pf. ord	23½	23½
Borax dfd.	34½	34½	Do. dfd. "A"	36½	36½
Bovril	20½	20½	Kynochs	29½	29½
Brazil Traction	63	62½	Lever Bros. "C" pf.	21½	21½
British Amer. Tobacco ..	86½	85½	Lyons, J.	4½	4½
Brown (John), & Co.	32½	32½	Marconi	38	38
Brunner, Mond	4½	4½	Maypole Dairy dfd.	23½	23½
Cammell-Laird	61½	61	Mond Nickel ord.	38	38
Castner-Kellner	31½	31½	National Steam Car ..	21½	22½
Coats	68	68	Pears, A. & F.	1½	1½
Cunard	88½	88½	P. & O. dfd.	338	338
Dennis Bros.	32½	32½	Royal Mail	129	127
Dorman, Long	34½	34½	South Durham Steel ..	31½	32½
Eastmans	7½	8½	Underground Inc. Bds. ..	90½	90½
English Sewing Cotton ..	46½	45½	Vickers	37½	37½
Fine Cotton Spinners ..	29½	30½			
Anglo-Egyptian "B" ..	7½	7½	Mexican Eagle pf.	18½	18½
Baku (10s.)	31½	31½	North Caucasian	27½	26½
Burmah	48½	48	Roumanian Cons.	14½	14½
Lobitos	35½	35½	Royal Dutch (100 gulden)	45½	45
Maikop Combine (10s.) ..	2½	2½	Shell	5½	5½
Maikop Pipeline	4½	4½	Spies (10/-)	14½	13½
Mexican Eagle	1½	1½	Ural Caspian	35½	35½
Anglo-Java Rub. (2/-) ..	5½	5½	Merlimau 2/-	51½	51½
Anglo-Malay 2/-	11½	11½	Pataling 2/-	33½	33½
Ayer Kuning £1	33½	34½	Port Dickson 2/-	31	21½
Bukit Mertajam 2/-	4½	4½	Rubber Trust 2/-	22½	22½
Bukit Sembawang 2/- ..	3½	3½	Sapumalkande £1	21½	21½
Carey United £1	35½	35½	Selangor United 2/- ..	21½	21½
Grand Central £1	25½	25½	Sialang £1	64½	62½
Gula Kalumpung £1	27½	27½	Singapore Para 2/- ..	310½	310½
Highlands £1	53½	52½	Singapore United 2/- ..	210½	210½
Java Para £1	32½	32½	Sungei Buaya £1	46½	46½
Johore Rubber Lands £1 ..	26½	25½	Taipang 2/-	3½	3½
Langen Java £1	45½	45½	Tandjong £1	75½	75½
Linggi 2/-	20½	20½	Tandjong Malim £1 ..	25½	25½
London Asiatic 2/-	71½	71½	United Serdang 2/- ..	12½	12½
Malacca £1	87½	87½	United Temaling 2/- ..	3½	21½
Malayalam £1	29½	29½	Vallambrosa 2/-	17½	18½
Abbottiakoon (10/-)	7½	7½	De Beers dfd. (£2 10s.) ..	11	10½
Brakpan	48½	48½	East Rand	14½	14½
Broken Hill Prop. (8/-) ..	59½	60½	Gt. Boulder (2/-)	13½	13½
Cam & Motor	14½	14½	Meyer & Charlton	5½	5½
Central Mining (£12)	6½	6½	Modder "B"	6½	6½
Chartered	13½	13½	Do. Deep	6½	6½
City Deep	3½	4	New Modder (£4)	17½	17½
Cons. Gold Fields	1½	1½	Rand Mines (5/-)	3½	3½
Cons. Langlaagte	1½	1½	Rio Tinto (£5)	60½	61½
Crown Mines (10/-)	1½	3	Van Ryn Deep	3½	3½

ordinary capital to shareholders, and the price is believed to be 22s. per share. No offer to the public can be made owing to the Treasury restrictions. Courtaulds were again in active demand, but a rise to 627-32 xd. caused a little profit-taking, and the price has gone back to 6½. Meat shares have been firm on a little inquiry, and British and Argentine, Smithfield and Argentine, Eastmans and Nelson Bros. are all harder. Catering things were fractionally easier. Textiles were good, with a demand for Coats, which improved to 6½, and Sewing

Cotton, Fine Spinners and Bradford Dyers were all a shade better.

Dealings in "Shell" shares have been on a much smaller scale this week, and the price has given way to a trifling extent, while Royal Dutch have dropped $\frac{1}{4}$ to 45. A good deal of activity, however, developed in New Caucasian, the shares of which were lifted to 8s. 9d., but North Caucasian were a trifle down, and other Russian Oil shares were inclined to be easier. Mexican Eagle ordinary and preference were rather wanted, but the debentures declined to 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd. In the Rubber share market business has again been very small, but the tendency on the whole has been steady. Most of the recent favourites, including Anglo-Malay, Highlands, Linggi, Seafield, Bukit Mertajam and Pataling were a shade easier, but there was a little inquiry for Selangor and United Sui Betong. Java descriptions came in for more attention, and both Anglo-Dutch and Telogoredjo improved, while Kawie hardened on the report.

LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

SUGAR.—There was no alteration made in official quotations during the week, and the limited supplies of white descriptions meet a ready sale. Reports from Cuba speak of heavy rain. Stock in the three chief ports of the United Kingdom amount to 58,290 tons, as compared with 76,830 tons at same time last year.

COFFEE.—The spot market exhibited a quiet tone, demand on home trade account showing no improvement, though values were kept at a fairly steady level. Terminal market ruled quiet, and rates moved favourably to buyers. September, sold, 46s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 46s. 3d.; December, 48s. to 47s. 9d.; March, 49s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Auctions went slowly.

Cocoa.—A fairly good assortment was catalogued at public sale, but with the exception of Grenada, which met a good demand at 2s. to 3s. per cwt., passed off quietly at about previous prices. Grenada, common to fine, realised 72s. to 81s. 6d. British Honduras, good; 76s. to 77s. Costa Rica, extra bold, 81s. 6d. to 85s. 6d. Panama, extra bold, 110s. Private market presented a quiet tone, without particular change in values. Puerto Cabello, sold, 120s.

TEA.—The embargo placed upon exports has greatly retarded the demand for parcels suitable for shipping purposes, such as orange pekoes, and prices respecting these further gave way at public sales this week. The finer qualities, however, experienced a fairly good inquiry, prices being steady. The supplies included a good deal of stalky and inferior grades. 18,000 packages Indian, 38,000 packages Ceylon, and 5,000 packages Java were catalogued this week.

SPICE.—Pepper ruled firmer for black sorts, and a moderate demand was experienced. Singapore, August-October shipment, sold, 78d., and ditto, September-November, at 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Of white, Singapore, September-November shipment, buyers, 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; Muntok, 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., c.f. and i. Cloves dull. Fair Zanzibar, on spot, sellers, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Tapioca firmly held, but quiet. Singapore flake, on spot, sold, 38d.

Rice fully steady, with a fair demand. Beans further advanced, with business in afloat parcels at £19 10s.; September-October at £20 5s. to £20 10s., c.f. and i.

FIBRES.—Jute commenced firmly, but a rather quieter tone prevailed later. Native first marks, August, Dundee, sold, £30 15s.; September ditto, at £29 15s. to £30. To London, ditto August, done, £30 5s. to £30, c.f. and i. The market for Manila hemp exhibited a firmer feeling, and a moderate demand existed. Coarse brown, on spot, sold, £46 to £46 10s.; coarse, August-October, at £47 10s. to £48 10s., c.f. and i. New Zealand continued inactive.

SHELLAC in demand, and rates denoted a further improvement. Fair T.N. orange, on spot, sold, 111s. to 114s. A.C. garnet, fair free, at 104s. to 107s. Of futures, August delivery sold at 110s. to 115s.; October, 113s. to 118s.; December, 115s. to 120s.

GAMBIER easier. Good marks, July-September shipment, sellers, 30s. 6d., c.f. and i.

RUBBER market commenced quietly, but a steadier tone prevailed later. Standard plantation crepe, spot, sold, 2s. 2d. to 2s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Smoked ribbed sheet, spot, done, 2s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 2s. 2d. Fine hard Para, spot, 2s. 10d.; soft ditto, 2s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; ball, spot, sellers, 1s. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. COPRA inactive, and values more or less nominal.

METALS.—Copper—Statistics for last half of past month show a decrease of 1,174 tons in the total visible supplies. The standard market continued to move in a downward direction until the middle of the week on freer offerings, cash delivery declining to £107, sellers, and three months to £104. At Thursday's session the tendency was quite idle, nothing being done. Official quotations: Cash, £106 10s to £107, and three months £103 10s. to £104. Tin—Shipments from the East for last month reached 5,410 tons, namely, to the United Kingdom 1,860 tons, American 2,530, and Continent 1,020. Total visible supplies during the same period show a decrease of 585 tons. The market continued irregular. After opening with a firm tone last Monday, prices receded, on realisations and forward offerings, standard, cash, closing at £168 10s., and three months at £169 5s., further declining on the following day to £167 10s. and £168 respectively. Steady buying during the middle of the week led to an improvement, cash settling down to £167 15s. and three months to £168. At Thursday's session values ruled firmer, being finally fixed at £168 5s. and £169 respectively. Lead closed easier. Soft foreign, prompt, sold down to £28 12s. 6d. Spelter lower. G.O.B., August, £47; and October, £42. Quicksilver remains unaltered.

CORN (Mark Lane).—Distinct steadiness prevailed during the week, and in some cases prices exhibit a further hardening tendency, business being on a moderate scale. Wheat: English whites delivered up range to 60s., and reds to 59s. 6d. per quarter, 504 lbs. Imported grades, No. 1 Northern Manitoba, 61s. 6d., ex ship. Flour: American first spring patents, 45s. upwards, landed. Oats: La Plata, landed, 30s. 9d. upwards. American white clipped No. 2, 32s., ex quay. Grinding barley: American, 43s., ex ship. Maize: New La Plata (sound), 53s.; and white Egyptian held for 49s., both ex quay.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—The market during the past week has been under the influence of higher rates in raw cotton, and quotations in yarn and cloth have advanced in sympathy. The stronger tone has forced out more inquiry, and though considerable difficulties have been encountered in arranging transactions, certain sellers have reported an increased turnover. Less favourable advices are being received from the American cotton belt. The official report of the Government is worse than expected. According to some authorities the yield is not likely to be more than 13,000,000 bales, and under the circumstances lower values just at present cannot be anticipated. The Egyptian growth continues to do very well. The general inquiry in piece goods for export has been on a fuller scale than for a long time past, and although many of the offers are too low, certain buyers have come up in price, and placed substantial orders with makers. For India there

CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING AUGUST 4, 1916.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
Sugar —per cwt.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Wool —per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
duty 14 $\frac{1}{2}$, 98% polarisation			Australian		
Tate's Cubes No. 1	2 7 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 7 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Scoured Merino	1 3-3 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 3-3 10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto, H.T.S.	2 6 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 6 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	Scoured Cr'ssbr'd	1 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ -3 2	1 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ -3 2
Fine granulated	nom.	nom.	Greasy Merino	1 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ -2 3	1 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ -2 3
Lyle's granulated	41 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ -42 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	41 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ -42 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Greasy Crossbred	1 4-1 11	1 4-1 11
Foreign granulated, first marks	nom.	nom.	New Zealand (scoured) Merino	3 2-3 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 2-3 10 $\frac{1}{2}$
f.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	1 2-1 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 2-1 10 $\frac{1}{2}$
German Cubes f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Cape snow white	2 10-3 2	2 10-3 2
French Cube prompt	nom.	nom.	India —rubber p. lb.		
Crystallised, West India	nom.	nom.	Plantation, Spot		
Beet, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Crepe	0 2 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 2 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Tea —per lb., duty 5s. d. s. d.			Coal —per ton		
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.			Durham, best	nom.	nom.
Indian Pekoe	10 10-11 0	10 10-11 0	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Broken	9 10-10 10	9 10-10 10	East Hartlepool	nom.	nom.
Orange	10 10-10 10	10 10-10 10	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Broken	9 10-10 10	9 10-10 10	Steamers, best	40 $\frac{1}{2}$ 47 $\frac{1}{2}$	45 $\frac{1}{2}$ 47 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pekoe Souchong	9 10-10 10	9 10-10 10	Seconds	37 $\frac{1}{2}$ 40 $\frac{1}{2}$	40 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ceylon Pekoe	9 10-10 10	9 10-10 10	Lead —per ton.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Broken	9 10-10 10	9 10-10 10	English Pig	20 0 0	20 15 0
Orange	9 10-10 10	9 10-10 10	Foreign soft	28 0 0	28 15 0
Broken	9 10-10 10	9 10-10 10	Quicksilver —per bottle first hand	£ 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ -£ 17 $\frac{1}{2}$	£ 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ -£ 17 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pekoe Souchong	9 10-10 10	9 10-10 10	Tin —per ton		
Cocoa —per cwt.			English Ingots	£ 172-£ 172	£ 172-£ 172
duty 6d. per lb.			Do. bars	£ 172-£ 172	£ 172-£ 172
Trinidad—per cwt.	78 0-83 0	78 0-83 0	Standard cash	£ 167 10 0	£ 167 10 0
Grenada	71 0-78 0	71 0-78 0	Tin Plates, per box	27 0 0	27 0 0
West Africa	nom.	nom.	Copper —per ton		
Ceylon Plantation	76 0-90 0	76 0-90 0	English, Tough	nom.	nom.
Guayaquil Ariba	95 0-103 0	95 0-103 0	per ton		
Coffee —per cwt.			Best Selected	£ 120-£ 120	£ 124-£ 120
duty 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cwt.			Sheets	£ 140	£ 140
East India	67 0-95 0	67 0-95 0	Standard	£ 111 0 0	£ 106 0 0
Jamaica	62 0-120 0	62 0-120 0	Jute —per ton.		
Costa Rica	62 0-85 0	62 0-85 0	Native firsts for shipment, August	£ 30 10 0	nom.
Provisions —			Oils —		
Butter, per cwt.			Linseed, per ton	£ 35 $\frac{1}{2}$ -£ 36 $\frac{1}{2}$	£ 37-£ 38
Australian finest	nom.	nom.	Rape, ref. English	£ 48-£ 50	£ 48-£ 50
Irish Creameries	16 $\frac{1}{2}$ -16 $\frac{1}{2}$	16 $\frac{1}{2}$ -17 $\frac{1}{2}$	barrels		
Dutch ditto	nom.	nom.	Brown English	nom.	nom.
Russian finest	nom.	nom.	naked	£ 39 10 0	£ 39 10 0
Normandy baskets	nom.	nom.	Cott'n Seed, crude	£ 44-£ 54	£ 44-£ 54
Danish finest	17 $\frac{1}{2}$ -17 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 $\frac{1}{2}$ -18 $\frac{1}{2}$	Ditto, refined		
Brittany rolls	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ -14 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ -14 $\frac{1}{2}$	Petroleum Oil, per 5 lbs.	1/1	1/1 $\frac{1}{2}$
doz. lb.	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ -17 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ -17 $\frac{1}{2}$	Water White	1/1	1/1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bacon —per cwt.			Oil Seeds, Linseed		
Irish	109 0-117 0	114 0-118 0	Salcutta—per 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., July-Aug.	3 13 0	3 16 6
Continental	90 0-116 0	100 0-118 0	Rape, Toria	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Canadian	98 0-106 0	89 0-92 0	Iron —per ton		
American	86 0-90 0	89 0-92 0	Cleveland Cash	nom.	nom.
Hams —per cwt.			Tobacco —duty, unmanufactured		
Irish	136-150	136-150	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ per lb.		
Canadian	100-102	104-110	Maryland & Ohio		
American	67 0-104 0	66 0-101 0	per lb. bond	0 6-0 10	0 6-0 10
Cheese —per cwt.			Virginia leaf	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 0	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 0
Edam	nom.	nom.	Kentucky leaf	0 5-1 0	0 5-1 0
Canadian	88 0-92 0	90 0-94 0	Latakia	0 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 0	0 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 0
Gouda	nom.	nom.	Java	1 0-6 0	1 0-6 0
English Cheddar	94 0-106 0	94 0-106 0	Manilla	0 6-2 0	0 6-2 0
Wilt's loaf	nom.	nom.	Cigars, duty 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ per lb.	2 0	2 0
New Zealand	88 0-92 0	88 0-97 0	Timber —Wood.		
Rice —per cwt.			Dantsig and		
Garden Siam	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Memel Fir, per load	130/-150/-	130/-150/-
spot	17 3-17 6	17 3-17 6	Indian Teak	280/-600/-	280/-600/-
Rangoon 2 stars	16 3-16 3	16 3	Flour —per sack.		
Eggs —per 120.			Town households		
English	17 6-18 6	17 6-18 6	official	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Irish	16 0-16 6	15 0-16 0	American, 1st patents	45/-upds.	47/6 upds.
Danish	17 6-19 0	17 6-19 0	Copra —		
Malabar —London			Turpentine—		
Aug.-Sept.	33 0 0	33 0 0	American Spot	2 1 3	2 1 3
Ceylon —London			Spelter—		
South Sea	30 0 0	31 15 0	G.O.B. as to position	£ 60-£ 55	£ 47-£ 42
F.M.S.					
	31 5 0	30 5 0			

sympathy. The stronger tone has forced out more inquiry, and though considerable difficulties have been encountered in arranging transactions, certain sellers have reported an increased turnover. Less favourable advices are being received from the American cotton belt. The official report of the Government is worse than expected. According to some authorities the yield is not likely to be more than 13,000,000 bales, and under the circumstances lower values just at present cannot be anticipated. The Egyptian growth continues to do very well. The general inquiry in piece goods for export has been on a fuller scale than for a long time past, and although many of the offers are too low, certain buyers have come up in price, and placed substantial orders with makers. For India there

has been plenty of demand about, and although most of the buying has been in finishing goods and fancies, grey and white shirtings have been sold more freely. China has not been at all active, operations being largely confined to bleaching qualities. The smaller markets, both East and West, have provided rather more trade in goods of a miscellaneous character. Employment in Blackburn and district is rather better than a few weeks ago. American yarns for home use are dearer, and although orders had been given out rather irregularly the demand continues healthier, but most of the buying has been in medium numbers. A few more sales have been mentioned in export yarns for India. Egyptian spinnings have hardened in price with a steady demand.

What Balance Sheets Tell.

MARTIN'S BANK, LTD.

After providing for bad and doubtful debts, the gross profits for the half-year ended June 30 were £9,247 up at £81,011. Interest, however, absorbed £12,271 more at £30,281, and after providing for management expenses and rebate on bills, the nett balance, including £23,004, or £1,579 more, brought in, was only £509 better at £47,349. Out of this a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum is again paid, and another £10,000 is put aside to provide for depreciation on investments, &c., leaving £22,349 to be carried forward. Current, deposit, and other accounts have risen £141,359 to £4,131,092, and acceptances are £33,355 higher at £368,028. Cash in hand and at the Bank of England is £123,642 up at £819,542, and investments in British Government securities have been increased by £399,100 to £945,100, but money at call and short notice is £289,700 down at £1,088,500. Loans show a decrease of £110,470 at £1,115,509, and bills receivable one of £67,715 at £498,436, but investments, including freehold premises adjacent to the head office, are £90,011 up at £264,353.

GUERNSEY BANKING CO., LTD.

A further small increase of £400 at £11,484 is shown in the nett profits for the year ended June 30, and as the amount required to meet the depreciation in general investments is only £973, as against £4,532 a year ago, the available balance is £3,909 up at £10,520. The usual dividend of 20s. per £10 share is paid, and out of the surplus £1,050 is added to the second reserve, £1,000 set aside for bad and doubtful debts, and a like amount transferred to pension fund, leaving £847, or £646 more, to be carried forward. Last year the depreciation allowance was too heavy to permit of any other appropriations being made, while the second reserve had to be drawn upon to the extent of £5,000 to make good the depreciation in the Consols held on account of reserves. Changes in the balance-sheet are not of much importance, but it may be noted that liabilities to customers are £7,742 smaller at £302,326, while on the other hand investments have been increased by £3,683 to £130,048, and advances, &c., have risen by £5,083 to £247,361.

IMPERIAL AND FOREIGN CORPORATION, LTD.

Being very closely connected with the Russian and English Bank, this company has naturally suffered very considerably from the abnormal condition of the Russian exchange. Its income for the year ended June 30 showed an increase of £15,315 at £79,004, but in order to meet the loss on the exchange, £14,000 is now written off as against £11,000 set aside out of reserve a year ago. After providing for administration expenses, the nett balance, including £20,789, or £3,619 more, brought in, was £74,867, and out of this the preference dividend is paid, leaving the balance carried forward £5,242 up at £26,032. Although the directors have made such ample provision for loss on exchange, they have no intention of withdrawing roubles from Russia, and they hope that a large portion of the amount now set aside will be recovered in the future. Investments, taken at their book values, are £121,395 up at £1,104,974, debtors owe £36,925 more at £129,718, and advances and short loans are £6,644 higher at £272,411, while cash, after deducting the loss on exchange, shows an increase of £25,461 at £179,882. On the other hand, liabilities to sundry creditors have risen by £91,926 to £125,452, and loans against security by £42,194 to £120,107.

SCOTTISH AMERICAN MORTGAGE CO., LTD.

Including £4,350 from profit on exchange in respect of revenue brought home, the income for the year ended May 31 was £8,267 larger at £150,600. Interest and other charges were lighter, and £2,981 less at £16,613 was written off for depreciation of investments, so that the nett profit was £10,176 better at £110,509. Out of this a dividend of 12 per cent., less tax, is again paid, and £14,325, or £13,157 more, is carried to surplus revenue, raising the total to £30,305. During the year all available collections in the United States were brought home in accordance with the wishes of the Government, and the item of mortgages, vendors' lien notes, &c., consequently shows a decrease of £235,506 at £1,792,454. The money has been used partly in reduction of debenture debt, which is £84,740 down at £552,947, and partly in the purchase of British Government securities. Investments are £11,753 down at £123,523, this sum including £50,328 of War stock, but there is a new item of £200,000 British Treasury bills taken at £192,917, while cash is £30,404 lower at £9,548.

THIRD SCOTTISH AMERICAN TRUST CO., LTD.

A further shrinkage of £1,084 to £54,831 in the revenue for the 12 months ended July 3 was more than offset by a reduction

of £2,227 in the interest paid, but income-tax absorbed £4,257 more, and after providing for administration expenses the nett balance was £3,065 down at £29,306. The dividend, however, is maintained at 8½ per cent., and £803 is added to the balance carried forward, making it £16,036. As the directors were able to obtain prices for nearly all the investments, they have resumed the practice of making an annual valuation, and state that, including the reserve and balance carried forward, there was an excess of £220,238 over the combined share and debenture capital. The investments have been reduced by £36,084 to £905,367, of which £449,976 is in bonds, £106,204 in preference and guaranteed shares, and £55,338 in common shares of undertakings in the United States; £146,420 is in British Government securities, and £181,984 in bonds and debenture stocks in Great Britain and other countries. Against the decrease in securities, loans of £30,365 have been paid off, and a small bank overdraft has been replaced by a balance of £6,340. In terms of the American Dollar Securities Mobilisation Scheme, bonds and shares to the value of £224,686 have been deposited on loan with H.M.'s Treasury.

AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURAL CO.

Very mixed fortunes attended the operations of this undertaking in 1915. The season was very unfavourable for stock owing to drought, which was one of the worst on record so far as Queensland was concerned, but high prices were realised for the stock sold, and the wool clip is described as most satisfactory. A total of 3,171 bales of greasy wool and 1,914 bales of scoured wool were obtained, or an increase in all of 233 bales, and with a substantial advance in prices the clip is expected to realise over £107,000 nett, or £35,692 more than in the previous year. Profits from colliery and stock departments and receipts from interest, dividends, &c., amounted to £134,855, or an increase of £31,443, but this time receipts from land sales, which amounted to £28,767, or £3,010 more, are deducted from the cost of the estates, instead of being carried to revenue, so that on balance the gain is only £5,680. On the other hand, federal land tax and income-tax in England took £19,592 more, and after providing for London office charges and transferring £1,000 less at £5,000 to reserve for depreciation of investments, the surplus showed a decrease of £12,645 at £72,263. Adding £12,008 brought in, there was £7,737 less at £92,271 to be dealt with, of which £8,000 has been transferred to income-tax suspense account, and the dividend is reduced from 10s. to 9s. 6d. per £5 share, tax free, leaving £8,271, or £3,736 less, to be carried forward. In order to relieve the Corona station, and to facilitate its working, two leasehold stations in Queensland were bought at a cost of £80,827, and in addition £22,187 was spent on the Newcastle estate and other properties, but after deducting receipts from sales the book value of the properties is only £24,317 up at £308,004, while stock has risen by £13,599 to £136,058. Debtors come to £232,785, or £73,936 more, and wool and stores in hand to £100,869, or £34,517 more, against increases of £11,829 to £31,959 in sundry creditors, and £136,580 to £291,451 in the amount due on uncompleted land sales and contingency accounts. Investments have been increased by £48,672 to £216,937, while cash shows a decrease of £51,634 at £122,101. In May last a further property of 1,000 square miles of leasehold land, with a tenure of 32 years, in Western Queensland, was bought with about 13,000 head of well-bred Durham cattle and 4,000 calves for £90,000.

RYLANDS AND SONS, LTD.

This Manchester business of warehousemen did extraordinarily well in the six months ended June 30, and managed to increase its nett profits by no less than £96,383 to £196,358, which is surely remarkable in the present state of affairs. Adding £112,164, or £60,008 more, brought in, the distributable balance is £156,391 better at £308,522, and in addition to repeating the dividend of 10 per cent., a bonus of 4s. per share is declared, after which £80,000, as against nothing, is transferred to a war contingencies fund, and the staff superannuation fund receives a further £20,000, leaving £132,258, or £47,314 more, to be carried forward. Stock-in-trade, ledger balances, investments, bills receivable, and cash shows an increase of £408,295 at £3,658,030, and it is surely time the directors were beginning to consider the question of throwing further light on this omnibus item for the benefit of the shareholders. Current liabilities have risen by £226,467 to £1,194,107, while, on the other hand, freehold and leasehold land, buildings and plant has been reduced by £25,437 to £698,964.

YORK STREET FLAX SPINNING CO., LTD.

High costs would seem to have been more than met in the year ended June 30 last by an advance in selling values, and the profit and loss account of this Belfast company showed an increase of £9,798 to £73,024 in the nett profit after providing for debenture interest and for excess profits duty. Adding £27,709 brought in and deducting sundry expenses running into £11,563, or £3,234 more, the available balance was £7,460 larger at £89,169. Out of this the ordinary shares again get a dividend of 8 per cent., tax free, and the appropriation to reserve is doubled at £10,000, while the capital reserve gets its usual £10,000, leaving £30,169, or £2,460 more, to be carried forward. Current liabilities, including £75,591, or £16,058 less, on terminable loans, have risen by £123,237 to £467,076. On the other hand, stocks are £25,232 up at £669,185, debtors owe £94,619 more at £380,939, and cash and bills receivable are £9,635 up at £93,184. The outlay on property account amounted to £6,226, but after deducting the capital reserve, the book value is £3,774 lower at £297,858.

CLAUDIUS ASH, SONS AND CO., LTD.

As was the case a year ago, the accounts for 1915 do not include anything on account of the local trading in Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey and Belgium. In addition, the profits have been reduced by calculating at the rates of exchange current on December 31, the cash debts and stock in the foreign countries where the trading has been brought in. Notwithstanding this the nett profits, after providing for depreciation, &c., show a recovery of £12,366 at £41,448, but as £11,986 less was brought forward, the amount available for distribution is only £380 up at £65,949. Out of this the ordinary shares get a dividend of 5 per cent., less tax, as against 3 per cent. for the previous year, but £250 less at £1,500 is written off investments, and the balance carried out is reduced by £5,724 to £18,777. Stocks are £66,395 lower at £464,946, but cash has risen by £69,905 to £120,454, while £15,357 more at £72,237 is due to sundry creditors. Other changes in the balance-sheet are of very little importance, and need not be detailed, but it may perhaps be noted that it has been necessary to transfer the Italian business to a separate company under the title of C. Ash and Sons (Italy), Ltd., in which this company holds shares for £6,188.

NORTH CENTRAL WAGON CO., LTD.

A recovery of £5,581 to £82,003 is shown in the profits for the year ended June 30, while, on the other hand, an increase of £5,118 in income-tax payments is largely offset by a reduction in interest charges. The nett surplus, including £968, or £748 more, brought in, is consequently £6,005 up at £30,202, but the dividend is only raised by $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to 14 per cent., less tax. Out of the balance £7,500, or £2,500 more, is transferred to reserve, making that fund £170,000, and the amount carried forward is increased by £4,575 to £5,543. The number of wagons owned has been reduced by 4,898 to 33,277, and the book value of these and other investments is £70,142 lower at £1,063,716, against which there is a decrease of £97,831 to £896,478 in liabilities on debentures and loans. Tenants for wagon rents owe £5,702 less at £76,398, and cash is £42,440 down at £8,116; but debtors have risen by £10,126 to £35,523, and stores, &c., are £31,586 higher at £76,681, against an increase of £12,051 to £38,152 in sundry creditors.

TOTTENHAM DISTRICT LIGHT, HEAT AND POWER CO.

Although a year ago the price of gas was raised by 3d. per 1,000 cubic feet, the sales in the six months ended June 30 showed an increase of 133,829,000 cubic feet, and the income from this source was £29,394 larger at £152,297. Residual products also yielded a substantial increase in revenue, but expenses rose by £35,408 to £201,623, mainly owing to the higher cost of coal, and the nett profit from the gas undertaking was consequently only £11,176 better at £30,591. Some little progress was made in the electricity department, where a profit of £123 was realised, compared with a loss of £251 in the corresponding period of 1915, but £23,376 less at £2,185 was brought in, and the nett profit from all sources was £11,826 smaller at £32,899. After meeting interest and providing £4,330 for income-tax, an item which appears for the first time, the statutory dividends are paid of $\frac{7}{8}$ per cent. on the "A" stock and $\frac{5}{8}$ per cent. on the "B" stock, being a reduction of $\frac{3}{8}$ per cent. in both cases, and the balance carried forward is reduced by £14,391 to £290. Owing to the continued increase in the cost of coal, freight and labour, the price of gas has been further increased by 5d. per 1,000 cubic feet as from the Midsummer readings.

BALANCE SHEET FACTS.

HILLS' DRY DOCKS AND ENGINEERING CO., LTD.—Although no very clear statement is made of the position of this company for the year ended June 30, it apparently did very well. The profit shows a decrease of £3,059 at £9,676, but this figure seems to have been arrived at after setting aside £16,500 to a reserve under the Munitions Acts. Including £5,523 brought in, the amount available is £2,210 smaller at £15,199, but as nothing is provided for trade contingencies reserve, compared with £5,337 a year ago, the dividend is doubled at 10 per cent., and £2,099, or £3,424 less, is carried forward. Debtors show an increase of £23,212 at £34,099, but apart from that changes in the balance-sheet are not of much importance.

UNITED STATES MORTGAGE CO. OF SCOTLAND, LTD.—Like many other companies engaged in similar business, this undertaking has been bringing home funds for investment in British Government securities, and it has also realised the American Railroad bonds held on account of the reserve fund. The result has been to reduce the investments in mortgages, &c., by £38,036 to £519,309, and to increase the British Government securities by £16,262 to £36,985, while £24,298 of the debentures have been paid off, leaving £225,502 outstanding. Including £314 less at £3,619 brought in, the nett revenue was £1,239 smaller at £32,780, but the decline does not prevent the usual dividend of 10 per cent. being paid on the deferred stock, and after transferring £5,000 to reserve as before, £3,671, or £52 more, is carried forward.

WILLIAM McEwan and Co., LTD.—This well-known Edinburgh brewery has no "tied houses," but it has a large private connection, and consequently did remarkably well in the year ended June 30. No accounts are published, but the directors state that the profits, including £27,598, or £359 more, brought

forward, amounted to £115,394. This was an increase of £32,707 compared with the previous year, and the dividend on the ordinary shares is raised from 6 per cent. to 9, leaving the balance carried forward £17,707 up at £45,304.

W. AND H. M. GOULDING, LTD.—In the year ended June 30 this business of chemical manure manufacturers earned a nett profit of £53,553, or £5,553 more than in the previous 12 months. Out of this it is proposed to set aside a further £7,000 to cover estimated discounts on realisation of outstanding debts and to transfer £15,000, or £5,000 more, to reserve. Another £4,000 is written off for depreciation, and the dividend of 7 per cent. on the ordinary shares is repeated, of which half is payable now and the second 3s. 6d. per share on December 31, leaving £4,303 to be carried forward. Investments and shares in subsidiary companies are £4,836 up at £156,770, stocks are £27,204 higher at £74,332, and cash has risen by £8,468 to £62,237, but debtors owe £31,930 less at £194,814, while, on the other hand, sundry creditors have been reduced by £7,237 to £66,094.

Answers to Correspondents.

*** A Key to these Answers will be posted early each week for a subscription of ONE GUINEA per annum, 11s. for six months, or 5s. 9d. for three months.**

Deposits against future queries may be lodged with the Publisher.

K. T. C.—The fall is perhaps a little greater than on some stocks, but the stock is quite a good one. If you have any money for investment you might increase your holding.

B. W. J.—The company is reported to be doing well with its factory, but we have never had a favourable opinion of the concern, and think you should decide to cut your loss. Did you not average as we suggested you should do in May last year?

Shannon.—You might hold on for the present as the company has done well and should continue to make good profits. We doubt, however, if you will see all your money back.

M. M. M.—(1) We fear not. (2) It is not progressing, but we are told pressure is being brought to get a settlement of this dispute. It is high time something was done.

Pater.—Either of the War Loans or Exchequer bonds.

G. W. B.—(1) Should certainly be sold, as the price is a very high one. (2) The price offered for these is also a fair one, as the company has had two poor years, but the concern appears to be sound financially, and you can lend them if you prefer to take the chance of a recovery.

A. G. C.—Ask your broker; he can issue a voucher which will satisfy the authorities.

Wykamist.—It is an old-established concern, which has paid a steady dividend for years. Last year the return was decreased considerably. It appears to be financially sound, and the preference shares look quite safe; the dividends are paid free of tax. There is not much market, we fear, and they are dealt in principally on the Dundee Exchange.

T. F. W.—We think not. The concern is a very doubtful enterprise.

Yeoman.—(1) Should be quite a satisfactory purchase to hold. (2) These also seem to be worth buying.

Sir Aubrey Brocklebank, Bart., chairman of Thos. and Jno. Brocklebank, Ltd., has joined the board of the Bank of Liverpool, Ltd.

REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA.**SIX PER CENT. EXTERNAL DEBT.**

The Government of the Republic of Colombia having lodged funds to the amount of £15,000 for the purpose of resuming the redemption of bonds of the above issue, **GENERAL INVESTORS AND TRUSTEES LIMITED**, as Trustees of the Redemption Fund and at the request of the Colombian Government, invite offers of bonds for cancellation.

Offers must be lodged with **GENERAL INVESTORS AND TRUSTEES LIMITED**, 16, Gracechurch Street, E.C., not later than 12 o'clock noon on Wednesday, the 9th August, 1916, and should be enclosed in a sealed envelope marked outside "Offer of Colombian Government 6 per Cent. Bonds."

The price quoted must include the coupon due 1st September, 1916.

No offer may be withdrawn prior to the 12th August, 1916, and the Trustees reserve the right of accepting or rejecting the whole or part of any offer.

Forms may be obtained from **GENERAL INVESTORS AND TRUSTEES LIMITED**, 16, Gracechurch Street, E.C., or from the London Joint Stock Bank, Limited, 5, Princes Street, E.C.

16, Gracechurch Street, E.C.
2nd August, 1916.

The Week in Mines.

Several interesting movements have developed in the mining markets this week. There has been a revival of Cape buying of Eastern Rand shares, resulting in a number of appreciable advances. This development is believed to be connected with the prospect that the Union Government will shortly arrive at a definite decision regarding the exploitation of the unexplored areas of the Far-Eastern Rand in favour of private enterprise. Copper shares have improved in sympathy with the metal, and the Russian group has continued to attract buyers, particularly Tanalyks, which are materially higher on the week.

SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

The South African market has fully recovered from the dullness of last week, which was due to the realisation of alien holdings. Cape operators have been strong buyers of Eastern Rand shares, particularly of Modder B's, which have risen 7-32 to 6 27-32, and Modder Deeps, which are $\frac{1}{4}$ higher at 6 $\frac{3}{4}$. The Consolidated Mines Selection group has also been in demand, and Brakpans have risen 5-32 to 4 $\frac{1}{8}$. Coal Trusts $\frac{1}{8}$ to 3 $\frac{1}{8}$, and Springs $\frac{1}{8}$ to 2 $\frac{1}{8}$. The buying of the last-named is based partly on the gradual approach of the crushing stage. Rand Mines have risen $\frac{1}{8}$ to 3 $\frac{1}{8}$, and City Deeps at 4, Crown at 2 $\frac{1}{8}$, Van Ryn Deeps at 3 17-32, and New Modderfonteins at 17 $\frac{1}{8}$ are all slightly higher. Interest in Jupiters has revived on rumours that the concern is to be amalgamated with the Simmer Deep. The former has risen 1s. to 8s. 6d., and the latter 6d to 2s. 6d. Diamond descriptions have continued to droop, with De Beers deferred down to 10 $\frac{1}{8}$. In the Rhodesian section the principal feature has been the rally in Cam and Motors, which have risen 4s. to 14s. 9d. Last week they touched 10s. on a false report that a reconstruction was imminent; this week a favourable development report has been received, but the mine, according to Mr. C. B. Kingston, is not shaping any too well, and caution appears to be necessary. Chartered is easier at 13s., and Tanganyikas have declined to 2 17-32. Among West African shares Abontiakoons declined further to 6s. 9d. on the report.

COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Copper shares have been firm on the rise in the metal to over £100 a ton, and they have held their prices in spite of a subsequent reaction in the metal market. Rio Tintos are a point higher at 61 $\frac{1}{2}$, and both Utahs and Anacondas are $\frac{1}{8}$ to the good at 16 $\frac{1}{8}$ and 16 $\frac{3}{4}$ respectively. Capes have improved to 4. Tin shares have been dull with the metal, with small declines recorded in Siamese Syndicates at 2 $\frac{1}{8}$, South Croftys at 16s., and Tronohs at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. The Broken Hill group has been quietly firm, with small improvements in Proprietaries at 59s. 9d., British Props. at 23s. 9d., and Norths at 46s. 3d. The Westralian market has been featureless. Further profit-taking has left Oroville 6d. lower at 16s. 9d., and Nechi Prefs. are easier at 12s. 9d. 10d.

The Russian market has been active and firm, with interest centred in Tanalyks, which have risen 5-32 to 2 17-32; Irtysch Corporations have risen 1s. to 48s., and Russo-Asiatics $\frac{1}{8}$ to 6 $\frac{1}{8}$, but Russian Minings have reacted slightly to 22s. 6d. Fresh support has been forthcoming for Burma Corporations, which have risen $\frac{1}{8}$ to 3 $\frac{1}{8}$, but Nundydroogs are easier at 26s. 6d.

MINING NEWS

CAM AND MOTOR.—The shares of this company have been among the most active in the Rhodesian market. From time to time recently favourable news has been received as to the progress of development. Last week, however, some interested persons succeeded in depressing the price of the shares to 10s. by circulating a rumour of a coming reconstruction of the company. An official denial was forthcoming, and the shares recovered to 13s. Then came a further cable from the mine, stating that in the seventh level of the Motor Mine a cross-cut had intersected 2 ft. of ore, showing free gold of a value of £20 a ton; and the price improved to 15s. in consequence. For the twelve months to June 30 142,700 tons were dealt with, but the profit, owing partly to metallurgical difficulties, was no better than 6s. 4d. per ton. The report to June 30 will not be available until December, but meantime Mr. C. B. Kingston, the well-known mining engineer, has made a report which must tend to check undue optimism.

TRANSVAAL AND RHODESIAN ESTATES.—This company fared much worse last year. The profit declined from £17,600 to £4,300. Sales of property resulted in a nett loss of £194, whereas in the preceding year a nett profit of £3,300 was made, while a loss of £56 was sustained on the realisation of shares instead of a profit, as in the preceding year, amounting to £800. The directors are of opinion that the promising developments in the goldfield of the Eastern Rand will, if they continue, have a great influence towards increasing the value of the company's buildings and town sites in Johannesburg; but the shareholders must not build much on these hopes at this stage.

BELL REEF DEVELOPMENT.—Operations in the year to March 31 resulted in a loss of £4,107, as against a profit of £6,179. This result reduces the credit balance to be carried forward from £6,179 to £2,072. The loan from the Gold Fields Development Co. has increased from £54,222 to £59,475, but the banker's loan of £1,500 has been paid off. Reserves of ore

have been reduced by 19,896 tons to 33,174 tons, valued at 9.73 dwts. per ton. Metallurgical difficulties have interfered with operations, but the output for the past three months has considerably improved, a profit of £3,900 being realised.

ASSOCIATED GOLD MINES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—In the year ended March 31, 116,165 tons of ore were treated for a yield of £134,576, as against 127,057 tons for £135,917 in the preceding year. The grade improved from 21s. 5d. per ton to 23s. 1d. per ton, while costs rose from 19s. 8d. to 20s. 9d. per ton. The balance to debit of appropriation account brought forward was £8,659, to which must be added development expenditure for the year, £7,641, making £16,300. From this is deducted the nett profit for the year £7,275, leaving a debit balance of £9,024. Broken ore lying in the stopes has decreased from 32,479 tons to 21,689 tons. The North Thompson Mine, in which the company owns a controlling interest, has made gratifying progress.

RHODESIAN MINERAL OUTPUT.—The production of gold in Southern Rhodesia in June amounted to £333,070, an increase of £10,597 on June, 1915. The following table shows the production since January, 1912:—

MONTH.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
January	£ 214,918	£ 220,776	£ 249,032	£ 293,133	£ 318,586
February	209,744	208,744	259,888	286,789	313,769
March	215,102	257,797	273,236	299,686	335,368
April	221,476	241,098	295,997	315,541	339,386
May	234,407	242,452	290,062	318,898	323,783
June	226,867	241,303	306,421	322,473	333,070
July	240,514	249,301	320,670	336,565	—
August	239,077	250,376	316,972	344,493	—
September	230,573	250,429	309,398	321,085	—
October	230,072	247,068	337,241	339,997	—
November	225,957	239,036	311,711	313,160	—
December	218,661	254,687	309,669	331,376	—
Totals ..	2,707,368	2,903,267	3,580,207	3,823,166	1,963,962

The number of producers was 244 as against 211; and the output of other metals was 19,531 ounces of silver, 41,361 tons of coal, 325 tons of copper, 14,134 tons of chrome ore, 553 tons of asbestos, one ton of wolframite, and 52 carats of diamonds.

WEST AFRICAN GOLD OUTPUT.—The production of gold in June amounted to £127,107, a decrease of £5,869 as compared with May and a decrease of £8,182 on June last year. The following table shows the monthly production since January, 1912:—

MONTH.	1916.	1915.	1914.	1913.	1912.
Jan. ..	£ 140,579	£ 143,649	£ 123,862	£ 144,262	£ 107,262
Feb. ..	137,739	144,034	123,169	137,038	102,470
Mar. ..	150,987	153,770	131,392	150,660	111,376
April ..	135,976	149,978	131,697	146,220	114,796
May ..	132,976	142,123	145,227	142,617	115,678
June ..	127,107	135,289	147,289	125,764	114,697
July ..	—	140,290	151,923	132,936	127,860
Aug. ..	—	139,364	150,386	126,090	136,407
Sept. ..	—	135,744	154,316	132,394	142,397
Oct. ..	—	141,771	159,410	137,153	142,414
Nov. ..	—	122,138	154,674	132,694	137,700
Dec. ..	—	158,323	147,699	127,472	144,382
Totals	825,364	1,706,473	1,727,044	1,634,700	1,497,179

ARIZONA COPPER.—The profits of this company for the half-year ended March 31 diminished considerably owing to the recent strike. They totalled £137,176, as compared with £218,512 in the same period of 1914-15; this decrease is more than accounted for by the decline in production, which fell from 8,774 tons to 2,957 tons. After setting aside £40,264 for redemption of terminable debentures and adding £141,411 brought forward, the directors have declared a dividend of 1s. 6d. per share, tax free, which compares with only 1s. per share paid a year ago. Outlays other than those charged to revenue amounted to £34,110. Terminable debentures for £110,425 par value have been paid off, and the amount in issue has been reduced to £289,575.

PODEROSA MINING.—The net receipts for 1915 rose from £42,382 to £60,033, and after providing for various charges, the nett profit comes out at £21,588, as against a loss of £5,794 for 1914. Depreciation absorbs £4,562, leaving a nett surplus of £17,025, which reduces the debit balance brought in to £3,278. During the year 3,734 tons of copper ore, of an average assay value of 21.86 per cent. copper and 5.93 ozs. silver per ton, have been shipped to the smelters, as compared with 5,289 tons, assaying 18.23 per cent. copper and 3.95 ozs. silver respectively for 1914.

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COMPANY MEETINGS.

THE CLERGY MUTUAL ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

THE PAST QUINQUENNIAL.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

EFFECTS OF THE WAR.

The annual general meeting of members was held at the office of the society, the Sanctuary, Westminster, on Tuesday, July 25, 1916. In the absence of the chairman, Sir Paget Bowman, Bart., through illness, the chair was taken by Sir Lewis T. Dibdin, D.C.L.

The Actuary and Manager (Mr. Frank B. Wyatt, F.I.A.), having read the notice convening the meeting, and other formal business having been disposed of,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—I am sure we all share a feeling not only of regret that the chairman is unable to preside to-day, but also of sympathy with him for the accident which is the cause of his absence. (Hear, hear.) We who work with him here week by week and note the unfailing regularity of his attendance know well how reluctant he must be to leave his place to be filled by a deputy. As that deputy, I am here to do my best, and I think I shall not appeal in vain for your indulgence while, as a stop-gap, I try to discharge the duty of chairman. The report has been in the hands of all of us for a week or 10 days, and I have no doubt it has been studied. In moving its adoption, I assume you will take it as read and allow me to make my observations on that footing.

RESULTS OF THE QUINQUENNIAL INVESTIGATION.

I do not think the ordinary operations of the year need detain us. What has to be said about them can equally well be brought out in reference to the review of the five years' period which has just been determined, and I proceed, therefore, to the results of the quinquennial investigation made into the financial condition of the society in accordance with its rules and the provisions of the Life Assurance Companies Act, 1909. At the beginning of the year the Government were approached with a view to the suspension of the statutory obligation of a quinquennial valuation on the part of the life insurance companies. This attempt was, however, unsuccessful, and, I venture to think, rightly so. (Hear, hear.) It is not only a good thing that the public should have the safeguard of a quinquennial investigation, but in an anxious time like this it is a great support to the directors to be able to take the policyholders into counsel and to discuss the situation with them.

In this, as in all the concerns of our lives at this time, the war is the dominant factor. That is and must be so, whether we like it or not. Now, it seems to me that in considering the affairs of a mutual assurance society like ours we can best keep a clear mind by putting into separate and distinct compartments, as it were, the existing responsibilities and property of the society, on the one hand, and the expansion and growth of the society—that is, its new business—on the other. The war has, of course, greatly affected both, but in different ways. To take new business first: there has been a drop in the number of new policies; yet, in the last year, 1915-16, we have granted about 70 per cent. of the number granted in the year before the war; and although ours is on the whole not a moneyed *clientèle*—and, therefore, the average of the sums assured by each policy is not large—the number of policies granted has been, I believe, in excess of those granted by any other non-commission office. I do not, therefore, think the position as to new business an unsatisfactory one.

THE SECURITY OF THE SOCIETY.

But while the war has diminished, and will continue to affect, the new business of the society, that is a temporary matter, which will probably be put right when the war ends and the normal requirements of human life, which make life assurance a necessity, once more assert themselves. We shall have to look back on so many lean years in the past—that will probably be all. But the shrinkage of new business during the war has no effect on what primarily concerns you and me—the security of the society and its ability to meet the claims of its present policyholders; that depends, I need not say, on the adequacy of the resources of the society to meet the claims upon it as and when they arise. In other words, it depends on the result of a comparison of the valuation of assets with the valuation of liabilities. What has been the effect of the war in this context? I mention three effects as the most important—first, the war has caused a great depreciation in the value of investments; secondly, it has caused, indirectly as well as directly, an extra mortality amongst policyholders; thirdly, it has caused a prodigious rise in the income-tax, which now stands at 5s. in the £, or one-fourth of the income

taxed. To deal with the second and third matters at once, the loss of members killed fighting has not been large—namely, 54, representing claims to the amount of £54,348. To this must be added the loss of members whose deaths have been accelerated by anxiety or trouble arising out of the war. It is, of course, impossible to give statistics, but that the war has had a real influence in this respect, especially amongst those in advanced years is, I think, well known to most of us. Notwithstanding the war, our mortality experience remains as it always has been—remarkably fortunate. During the last five years our death claims have been £409,056, or 23.8 per cent. below the expectation of the O.M.5 Table.

LIFE ASSURANCE OFFICES AND TAXATION.

With regard to taxation, life assurance offices have long suffered from an exceedingly inequitable assessment of income-tax, being charged on their gross income from interest and dividends of investments instead of being charged on their profits. All but a small proportion of their income from investments must be reserved and accumulated to enable the offices to fulfil their contracts. It is only the excess which remains after the necessary reserves have been made which is profit, and properly taxable. Fire offices transacting life business are, in fact, assessed on this principle, but not purely life offices. Representations have been made to the Government by the Life Offices Association, especially in 1910, when Mr. Wyatt was chairman of the association, but so far these representations have not met with success. We have only obtained a small concession, by which we are allowed a return of income-tax in respect of the amount of expenses of management. In ordinary times the injury to members of the society is not very great, but now with a 5s. income-tax it is a very different matter. Every policy-holder entitled to share in profits suffers from an injustice which inflicts grave loss upon the society, and therefore upon him, and for which no plausible defence has ever been suggested. As to the rate of the tax, there is, of course, nothing to be done but "to grin and bear it"; we are none of us under any illusion as to the magnitude of the sacrifices which must be made by Englishmen for the adequate maintenance of our cause, and we make no complaint. (Hear, hear.)

THE DEPRECIATION OF STOCK EXCHANGE INVESTMENTS.

The first-mentioned and the most important effect which the war has had upon the society's affairs has been the depreciation of Stock Exchange investments which it has produced. This has been one of the main matters which have required the careful and cautious consideration of the directors and of our actuary and manager, Mr. Wyatt, during the quinquennial investigation. May I stop here to say that, great as have been the services of Mr. Wyatt to the society during the 45 years that he has been connected with it, I think the greatest of them all has been his strong and skilful guidance during the present anxious times. (Hear, hear.) It is very largely due to his exertions and his advice that the directors are able to come before you to-day with a report which, although we are disappointed of the ordinary bonus, yet is, I venture to think, a very good report—(hear, hear)—because it demonstrates the complete stability of the society, in spite of the surrounding stress.

In dealing with the question of the value of the investments in Stock Exchange securities the directors considered that the only course they were justified in adopting was to take the market values as on May 31, 1916, as the basis of valuation. They have adopted this basis, not only in the case of permanent securities, but also in the case of securities redeemable at par on a fixed date. All have been taken at the market value on May 31 last, where this could be directly ascertained, and where it could not the values have been arrived at by comparison with similar securities. The official minimum prices did not affect our valuation. On May 31 they existed with regard to only a very few of our investments, and these were valued by us independently. The fall which took place in the price of first-class investments in the years before the war has, I need not say, been succeeded by a far heavier fall during the war, and in consequence of it. The depreciation since 1911 in our case amounts to £461,478. The aggregate value of the Stock Exchange securities, which, before adjustment, stood in our books at £2,468,655, now stands as a result of the revaluation at £2,007,177—that is, a drop of 18.7 per cent. It is very satisfactory, however, to be able to add that our examination has shown that these investments, with one or two exceptions, are of a sound and eligible character. (Hear, hear.)

With regard to our mortgages, amounting to £1,106,705, the values of the properties mortgaged have been carefully estimated in connection with recent rentals and other evidence of

value, and our mortgage investments are all considered to be satisfactory. It has been deemed right to raise the rate of interest on most of the existing mortgages in accordance with the increase in the rate of interest prevailing generally. It was found necessary to write down the aggregate value of our investments in freehold property and reversions by £39,722. This depreciation has been caused to a small extent by the fall in Stock Exchange investments in which the society owns a reversionary interest, but it is chiefly due to the condition of a particular property of which the society were mortgagees and have become owners by foreclosure.

SALE OF AMERICAN RAILWAY AND OTHER BONDS.

It was found advisable to sell certain securities last year, these securities, consisting almost entirely of American railway and other bonds. Some of these were sold in order to obtain the advantage of the rate of exchange, and the remainder were sold in compliance with the request of the Treasury that American dollar bonds should be sold by the British public in order to help the Government to rectify the exchange with the United States, which has been, and is, against this country. The aggregate value in the society's books of the securities sold was £290,475, and the amount realised was £278,346, showing the comparatively small loss of £12,129, or about 6.1 per cent. Since the close of the year we have sold to the Treasury all the remaining United States railway bonds shown in the balance-sheet (with one small exception) at prices equal to the values at which they had just been put in our books on the revaluation. Nearly the whole of the proceeds of these sales has been invested in British Government securities. We hold £250,000 of the 4½ per cent. War Loan and £210,000 Treasury bills. (Hear, hear.) The income from investments representing the proceeds of the above sales is about equal to the amount received on the investments sold, and, of course, we escape the extra income-tax of 2s. in the £, or one-tenth of the income, which will be imposed on American railway bonds saleable to the Treasury which may continue to be held by the public.

The result of the writing down of investments and of the loss on the sale of American railway bonds is that the total depreciation in the value of the society's assets is £519,330 13s. 4d. The financial condition of the society is, I need not say, greatly strengthened by the writing down of the value of the investments to such a considerable extent. The amount written off is not in the nature of a realised loss. We are under no necessity to sell these investments, as our annual income is more than sufficient to meet our annual expenditure, so that we can retain them until there is an improvement in value. The total income derived from investments which have been written down, amounting to more than £100,000 a year, remains unabated. An immediate result of placing the assets at what we consider their present values is to raise the average rate of interest on our total assets from £4 2s. 8d. per cent. to £4 12s. 7d. per cent., or an increase of no less than ½ per cent. It is true that the advantage of the high rate of interest we are now obtaining is for the moment greatly reduced by the high rate of income-tax. The gross amount which we shall receive in interest and dividends this year is about £200,000, but of this the State will take £50,000—that is, one-quarter.

VALUATION OF THE LIABILITIES: THE SURPLUS CARRIED FORWARD.

I turn now to the valuation of the liabilities which has been made by our actuary and manager, Mr. Wyatt, whose report is appended to the directors' report. The basis of valuation is the same as that adopted five years ago, except that the rate of interest assumed has been taken as £3 per cent. per annum. In view of the increased rate of interest on our funds and the high rate at which we can now invest money, it seemed unreasonable to adopt any longer the rate of interest of £2½ per cent. only, which has been the rate assumed since the year 1891 in the valuation of the society's liabilities. The effect of this alteration is to release from the reserve hitherto held against liabilities an amount of about £165,000, which has been used towards meeting the depreciation in the value of securities. The result of the valuation is that, after setting aside reserves to meet all liabilities on a stringent basis, there remains a surplus of £90,501. (Hear, hear.)

BONUS PROVISION FOR POLICIES MATURING BEFORE 1921.

The directors do not feel justified in distributing at the present time any part of it by way of bonus amongst the existing members. It might have been possible to have used part of the surplus in giving to all existing members a small present bonus, but we came to the conclusion that it would be unwise to do so. We decided that it was both expedient and equitable to carry forward the whole surplus, so that the society should be in a position to pay interim bonus on policies becoming claims before the next valuation, either by the death of the life assured or, in the case of an endowment assurance, by the survival of the life assured to the age of maturity specified in the policy. We thus preserve as far as possible the interests of those members whose policies will become claims before the next valuation, and who cannot therefore participate in any period of renewed prosperity. We give, in effect, a contingent bonus to every existing member, to be payable only in the event of his policy maturing before the next valuation. The rate of interim bonus according to age is shown in the report, and I would specially call your attention to the fact that it is retrospective—that is to say, it will be payable in respect of all premiums paid since May 31,

1911, and not only in respect of premiums paid during the current quinquennium. As an indication of the great value of this arrangement for the payment of interim bonus I may state that the total amount assured (exclusive of existing bonus additions) by all participating life assurances in existence on June 1 last was approximately eight millions, and it is estimated that, in accordance with the society's experience, about £1,100,000 of this will mature for payment before June 1, 1921, either by the death of the life assured or, in the case of endowment assurances, by the life assured attaining the specified age. It is in respect of this £1,100,000 that interim bonus is guaranteed to be paid.

A BONUS BUT FOR THE WAR.

It is, of course, a matter of great regret to us all—directors and members—that the war has robbed us of our bonus; I say robbed us, because but for the war, the half-million which in round figures has been devoted to repairing depreciation of investments would have been available for distribution, and the members would in all human probability have now received a bonus of similar amount to that we declared in 1911. It is not that the society has not earned the necessary funds, but that they have had to be spent in maintaining the stability of the society. I need not say that our experience is shared by all the other great life offices, and, indeed, by almost all bodies and individuals owning Stock Exchange investments. It is, of course, the inevitable consequence of the terrible struggle which the ambition of Germany has brought on the world. I can conceive the question being asked whether, if the society had accumulated a great reserve fund years ago, it could not now have been used so as to enable the usual bonus to be declared. No doubt if we had such a reserve fund it might be so employed; but it must be remembered that at any rate in a mutual society a reserve can only be created by from time to time keeping back from the members some part of the profits which their money has earned. There is something to be said for such a policy, but it has not been the policy of this society. It has always been our practice to give the members the full benefit of the profits which have arisen in each quinquennial period. The consequence has been that the members of this society have enjoyed bonuses at exceptionally high rates—much, indeed, above the general average declared by other offices. At the same time, the society's premiums have been (as they still are) lower than those usually charged. In other words, in each quinquennium the existing policyholders, by means of big bonuses and low premiums, have received practically the whole surplus arising from the profitable working of the society's business. That has been the deliberate policy of the society, and it has enormously benefited our members; but it is obvious that it is incompatible with the creation of any great reserve fund.

A CAUTIOUS POLICY.

I do not want to minimise the vexation which, whether as directors or as members only, we all suffer at having to forgo the bonus we had, until the war broke out, every reason to expect. The directors considered themselves bound to give warning in their report of last year as to the uncertainty of the outlook; but, even so, it is inevitable that many members will feel acutely the sacrifice of the bonus, and the directors desire to express their very sincere sympathy. But I confess that far deeper than any feeling of annoyance at the loss of bonus is one of profound satisfaction that we have been able, in so great and unlooked-for a crisis, not only to provide a fair bonus for policies which mature before 1921, but also—and this is the chief thing—to make good all depreciation out of what would have been surplus in ordinary times, and so to maintain the strength of the society unimpaired. By our caution now we are assuredly preparing for future prosperity when the abnormal conditions of the moment have passed away.

THE WORK OF THE STAFF.

Before I sit down I want to emphasise what we have said in the report as to the work of the staff. Out of our small staff seven are serving or are about to serve in his Majesty's Forces. I know they will fight well, and may they all come safe home again! Their absence has, of course, entailed a great deal of extra work on the elder members of the staff left behind, and we owe them a debt of gratitude for the chivalrous way in which they have met the crisis. (Hear, hear.) We are glad to have our old friend and late secretary, Mr. Neale, back again giving a helping hand, and there is, I think, one additional woman clerk, but that is all the extra assistance. I now move formally the adoption of the report.

The Dean of Canterbury, in seconding the motion, observed that it was not to be supposed that the assets of the society were permanently diminished by the £500,000 which had been written off. As the Chairman had said, they might all confidently look forward to renewed prosperity in the future.

The Chairman, in reply to questions, remarked that the directors had received from those present really nothing but encouragement and approval in the course they had thought it right to take. He thought the meeting recognised that it was fair to provide something for the man who, before 1921, by death would not share in the future prosperity of the society at all.

The motion was then unanimously adopted; and the retiring directors—the Rev. Prebendary Harvey, the Archdeacon of Durham, and the Rev. Canon Lovett Cameron—were re-elected; and Mr. Ernest R. Frere, chartered accountant, was reappointed auditor to the society for the present year.

Votes of thanks to the chairman and the directors and to the officers and staff terminated the proceedings.

THE UNION BANK OF MANCHESTER, LIMITED.

The 80th annual general meeting of the Union Bank of Manchester, Ltd., was held at the head office of the bank, York Street, Manchester, on Friday, July 28, 1916.

The chair was occupied by G. C. Ilaworth, Esq. (chairman of the bank).

Mr. Peter Forrester read the notice convening the meeting, and also the auditors' certificates attached to the last two balance-sheets.

The Chairman said: In again presiding at the annual meeting of the Union Bank of Manchester, Ltd., I do so with mingled feelings of pleasure and regret—pleasure in having to record so successful a year, and regret that the war, which has been raging so furiously on the Continent, still continues unabated in its severity. We all feel, however, that no matter how great the cost, we must prosecute this war to a finish, and put an end to a condition of things whereby any Power can lightly defy the honour of international treaties. Even in the midst of a war unprecedented in extent, and with an enormous expenditure of from five to six millions a day—or two thousand millions yearly—we are able to keep our machinery running, and our export trade also is maintained to a degree beyond our most sanguine expectations. We have been hindered by shortage of labour, resulting from the increasing number of those who have had to bear arms. You are all aware of the deficiency of ocean-going steamers, arising from the demand made by the Government for vessels for war purposes. As a consequence, I might mention the extra cost of freight. Take cotton, for instance. In normal times the price for bringing it across the Atlantic was 4d. per lb.; now the charges, including insurance, are anything from four to six times greater. Notwithstanding this charge, and the increased cost of production, we find the cotton trade balance-sheets declaring dividends. May I draw your attention to one or two prices in the Lancashire cotton trade. The present price of middling American cotton is just over 8d. per lb.; two years ago it was 4½d. To-day's price of 8½ lbs. shirtings is 9s. 6d.; in 1914 it was 7s. 3d. The prosperity of the Yorkshire woollen industry stands out above all others in the extent of orders, and margins of profit and in prices. Deliveries are 18 months in arrear. The price of woollen goods is 100 per cent. higher; the cost of dyeing is increased from 100 to 300 per cent. beyond the rates quoted in 1913. Our merchant business, whether for home or export, has on the whole been satisfactory. The reason for this, I might add, is owing to the United Kingdom and many markets abroad being almost solely dependent upon the production of the English manufacturer for all textiles. To all intents and purposes, the exportation of goods from France, Switzerland, and Germany has practically ceased. In the building trade we find a stagnant condition of things which is altogether without parallel. Nevertheless, the very material they use—timber—shows an advance of from 100 to 300 per cent. It may be noted that agriculture, once regarded as an unremunerative calling, has participated in exceptional demands arising from the war, and to an extent that the most sanguine had no reason to expect. Cattle, corn, and hay have advanced from 50 to 150 per cent. With a continuance of the present fine weather we may venture to anticipate that this year we shall have a record harvest. The heavy cost of the war has one feature to which I would draw your attention. Whether you take trade locally or nationally, the fact remains that the money paid out in loans circulates round to the banker, the merchant, and the shopkeeper. This naturally gives an incentive to our home trade. Controversialists may dispute about Britain's part in the war, but no one will question the fact that British money power, British credit, and British economic strength, combined with an all-powerful fleet, are the great prop and stay of the Allied cause. Since August, 1914, the banks have been united in their action on behalf of the national cause, and they have had little or no difficulty in reconciling it with their duty to their shareholders, their depositors, and their customers. We have had in full measure—and may I say frankly that I think we have deserved it—the confidence of our customers, this being the foundation upon which all banks must rest. I think, therefore, you will agree with me that the past two years will be looked upon in future as the most remarkable period in the history of British banking.

Let us now turn to the report and balance-sheet, copies of which you have before you. We are able to report this half-year a larger nett profit than on any previous occasion, nearly £74,000, although the expenses last half-year are rather more than previously. The latter has been brought about mainly by the additional cost of filling the places of those members of our staff who have gone to the war, and our continuing to follow a liberal policy with regard to the remuneration of those who have joined the forces—a policy which, I am sure, will meet with your entire approval. The satisfactory state of our profits has enabled us to pay the usual dividend without deducting the income-tax, which is, of course, equivalent to a considerable increase of dividend. When we are in the throes of a gigantic war like the present, it is not prudent to indulge in prophecy; but we are sanguine that in the future you will receive a nett dividend on your shares not less than you have received this half-year.

Those shareholders who are, shall I say, fortunate enough to be entitled to repayment of the whole or part of the income-tax will be able to recover the amount from the Government, with the happy result that they will not only receive their dividend in full, but an additional amount besides. No doubt, however,

this point has been made quite clear to you in the circular which was sent out by the general manager, along with the dividend warrants. You will observe we are writing down our bank premises to the extent of £5,000, as against £3,000 in past half-years. We have also taken advantage of the present state of affairs to make a more liberal contribution to the pension fund, viz., £5,000, as against £2,000 formerly. Income-tax is the next item. I do not know that I can enlarge on this. Although the tax is bearing very heavily upon many of us, we cheerfully pay it to support the honour of our country. With regard to the position and prospects of the bank generally, referred to in the report, as directors we can confirm very emphatically what is stated there. The bank has now attained a remarkably strong position, its business shows great vitality, and we think there is a future before it which will yield satisfaction to all connected with it. About 75 per cent. of our pre-war eligible staff have already joined, or will shortly join, his Majesty's Forces, and we are being hard put to it to carry on our "business as usual." However, so far, with unimportant exceptions, we have succeeded in doing so, and we are hopeful that before long we shall be able to see some prospect of relief in this matter. Holidays, necessary as they are, have had to be reduced almost to vanishing-point. You will observe that we have opened a branch at St. Helens. Although we are limiting our activities in the matter of extensions at the present time, we felt called upon to take advantage of an exceptional opportunity which presented itself in this town. The progress of that branch, so far, is such as to justify the step taken. I now turn to the balance-sheet. Our capital and reserve fund remain as before. We could have substantially increased the latter from our carry-forward, but we have thought it best to postpone that until the future becomes a little more clear. However, the percentage of our reserve fund to the paid-up capital, which is the test usually applied, is considerably above the average, and we think will compare favourably with the majority of banks. Still, we hope to substantially add to it in the not distant future. The item "current, deposit, and other accounts £7,737,663," shows a considerable increase on last year's figures. This is equal to 10 per cent., which, you will agree, is very satisfactory indeed. The remaining items on this side of the balance-sheet do not appear to call for special mention. On the credit side, "cash on hand, &c.," comes to £1,043,117, and this we consider satisfactory, having regard to the large sum we have invested in War Loan. With regard to the item "British Government securities £2,255,645," there is really nothing new to add. It must be evident to you they are all of the highest class. The sum of £77,000 referred to in the note attached is lodged under an arrangement with his Majesty's Government, and for which we have their guarantee. It is part of a large operation intended to regulate the American exchange. The item "other investments £145,605" shows a small decrease as compared with a year ago. As a matter of fact, we have been able to realise a substantial amount of investments which have been replaced by temporary investments of a "gilt-edged" character. Bills of exchange, £726,488, are somewhat larger than usual. This increase is entirely due to the healthy growth of our business. We come now to the total of the more liquid assets of the bank, which is £4,170,856. This is much larger than it has ever stood before, and you will observe that it is considerably more than half of our liabilities to customers. To be exact, it represents about 54 per cent. of the whole of our deposits and credit balances. This is a feature which we regard as specially satisfactory, indicating as it does the exceedingly sound position in which the bank stands. It is the first time that our liquid assets have exceeded four millions. They are almost equal to the loans and advances to customers, which is not usually the case. Loans and advances to customers, £4,252,239, are a little less than before, although we have given very liberal and extended accommodation to many of our friends of old standing, beside many new customers. In the general trade of the country there has been rather a tendency to reduce loans of old standing. One of the most satisfactory features about the great "War Loan" was the manner in which our customers provided the money themselves; the cases in which we were asked to assist in subscription by making loans were comparatively trifling, and there is no doubt that the amount subscribed to the Government Loans represented the actual savings of the country, and not any artificial inflation of credit. The remaining three items do not call for special comment, but I would call your attention to the total of the balance-sheet, viz., £9,683,985, which exceeds the total of 1915 by more than one million sterling. Perhaps by the time we meet again the total of the pounds will consist of eight figures instead of seven. Before concluding my remarks, I would like to express our high appreciation of the sacrifice which has been made, and is still being made, by all our men who have joined his Majesty's Forces, and especially those who have given their lives for their country. I am sorry to say that, according to the latest information we possess, no less than nine members of our staff have laid down their lives. You will, I am sure, appreciate our proposal to immortalise their memories by the erection of a memorial tablet at the head office.

Mr. W. H. Verdin, in seconding the resolution, said that there was nothing in the balance-sheet to which he desired to call attention, with one exception, and that was as regards the War Loan. The War Loan, he should say—he was speaking without authority of any kind—was with some banks rather a delicate subject. Some of the banks had taken up very large blocks, and to-day that stock was at something like 3½ to 4 per cent. discount. He thought the Government might do something to help. Some years ago when Consols were in a very flabby condition he suggested that they might be taken in

payment of death levies, and to-day that idea had been adopted by the Government, and Exchequer bonds were taken in payment of death duties at their face value plus accrued interest. Why should not War Loan stock be taken in payment of death duties as well? It would create a demand for it, and would stiffen the rates. He felt sure that the idea was worth considering, and if something could be done in that direction no one would have reason to be more pleased than the shareholders of the various banks in the country.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

GLOUCESTER RAILWAY CARRIAGE AND WAGON CO.

MR. VASSAR-SMITH ON AFTER-WAR TRADE.

The annual meeting of shareholders of the Gloucester Railway Carriage and Wagon Co., Ltd., was held at the company's offices, Bristol Road, Gloucester, on July 31, Mr. R. V. Vassar-Smith (chairman of the directors) presiding over a good attendance.

In their report for the year ended May 31, 1916, the directors deeply regretted to have to record the death of Viscount Quenington, M.P., who was killed in action on April 23 last. They have appointed Mr. M. F. Maclean, of Caradoc Court, Ross, Herefordshire, to fill the vacant seat on the board. The profit on the year's trading, after making the usual provision for depreciation and payment of war allowances to dependents of employees serving in the Army and Navy, also for contingencies and internal reserves, is £47,750 8s. 7d., and the disposable balance, after deducting the interim dividend paid February 1 last, amounts to £77,498 17s. 8d. The directors proposed to transfer £10,000 to reserve, which would then amount to £180,000; and recommended the payment of a dividend for the past half-year at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum (£18,394 8s. 6d.), less income-tax, making 10 per cent. for the year; and that the balance (£49,104 9s. 2d.) be carried forward. The company now repair and maintain 30,240 wagons, including those belonging to the company.

INCREASED COSTS.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, referred in sympathetic terms to the death of Viscount Quenington, which he described as a universal loss. From the company's staff, he said, some 900 men had gone to the war, of whom 43 (including Lord Quenington as a member of the board) had been killed. The absence of so many men on active service has had, of course, an effect upon the output of the works, the number of employees having for the time been reduced from about 1,800 to 1,200, allowing for the vacancies which they had been able to fill. With regard to the year's accounts, the company were not doing their regular work, having been for some time a "controlled" concern under Government. In these circumstances, the fact that the wagon rents and balance of profit and loss account totalled £78,615, although less than a year ago, must be considered as very satisfactory. (Hear, hear.) The falling off (from £79,484) was not altogether a diminution in income, for the expenses had been higher as compared with the previous year. They had had to pay extra for their coal and coke to the amount, on the average price, of nearly £5,000; their income-tax was £8,000 more; aircraft insurance cost £600; and repairs, &c., amounted to £600 more. Those items together more than accounted for the difference in the profit as compared with the accounts for the previous year.

THE BALANCE-SHEET.

Dealing with the balance-sheet, the Chairman pointed out that the value of the wagons let on simple hire (less depreciation) was £10,000 under the figures of last year (£198,010, against £208,147); the rolling-stock let on deferred purchase (less amounts paid on account of purchase) was also less (£167,786, compared with £252,931), the company's time having largely been taken up with Government work instead of their constructing so much rolling-stock as under the normal conditions; the item under the head of stock-in-trade and work in progress was considerably more, and now stood at £245,129, against £184,964 12 months ago; the amount in respect of sundry debtors was less (£104,636, compared with £150,091); and the investments totalled £245,716, against £193,091. The investments consisted of £100,000 4½ per cent. War stock; 124,996 fully paid £1 shares in Baldwins, Ltd.; and sundry other investments, amounting in all to £21,000. The shares in Baldwins, Ltd., represented those which the Wagon Co. formerly held in the Port Talbot Steel Co., Ltd., and which had been exchanged at par value—a very profitable transaction, as the Baldwins, Ltd., £1 shares now stood at £1 16s. On the other side of the balance-sheet, the debenture loans were considerably lower (£39,172, against £415,972). The reserve had been increased from £160,000 to £170,000. He thought that the accounts were now in as good order as it was possible to have them. (Hear, hear.) They had plenty of reserve, and he thought the company could stand out very well against two or three bad years if, unfortunately, they should come. (Hear, hear.) He did not anticipate that contingency, but he mentioned it because of their being a "controlled" company, and obliged, therefore, to undertake work of a kind which did not pay them so well as their own proper work and also because of the difficulties which might arise at the conclusion of the war. They all hoped that the conclusion of the war might come at as early a date as possible, but no one could tell when that would be, and during the continuance of the war the difficulty of obtaining materials must remain,

and even at its conclusion the very high prices which were sure to obtain would make a considerable difference to the profit-earning power of the company. They were not, however, singular in this respect, because every manufacturing company and business concern must be in the same position.

THE FEDERATION OF BRITISH INDUSTRIES.

Mr. Vassar-Smith proceeded to call attention to the active steps which were being taken to further the interests of British trade by means of the Federation of British Industries. The Federation had in view the bringing about of that organisation which was so necessary to the success of British productions, industrial and agricultural alike, and which we had missed so much in past years. It was the intention of the Federation to approach the Labour leaders of this country—and he believed they would do so with great success—with a view to the holding of a conference between representatives of the employers of labour and the heads of the different trade unions, as to the measures to be taken after the war. It was absolutely necessary for the welfare of the country, and to clear off the enormous amount of debt which we were now piling up, that British production should in every way be increased, and it was hoped at the conference to show the necessity—he felt there would not be required very much argument to convince those present—of a friendly co-operation as between the employer and the employed. (Hear, hear.) To his (the Chairman's) mind it was not so much a question of wages as of the result obtained for those wages, and we must, if we were to hold our own after the war, produce by our industry that wealth which would make up and overtake what we had lost. (Hear, hear.) There were also to be considered the financial facilities which would be required after the war. Our export trade must be increased as far as possible, and facilities must be given for the promotion of existing industries and the formation of new ones, so that people might be able to afford, as the manufacturer in all cases could not afford, to allow that long credit which would have to be given if we were to compete with America or Germany after the war. (Hear, hear.) There were also to be considered questions in regard to the employment of men returned from the war and of those who had temporarily taken their places in civil employment, and he was pleased to be able to state that all those subjects were being given careful consideration. (Applause.)

Mr. E. L. Evan-Thomas (London) seconded the motion for the adoption of the report and accounts, and it was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. R. V. Vassar-Smith and Mr. J. A. Matthews, the directors who retired by rotation, were re-elected upon the motion of Captain Charles Bathurst, M.P., seconded by Mr. Alfred Slater.

In making the proposition, Captain Bathurst said the company had reason to congratulate themselves upon having at their head, in Mr. Vassar-Smith, the chairman of one of the greatest of British banks (Lloyds), who had been largely instrumental in safeguarding the financial stability of the country, in the absence of which stability the war would long ago have been decided in favour of our enemies. The report of the directors was very satisfactory, having regard to the fact that the personnel of the company had been reduced by no less than 33 per cent. Both in patriotic effort and sacrifice the company had done its "bit." (Hear, hear.)

Upon the proposition of Mr. Harley K. Butt, seconded by Mr. G. C. P. Pike, Messrs. Hudson Smith, Briggs, Smith and Taylor, chartered accountants, Bristol, were reappointed auditors.

Sir James Bruton (Mayor of Gloucester), in moving a vote of thanks to the chairman and his co-directors, which was unanimously adopted, remarked that not only were the company doing a great work for the shareholders, but a splendid work also for the nation. (Applause.)

The Chairman, having acknowledged the vote, tendered an expression of cordial thanks to the managing director, secretary, the heads of departments, and the members of the staff for their loyal co-operation and assistance.

This concluded the business.

FURNESS, WITHY AND CO.

The 25th annual meeting of Furness, Withy and Co., Ltd., was held at the registered office, Royal Liver Buildings, Liverpool, on Saturday, July 29.

The Right Hon. Lord Furness presided, and was supported by the directors of the company.

The Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting, Mr. W. T. Walton, of Messrs. W. T. Walton and Son, the auditors, read the auditors' report.

The Right Hon. Lord Furness, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—Under existing circumstances, the industry with which we are identified has continued to be profitable, and the result of the year's working as shown in the accounts now before you, has, from the shareholder's point of view, been very satisfactory. In view of the competition that may be expected after the war, your directors have deemed it prudent to increase the trades contingencies fund by the transfer of £300,000, bringing it up to half a million sterling. Such a substantial reserve places the company in a position to cope with whatever competition and adverse circumstances may arise, whether at home or abroad, and I am sure that the shareholders will cordially support this decision of the directors. The goodwill of this business, in the large number of

trades owned and controlled by us, has been built up by a great expenditure of money, and by the unceasing personal endeavours of those who have been entrusted with the direction of the organisation, and it would be folly now to neglect to take the obvious precaution of placing the business on the soundest possible footing. The usual amount of £350,000 has been written off for depreciation, and a sum of £20,000 has been added to the fund inaugurated last year for division amongst the masters, officers, and engineers of our fleet, on the termination of the war. The half-yearly preference dividends have, of course, already been paid, together with quarterly dividends on the ordinary share capital at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, and in regard to a further distribution, you will notice from the report that the directors recommend, and you will to-day be asked to sanction, the payment of a bonus of 10 per cent., free of income-tax, on the ordinary share capital of the company, which will represent a total distribution for the year ended April 30, 1916, of 20 per cent., free of income-tax. Out of the balance of £395,281 1s. 4d., which it is proposed to carry forward, provision is made for excess profits duty. Whilst our steamers have not run altogether free from war casualties, our losses have been comparatively slight—viz., two vessels, the *Parisiana* and the *Shenandoah*, the former having been sunk by a submarine and the latter through contact with a mine. The vessels were fully covered by insurance, but unhappily in the case of the *Shenandoah* two lives were lost owing to the explosion which occurred when the vessel struck the mine. To replace these two steamers, and the three losses mentioned by me last year, and to enable us to maintain regularity of sailings on our various lines, we have purchased the steamship *Annapolis*, steamship *Lexington*, steamship *Maxton*, steamship *Tamaqua*, and steamship *Wyncote*. During the year our subsidiary companies lost three steamers by war causes, and have added nine steamers to their fleets. The company has placed contracts with various shipbuilders for the construction of 14 steamers for our own and associated companies, the delivery of which will, of course, be dependent upon the duration of the war and the requirements of the Admiralty. They will, however, be delivered as quickly as possible. During the financial year now under discussion we purchased the remaining one-half interest in the Johnston Line. The Johnston Line will, in the opinion of your directors, prove a very valuable addition to the goodwill of your company. The principal trades of the Johnston Line are between Baltimore and Liverpool, and Liverpool and Mediterranean, Black Sea, and Danube ports, but the latter service has necessarily been somewhat disorganised owing to the war. During the year your company has established a service between Philadelphia and Glasgow, which is proving a valuable berth, and we have established our own office at the latter port. Being the sole proprietors of the share capital in G. V. Turnbull and Co., Ltd., of Leith, to which port the Furness Line have regular services from New York, Baltimore and Philadelphia, it has been decided from October 1 next to conduct the office at Leith in the name of Furness, Withy and Co., Ltd., for which purpose the business of G. V. Turnbull and Co., Ltd., will be wound up and the assets taken over by your company. By adopting this course, and opening our own office at Glasgow, we shall also have our own chain of offices at most of the British ports to which we run regular services of steamers, viz., London, Liverpool, Newcastle, Cardiff, Leith, and Glasgow. A large proportion of our fleet is still requisitioned by his Majesty's Government, and we are glad to make our proper contribution to the tonnage required by the authorities for the successful prosecution of the war. A great deal has been written about Government control of shipping, but in my opinion it would be impossible to have a more effective system of control than that which at present exists.

Mr. F. W. Lewis, in seconding the motion, said: For some time past a great deal of unreasonable criticism has been directed against British shipping companies on account of the high rates of freight prevailing, a condition of things which is entirely due to the operation of the laws of supply and demand. Surely it ought to be a matter of congratulation that such an industry should be earning such profits, and be able to contribute in no small measure to the successful prosecution of the war. Ships required for the use of the naval and military authorities are taken at specially fixed rates, and Government-owned commodities are also dealt with in the same manner, or at specially agreed limited freights. On top of this, the shipping industry contributes 60 per cent. of its excess profits and 25 per cent. income-tax to the State, all of which features ought to be a matter of satisfaction rather than criticism.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

UNION BANK OF AUSTRALIA.

The annual general meeting of the Union Bank of Australia, Ltd., was held on Monday at 71, Cornhill, E.C., Mr. Henry P. Sturgis, the Chairman, presiding.

The Manager, Mr. A. C. Willis, having read the notice and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: After making full provision for doubtful debts and contingencies, the directors are able to declare a dividend which, with the bonus, is equal to 14 per cent. per annum—the same dividend which has now been paid for several years, and which has so far been continued during the war. The most serious provision the directors have had to make in

recent years has been in connection with the depreciation on our investments. I am glad to be able to state, however, that provision exists which—on a valuation taken last week—is sufficient to cover this depreciation, so that I am in a position to say that our investments, including War Loan, stand in our books practically at present cash prices. On comparing the figures of the balance-sheet with those of February, 1915, you will observe an increase in the total of £897,000, accounted for on the liability side by increases in circulation to the extent of £59,000, in deposits of £461,000, and in bills payable of £377,000. The increase in circulation has occurred in New Zealand, where circumstances arising from the war have occasioned an extended use of the notes issued by the various banks trading in the Dominion. The increase in deposits occurs in current account balances, showing, possibly, an inclination on the part of the depositors to keep their funds readily available until the future can be more clearly seen. The increase in bills payable is ascribed mainly to the higher prices of goods, freight, &c., and also to alterations in methods of financing, such as the use of bills as a currency instead of telegraphic transfers. On the assets side there is an increase of £899,000 in remittances, &c., which is due to drawings against wheat and later maturity of wool and other bills, owing to decrease in shipping facilities. An increase of £1,645,000 is shown in advances, which is mainly due to financing the wheat harvest in accordance with the Government scheme, and also in some degree to longer duration of advances against other produce owing to shortage of freights. On the other hand, there is an aggregate decrease in £1,643,000 in specie and bullion, money at call and short notice in London and investments. It will be of interest to shareholders to know that the bulk of the advances in connection with the Government wheat scheme has been recently repaid to the banks. The liquid assets, on this occasion, amount to 8s. 5d. in the £ of our total liabilities to the public in London and the colonies. In speaking of the wool clip at our last meeting, I stated that the decrease, owing to the severe drought, was then estimated at from 400,000 to 500,000 bales, but recent estimates show that this was too high, and it is now calculated that the decrease will be more like 350,000 bales. As regards the new clip, it is too early to say anything definite, but there will probably be some decrease. Prices have remained good. Merinos have advanced rapidly, and are considerably higher than they were a few months ago, but crossbreds show a slight reduction. The Australian wheat yield is estimated to reach from 175,000,000 to 180,000,000 bushels—a yield far in excess of that of any previous year. As regards present conditions in Australia and New Zealand, the following telegram from the general manager was received last week:—"Excepting some dry parts Central Queensland, prospects good season throughout Commonwealth at present bright: lambing satisfactory; crops forward. Dominion enjoying good season."

Mr. Arthur P. Blake seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

HUDSON'S BAY CO.

A general court of the Hudson's Bay Co. was held on Wednesday, at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., Mr. R. M. Kindersley (the governor) presiding.

The Governor, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the profit on fur trading amounted to £23,090, compared with a loss of £33,536 in the previous year. Salesshops and other trading showed a profit of £247,303, compared with £63,407. From the land profits it was proposed to make a distribution of 5 per cent., which would absorb £50,000, and the carry forward on land account would be £29,277, against £54,625 brought into the account. A correspondingly larger amount, however, was being carried forward on the general business of the company. The result of the land department, looking at all the circumstances, must be considered satisfactory. Both in the number of acres sold and in the total sale price the figures were the largest since the year 1910-11, and on that occasion the figures were swollen by the sale of an exceptionally large block of land to the Canadian Agency, Limited. The average price obtained per acre was \$16.05, against \$18.69 in the previous year. The present activity in farm lands, which began in May, 1915, stimulated no doubt by the high price of grain then prevailing, had developed gradually, and the demand had been more marked in May and June than previously, while there had been a gratifying increase in sales effected. With a good harvest this year and high prices for grain reasonably assured, the outlook for continued activity in farm lands might be considered as excellent. The company's land commissioner estimated that the area under crop in 1915 would probably be from 15 per cent. to 20 per cent.—say, 2,000,000 acres—less than in 1915. This had been brought about mainly by the late date at which the harvest of 1915 was completed, leaving little time for ploughing; to the late spring this year, and to a shortage of labour. Large increases in stock raising and dairy products could again be reported. This was a satisfactory feature, as, though grain would continue to be the big item in the Prairie Provinces, the development in mixed farming established a more permanent basis for returns. With regard to town lots, instalments were still much behindhand. The Land Commissioner did not look for any improvement in this respect for some time to come, and the board anticipated an even smaller revenue from this source than was the case last year. Taking both farm lands and town lots together, however, they felt satisfied that the present year should show a considerable

increase in nett revenue. The land returns from April 1 showed considerable improvement. The total instalments due to the company on farm lands were \$4,920,134, and those on town lots \$3,642,206. Interest due to the company on farm lands amounted to \$447,037, and on town lots to \$516,512. These amounts were not taken into the balance-sheet as an asset, but he thought it right to warn shareholders that, as regarded the town lots, there might be considerable delay and difficulty in collection for some years to come. With regard to the question of taxation, there was some reduction to report, entirely due to the less extravagant mood of those responsible for the conduct of municipal affairs in Canada. During the last five years taxes had increased by £75,000; in other words, had the taxation this year been on the same scale as in 1911-12 the directors would have been in a position to declare a further distribution of 7½ per cent. on account of land sales. The fur department had given the directors a considerable amount of anxiety, having regard to the fact that 50 or 60 of their fur post managers had joined his Majesty's forces. The absence of these men had led to a considerable incursion of American traders, who for the time being had been keen competitors in the company's districts. Although prices on this side had considerably improved this competition had advanced prices at the points of collection. It was not possible to prophesy what the outcome of the fur department for the coming year would be, but the Fur Trade Commissioner hoped that the result might not be worse than that of the present year. With regard to the salesshops and other trading, they had been carrying on a large business for the French Government, and the profit of £247,303 included profits from this trading. This was by far the largest profit derived from trading—even if they included past profits from furs—in the history of the company. With regard to the current year, much depended on the outcome of the Western crop, but unless anything disastrous occurred in that direction there was every reason to believe that this portion of the business would prove remunerative, and that the nett results would show a further improvement. The directors felt that the past three years had proved in a very definite manner the latent wealth of the country wherein most of the assets of the company were situated. The total value of all field crops in Canada for 1915 showed an increase as compared with 1914 of \$160,000,000. Satisfactory as these figures were, those of Canada's imports and exports told an even more impressive tale, for whereas in the year ended June 30, 1913, the balance of trade against Canada was \$321,000,000, for the year ended May 31, 1916, there was a balance of trade in favour of Canada of \$255,000,000. The result of this change was shown by the fact that Canada was not only financing her own requirements without our assistance, but was lending money to the Mother Country, and having regard to the Army she had raised this was a wonderful accomplishment. The Land Commissioner, in a cablegram just received, stated that the steady demand for farm land in an ever-widening area continued, and with a good crop harvested this might be expected to increase. The Fur Trade Commissioner reported that the fur collections due to arrive were expected to maintain, if not exceed, the quantity of the previous season in spite of the comparative failure of the Labrador hunt. The Stores Commissioner reported satisfactory increases in sales for the first six months' trading, the volume of which was the largest on record.

Mr Charles V. Sale (deputy-governor) seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

LIEBIG'S EXTRACT OF MEAT CO., LTD.

At the 51st ordinary general meeting of the above company, held at Cannon Street Hotel, on Wednesday, 2nd inst., the Chairman stated that during the period under review the company had completed fifty years of trading, and it was with no little pride that they looked back upon the great developments that have taken place since then of the industries in which the company was the pioneer, and particularly upon the growth and success of their own business. The progress since those early days of the River Plate, of the railways there, and of the pastoral and agricultural industries, had led to appreciation of cattle and land, and the company had shared in that prosperity by reason of the extensive organisation of cattle farms which they had acquired.

LARGE TURNOVER.

The turnover during the year had been a large one, and prices had been satisfactory, so that notwithstanding the high cost of materials, of coal, and the extraordinary high rates of freight, the result of the year's trading had been good.

The company had recently introduced various new administrative measures in regard to the working and development of their estates which they believe will be productive of good results.

During part of the year Mr. R. B. Cunninghame-Graham, the head of the British Remount Commission in Uruguay, and his staff, continued to make Fray Bentos their headquarters for the collection of remounts.

POSITION IN RIVER PLATE.

Speaking about the River Plate in general, the Chairman mentioned that at the outbreak of the European war the country

was in the midst of a severe crisis, but that conditions now appear to be gradually and steadily improving, no doubt largely due to the Allies' purchases of beef, grain, &c., and he thought there was little doubt but that the River Plate countries would be among the first to enter upon a fresh period of prosperity when the war is over.

As regards the ranches of Rhodesia, matters are proceeding normally; the company have a nucleus herd of over 20,000 head of cattle, which are being graded up by the importation from time to time of Sussex and Aberdeen Angus bulls and heifers, the first cross calves of both these strains showing marked superiority in weight over the native cattle, while they appear at the same time to be not inferior in hardiness.

On the motion of Mr. Arthur Woods, seconded by Dr. H. M. Baker, 500 guineas was voted to the funds of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, and the final dividend of 10 per cent. (making 20 per cent. for the year), and bonus of 5 per cent., all free of income-tax, were confirmed.

FARROW'S BANK.

REVIEW OF OPERATIONS.

Mr. Thomas Farrow presided at the annual general meeting of Farrow's Bank, Ltd., held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, E.C. The following is the official report of the proceedings:—

The Chairman, in moving that the report of the directors and the duly audited statement of accounts be adopted, stated that the nett profit, including the balance of £10,312 1s. 7d. from last account, was £43,926 19s. 1d. The directors had added £10,000 to the reserve fund, paid an interim dividend for the half-year ended December 31, 1915, amounting to £10,774 3s. 2d., and recommended the payment of a dividend for the year at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, less income-tax, which would absorb the sum of £10,780 16s. 10d. The sum of £12,161 19s. 1d., being undivided profit, had been carried forward to the next financial year. The growth of current account and deposit business alone since the date of the bank's incorporation under the Joint Stock Companies Act was shown by the following table:—

	Current Accounts.				Deposit Accounts.		
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
1908.....	87,625	13	2	....	78,679	4	5
1909.....	114,393	7	10	....	170,008	3	7
1910.....	203,973	16	9	....	350,465	15	6
1911.....	262,356	13	0	....	438,940	14	6
1912.....	293,181	4	1	....	494,081	8	8
1913.....	336,875	0	3	....	643,075	17	10
1914.....	397,940	13	0	....	838,804	17	6
1915.....	433,052	9	11	....	1,016,220	12	1
1916.....	559,393	3	3	....	1,108,922	14	2

The bank's commercial stocks and shares, investment and foreign departments had largely contributed to the profits earned during the year.

The women's department of the bank at 143 Knightsbridge, S.W., managed by women for women, had made great headway, and was held in high esteem by all classes of society.

The recently published official return of Metropolitan and Provincial Joint Stock Banks having a capital of £1,000,000 and upwards, giving the proportion of capital and reserve to liabilities, showed that Farrow's Bank, Ltd., again occupied the first place.

The progress made in Scotland, Ireland and Wales had been most gratifying, and was largely due to the co-operation of the able and distinguished members of the local Advisory Boards and to the fact that the bank was the only institution which was represented by its branches throughout the United Kingdom.

The increase in deposits (the whole of which were subject to agreed terms of notice) was very gratifying, particularly so far as the last two war years were concerned. Customers had subscribed most liberally to Government loans and Exchequer bonds. In this connection Mr. Farrow stated that the bank's branch managers had been invited to join the various committees of the National War Savings Association, and were in that and other directions giving valuable support to schemes for the encouragement of thrift.

The bank's staff had been severely depleted by the war, and such financial arrangements had been made regarding them and their dependents as had won the warm approval of the War Office. Some of these officials had laid down their lives in the service of their country, while others, whether of commissioned or private rank, had achieved military recognition and distinction. This depletion of the staff had entailed heavy additional work upon those who had continued in office, and to them the best thanks of the shareholders were due. Many women clerks had been engaged, and it was due to them to say that they had discharged their duties in a most exemplary manner.

Mr. Farrow made brief reference to the publication during the year of two books written by himself and his colleague, Mr. W. Walter Crotch, "How to Win the War" and "The Coming Trade War." The former advocated the national thrift campaign now in operation throughout the country, while the latter showed the necessity for a national trade programme

which would enable Britain to hold her own in the world's markets.

Referring to the bank's monthly official "Gazette," which was sent to every shareholder and customer of the bank, Mr. Farrow expressed his satisfaction that regular contributors were members of both Houses of Parliament and leading financial and commercial experts. That particular journal (which was in its 12th year of publication) had proved of immense value to the institution itself, had brought about a spirit of camaraderie among shareholders and customers alike, and had, indeed, welded into one common fellowship a vast body of men and women known as "Farrowians."

Reference was also made by Mr. Farrow to the Farrow's Bank Cot which had for many years past been maintained by the bank customers at Sir William Treloar's Home for Crippled Children at Alton, Hants, and to the Belgian Refugees' Cot which was maintained by the customers of the women's branch at the Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Finally, Mr. Farrow expressed his appreciation of the loyal and sustained support given to him and his colleagues by the 4,000 shareholders of the bank, who would undoubtedly receive their due financial reward at the termination of the war, which, he predicted, would come about at an early date.

Mr. W. Walter Crotch seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously, and the payment of a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum was then approved on the motion of the chairman, seconded by Mr. Edward Symons.

The retiring directors and auditors were re-elected, and the meeting terminated with the customary votes of thanks.

RAPHAEL TUCK AND SONS.

The fifteenth annual ordinary general meeting of Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., was held on Thursday at Salisbury House, Finsbury Circus, Sir Adolph Tuck, Bart. (chairman of the company), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. J. W. Bretherton) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman said that this year the house of Tuck completed the first 50 years of its history, thus starting upon the second half-century of its peaceful mission amidst the clash of arms resounding throughout Europe, Asia, and Africa. It was not his intention to enlarge upon the difficulties of steering a business such as theirs in the hazardous times through which they were passing, but there were three weighty factors, the natural outcome of this devastating war, with which the directors had to contend—(1) a contracted market; (2) scarcity of labour and material, which hampered and limited output; and (3) increased cost of practically every commodity, including such labour as was still available. In regard to the first, he would point to the prohibitions and restrictions imposed—with good cause, no doubt—by both the Admiralty and the War Office upon pictorial publications dealing with naval, military, aerial, and other subjects. These prohibitions affected more particularly the company's postcard and greeting card departments, and, to a lesser extent, their book and picture departments. Then there was the prohibition of the Government to the transmission by post of any and every kind of picture postcard to either Allied or neutral countries, and the wider prohibition by our staunch Allies, France and Italy, of the import into their countries of all articles of luxury in which many of this company's productions were included. Add to that the great difficulties connected with the transport of goods to Russia, and it would readily be understood how seriously the turnover of the company was curtailed even in the case of the most friendly countries. The overseas demand, more particularly from our colonies and India, where their publications had been always held in high esteem, had naturally suffered, whilst their trade in the home markets—and this was perhaps the most reassuring sign of all—had been well held, and showed a decrease of only a relatively small percentage. After referring to the results of the working of some of the departments of the company's business in the past year, the Chairman said that to sum up the natural reduction in general turnover and the enhanced cost of production throughout, taken in conjunction with the carefully considered policy of the directors to interfere as little as possible with the company's regular prices to the trade and public, had raised the overhead expenses on turnover to a figure dangerously near the total of the still fairly large gross profit earned during the year, and had reduced the actual net profit on the year's trading to the modest figure of £3,072. He then referred to the figures of the balance-sheet, and pointed out that the reserve accounts after all provisions had been made, now stood at £47,834, which was still an important reserve against all eventualities likely to arise before peace was declared. After explaining in detail the cause of the interference with the general reserves of the company, in connection with the American business, he remarked that, high as had always been the position occupied by the company, it had never stood as high in the estimate of the entire trade, and, above all, of the great public, both at home and overseas, than it did to-day, and that was an asset, the value of which in time to come could not be overestimated. With regard to the new financial year, as from May 1, he was able to say that the outlook was clearly responding to the progress which our forces and those of our Allies were happily making. The first three months showed nearly a 20 per cent. advance in actual orders taken for the coming season, compared with the same period last year, and it was not too much to hope that this advance would be maintained by the company step by step with the continued progress of our forces, and that the opening year of their second half-century would

see the company revert to its former happy self-supporting position.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

THRELFALL'S BREWERY COMPANY.

The twenty-ninth annual general meeting of Threlfall's Brewery Co., Ltd., was held on Thursday, at the Cannon Street Hotel, Mr. Charles Threlfall, chairman of the company, presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. C. W. Sheppard) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—I have now the pleasure of asking you to adopt the directors' report and statement of accounts for the year ended June 30, 1916, which I am sure you will consider highly satisfactory. The gross trading profit for the year amounts to £218,806 17s. 7d. We have written off for depreciation the sum of £59,118 9s. 7d., we have placed £10,000 to reserve, and a further sum of £5,000 to reserve for contingencies, and have added £1,000 to Employers' Insurance under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, leaving to be carried forward the sum of £51,253 16s. 9d. The Output of Beer (Restriction) Bill, which has now become law, places temporary restrictions on the output of beer, and it will require great care and watchfulness to carry out these new regulations. An amount of £4,955 11s. 5d. has been paid, from the commencement of the war to June 30 last, to dependents of the 217 men in our employ who are serving their country. Out of this number I much regret to say that four have been killed and 16 wounded; four of the latter have been incapacitated from following their military career, and have been discharged from the Army. Three of these men have been taken back into the company's service and given light work, and the remaining one will be treated in like manner when his health enables him again to take up work. I am sure the shareholders will quite approve of what we have done. I now beg to move the adoption of the report and accounts, and that dividends be paid at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the preference shares and at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended June 30, which, with the interim dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, makes 9 per cent. for the year.

Mr. P. J. Feeny, J.P., seconded the resolution, and, in the absence of remarks from shareholders, the resolution was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Mr. Feeny next proposed the re-election of the retiring directors (Mr. Charles Threlfall and Captain C. M. Threlfall), and in doing so said that the services rendered to the company by Mr. Charles Threlfall were highly appreciated by the board, and likewise, he felt sure, by the shareholders generally. They hoped that he would continue to occupy the position of chairman of the company for many years to come. In Captain Threlfall they also had an able and conscientious director.

Mr. George Barker (the managing director) seconded the motion, and it was unanimously agreed to.

The Chairman and Captain Threlfall briefly acknowledged their re-election.

On the motion of Mr. H. C. Sharpe, seconded by Mr. Dent, the auditors (Messrs. Broads, Paterson, and Co.) were reappointed.

Mr. Buszard, K.C., in moving a cordial vote of thanks to the chairman and directors, and to the staff and employees of the company, said that having regard to the terrible conditions through which the country had been passing, and to the legislation deemed necessary for the restriction of the output of the commodity which they supplied, he thought the results achieved during the past year were really marvellous. He was sure that the shareholders had heard with pleasure the chairman's statement as to the way in which their employees had come forward, at the risk of their health and even of life, to defend the honour of our country.

Mr. Douglas seconded the proposition, which was unanimously carried.

The Chairman, in acknowledging the compliment, said that it was owing to the hard work and loyalty of everyone concerned that the directors had been able to present such a satisfactory report and balance-sheet.

MANCHESTER SHIP CANAL WAREHOUSING CO., LTD.—Including £1,078, or £120 more, brought in, the net profits for the twelve months ended June 24 showed a decrease of £981 at £12,060. Provision having been made as usual for the various sinking funds for the redemption of the capital, the ordinary shares again receive a dividend of 6 per cent., and £1,184 is carried forward. Changes in the balance-sheet are quite unimportant.

MANCHESTER DOCK AND WAREHOUSE EXTENSION CO., LTD.—The bulk of this company's revenue comes from rents, and for the twelve months ended June 24 the total showed very little change. After providing for the various sinking funds, the net balance, including £782, or £213 more, brought in, was £260 up at £15,617, out of which a dividend of 5½ per cent. is paid on the ordinary shares and £1,242 is carried forward. Outlay on new transit sheds, grain elevators, &c., amounted to £37,660, making a total of £352,360, the necessary funds being provided by the calling in of loans to the extent of £25,402, reducing the amounts outstanding to £18,071, and a decrease of £15,528 to £18,135 in cash.

Continued from following page.

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222504 223993/4 224124 224189/94 224763 224836/9 224932.

London August 3, 1916.

SHEFFIELD BANKING COMPANY LIMITED

ESTABLISHED 1831.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL ...

£1,154,500.

Paid-up Capital £404,075

Reserve Fund £295,925

DIRECTORS.

SAMUEL ROBERTS, Esq., M.P., Chairman. WILLIAM B. ESAM, Esq., J.P., FREDERICK FOWLER, Esq.,
FREDERICK C. WILD, Esq., J.P. HENRY H. BEDFORD, Esq., J.P.

Head Office

- - - GEORGE STREET, SHEFFIELD.

Manager

- - - ERNEST G. WRAGG.

BRANCHES.—The Bank has Eleven Offices in Sheffield; also Branches at Barnsley, Chesterfield, Conisborough,
Doncaster, Gainsborough, Mexborough, Rotherham, Swinton, Worksop, and in the surrounding districts.

The Bank has Agents and Correspondents in all parts of the world, and provides Circular Letters of Credit, Circular Notes and Drafts
for the use of Travellers abroad. Current, Deposit and Savings Accounts opened, and every kind of Banking Business transacted at Head
Office and Branches. For the convenience of Customers, moneys may be paid in at any of the Branches or through Agents for their credit.
The Bank is prepared to act as Executor, Trustee, &c. The conditions may be ascertained on application to the Head Office.

BONDS CANCELLED.

IMPERIAL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT 4½
PER CENT. STERLING LOANS OF 1905.

The Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited, London, announces that £250,000 4½ per CENT. STERLING BONDS of the 1st SERIES and £250,000 4½ per CENT. STERLING BONDS of the 2nd SERIES have been PURCHASED on behalf of the Imperial Japanese Government for the purpose of cancellation, and the said Bonds are now CANCELLED.

The NUMBERS of the BONDS so CANCELLED are the following:—

IMPERIAL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT 4½
PER CENT. LOAN.
(FIRST SERIES.)

10 BONDS of £500.

210002 210707 211031 211408 211507 211697 211734/5 211846
211940.

765 BONDS of £200.

130001/5 131304 131490/1 131565/7 131692 132780 133042/3
133531 133650 134000/1 134050 134062/3 134111/2 134597 135722
135753 135971/2 136134 136138 136309/71 136944/74 137137/40
137161/6 137917 138155 138512 138566 138590 138994 139090/4
139114 139189/96 139539 139968 140107 140110/12 140308/9
140476 140791/6 140894/5 141088/90 141314/16 141541/2 141802
141960 141972/3 141990 142043/4 143130 143684/6 143821 143944
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203668/9 204079/93 204330 204674/5 204742 205000
205069 205072 205086/90 205364 205644 205964 206167 206361
206491 206597 206667 206669 206672/3 206684 206930 207027
207696 207873 207970 208238 208398 208642/8 208764/5 208934
208986 209219 209329/30 209757/8 209899/903 209905.

920 BONDS OF £100.

643 1169 1500/4 1983/4 2087 2608/57 3168/9 3330 3865 3895 4826/8
5427 5986 8602/3 8953 9261/2 9942 10223/9 10238 10289 10688
11405 13607/10 13776/7 14152 14156/8 14217 14700 14857 15022
15093 15312 15506 15587 15740 16177/81 16784/5 18038 18300
18636 18729 18998 19001/2 19004/5 19229 19622 20303 20394
20970 21411 21473 21623 22183 22204/11 22388 23271 23833/6
24072 24085 25371 25540 25777/8 26266 26350 26408 27162 29171
29174 29371 30182 30415 30427 30726 30990 31635/7 31871/4
31880/3 31907 32448 32478 32682 32792 32815 32898 32906/48
33163 33173/5 33974 33982/4 34096 34373/482 34971 35373
36963/82 37144 37472 37830 38181 38430 38457 38606/12 38788
38900 39058/62 39189/93 39230 39828/9 39970 40037 40209 40257
40282 40641 41071 41158 41323 41337 41382 41422 42104/8
43308/9 43387 43470 44234 44422/3 45345 45843 45988 46709
47132 47435 47801 47813 47940/1 48678 48830 49421 49703 49737
49774 49985 50019 50108 50185 50260 50485 51039 51292 51850
52339/406 52606 53050 53286 53923/4 54054 54556 54744 55484/5
55053 56047 56777 56943 56960 57465 58007/8 58103 58561 58712
60141/4 60817/8 60878/84 61327 62183 62217 62240 62414 62440
62571 62686/7 62814 63161 63179/83 63203 63238 63258 63668
63770 63922 63971 64159 64567 65572 65610 66030/2 66180
66400/1 67413 67659 67727 68752/3 68765 69438 69516 69518
69561 71536 71954 72090/1 72419/20 72757 72765/8 72803 72944/5
73511/5 73710/11 73756 73772 73790/4 75080 76336 76573/5 77014
77597/8 77626/7 77727 77803/7 77906 77925 78096 78188 78211/4
78396 78445 78534 79371 79473/5 79535 79683 79727 79933 80331
80365 80369 80743 81112 81158/61 81461 81464/7 82122 82669/70
82700 82817/9 82942 83338 83429 83495 83538/44 84126 84340
84440 84750 85279/80 85447/81 85547 85816/20 85952/5 86585

87124 87265 88017 88528 88530/1 89160 89284 89677 90616
91279/80 91742 93040 94252 94482 95140 95144 95441 95742/3
96020 96196 96350 97044/7 98282/91 98321/6 98342/3 98746
98871/4 99241/2 100279 100337/8 100340 100438 100969 101058/102
101567 101702/5 102631/2 102668/700 103358/64 103464/70 103599
103602/5 103693 103786 104090/1 104158 104577 104722 104915
104954 105256 105392 105394 105406 105416/7 105435/9 105523
105807 106461 106577 106627 106892 107132/4 107210 107561
107756 107759 107796 108376/8 108433 108435/6 108474 108685
108944/5 109465/6 109923 110059 110155 110292 110710 112106
112160 112165 112692 112963 112983 113979 114632 115280 115391
115396 115929 116206 116246 116388/9 116541 116747/53 117207
118080 118406 118453 118456/8 118487 118522/3 118538/9 118584
118586 118610/11 118628 118630/4 118645/6 118677 118687/8
118714 118756 119291 119300 119620 119834 119838/9 119880
119921 119924 120101 120150 120283 120796 120877 120968 120975
121113 121641 121648 122206 122460/1 122583 123071 123366
123416 123669 123841 124282 124705/10 124952/3 124915 125060
125496/8 125676 125764 126430 126484 126588 126777 126822
127303 127366/7 127432/4 127615/24 127729 127895 128271/2
128358 128626 129059 129180 129195 129261 129293/4 129339
129462/3 129464 129736 129788/9.

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680 BONDS of £200.

325280 325299 325457 325548/51 325757/60 326553 326690
326705 326988 327293 327380/3 327629 327660/1 327901/5
328081/2 328548 328778 328800/1 328928/9 329262/7 329342/57
329515 329878 330049 330101/2 330265 330554 330907 330929/40
331195 331310 331477/8 331631 332266 332366 332540/1 332543/8
332579 332952 333229 333239 333573/4 334198 334487 334497
334551 335127 335421 335994 336143 336145 336622 336726/7
336989/93 337121 337492 337581 337592 337714 337933 337935
338051/6 338674 338767 338822 339457 340916 340927 341225
341441 341468 341694 341970 342105/6 342204/5 343059 343228
343290 343726/35 344008 344141 344314/6 344690 344718 344789
344805 345144 345252/3 345278 345337 345847/7 345957 346053
346084 346354 346369 346450 346533/4 346865 347255 347286/7
347357 347472 347510 347539 347607 348240 348266 348271 348327
348681 348792 348974/5 349005 349043 349342 349611/2 350057/3
350205 350297 350483/4 350549/50 351168 351571 351799 352018
352190 352244 352272/4 352635 352684 352788 352903/5 353024
353149 353359/63 354150 354221 354254/5 354697 354723 354862
354986 355062/3 355235 355611 355838 356138/9 356148 356397
356399 356873 356968 356963 357018 357096 357109 357466 357510
358240 358419 358636 358712/5 358777/8 358798/9 358798 359127
359449 359758/65 359830 359836/7 360072 360092 360213 360772
360902 361081 361373 361376 361552 361606 361871/7 362007
362184/6 362207 362241 362430/2 362644 362789 362838 362866
362906 363293 363384 363393 363498 364032/6 364050 364222
364505 364507 364575 364934 365293 365492 365504 365561/7
365927 365989 366008 366304/7 366408 366548 366672 366708
366888 367020 367161/5 367391/2 367524 367920 368184 368353
368362 369094 369099 369333 369339/41 369817 369934 370147
370280 370349 370867/9 370883 371347/50 371652 371655/6 371972
372253 372322 372475 372551/4 372632/5 372637 372653
372655 372660 372662 372669/71 372685 372687 372709
372720 372723 372760 372774 373153/62 373456 373507
373528 373586 375623 375750/2 376008/9 376157/8 376337 376397/9
376429 376435 376509 376852/6 377665 377696 377959 378052
378137/40 378327 378582/3 378904 378931 379027/8 379038
379048/9 379143 379353/5 379514 379573 379658 379670 379731/3
380237 380367 380391 380407 380411 380595/8 380688/9 380792
381118 381963 382281/5 382342/4 382390/1 382454 382486 382583/5
382623 382684 382807/11 383072 383209/10 383308 383407 383423
384045 384111 384434 384503 384609 384612 384690 384735 384915
384992/6 385497/501 385893 385924 386239 386388 386494 386766
387065/6 387433 387436/7 387728 388023 388330 388401 388660
388670 388837 388938 388989 389023 389028/9 389091 389096
389128 389147 389411/2 389584 389668 389735 390082 390155
390676 390765 390841 391006 391027 391057 391210/1 391232
391376 391469 391618 391770 391913 391967 392058/9 392094
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393781/2 393814 393921 393975 394030 394060 394101 394302
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395621 395653 395705 395796 396126/7 396176 396260 396470
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397128 397271/3 397430 397488 397521 397570 398123/4 398173/5
398232 398449 398550 398576 398571 399141 399241 399364 399444
399587 399753 399868 400231 400509 400624/6 400719/20 400744
400746 400788 400803 400966 401204 401279 401334 401816 402102
402116 402303 402319 402384 402450 402454/5.

854 BONDS OF £100.

225061 225071 225104 225116 225437 225477 225561 225587 225872
226041 226072 226343/5 226660/9 226707 227023 227210 227510/4
227516 227649/50 227655/7 228407/8 228538 228638 228745 228984
229026 229033 229036 229762 229991 230261 230275 230490
230626/7 230645/6 230680/5 230839 231061/4 231081/4 231129
231169 231200/4 231539 231818 232054 232219 232363 232365
232474/8 232509/13 232532 232658 232665 232738/9 232752 232855
232902 232923 232972 232979 233,000 233,009 233189 233332 233553
233663 233789 234097 234117 234458 234705 234723 234805
234909/18 235054 235221/2 235643/6 235649/50 235764/4
236097/100 236112 236318 236366 236817/8 238140 238303 238548
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THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.

(Registered in Japan.)
ESTABLISHED 1880.

Subscribed Capital	Yen 48,000,000
Capital Paid Up	.. ..	Yen 30,000,000
Reserve Fund	.. ..	Yen 20,400,000

Head Office: YOKOHAMA.

Branches and Agencies at

Antung-Hsien.	Harbin.	Nagasaki.	Shanghai.
Bombay.	Honolulu.	Newchang.	Sydney.
Calcutta.	Hong Kong.	New York.	Tientsin.
Changchun.	Kobe.	Osaka.	Tokyo.
Dairen (Dainy).	Liaoyang.	Peking.	Tsinaifu.
Fengtien (Mukden).	Los Angeles.	Ryojan (Port Arthur)	Tsingtau.
Hankow.	Lyons.	San Francisco.	

The Bank buys and receives for collection Bills of Exchange, issues Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit on above places and elsewhere, and transacts General Banking Business.

Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be obtained on application.

London Office: 7, BISHOPSGATE, E.C.

K. TATSUMI, Manager.

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LTD.

Head Office: 15, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.

Capital Authorised	... ..	£1,500,000
Capital Issued	... ..	1,125,000
Capital Paid Up	... ..	562,500
Reserve Fund	... ..	550,000

Branches:

INDIA, BURMAH, CEYLON, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS
CHINA, AND PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS.

The Bank buys and sells Bills of Exchange, issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, and transacts banking and agency business in connection with the East, on terms to be had on application.

DEPOSITS received for one year at 5 per cent. per annum. Rates for other periods on application.

On current accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on daily balances.

BANK OF NEW ZEALAND.

(Incorporated July 29th, 1861.)

BANKERS TO THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT.

London Office: 1, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL £5,500,000

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL.

Four per Cent. Guaranteed Stock	.. ..	£529,988
"A" Preference Shares issued to New Zealand Government	.. ..	500,000
"B" Preference Shares issued to New Zealand Government	.. ..	250,000
Ordinary Shares	.. ..	1,500,000

Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits £2,779,988

Negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange.
Grants drafts on its Offices in New Zealand, Australia, Fiji and Samoa. Remittances made by telegraphic transfer.

ALEXANDER KAY, Manager

CANADA.

THE DOMINION BANK.

Head Office, TORONTO.

Total Assets - - \$77,400,000.

SIR EDMUND B. OSLER, M.P., President.

W. D. MATTHEWS, Vice-President.

C. A. BOGERT, General Manager.

London Branch, 73, CORNHILL, E.C.

J. HAYDN HORSEY, Manager.

Dealers in Canadian and American Exchange.
General Banking business transacted. Information furnished regarding Canadian matters.

ENGLISH, SCOTTISH, AND AUSTRALIAN BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office—38, Lombard Street, E.C.

Subscribed Capital	.. ..	£1,078,875 0 0
Paid-up Capital	.. ..	539,437 10 0
Further Liability of Proprietors	.. ..	539,437 10 0
Reserve Fund	.. ..	400,000 0 0

LETTERS OF CREDIT and DRAFTS on the Branches and Agencies the Bank in Australia can be obtained at the Head Office, or through the Agents the Bank, in the chief Provincial towns throughout the United Kingdom.

REMITTANCES made by TELEGRAPHIC TRANSFER.

BILLS NEGOTIATED or forwarded for COLLECTION.

BANKING and EXCHANGE Business of every description transacted with Australia.

E. M. JANION, Manager.

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND.

Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1727.

CAPITAL PAID UP £2,000,000

REST & UNDIVIDED PROFITS £800,986

Head Office: ST. ANDREW SQUARE, EDINBURGH.

ADAM TAIT, Cashier and General Manager.

A. K. WRIGHT, Secretary.

London Office: 3, BISHOPSGATE, E.C.

WILLIAM WALLACE, Manager.

166 Branch Offices throughout Scotland.

Banking Business of every description transacted. Accounts opened for Foreign and Colonial Correspondents. Bills, Cheques, and other documents collected. Deposit received at interest repayable at call or at notice.

BANKS.

STANDARD BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA, LTD.

Bankers to the Government of the Union of South Africa in Cape Province, to the Imperial Government in South Africa, and to the Administration of Rhodesia.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	£6,194,100
PAID-UP CAPITAL	£1,548,525
RESERVE FUND	£2,000,000
UNCALLED CAPITAL	£4,645,575
	£8,194,100

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Wm. Reiersen Arbuthnot, Esq.
Sir David Miller Barbour, K.C.S.I.,
K.C.M.G.
Robert E. Dickinson, Esq.
James Fairbairn Finlay, Esq., C.S.I.
Horace Peel, Esq.
William Smart, Esq.
Right Hon. Lord Sydenham, G.C.S.I.,
G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E.
H. L. M. Tritton, Esq.

HEAD OFFICE: 10, CLEMENTS LANE, LOMBARD ST., LONDON, E.C.

Hamburg Agency: 27, ALSTERDAMM.
New York Agency: 55, WALL STREET.

OVER 220 BRANCHES AND AGENCIES IN SOUTH AND EAST AFRICA.

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CURRENT ACCOUNTS are opened on the usual terms.
DEPOSITS RECEIVED for fixed periods at rates which may be ascertained on application.
BILLS NEGOTIATED and COLLECTED.
MAIL and TELEGRAPHIC REMITTANCES made.
LETTERS OF CREDIT and DRAFTS granted on the Branches and Agencies of the Bank.
THE BANK issues CIRCULAR LETTERS OF CREDIT available in all parts of the world.
COMMERCIAL LETTERS OF CREDIT issued.
PURCHASE and SALE of Stocks and Shares effected.
DIVIDENDS, ANNUITIES, Etc., received.
EXECUTOR and TRUSTEE BUSINESS undertaken.

The Officers of the Bank are bound not to disclose the transaction of any of its customers.
FRANCIS SHIPTON, London Manager.

THE LONDON & RIVER PLATE BANK (LIMITED).

ESTABLISHED 1862.

Authorised Capital	£4,000,000
Paid-up Capital	1,800,000
Reserve Fund	2,000,000

BRANCHES—

ARGENTINE.—Buenos Aires, Rosario, Mendoza, Concordia, Bahia Blanca, Córdoba, Tucumán, Paraná, Barracas (Buenos Aires), Once (Buenos Aires), Boca (Buenos Aires), Calle Santa Fé (Buenos Aires), Calle B de Irigoyen (Buenos Aires). URUGUAY.—Montevideo, Montevideo Agency (Calle Rio Negro), Paysandu (Agency), Salto (Agency). BRAZIL.—Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Santos, Pernambuco, Fara, Bahia, Victoria, Curitiba, Manaus (Agency). CHILI—Valparaiso. FRANCE—Paris (16 Rue Halévy). Agency in New York and Agents throughout the world.
Letters of Credit, Drafts, and Cable Transfers issued. Bills negotiated, advanced upon or sent for collection.—7, Princes Street, E.C.

THE BANK OF ADELAIDE.

(Incorporated by Act of Parliament, 1865.)

Authorised Capital	£1,000,000.	Subscribed Capital	£825,000
Paid-up Capital	£500,000		
Reserve Fund	510,000		
	£1,010,000		
Uncalled Capital	125,000		
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	625,000		
	£1,760,000		

London Office—11, Leadenhall Street, E.C.

BILLS on Australasia purchased or collected.

DRAFTS issued and REMITTANCES cabled.

DEPOSITS received for fixed periods at rates to be ascertained on application.
PERCY ARNOLD, Manager.

THE UNION BANK OF AUSTRALIA

ESTABLISHED 1837. LIMITED. INCORPORATED 1880.

Authorised and Issued Capital, £6,000,000.

Paid-up Capital, £2,000,000; Reserve Fund, £1,960,000; together	£3,960,000
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	4,000,000
Total Capital and Reserves	£7,960,000

HEAD OFFICE 71, CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.

DRAFTS are granted on the Bank's Branches throughout the Australian States and Dominion of New Zealand.

TELEGRAPHIC REMITTANCES are also made.

BILLS are purchased or sent for Collection.

DEPOSITS are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application.

THE LONDON BANK OF AUSTRALIA, LIMITED.

Head Office—71 Old Broad Street, E.C.

Subscribed Capital	£1,278,747 10 0
Paid up Capital	669,587 10 0
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits	354,791 5 3
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	806,962 10 0

REMITTANCES made by CABLE.

DRAFTS, LETTERS OF CREDIT and CIRCULAR NOTES issued upon Branches and Agents.

BILLS on Australasia NEGOTIATED or sent for collection.

DEPOSITS RECEIVED for periods and at rates which may be ascertained on application, and Banking Business of every description conducted with Australia.

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BANK.

Established 1841.

Paid-up Capital ..	£250,000 0 0	(25,000 Shares of £10 each.
Reserve Fund	£250,000 0 0	Reserve Profits £24,087 0 0
Reserve Liability of Shareholders £250,000.		

Drafts issued, Remittances cabled, Bills negotiated or collected, Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be ascertained on application, and all banking and exchange business connected with Western Australia conducted through the London Agents, The Bank of Adelaide, 11, Leadenhall St., E.C.

BANKS.

BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Established 1817.



Paid up Capital	£3,500,000
Reserve Fund	2,675,000
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	3,500,000
	£9,675,000

Head Office: SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES.

London Directors:

Sir FREDERICK GREEN, Chairman.

H. L. M. TRITTON, Esq.

WALTER S. M. BURNS, Esq.

DAVID GEORGE, Manager.
HALKERSTONE MELDRUM,
Assistant Manager.

J. S. CAMPBELL, Secretary.
DAVID GEDDIE,
Accountant.

The Bank has 346 Branches and Agencies in the Australian States, New Zealand, Fiji, Papua (New Guinea), and London, and Agents and Correspondents all over the World, on whom the London Office grants Circular Letters of Credit and Circular Notes. Also issues Drafts on demand. Makes Mail and Cable Transfers. Negotiates and Collects Bills of Exchange. Receives Deposits for Fixed Periods on terms which may be known on application, and transacts every description of Australian Banking business.

London Office: 29, THREADNEEDLE STREET, E.C.

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LONDON, W.C.

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Telegrams advising about new securities cost **Half-a-Crown** each, plus cost of the telegram.

Private Letters in answer to inquiries can be had if desired. The minimum charge for such letters is **Ten Shillings**, but for this three questions will be answered if desired. For every question beyond three replied to in any one letter the charge is **Half-a-Crown per question**.

Correspondents can have their lists of investments overhauled and advised upon by letter on terms varying according to the time taken.

Groups of Five Stocks for investment supplied at the rate of **One Guinea**, each list different.

Passing Events.

Abounding Treasury receipts must not be counted upon for the next two months, and the fact that last week brought in only £5,530,000 is nowise disconcerting. Rather is it cheering, for of the total £2,258,000 came from excess profits tax. The aggregate was about £230,000 less than the receipts of the previous week, but the biggest figures the Budget forecast led people to expect would look but insignificant alongside the devouring expenditure. Last week that amounted to no less than £37,837,000, or about £5,570,000 a day, a near approach to the aggregate of £6,000,000 mentioned by Mr. McKenna. Out of that enormous amount nearly £35,000,000 was absorbed by "supply," that is to say, by the Army and Navy. Consequently, bearing in mind the smallness of the income, upwards of £30,000,000 had to be borrowed, and again the resources of the people and the market were equal to war's requirements. Exchequer bonds to the amount of £8,066,000 were disposed of, raising the total of these now outstanding to £158,000,000. The demand for them ran upon the 1919 and 1921 issues, which between them took all but £700,000 of the total amount sold. "War Expenditure Certificates" also brought in £1,207,000, compared with £761,000 in the previous week, and the total of these in existence is now £17,614,000, while "War Savings Certificates" for the second week in succession gave £2,700,000, which raised their aggregate sale to £14,850,000. As usual, however, the biggest reinforcement came from Treasury bills, the nett amount of which disposed of during the week ended August 5 was £14,179,000, which compares with rather less than £11,000,000 in the previous week. So the total of this form of floating debt now outstanding is £856,557,000. By one means or another, then, the Exchequer was able to meet all demands and to increase its balance in the Bank by £1,691,000. Said balance is now only £26,744,000, and a year ago at the same date it was almost £106,000,000. When it becomes impossible to maintain this balance at a safe figure by temporary expedients in borrowing, the Government will have to face the issue of another large long-dated loan. We hope the Ministers will be sufficiently educated by their difficulties and disappointments to approach that problem with an open and recipient mind.

It should not be forgotten that the French Government has followed our example in passing a law to secure for the State 50 per cent. of the excess profits earned by people and companies in business in France. The excess is to be calculated as from August 1, 1914, and the law will continue in force until a full 12 months after the war ends. In order to get a starting-point from which to calculate these excess profits, the average of the nett earnings for the three years immediately previous to the war is to be taken, but the average pre-war profit for the first of these years is to be increased by five-twelfths before the new tax comes into operation. That is to say, the period from August 1, 1914, to December 31, 1915, is taken as the first period for which an allowance in relief is to be made, and thereafter each year's profits will stand by themselves as earned. All kinds of businesses in France are swept within the meshes of this law, and the normal profit at which its incidence will start is fixed at a minimum of £200. This cuts very much deeper than the similar tax here, so much deeper that Mr. McKenna will probably turn his eyes with envy on the logical thoroughness with which M. Ribot and his colleagues have elaborated the range and incidence of the new impost. The beginning will have to be made much lower here before long, but we need not at present dwell upon that.

An interesting discussion arose in the House of Commons on Thursday afternoon over the position of the public debt. In reply to criticisms, Mr. McKenna delivered a, perhaps useful, assuredly optimistic speech, from which we extract a few figures. Our total debt is estimated by him to be, by March 31 next, £3,440,000,000, but from this he deducts £800,000,000 as the amount advanced to Allies and British Dominions, and all of which he regards as well secured. Thereby he neatly brings down our own load to £2,640,000,000, "a sum out of all proportion to anything we had ever known or thought of before," he was kind enough to explain. And he spoke the truth, but, mercifully, finance and the significance of facts embodied in figures are subjects despised by Parliament. Therefore, huge though the total be, it is all right, and as easy to handle as a grey goose quill in the idea of our admirable Chancellor. We can carry our load with ease, for is it not an established fact that we have a "national income" of anything between

£2,400,000,000 and £3,000,000,000 per annum? It is actually, Mr. McKenna assures us, £2,700,000,000 at the present time—including, no doubt, the "income" furnished by the £30,000,000 or so a week raised on Treasury bills and otherwise, "and we spend it with a joyous profusion which would have delighted the Jubilee plunger." That a man in Mr. McKenna's position should be able with a grave face to put forward a romance of this description with regard to the nation's annual revenue is something to wonder at, but the capacity to be dense undoubtedly has its uses at the present juncture, even in finance; only we trust that the policy of continuing to feed the war monster by temporary expedients in borrowing, above all by Treasury bills, will not be continued until the whole financial structure of the Empire is so top-heavy as to threaten us with indescribable financial confusion. We have a floating debt which must be over £1,000,000,000 by now, and if we take into account the transactions involved in our purchase of American securities for transfer to New York it may be well over. Little or nothing was said by the Chancellor of the Exchequer about what is occurring in that credit-generating area beyond telling the House that since the 2s. penalising excess income-tax had been imposed the Government had bought "some tens of millions" of these securities. Perhaps it would be telling the enemy too much were we to get particulars, but it might be worth while for some M.P. to try to ascertain in a summary fashion what the position actually is. This is all we dare adventure upon at the present moment by way of cavil or suggestion, but it is impossible to view the actual debt position quite with that cherry optimism characteristic of Mr. McKenna. He is a most useful man.

A heated debate arose in the House of Commons on Thursday evening, August 3, over the £2 a ton duty ordered, abruptly enough, to be levied in West Africa on palm kernels exported to neutral countries. It was started by Lord Henry Cavendish-Bentinck, and continued by Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, Sir Owen Philipps, and others in opposite camps. "The proper way to capture the trade," said Lord Henry Cavendish-Bentinck, "was not to put a tax on the natives, but to do as Germany has done, improve the crushing plant and transit facilities." He also remarked that "it seemed to be the accepted doctrine in Nigeria that it was impossible to have a proper output of palm kernels unless a bottle of gin was dangled before the nose of the native," which was not an observation indicating a helpful spirit in dealing with vexed questions of this kind. As for Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, he denounced the tax as "Protection in its very worst form," and prophesied that "the natives would be injured by it because the market would be limited to one group of men interested in soap, margarine, &c." The natives, in short, were to take the risk of low prices "in order that some new crushing mills might be set up in England." This view was characterised by Sir Owen Philipps as a fine exhibition of the obsolete Manchester school, and Mr. Mackinder, of Glasgow, also supported the tax, but not Mr. MacCallum Scott. To all the criticisms Mr. Bonar Law made a long and plausible, if not reasoned, reply, which was unfortunately spoiled in effect by the quotation of a letter said to have been written by the representative of a firm of margarine makers in a neutral country. Said letter indicated an effort to be made to get the neutral's tax grievance raised in Parliament, and as far as we can see the said representative, in seeking public discussion, did nothing whatever which he was not entitled to do. He did not offer bribes, there was not a shadow of indication of anything corrupt in the letter. The writer simply went to work in the usual way through the M.P.'s to influence public opinion, and in a free country no one can deny that liberty to any man, foreigner or native. Apparently, however, the gentlemen who had just been criticising the law took umbrage and resented the tone of Mr. Bonar Law's speech and the reading of this captured letter with great bitterness. The House appears to have sympathised with these

members. Outside the sympathy was rather with the Minister, such is the different view that the same incident may induce in minds differently placed for judging. We do not believe there was any corrupt motive or thought of self-interest in the action of any of the members who have opposed the imposition of this tax, and our regret is that the squabble should have occurred in last week's debate at a moment when one might have looked for a lucid and convincing exposition of the reason why this palm kernels tax was put on. It is not an impost that looks helpful to straightforward trade, nor yet one calculated to improve our business relations with neutrals and Allies either now or after the war, and in proportion as it hurts us in these quarters, it cannot but appear as a measure suggested by would-be monopolist trade interests at home. Therefore more must surely be heard about it—it is so absolutely Protectionist in form, and we should think well calculated to keep the natives in bondage. We hope, then, that M.P.'s like Lord Henry Cavendish-Bentinck and Mr. Ramsay Macdonald will not be deterred by any ammunition drawn from the reserves of the Censor's Office from recurring to the subject.

In M. Pierre Nothomb's carefully documented and impressive book, *Les Barbares en Belgique*, a story is told which may be usefully recalled at the present moment, when certain among us are deprecating the use of strong, human language regarding the Kaiser's direct responsibility for the spiteful murder of Captain Fryatt. On his personal knowledge, Monsieur Nothomb narrates how Prince Eitel Fritz, one of Kaiser Wilhelm's sons, rewarded the owner of a Chateau near Liège for the eight days' hospitality given to him and his pals therein. The Prince himself, his brother-in-law, the Duke of Brunswick, and Baron Misbach, occupants of the castle, expressed their gratitude to their host by ransacking the wardrobes of the Chatelaine and her daughters and superintending the packing of the contents—delicate tissues of Paris—into parcels for transmission to Germany, there to adorn the effulgent beauties of Potsdam and Hanover. Here was the meanest form of brigandage as practised by the highest caste in the Empire. But it had at least the merit of being frank and unabashed brigandage, whereas—but we may not at present drive home that moral. All we want to be enlightened upon now is—whether any reason exists in law or morality on which to found a demand for different treatment to be measured out to thieves of this rank from what falls to the lot of the common burglar? In our ideal it will be ominous for the future of mankind if, as one result of this war, class distinctions in criminals fail to be obliterated. Kings and Emperors and their broods and courtiers must, when proved guilty, suffer the same penalty as the "Bill Sykeses" evolved from the dregs of humanity by our imperfect, because essentially selfish, civilisation.

May we venture to give a friendly hint to the Government of the Argentine Republic to spend less money here on newspaper advertisements? The whole of the retiring President's, Dr. De la Plaza's, Message to Congress has been translated—very clumsily translated, we should judge—and is published here in English as an advertisement in we do not know how many newspapers. In the financial journal now before us it occupies no less than 12 columns, and must have cost a large amount of money. It is money wasted, or in great part. An intelligently compiled and lucid summary of the trade and financial facts relating to the last year's affairs and present circumstances, running to perhaps a couple of columns, is all that could ever be wanted here, or that the people who read our newspapers are sufficiently educated to assimilate. There must surely be jobbery, corrupt influences, behind waste of this kind, and the Argentine Republic has no money to waste in that or any other fashion. This is said because the most ominous fact that emerges from Dr. De la Plaza's long story is the persistence of dangerous extravagance in the Administration. Budgets are drawn

up only to be mocked at, are labours in derision of loyal duty. An estimate of expenses is given therein, showing, it may be, a surplus, it may be a trifle of shortage, and the year ends always in a deficit more or less disgraceful. On the past two years the deficit on the ordinary budget was \$118,426,000 paper. But that was not anything approaching the real deficit, because Congress, the budget farce played, habitually proceeds to order expenditure at whim and on "jobs" outside its limits to an unrestrained extent. Consequently the real and now acknowledged deficit for the past two years has been \$358,322,000 paper, or £30,000,000, which the Government has had to finance, to borrow, in other words. Consequently, whatever the prosperity of the Republic, and, as our readers know, it has not been dazzling during late years, the Government is always in a money mess and always in the hands of the moneylender. Whether the President-elect, Dr. Irigoyen, backed by an intelligent—at least, we hope it is intelligent—democracy, is going to mend matters or not, we cannot yet say, but unless he and those surrounding him make some progress in the direction of real economy there are bad times coming for Argentina as a solvent and progressive State.

All things considered, the Bank of New Zealand seems to have done a wonderfully good business in its year ended March 31 last. Gross profits were actually £46,097 up at £801,337, but owing to the increase in expenses under all heads, but principally under rates and taxes, which took £62,548 more, the final nett profit, after making the usual annual provision to the provident fund and giving the staff bonus, was £39,074 lower at £357,093. Guaranteed stock interest took £5,389 less, but the last £500,000 of ordinary shares issued is now fully paid up, and the 6 per cent. dividend upon the entire amount has taken rather more money. The reserve fund, however, gets only £50,000, or £34,464 less than last year, so that after meeting all the dividends the balance of £56,464 remaining to carry forward is only £707 lower than that brought in. The reserve fund, moreover, now amounts to £2,062,141, of which £1,000,000 is invested in British Government securities, most of them redeemable securities the chairman told an inquirer at the annual meeting, not in Consols. Balance-sheet movements show an increase of £4,815,020 in the deposit liabilities, bringing them up to £23,556,677, and the notes in circulation are also £186,772 higher at £1,862,823. Among assets, cash and balances with bankers show an increase of £876,561 at £5,493,622, and the mixed items, money at call and short notice, Government securities and other securities in London, £8,729,976, show an expansion of £3,593,000. Bills, too, receivable in London and in transit are £278,774 up at £3,580,075, while investments show an increase of £401,612 at £1,363,200 in New Zealand Government and Municipal securities, the sum being about equally divided between the two. The changes in bills discounted and advances are of no special significance or magnitude. In his interesting survey of the position caused by the war and otherwise, Mr. H. Beauchamp, the chairman, furnished an estimate of the additional debt charges to the *Entente* Powers and the Austro-German Alliance caused by the war, and puts the aggregate for the *Entente* at £271,000,000 per annum for interest and for the Alliance at £182,000,000, making an aggregate of £453,000,000 per annum. We fear it will be very much more than that, but it is useless to discuss questions of the kind now. Of more interest perhaps to New Zealanders will be the question, Where shall we stand when the war ends?

Difficult times were encountered by the management of the Netherlands Bank in its fiscal year closed March 31 last, the report and accounts relating to which have now come over with the text in English. It was the 102nd year of the bank's history and wholly a year of war, and the figures show traces of war in

many directions, and most prominently by an increase of 145,876,185 florins in the notes in circulation, bringing the total up to 618,304,570 florins. Current account liabilities are only 22,088,880 florins larger at 104,879,730 florins, but the great increase in the note circulation shows how the demand for paper money has been influenced by the war, notwithstanding Holland's neutrality. It was not that the bank had a larger volume of business to handle, but that its management had to help the Government in various ways to meet the great increase in expenses it had been put to. Also, with great skill and prudence the bank sought to increase its stock of gold and to substitute its paper for gold to some extent among the community. Cash in hand in the form of specie accordingly shows an increase of 6,032,099 florins at 74,735,902 florins, and bullion held is up no less than 22,398,542 florins at 446,745,967 florins. In other respects the assets show traces, but comparatively insignificant traces, of the disturbance of business caused by the war. Home bills in hand have increased 16,449,905 florins at 88,068,838 florins, and foreign bills were also 3,744,112 florins up at 3,751,613 florins, but the loan account has shrunk 96,393,490 florins to 57,452,630 florins, and advances on current accounts are down 22,497,865 florins to 26,399,582 florins. Thanks to the extent of the Government requirements, no doubt thanks also partly to the higher rates obtainable on money, the nett profit was better for the past year than for the one preceding. Deducting the 3 per cent. paid to the management of the Board of Commissioners there was a nett balance of 6,439,026 florins left, or 259,583 florins more, of which two-thirds goes to the State and one-third to the shareholders. This one-third means, after adjustments, that 48,122 florins more at 1,984,270 florins is available for distribution. After setting aside the 3½ per cent. always laid aside for the shareholders, a dividend of 99 florins in addition will be paid, making 134 florins per share in all, or 3 florins more than was distributed a year ago. Nothing is this time placed to reserve, compared with 704,788 florins a year back, but the reserve is now 5,155,091 florins, or rather more than one-fourth of the paid-up capital. It is not necessary to enter with detail into the working of the accounts, but a word of commendation is deserved for the care and lucidity with which the review of the year's financial history has been compiled and laid before the shareholders. Owing to the causes above indicated, and others, the stock of gold held by the bank at the date of the past year's balance-sheet was the largest it ever possessed. During the year the amount rose from 288,798,581 florins to 517,193,952 florins. The bank was rich, and its directors managed to increase the stock of gold without putting any dangerous pressure upon any other market, though business is difficult and in some directions considerably restricted. This gold in hand does not include metal that may be lying abroad to the bank's credit. Has Germany remitted all she owes?

Godfrey Phillips, Ltd., the well-known tobacco manufacturers, made splendid progress last year, but surely it ought to be possible to get out the report and accounts in something less than seven and a-half months. However, that is a small matter compared with the fine results displayed. Trading profits, after charging advertising, were very nearly double those of 1914, the exact figure being £111,496, or an increase of £54,600. Rates, office expenses, &c., took £2,000 more and £6,000 more was written off for depreciation, while a new item of £5,000 appears for managing directors' remuneration. Nett profits consequently come out at £77,320, an increase of £40,500, and it is proposed to place £10,000 against £8,000 to reserve fund, raising it to £20,000, to set aside £6,230 for excess profits duty, and to pay a final dividend of 4 per cent., making 16 per cent. for the year on the ordinary shares, all of which are held by the directors. There will then remain £23,490, or £17,100 more, to be carried forward. It is stated that the company has continued to execute contracts on behalf of the War Office, which have given every

satisfaction, and these contracts represent 10 per cent. of the total business as against only 1 per cent. in 1914. It is a fine record, and it seems a pity that the preference holders who supplied the cash capital do not share in the prosperity, although it must be admitted that the ordinary holders have had to face several very lean years. Loans show an increase of £42,000 at £95,470, and sundry creditors are up £29,000 at £126,820, while stocks have risen £49,000 to £235,730, and debtors £62,000 to £222,350. Foreign trade development account has been written down £5,820 to £20,000, and cash is halved at £3,320, but £5,000 has been put into the 4½ per cent. War Loan. It is a war budget, but we hope the prosperity will continue after peace is restored.

After due elaboration, the plan and agreement of reorganisation of the Missouri Pacific Railway Co. and the St. Louis Iron Mountain and Southern Railway Co., as modified from July 25 last, have now been published by the reorganisation managers, Messrs. Kuhn, Loeb and Co. It is a document of considerable importance, and sets forth with much fulness the reasonings upon which the plan is based, but we have no space to devote

SCHEDULE OF PARTICIPATION IN DISTRIBUTION OF NEW SECURITIES BY HOLDERS OF EXISTING SECURITIES PARTICIPATING IN THE PLAN.

Existing Securities.		New First and Refunding Mortgage 5% Bonds.		New General Mortgage 4% Bonds.		New 5% Preferred Stock or 5% Income Bonds.	
Amount.	Description.	Per Cent.	Amount.	Per Cent.	Amount.	Per Cent.	Amount.
14,904,000	Missouri Pacific Consolidated First 6s.	110	16,394,400				
14,375,000	Missouri Pacific Trust 5s of 1917*	100	14,375,000				
9,636,000	Missouri Pacific Collateral Mortgage 5s of 1920*	100	9,636,000				
37,255,000	Missouri Pacific Gold Loan 4s	—	—	—	—	100	37,255,000
29,806,000	Missouri Pacific First and Refunding 5s.	—	—	—	—	100	29,806,000
650,000	Missouri Pacific Lexington Division First 5s	—	—	—	—	100	650,000
3,972,000	Kansas and Colorado Pacific 6s.	—	—	—	—	100	3,972,000
3,459,000	Central Branch 4s of 1919	—	—	50	1,729,500	50	1,729,500
2,500,000	Central Branch Union Pacific 4s. of 1948	—	—	50	1,250,000	50	1,250,000
	Holders of these two Central Branch issues are offered an election, which must be made on or before September 1, 1916, between the provision above described and par for par in the new General Mortgage 4% Bonds.						
520,000	Leroy and Caney Valley First 5s.	—	—	—	—	100	520,000
1,024,000	Kansas City North-Western 5s	—	—	—	—	100	1,024,000
500,000	Boonville, St. Louis and Southern 5s	—	—	—	—	100	500,000
4,175,000	Iron Mountain First and Refunding 6s.	105	4,383,750	—	—	—	—
393,000	Little Rock Junction First Consolidated 6s, guaranteed by Iron Mountain Co.*	100	393,000	—	—	—	—
1,741,000	Texas and Pacific Notes endorsed by Iron Mountain Co.	100	1,741,000	—	—	—	—
82,839,585	Missouri Pacific Stock outstanding:	—	—	50	41,419,792	—	—
45,135	Iron Mountain Co. Stock outstanding.	—	—	—	—	100	45,135
	Total		46,923,150		44,399,292		76,751,635

* With alternative options, exercisable on or before Sept. 1, 1916.

† The holders of stock in the Missouri Pacific Co. are entitled to receive \$82,839,585 (100%) of common stock in the new company, as well as the \$41,419,792 (50%) general mortgage bonds above-mentioned of the new company, upon surrender of their existing stock and payment in cash of \$50 per share of existing stock.

to the subject, and must be satisfied with a short *résumé*. Under the plan of reorganisation \$155,502,000 of securities or cash obligations of the two companies remain undisturbed. Of that aggregate, however, there is \$24,773,000 of Missouri Pacific 6 per cent. gold notes which were due for payment on June 1 last, and there is also \$2,270,000 of equipment obligations due by these companies, partly at the end of June last, partly between then and the same date in 1918, and these are to be redeemed in cash. The largest item is \$110,281,000, being all the Iron Mountain Co.'s bonds except its \$29,423,000 first, and refunding 6 per cent. 40-year gold bonds due July 1, 1952, and declared due September 22 last year, of which \$25,081,000 are

pledged to secure Missouri Pacific Co. gold notes and \$4,175,000 are in the hands of the public. Another \$123,169,000 of obligations come under the refunding arrangement, and when we add in the common stock of the Missouri Co., \$82,840,000, and other small items, we arrive at a total capitalisation of \$363,296,000, a great part of which has to be dealt with under the plan. Of the obligations \$41,420,000, including the above-mentioned extended gold notes of the Missouri Pacific Co., have to be met in cash, but this includes \$14,377,000, which is set aside to provide for adjustments and payments of interest in respect of bonds and other obligations deposited under the plan, and also to furnish additional working capital. All this money has to be found by the common stockholders, who are to be assessed to the extent of 50 per cent. of their stock. In exchange for this heavy fine, however, they are to receive, in addition to new common stock, the amount of their assessment in new 4 per cent. general bonds, as set forth in the subjoined official summary of the old and new capitalisation. Probably the common stock now created will be merely of speculative value for years to come, but it is quite possible that the 4 per cent. mortgage bonds will become worth something one of these days, although, as will be seen, they rank behind a very substantial amount of securities possessing prior rights.

Unpleasant enough, surely, is the story the board of the Vera Cruz Terminal Co. has to tell about its position as disclosed by the accounts and balance-sheet for the year ended June 30, 1915. Stated in Mexican dollars, gross receipts fell off \$222,860 to \$818,666, and although expenses were \$410,925 less at \$514,186, the increase of \$188,066 thus brought about in the nett revenue was of no avail, for the \$304,479 it came to could be converted into sterling at no more than 8.32826d. per \$, so that it yielded only £10,566, and the total interest charges alone amounted to £65,000. Altogether the charges, including £14,469 for loss on exchange, came to £71,000, and as the debit balance brought forward was £171,811, it follows that it is now £243,184. All this ruin is brought about by the high-handed action of the Carranza Government, and we can only hope that experience is beginning to teach it that the seizure of other people's property, even by a Government, does not conduce to the increased wealth either of it or of people it victimises. As yet the attempt made to arrange for the funding or otherwise for the postponing of the 4½ per cent. debenture interest has not borne fruit, because a meeting of the bondholders convened for August 26 in last year did not bring enough of them together to permit a formal resolution to be passed, so an informal committee was appointed, and is still trying to find a solution for the difficulty which we trust will be temporary. While seeking it no opportunity must be neglected to instruct Señor Carranza on the error of his ways. The real difficulty we take it is that nobody will lend him any money, and he is unwise enough to imagine he can get some by robbing other people. It may take time to convince him of his error.

In spite of difficulties connected with transport and the supply of raw materials, the Molassine Co., Ltd., made excellent progress in the year ended March 31 last. Nett profits amounted to £14,570, an increase of £10,000 over the previous twelve months, when the profit of £4,500 compared with a loss of £730 for the year before that. Unfortunately, there was an accumulated debit balance of £12,365, and after writing £1,656 off shares in other companies (£3,000 less than last year) there is only a small credit of £550 to go forward. Still, the corner has now been definitely turned, and the shareholders may look forward with some confidence to getting a return on their investment in the near future, while there are indications that the company will do still better when normal conditions are restored. Owing to the continuance of the war, busi-

ness with America and Canada remains suspended, and the operations of the company were hampered throughout the year by difficulties in obtaining raw materials. Orders have been plentiful, but it has only been possible to execute part of them owing to restrictions of transport and shortage of labour. During the year £3,876 debenture stock was redeemed, but sundry creditors and loans from bankers increased £22,300. Plant, machinery, &c., show an increase of £4,500, stocks are up £11,600, and cash has risen £4,000 to £7,388, while sundry debtors are £12,000 lower and shares in other companies have been written down to a round £3,000. We shall look for still better results a year hence.

Evidently the Great Northern Central Railway of Colombia, Ltd., is not yet at the end of its troubles with the Colombian Government. A year ago it was stated that an arbitration on the points in dispute would be held in London, but the Government subsequently insisted on transferring the venue to Bogotá, and negotiations for a settlement are now proceeding in that centre. The company's representatives are assisted by three of the most distinguished lawyers in Bogotá, and it is hoped that some arrangement will be arrived at without much further delay. When this happens the terms will be submitted for the approval of the bondholders as soon as possible, but, judging by the past course of the negotiations, we are not so sanguine as to a satisfactory conclusion as the directors appear to be. In the balance-sheet, which is only made up to June 30, 1915, creditors are up £35,440 at £143,120, while debtors have increased £17,150 at £55,350, and expenditure amounted to £14,960 after deducting £17,200 interest receivable. It is rather a sad business from every point of view.

In spite of a complaint about the serious disorganisation of the works caused by Government requirements in connection with the war, and the increase in wages and cost of materials, the Midland Railway-Carriage and Wagon Co., Ltd., did much better in the year to June 30 than for some considerable time past. Trading profits amounted to £49,617, an increase of £21,200 compared with the previous 12 months, and after setting aside £7,000 more at £15,000 for depreciation, there is sufficient to pay a dividend of 5 per cent., against nil on the ordinary shares, and still leave £5,000 more at £11,213 to be carried forward. That is not a bad record, and it seems fair to assume that it is mainly the result of Government work. Creditors have increased £34,400 to £64,340, and sundry debtors are just about double at £81,365. Buildings, plant, &c., are down £8,000 at £393,820, and stocks have been reduced £8,500, but wagons on purchase leases and on hire have increased by £4,000, and cash is up £23,000 at £53,510. There is a balance of £3,126 for costs of debenture issue still to be dealt with, and it would have looked better if this had been written off when the profits permitted.

Terrribly slow progress is being made by the British New Guinea Development Co., Ltd. For the year to January 31 last the profit on trading in Papua, after deducting administrative and general expenditure, was only £4,915, which appears to be about £3,500 better than for the previous 12 months, but the accounts are presented in a somewhat different form. At any rate, the nett profit is £1,400 up at £1,696, but £1,000 of this is to be earmarked for depreciation of ships' property. It is also proposed that £3,300 received for shares which have been forfeited should be applied in extinguishing the balance of preliminary expenses. The amount of £41,230 due to the vendors has been reduced by consent by £15,000, and this will be applied in reduction of the property account. During the year the planted area was increased by 460 acres, raising it to 7,460 acres, and a further 810 acres have been cleared for planting. Of the total 5,300 acres are under coconuts, of which an appreciable portion is coming into

bearing, and about 1,200 acres have been planted with rubber, but the output for next year is estimated at only 26,880 lbs., and for 1918 at 89,600 lbs. For the three months to June 30 the yield was 7,820 lbs., but at this rate it will take a long time to earn dividends on an issued capital of over half-a-million, even with sisal hemp and tobacco thrown in. Preference shares are now 18s. paid up, against 16s. last year, and the paid-up capital has been increased by £39,000, while £40,898 of calls are in arrears, mainly from the Papuan Lands, Ltd., rather a lame dog to depend upon. Expenditure on plantations amounted to £23,480, a decrease of £3,000, but stocks are up £7,600 and sundry debtors £9,000. It is all rather trumpery for a company which was magnificently furnished with a nominal capital of £1,500,000.

At the private meeting of representatives of the mining industry, which was held under the auspices of the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy this week, to discuss the question of the excess profits tax, an influential committee was appointed to sit with the Council in the negotiations with the Board of Referees. The committee consists of Lord Harris, Sir Lionel Phillips, Sir Alfred Mond, Sir Trevredyn R. Wynne, Mr. F. W. Baker, Mr. Edmund Davis, Mr. F. A. Govett, Mr. F. H. Hamilton, Mr. Henry C. Taylor, Mr. Leslie Urquhart, Mr. Oliver Wethered, and Mr. Robert Williams. The committee, it will be seen, is representative of all branches of the mining industry, and when the excess profits tax question has been disposed of it will still remain in being to tackle the larger problem of taxation, and the reform of the income-tax laws from the point of view of the metalliferous industries. As regards the excess profits duty, the only question of importance to be decided is the liability of the gold mines. These, of course, cannot make excess profits really because the price of gold is fixed, while, owing to the higher cost of labour, freight and materials, the cost of getting it out of a mine is greater. Thus the production of gold is now less profitable than it has ever been, and there is a strong inducement for the mines to restrict their production until the war is over. But owing to the great creations of credit every ounce of gold is needed, and the leading bankers have declared that no steps should be taken to hinder the output. As mines in the ordinary sense cannot make excess profits, the only properties which are liable are those which have begun to produce since the war broke out, and those which have increased their output. In the case of a mine with a short life, the liability to excess profits tax, which is based on a small percentage of dividend on capital, is very onerous, for it would prevent the capital from being repaid during its allotted span. The Treasury has now recognised the principle of allowing for amortisation of capital in calculating excess profits, and this encourages the hope that it will also consent to allow of a certain percentage of mining dividends to be regarded as return of capital. Hitherto, although the Union Government has recognised this position in its profits tax law, the revenue authorities have always refused to allow any deduction for capital amortisation, but now that the tax has risen to 25 per cent. nominally, shareholders cannot be expected to consent to this taxation of their capital any longer without making their sufferings heard.

Some further light is thrown on the Cam and Motor Mine position—and incidentally on recent fluctuations in the shares—by the report made by Mr. C. B. Kingston, a well-known mining engineer. It was generally understood that the cause of the mine not yielding the results which had been expected when crushing was begun was metallurgical, but Mr. Kingston says that the real difficulty is not in the mill, but in the mine, and is most likely to be overcome by extended mine development. When the mill started operations the mine development appeared to be far enough ahead to guarantee a supply of ore of regular grades. This has proved not to be the case owing to the unsuspected

irregularity of values in the stopes. The proper policy of the company, Mr. Kingston says, is to press the mine development as much as possible, and at the same time continue to do everything that can be done to increase the capacity of the existing plant without sacrificing extraction. The suggestion that mine development should be extended may have been the origin of the rumour of reconstruction, for it must involve heavier outlays. Since the report was written the ore reserves have been re-estimated, with the following result:—Motor mine, 577,281 tons, valued at 36s. 6d., as against 740,000 tons, valued at 41s. 5d. at the end of June, 1915; Cam-Good Shepherd, 120,531 tons, valued at 44s. 3d., against 114,000 tons, valued at 44s. 7d.; and Petrol mine, 10,105 tons, valued at 37s. 6d., the same as a year ago. The rich footwall leader on No. 7 level, recently met with, is not included in the Motor ore reserves, as it has not yet been sufficiently opened up. If this rich patch continues it should solve the present mine position, but it may conceivably give rise to further plant modifications. A period of difficulty lies ahead of the company.

When Peace Comes.

An old friend of THE INVESTORS' REVIEW asks:—"Are you of opinion that when peace is declared generally that there will be a boom, and that the boom is likely to continue two or three years, and then for a few years there will be a considerable depression? If this is so, would the tendency be for the prices of gilt-edge securities to fall during the time of the boom whilst advancing in the time of depression?"

Here be indeed hard questions to grapple. This thoughtful seeker after prophecy is doubtless musing about an old-fashioned peace—so many wise men—and wiseacres—meeting together and, after wranglings and arguments, drawing up and duly signing on behalf of the "All-Highest," "Most Catholic," and other belated impostors and incongruities, wanderers all in a world into which men and women have come, a formal treaty with the victors—democracies all—which is forthwith proclaimed everywhere amid the ringing of joy-bells, the flaring of bonfires, and other manifestations of relief. Could we look for a peace of that kind as an end of the present war, then it might be safe to predict a "boom" in stocks that might last a few weeks, perhaps even six or seven, and be followed by five or ten years of misery.

But the longer the "murder grim and great" drags on the less chance is there that the world will this time see a peace of such a sort. We, the Allies of the *Entente*, can enter into no negotiations either with Habsburg or Hohenzollern, in the hope that by doing so we could reach a sure and lasting peace. A peace of the durable kind is only possible between free peoples henceforth, and the inhabitants of the two robber and slave empires are not yet humbled enough, or instructed enough in their own true interests, to be capable of entering into a genuine accord with the nations, the democracies, now closing in upon them.

The war is a war for freedom, and to liberate the oppressed; not for our freedom only—for the deliverance of the populations of Russia, Italy, France, and the United Kingdom from the menace of Prussian tyranny—but also to bring freedom to all the races and nationalities suppressed or held in bondage to the "witch doctor" sort of impostures that keep alive the ruling castes of Austro-Hungary and Germany. Since very early in the war this has been our contention, and the attainment of the human—or if you prefer it, Millennial—peace is only possible if the Allies refuse to come to terms with these families or their representatives. Is it possible to imagine the Governments of the *Entente* seriously proposing to resume amicable or confidential relations with Francis Joseph or with William II. and their upholders of despotism? Can we forget their crimes so soon and so far as that? Or would it be possible for the people to do so even if our short-memoried political personages did?

No, and it is impossible therefore to end this war in the old way; impossible and also neither in our in-

terests nor in those of the oppressed, misguided and befooled peoples whom the Allies are now, as duty bids, doing their best to kill off the face of the earth. Had the "submerged nationalities," as Mr. Ernest Barker calls them, composing the rank and file of the German and Austrian armies, understanding enough, and cohesion enough, to turn upon their enslavers and say, "begone or we will destroy you," the peace we seek might soon be in sight, but so long as the German, Hungarian, Polish, Slav, and other oppressed races who now people the two empires continue to obey the orders of their slave drivers as hitherto, we can only kill, starve and capture until the aforesaid slave drivers themselves have had enough and come begging for mercy. Then peace will come into view, but not a peace with them, not a bonfire-lighting, Stock Exchange-exciting peace, but at first merely a more or less slow cessation of the killing. When the battlefield labours are over the clearing of the ground for the creation of a true and enduring fabric of peace will have to begin.

Has not this journal throughout insisted that if the robber empires are not compelled to work and serve to repay the havoc wrought, all we of the *Entente* run grave danger of tumbling into a common pit of insolvency whence anarchy and not a higher civilisation would be only too likely to emerge? And how can we make the democracies of these empires contribute to our war costs if we do not first clear their territories of the enslaver? Courts and the monstrous oppressions of courts whose foundations are hoary lies must all be swept away by this war. All the lands held by the classes hanging by the despotism that has provided the two empires with their military and civil hierarchies of oppressors must disappear and the land they have held by fraud and chicane after stealing by the sword must be divided among the people, not as the Russian peasant dreams of getting it divided—free, as reward for his sacrifices in the war—but at such rent and redemption charges as will enable the holders to contribute substantially every year for half a century to come or more to the liquidation of our war debts. "And would you ignore the debts of the two criminal empires themselves?" Yes, most assuredly; why not? They are no concern of ours, any more than the debt of the Confederate States of North America was of the victorious Federalists in Washington.

When the fighting dwindles to easily manageable dimensions—certain armies or districts may hold out beyond others, and the war must in any event continue until the Allies have driven the Prussians out of Belgium and beyond the Rhine, out of the Italian Alps, out of the Balkans, and out of Poland, including therein Silesia or whatever part thereof is predominantly Polish, then peace hopes will blaze up. But Constantinople and the Dardanelles also must be delivered from the Turk and all outlets to the ocean closed for both derelict empires before we can make much headway or begin to slacken our output of instruments of destruction. Only then, though, can we begin to handle the subject of peace, but the way will be considerably prepared for our success in arranging it to our satisfaction and without undue delay, if starvation makes adequate headway among the deluded but still most criminal subjects of the two empires, especially among the once well off.

Possessing, however, all outlets by land and sea, the Allies will be in a position to use language like this to the nationalities confined within them. To the German peoples they can say, "No food will be allowed to reach you, still less any raw materials, until you have compensated, as far as money can, Belgium and France for your robberies and other abominable crimes. Hand over, therefore, all gold and valuables in your possession, and return all stolen property. As for Poland, the treatment by you of Russian Poland (as it was before the war) forbids the Allies to allow any Pole ever again to come under Prussian tyranny." To Austria—as to both empires, indeed—the intimation must be conveyed that the Allies will deal only with

representatives freely chosen by citizen Parliaments freely elected, separately if they choose by each race or nationality, but even were all these preliminaries accomplished by another year to our satisfaction, we should only be at the beginning of a peace we could hope to live and thrive under. Both Berlin and Vienna will have to be occupied—or perhaps destroyed—and the work of setting the oppressed free throughout Central Europe must at least be long and arduous. Self-denial and earnest labour beyond anything yet conceived by us will probably be demanded for years, and the whole basis of our civil life as well as of our international relationships will have to be taken to pieces and remodelled to suit the new conditions.

In circumstances like these what answers are possible to questions like those at the head of this article? They can at best be merely guesses. We rather think, for example, that the "boom"—or possibly several boomlets—may come before the "peace generally" has been declared. With real peace will come the reckoning, the beginning of discovery in regard to the capital we have spent and many other disagreeable things. This by no means signifies—at least it should not signify—that our embarrassments may be such as to clog effort, but it does mean that we, all nations now fighting for the rescue of mankind and the salvage of civilisation will have to attack the problems of life in a spirit and with a brotherly harmony of purpose never before attained in the world's history. The individual quest of wealth, more wealth, as much wealth as a modern colossus of finance can gather, will have to be restrained, and the public services renderable by all wealth kept steadily in view. Old-fashioned relations between landowner and tenant, master and servant, merchant and customer, employer in industries and employed all must be re-modelled and co-partnership take the place of mere wage contract wherever possible. And ever more the people as a whole, through their free assemblies, by instrumentality of their direct representatives, must come into a constantly enlarging controlling power over industrial and commercial developments. So much is this the probability that it would not surprise us to find movements of prices on the Stock Exchange swayed more by what we call State interferences than by after-the-war economic conditions immediately visible. And unless we are self-sacrificing and thrifty to an extent not yet dreamt of, the scarcity of capital for a decade after the war will be acute enough to keep speculation in chains.

Agricultural Statistics for 1915.

Like many other Government compilations, the returns of produce of crops in England and Wales lose much of their interest by being so belated. Preliminary statements giving the average yield per acre and total production of crops were issued in October and November last year, and the report to the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries was made in April, but the useful little pamphlet of 20 pages embodying the results has only just made its appearance, and even in war times something might surely be done to expedite publication. With regard to last year's harvest the human element seems to have done all that could reasonably be expected, under existing conditions, to increase production; but, unfortunately, the weather proved unpropitious, and the yield fell short of the increased effort expended. Generally speaking, the year 1914 approximated very closely to the average for ten years in grain crops, but it was below the average for roots and hay. Last year there was an improvement in the latter, but grain crops were very disappointing, and if it had not been for a substantial increase in acreage the shortage would have been painfully evident. Taking wheat as the premier crop, we find that the acreage for the whole kingdom was 2,333,350 against 1,904,930 in 1914, but the yield per acre was only 31.68 bushels against 32.77 bushels, and an average of 32.35 bushels for the ten years 1905-14. Thanks to the larger area, however, the total produce was 9,239,350 qrs., against 7,804,040 qrs. in 1914,

England alone contributing 8,293,270 qrs., against 7,175,950 qrs. In the south-western division the yield was more than a bushel per acre above the average, and Wales was two-thirds of a bushel better; but in the north-eastern division the crop was 1.4 bushels under average, and in the other divisions the decrease ranged from three-quarters to one bushel per acre. Barley was even in worse case, as there was both a reduction in acreage and yield. For the whole kingdom the area was 1,522,650 against 1,871,170 acres, whilst the yield was only 30.80 bushels per acre against an average of 34.38 bushels. To the total output of 5,862,240 qrs., against 8,065,680 qrs. in 1914, England contributed 4,229,030 qrs., against 5,841,500 qrs. The crop was the smallest recorded since produce returns were first collected in 1884, and the yield was the poorest with the exception of 1893. Oats, however, showed to more advantage. The acreage increased from 3,877,950 to 4,159,270, and the yield per acre rose to 42.91 bushels, against 42.63 in 1914, and an average of 42.12 bushels. Altogether the total output was 22,308,400 qrs., against 20,663,540 qrs., to which England and Wales contributed 10,386,900 qrs., an increase of 830,000 qrs., Scotland 4,885,200 qrs., an increase of 265,000 qrs., and Ireland 7,036,300 qrs., an increase of 545,000 qrs. In Ireland the yield per acre was as much as 51.71 bushels, against 50.48 in 1914, and an average of 49.50 bushels for the previous ten years.

In the case of beans, there was a reduction both of area and yield, the total for the kingdom being 264,070 acres, against 291,730, and the yield 28 bushels, against an average of 30.52. Consequently the total produce was only 924,155 bushels, against 1,120,080. Peas also did badly. The area was reduced from 129,990 acres to 98,570, and the yield was only 24.38 bushels, against an average of 26.39, so that the total output was 74,000 qrs. lower at 300,340 qrs. But of all crops hops did worst. With only a small decrease in acreage, the production was cut almost in half at 254,610 cwt., against 507,260 cwt., while the yield per acre was 7.33 cwt., against 13.84 cwt. in 1914, and a ten years' average of 9.73 cwt. From these disappointing figures it is pleasant to turn to root crops. The area under turnips and swedes fell from 1,749,920 acres to 1,615,060, but the yield was 15.13 tons per acre, against 13.83 in 1914, and an average of 14.56 tons. Consequently the output was 24,431,080 tons, against 24,195,750 tons, England contributing 11,068,400 tons, against 12,598,320; Scotland, 7,532,790 tons, against 6,311,480; and Ireland, 5,091,030 tons, against 4,433,490. Mangolds also did well, the total product being 9,696,500 tons, against 9,522,920, from a smaller area, as the yield was 19.48 tons, against 18.50. Potatoes also came out fairly well, both the area and yield being slightly larger. The total output was 7,540,240 tons, against 7,476,460, to which England contributed 2,702,160 tons, against 2,807,250; Scotland, 972,080 tons, against 1,077,580; and Ireland 3,710,060 tons, against 3,445,770, while the yield was 6.27 tons, against a ten years' average of 5.73 tons. Hay was just a moderate crop, the total from clover, &c., being 4,526,190 tons, against 4,210,920, and that from permanent grass 7,922,590 tons, against 8,192,550. In the latter case the yield was only 24.78 cwt. per acre, against an average of 28.27 cwt., but hay from clover, &c., was practically up to the average. The following statement gives the total production in the United Kingdom of the crops for which estimates are obtained in each of the past three years:—

Crops.	1915.	1914.	1913.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Wheat	2,048,000	1,744,000	1,576,000
Barley	1,112,000	1,540,000	1,580,000
Oats	3,148,000	2,937,000	2,930,000
Beans	212,000	240,000	204,000
Peas	67,000	80,000	91,000
Potatoes	7,540,000	7,476,000	7,605,000
Turnips and Swedes	24,431,000	24,196,000	25,314,000
Mangolds	9,696,000	9,523,000	9,276,000
Hay (all kinds)	12,449,000	12,403,000	15,395,000
Hops	13,000	25,000	13,000

On the whole the results last year must be regarded as satisfactory, considering difficulties with regard to labour and adverse weather conditions, but a great deal more use will have to be made of the land in the future if we are to avoid grievous troubles.

Not much information is yet available about the current year's crops, but the indications are not altogether encouraging. Weather conditions have, on the whole, been unfavourable. Both temperature and moisture have been most unfortunately distributed, and few will have forgotten the cold, sunless days of June and the greater part of July which retarded growth, while the recent burst of heat accompanied by easterly winds has ripened grain crops without doing much to fill ears. Light yields may therefore be expected, and the straw is poor. Hay will probably turn out fairly well, but root crops are likely to be short in quantity and indifferent in quality. Returns from Scotland show that the acreage under wheat has been reduced by 13,000 acres to 64,000, but barley has 172,000 acres, an increase of 23,000, oats 986,000 acres, an increase of 3,000, rye grass and clover for hay 418,000 acres, an increase of 28,000, and permanent grass 161,000 acres, an increase of 7,000. On the other hand, the area planted with potatoes has been reduced 15,000 to 129,000 acres. Cattle have increased only 2,000 to 1,226,000, but the number of sheep is down 36,000 at 7,039,000, and there are 12,000 fewer pigs at 147,000. Voluntary enlistment in Scotland was so active that in many country districts only old men and boys are left, and the farming industry must suffer terribly from shortage of labour. We can only hope that the harvest will be gathered under favourable weather conditions, so that little will be lost, for we can ill-afford to spare a boll of meal or a peck of potatoes at the present time.

By-the-Way War Notes.

Excellent speeches were delivered by Mr. Asquith and Mr. Bonar Law at the Queen's Hall meeting held on the 4th inst. to mark the commencement of the third year of the war. Both speakers took the right view of the position and of the Allied armies and aims, and Mr. Asquith wound up with a declaration of our faith well worth quoting:—"By the victory of the Allies the enthronement of public right here in Europe will pass from the domain of ideals and of aspirations into that of concrete and achieved realities. What does public right mean? I will tell you what I understand it to mean—an equal level of opportunity and of independence as between small States and great States, as between the weak and the strong; safeguards resting upon the common will of Europe, and, I hope, not of Europe alone, against aggression, against international covetousness and bad faith, against the wanton recourse in case of dispute to the use of force and the disturbance of peace; finally, as the result of it all, a great partnership of nations federated together in the joint pursuit of a freer and fuller life for countless millions who by their efforts and their sacrifice, generation after generation, maintain the progress and enrich the inheritance of humanity." Brave words these, and noble, presenting a goal all must strive to bring nearer.

In a tactful survey of the help given by British dominions abroad, Mr. Bonar Law reminded us of the debt we owe to a reconciled South Africa, and did not neglect to bring into relief the splendid help of the women in all parts of the Empire to lighten the burden the war has laid upon all. If, however, we are to attain to a position whence we can pursue the ideal put before us by the Prime Minister, there is no disguising the fact that an immense amount of work and sacrifice yet remain for us to do and endure. We see that Mr. Stanley Washburn, the very able *Times* special correspondent with the Russian forces, gives it as his opinion that another two years may be required to bring the Germans to their knees. They have lost some of their arrogance, he says, and their

confidence in themselves is somewhat reduced, but they are still a long way from collapse unless brought to their knees by internal complications. Our opinion leans rather to an endorsement of this view. A year more may not end all the fighting. The experience of the offensive on the Somme has warned us not to expect the early complete defeat of the Germans, certain though that defeat in the end is. Conceit is a quality of mind harder perhaps to subdue or remove than almost any other, and when conceit is sustained by carefully prepared falsehoods and rendered invincible by the unwearied inculcation of ideals calculated to nurture it, it will always be difficult to modify the attitude of the crude, raw mind so poisoned. Nevertheless, the Germans are changing their point of view, unconsciously perhaps, but still changing it, and although their enormous forces in guns and munitions of war, their superlative skill in the invention and adaptation of fresh devices for facilitating wholesale murder continue to give them formidable attacking and resisting power, every day finds them less capable of originating or sustaining any great initiative. Their activities are more and more those of the besieged alone, and the waste involved must at an increasing speed reduce their capacity to go on, as also, to some extent, their willingness to continue facing the enemy. Therefore the supreme agony of the war may, in the west, have reached its highest, and yet the besieged may continue to hold out in places and on inner lines until utter ruin and exhaustion compel them to surrender.

It is worth remark that even after the magnificent advance of the Russians in Galicia, Volhynia and we hope presently in Courland their road west continues to be barred always much more resolutely and effectively by the German armies than by the Austrian. To all appearance Austria will soon be totally incapacitated to continue the fight, for her forces are not only being mown down or captured on her Eastern battle front with demoralising facility, but are also now being driven back, destroyed or captured in Italy. Galicia seems likely soon to be all lost by the Hapsburgs—we hope for the final time—and Trieste united to her motherland Italy before many more suns have set. But were the Austrians done with and the Habsburg dominions trussed for dismemberment, we may be sure that the Germans will continue a hard-fought struggle, a struggle probably increasing in its savagery as the bitterness of impending defeat increases. For all that, the more the Allies can concentrate their forces against the arch-enemy, the sooner should the war be over, and although it may be that we shall have to continue fighting at some points for much more than another year, the general assault should attain its main objective—the driving back of the Germans from most of their "conquests," and the rout of the Kaiser and his swarm of barbarian *Junkers* well before this third war year ends. Hardly though before another winter is upon us, unless hunger helps.

Economic questions are also playing their part in shaping our fates in the war. More than one indication of the drift of minds in the Allied countries and in the German Empire may be cited as showing that war's consequences and war weariness are beginning to tell. All those who stay at home and bear the burden begin to long increasingly for peace. But naturally the Germans hide their longings and yearnings under a profusion of brag. What the war is costing them they never say, except where their bellies are in question; but in an indirect fashion, by their loud boastings about what they are going to do to "recapture" a master position in the world's trade when the war ends, by the stories they put into circulation relative to their anticipating purchases of raw materials abroad, their alleged and quite probable gathering in from Holland and other outlying ports of as many of their interned merchant vessels as can sneak off home with, and by the appointment of a sort of general touting and advertisement manager for foreign business, they seem to betray

a growing consciousness of their impotence. The dream of world dominance in trade is going the way of the dust for brute supremacy in politics. What sensible German—and there are a few such still alive, not all Jews either—can suppose that after wasting all the accumulated capital of the Empire and mortgaging its future for at least 50 years, perhaps for thrice that time, it will be possible by cartels, syndicates, monopolies, and State direction or nurture to begin organising industry and opening markets at once after the war; so as to resume business in the old way? Who, after the war, is going to trust what may have been the richest among such trade organisations with an ability to pay for what they might want to buy? The iron and steel industries of the Empire will be absolutely in ruins when this war ends, are sustained in a deceptive life of prosperity now by war orders alone. When the war ends the great steel works and machine shops will possess nothing but death-dealing appliances for which the demand has ceased, plus the paper of the Berlin Government, as foundation for new efforts to conquer foreign markets.

In all probability the capacity of every one of the belligerent nations on both sides to resume trade activities on the old scale will be incalculably reduced at the end of the war, but at least we have never ceased to manufacture and export, to buy and sell abroad, neither Russia, Italy, and France, nor ourselves, whereas in the two years of war Germany has been deprived of the profits of an out and in trade that would have aggregated probably two thousand million pounds. Every nation, especially those of the *Entente*, will, nevertheless, have to fall back on internal sources of wealth to an extent they have had no experience of for at least the past half-century. They will also have to interlink their resources so as to be helpful to each other in a fashion hitherto undreamt of, to become less self-centred and selfish, in short, if their civilisation is not to disappear; and if they have to do that, how much more the Germans, against whom Prussian barbarism has closed all hearts and ports, and whose colonies have all passed away to other possessors. German bragging threats of renewed competition, of purchases, preparations, and Government action testify to their growing despair.

To many people our progress in Picardy continues to appear slow. It is really nothing of the kind, it is steady and methodical, but the battle for mastery is nowadays a battle of months instead of days, and it has its ebbs and flows—witness Verdun. What is perhaps most satisfactory about the Allied progress in Picardy is the increased mastery over the Germans shown by our aircraft. By spying out the enemy's gun-emplacements, and directing the fire of our artillery upon them, as well as by preventing his aircraft from spying over our lines, we are preparing the way for a more rapid and less bloody advance by and by with each day that passes. And no advance is made without a diligent preparation of the ground, so as to throw no lives profusely away. Sir Douglas Haig and his staff are doing as well as their French comrades, and that is praise which should leave no room for grumbling.

From all fronts, indeed, this week's news has been encouraging, and when the Macedonian advance begins—which it will not do until complete preparations have been made to ensure its success—the Austrian and Turkish Empires, at least, should soon be disposed of. The Turk, however, is more likely to continue fighting than the Austrian, provided he can get the food and ammunition, for which he has no money to pay; and as neither of these requisites can now be supplied gratis, or by "loan," from Germany—with the Arabs behind him in Arabia, the Russians pressing in on Anatolia, the British kicking him away from the Suez Canal, and the Franco-British Army about ready to shut the door opening in Europe to Constantinople—his stand cannot be prolonged. It is, however, useless to prophesy a speedy end to the conflict at any point, for on the part of the aggressors the war is now a war of desperation, and, in the minds of the Germans, a war kept at white heat by the rage of the baffled. The

plastic, undeveloped brain of the Teuton serf has been for at least two generations so assiduously kneaded and attuned to a belief in German perfections and in the German "right" under the "might" of the Prussian God of War to dominate the world, that the reality an aggression thus motivated and inspired has brought the race face to face with is well calculated to inflame the worst passions the human mind can generate.

We may, therefore, have to rely upon hunger to enable us to end the war sooner than years of mere fighting would do, and therefore it is pleasant to have Lord Robert Cecil's assurance that our blockade is now thoroughly effective. That and a poor harvest in the "Fatherland"—and the official boasting tells us that poor it is going to be—will do wonders in mental discipline for the mobs therein next winter. Furthermore, the men in all the Allied armies are better individual for individual than the Germans, animated by a nobler spirit, the bravest of the brave. But it is not on men the Prussian relies for securing a peace that will be a "let-off," a peace that may leave him at least a dominant position in Belgium and some foothold on the left bank of the Rhine, a peace he may use as a springing-off place for another war. It is on machinery, the splendid development of the iron and steel industries of Germany, with the accompanying progress in scientific tool-making, shipbuilding, gun-casting, and so forth that the deluded savage pins his faith. Germany was so masterfully great in the years of peace as to convince the inexperienced and, in human affairs, unteachable Teutonic mind that his country had attained so supreme a position in the metal industries of the world, and not least in the perfection of instruments of destruction, as to be invincible. He believes in that supremacy still, and is painfully shocked that our guns should be better, more terrible than his. The German war serfs are, for all the shock, only beginning to find out that even here they are matched, and more than matched, and as yet the truth has penetrated such a little way into

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their warped minds that the confidence, if not of the troops, at least of the nation at large, in at worst a qualified ultimate victory remains almost as unshaken as ever. Hunger, we repeat, will do more than anything else to change that confidence into a recognition of the truth, and we must therefore continue to look to the Allied fleets, and especially to the British Fleet, to render this method of conquest increasingly effective. For we desire to save the lives of as many as possible of our sons, that they may work to renew and reshape the higher ends of our imperilled civilisation, and if by starving the lust-ridden Teuton into submission we shorten the war and give back to Russia, Italy, Serbia, France, and ourselves the men now daily facing death, no means must be neglected to make the starvation complete. Nor must any killing tool or chemical poison that does not torture be put aside that may help to the same end. If gases can be found and used capable of paralysing troops in the mass or in handfuls it ought to be availed of with the most unremitting assiduity.

By the capture of Gorizia, that dazzling feat of arms, the Italians have made a great step forward towards the realisation of the national ideal, and so brilliantly have the operations been planned and carried out that the mere recital of the story sends a thrill through all her Allies in the war. Gorizia is the preliminary to Trieste, and before long the whole of Istria should be restored to the Italian nation, that and much beside. On the Eastern front the progress of the Russians also continues excellent, full of encouragement, exciting hopes of a German "round up" that even the Berlin lie office will be unable to conceal. It cannot be long now either before the effect of the Allied blows on the West begin to tell on the Prussian resisting power more visibly than they have yet done. When the Kaiser is reduced to expressing "imperial gratitude from the bottom of his heart" that his First Army was successful in the splendid achievement of "warding off an Anglo-French attack" on July 30, we can guess the extent to which the man is being humbled. It was no "attack" at all, our authorities say, but merely a reconnaissance to prospect the ground around Guillemont, that strong rabbit-warren network of defences which is only now being reduced. Operations, we judge by Friday morning's news, have also begun in the Balkans, where a measured and carefully executed advance is going to still further exhibit to the world the utter exhaustion and impotence of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. But just because its weakness has become manifest, there are people who would have us give the Habsburg a separate peace. Really it is well that the guiding of the nation's course is not left in the hands of such people.

Shipping, Present and Future.

The speculation which has been going on in certain shipping shares is to say the least of it unedifying. As the spectacle presents itself to the public at large it savours of gambling in war profits, and that is reprehensible enough in itself. People of the shrewder sort in the shipping industry resent the whole thing, because it is based on false exaggerated views of the position, and therefore designed to strengthen fictitious and erroneous ideas which are already difficult enough to combat. We hold no brief to minimise the prosperity of shipping for the time being. As a whole it has done extremely well in its nett earnings, but those are much more modest in amount than the figures published in the newspapers would at first sight incline people to believe. What is very frequently overlooked is the weight of excess profits duty, income-tax, and super-tax. The Treasury takes 60 per cent. of the excess war profits. Income-tax amounts to 5s. in the £, and super-tax imposes a considerable burden on incomes of a higher level. It is not the case that large untaxed sums are being laid aside by the shipping companies in respect of reserve, because the old statutory allowances are still in force. Make these deductions and great gaps appear in the amount of apparent profits. Pro-

bably less than a fourth of the excess war profits is passing to the companies and the shareholders. They are no doubt in a happy position in having any excess war profits at all, but it is quite a delusion to take the untaxed profits as the measure of prosperity.

Interested persons, however, have not failed to take advantage of the false impression about the great gains in shipping to promote speculation on the Stock Exchange, particularly in relation to the shares of one or two companies. This outburst, although perhaps not on a very extended scale, is ill-timed. If anyone has bought shares under the idea that the future for British shipping is smooth, he may find that his mistake may turn out to be a costly one. What will be the position when peace is restored? How long will the régime of high freights subsist? What will the economic condition of the world be after thousands of millions of capital have been consumed in war? These broad, relevant questions have to be faced, and the answers will ultimately be found in the inexorable circumstances of tangible economic fact. Some of the best-informed men connected with shipping entertain doubts and apprehensions as to the future. These may well give solemn pause to speculation.

When peace is restored new problems await solution at the hands of British shipowners as well as of the British Government. Just as millions of soldiers will pass back to civil life, so will hundreds and even thousands of our merchant ships pass from the carriage of troops and necessities of war to ordinary commercial uses. But in the meantime those ships have been subject to wear and tear. Large sums of money will in many instances have to be spent in repairs. Until recent months the Navy has monopolised the whole of the resources of our shipbuilding yards, but now a certain amount of work on merchant ships is in progress. The fact remains that our merchant service will not have been furnished with its normal replacements of old ships by new for a period of two years or more. That does not conduce to efficient economy. It deprives us of advantages which we possessed over competitors. America, the Scandinavian countries, and Holland have new or intensified ambitions to secure an increased share in the carrying trade of the world. They have amassed immense profits from the war, which may well be thrown into the scale against our shipowners in the creation of merchant fleets. We have exacted from our shipowners large contributions from their profits in the shape of war taxation. The neutral has escaped.

What rôle is German shipping to play in the competition of the future? The enemy still possesses a considerable merchant fleet, which for two years has been laid up in inactivity in German and neutral harbours. Reports come to hand that the German shipyards have not been altogether idle, and that the German Government is ready to offer its financial aid for the restoration of German merchant shipping after the war. We need not dwell on the post-war solvency of the Berlin Government, but we allude to the reports in question as a probable indication of the Teutonic aspirations. They ought to be check-mated. The Allies' representatives at the Paris Conference contemplated the imposition of restrictions on German shipping, but the details have not been developed. On this point we would make two observations. German shipowners ought not to be allowed to transfer their vessels to neutral flags, so as to escape the penalty of these restrictions. Full restitution ought to be exacted in the shape of ships, ton for ton, for Allied vessels which have been sunk in violation of the rules of war by German submarines. Those two measures would assist us to resume our normal trading routes. They would give us a certain number of additional vessels, and they would hamper the immediate investment in shipping of reserves which neutrals have accumulated largely at our expense.

As the result of the war the Chilean Nitrate Committee finds it impossible to supply the usual monthly statistics, but it appears that the total exports for July amounted to 130,033 tons, while the imports were 144,800 tons.

IRISH RAILWAYS.

	Aug. 4	£	+	£	£	£
Belfast and County Down ..	4	4,997	+	838	110,520	3,111
Grand Canal ..	4	1,061	+	6	5,470	205
Great Northern ..	4	28,385	+	986	723,473	14,423
Gt. Southern and Western ..	4	37,656	+	2,864	981,257	44,678
Midland Great Western ..	4	15,094	+	2,353	382,958	7,456

* From Jan. 1. † From July 1.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

		Rs.	+	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam Bengal ..	June 24	1,27,000	—	6,871	15,27,829	1,38,096
Bengal & N.-W. ..	July 1	3,97,570	+	39,401	59,00,465	6,10,699
Bombay Nagpur ..	8	9,84,000	+	1,55,000	1,38,49,335	24,33,751
Bombay, Baroda ..	Aug. 5	10,33,000	+	74,000	2,43,84,000	22,45,000
Burma ..	July 1	3,72,752	+	45,961	53,71,898	91,904
Delhi Umballa ..	July 29	59,200	+	1,611	11,32,598	77,549
East Indian ..	Aug. 5	19,36,000	+	1,57,000	3,96,96,000	8,07,000
Gt. Indian Penin. ..	5	15,45,300	+	3,79,200	3,63,07,567	69,88,226
Lucknow-Bareilly ..	July 1	43,682	+	1,560	6,47,961	86,851
Madras and S. ..	8	9,75,000	+	85,041	1,45,52,152	8,05,952
Mahratta ..	1	1,15,834	+	13,672	17,25,425	1,16,927
Nizam's Gd. (Broad) ..	1	72,130	+	18,649	10,04,970	66,573
(Metre) ..						
Rohilkund and ..						
Kumaon ..	1	38,726	+	1,665	6,01,000	74,448
South Indian ..	1	5,87,362	—	11,516	80,16,999	3,87,027

a 13 days. † April 1. ‡ October 1.

COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

		£	+	£	£	£
Beira ..	May *	38,734	+	10,269	—	—
Canadian Northern ..	Aug. 7	\$868,000	+	\$429,500	\$4,702,200	\$2302,000
Canadian Pacific ..	July 31	\$3,800,000	+	\$124,000	\$11,795,000	\$3900,000
Gr. Trk. Main Line ..	Aug. 7	204,691	+	42,271	5,391,282	686,767
Gr. Trk. Western ..	7	41,096	+	10,377	1,155,951	280,133
Detroit G. H. & M. ..	7	12,472	+	1,311	407,339	97,302
Gr Trk Pac Prairie Sc ..	31a	27,030	+	12,865	75,031	29,547
Mashonaland ..	May *	60,114	+	19,440	728,934	88,250
Mid. of Westn. Aus. ..	May *	6,941	+	1,146	83,158	10,632
New Cape Central ..	July 8	1,735	+	277	43,471	6,292
Rhodesia ..	May *	82,161	+	19,741	1,179,782	96,352

a 9 days. * Months. † July 1. ‡ Jan. 1. c From Oct. 1.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

		\$	+	\$	\$	\$
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	July 21	895,000	+	67,000	2,465,000	212,000
Chicago G. W. ..	21	313,000	+	21,000	873,000	53,000
Colorado & South'n ..	14	288,000	+	43,000	538,000	62,000
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	28	686,000	+	57,000	2,059,000	93,000
Louisv'e & Nashv'e ..	14	1,133,000	+	122,000	2,171,000	229,000
Minn. S.P. (Soo) ..	14	605,000	+	275,000	1,341,000	385,000
Missouri Kansas ..	21	680,000	+	110,000	2,028,000	385,000
Northern Pacific ..	14	1,576,000	+	334,000	3,018,000	664,000
Southern ..	21	1,267,000	+	87,000	3,943,000	424,000

§ Includes Wisconsin Central. † From July 1.

MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

NAME.	NETT EARNINGS FOR MONTH.			No. of Trains.	NETT EARNINGS TO DATE.	
	Month.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year.		Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year.
		Dols.	Dols.		Dols.	Dols.
Atchison T. & S. Fé ..	June	3,702,000	+ 752,000	12	43,780,000	+ 7,729,000
Atlantic Coast Line ..	"	776,000	+ 364,000	12	9,855,000	+ 2,811,000
Baltimore & Ohio ..	"	3,204,000	+ 2,000	12	32,348,000	+ 4,458,000
Canadian Northern ..	"	985,000	+ 591,700	8	8,537,800	+ 2,808,000
Canadian Pacific ..	"	3,690,000	+ 1,012,000	12	49,226,000	+ 15,651,000
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	May	1,480,000	+ 394,000	11	14,816,000	+ 4,097,000
Chicago & N.W. ..	June	2,786,000	+ 534,000	12	24,607,000	+ 4,723,000
Chicago Burl. & Q. ..	May	2,860,000	+ 1,230,000	11	37,764,500	+ 9,260,000
Chicago G.W. ..	"	246,000	+ 38,000	11	3,831,000	+ 745,000
Chicago Mil. & S.P. ..	June	1,894,000	+ 928,000	12	31,260,000	+ 6,545,000
Chicago, Rock I. & P. ..	May	1,744,000	+ 669,000	11	17,829,000	+ 2,470,000
Colorado & Southern ..	"	447,000	+ 227,000	11	5,317,000	+ 1,457,000
Cuba ..	"	681,003	+ 140,126	11	6,211,514	+ 1,462,441
Do. ..	"	261,131	+ 482	11	2,314,953	+ 626,709
Delaware & Hud. ..	"	794,000	+ 93	5	3,486,000	+ 564,000
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	"	798,000	+ 206,000	11	8,304,000	+ 2,440,000
Erie ..	June	1,727,000	+ 132,000	6	8,611,000	+ 2,321,000
Gr. Tr. Main Line ..	"	£277,450	+ £2,350	6	£1,163,650	+ £131,900
Grand Trunk Westn ..	"	£61,000	+ £34,300	6	£239,500	+ £219,800
Detroit G. H. & Mil. ..	"	£11,400	+ £15,100	6	£21,100	+ £41,200
Gt. Northern ..	May	2,505,000	+ 899,000	11	34,457,000	+ 6,214,000
Illinois Central ..	June	1,489,000	+ 1,009,000	12	14,155,000	+ 3,277,000
Kansas City Southn. ..	"	301,000	+ 162,000	12	3,660,000	+ 676,000
Lehigh Valley ..	May	1,312,000	+ 92,000	11	11,425,000	+ 1,527,000
Louisville & Nashv. ..	"	1,698,000	+ 848,000	11	16,716,000	+ 7,508,000
Minn. S.P. (Soo) ..	"	1,051,000	+ 714,000	11	12,581,000	+ 4,984,000
Miss. K. & Texas ..	"	418,000	— 63,000	11	4,706,000	— 3,538,000
Missouri Pacific ..	"	723,000	— 55,000	12	12,567,000	+ 605,000
New York Cent. & H. ..	June	5,484,000	+ 622,000	6	29,638,000	+ 11,281,000
N. Y. N. Haven & H. ..	May	2,200,000	+ 462,000	11	20,240,000	+ 4,390,000
New York Cent. & W. ..	June	272,000	+ 37,000	12	2,477,000	+ 366,000
Norfolk & Western ..	"	2,001,000	+ 442,000	12	23,232,000	+ 9,787,000
Northern Pacific ..	"	2,592,000	+ 430,000	12	31,032,000	+ 9,482,000
Pennsylvania East ..	"					
and West Lines ..	May	10,846,000	+ 4,102,000	5	40,546,000	+ 20,197,000
St. Louis & San F. ..	"	1,201,000	+ 310,000	11	12,343,000	+ 1,747,000
Seaboard Air Line ..	"	575,000	+ 108,000	11	6,524,000	+ 1,515,000
Southern ..	"	2,022,000	+ 634,000	11	19,337,000	+ 7,077,000
Southern Pacific ..	June	4,821,000	+ 1,223,000	12	48,191,000	+ 12,501,000
Union Pacific ..	May	3,986,000	+ 1,558,000	11	37,037,000	+ 9,686,000
Wabash ..	June	967,000	+ 755,000	12	10,955,000	+ 5,051,000

§ Includes Wisconsin Central. * Gross earnings. † Surplus.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—HOME.

		£	+	£	£	£
Bristol ..	Aug. 4	12,144	—	1,786	304,730	9,903
Dublin United ..	July 28	7,629	—	1,356	173,427	6,822
Hastings and Dist. ..	Aug. 4	1,622	—	171	29,864	68
Isle of Thanet ..	5	791	—	408	12,152	2,772
Lancashire United ..	2	2,061	—	252	54,337	1,499
Provincial ..	5	3,092	—	143	98,297	5,000
Yorks. (Wst. Rdng.) ..	6	2,089	—	265	55,013	4,456

* From Oct. 1. † From Jan. 1.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.

		£	+	£	Ms.	£	+	£
Anglo-Argentine ..	Aug. 5	49,487	—	1,926	1,577,878	—	—	5,149
Auckland Electric ..	June 26	21,152	+	641	253,058	—	—	4,949
Brazilian Traction ..	May 1	M4,043,000	+	M 51,020	M 18,774,000	+	+	M 727,350
Brisbane Elec. Inv. ..	Apr.	30,320	+	3,730	62,600	—	—	6,390
British Columbia ..	June 5	56,399	+	52,621	853,782	—	—	458,569
B.A. Lacroze ..	5	36,212	—	4,208	499,318	—	—	15,324
Burmah Electric ..	July 29	Rs. 3,437	—	Rs. 289	—	—	—	Rs. 3,920
Calcutta ..	Aug. 5	Rs. 72,869	+	7,043	Rs. 21,486	—	—	98,984
Cordoba Light ..	June	14,129	+	70	43,050	+	+	888
P. & T. ..	July 1	15,226	+	4,008	355,626	+	+	779,087
Hongkong ..	June 6	3,736	—	140	25,925	+	+	161
La Plata ..	May 5	15,693	+	69	75,913	+	+	1,440
Madras Electric ..	June 31c	Rs. 32,762	+	Rs. 2,272	Rs. 437,111	+	+	Rs. 31,700
Mexico ..	Nov. 5	215,256	—	108,669	31,193,106	—	—	197,227
Puebla ..	Dec. 8	40,000	—	25,600	669,500	—	—	44,590
Rangoon ..	July 8	4,357	—	272	28,089	—	—	1,436
Singapore Electric ..	May 20	13,139	—	1,897	247,259	+	+	29,716
Toronto ..	July 3	438,997	+	65,932	1,693,709	+	+	198,311
United of Monte V. ..	July	25,220	—	59	266,288	—	—	14,435
Vera Cruz ..	Mar.	73,500	—	32,300	203,900	—	—	103,200
Winnipeg ..	June 5	87,571	—	2,926	630,508	—	—	8,864

b 28 days. * From Jan. 1. § Nett. a From July 1. c Two weeks.

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.				Wks.	GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.	
	Week ending	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	Amount		In. or dec. on last year.	
		£		£		£	
Alcoy and Gandia ..	Aug. 5	Ps. 8,000	—	Ps. 300	†	Ps. 437,900	+ Ps. 38,700
Antofagasta (Chili) ..	6	36,155	+	6,895	†	1,635,825	+ 320,120
Arauco ..	June	10,000	+	4,337	†	144,138	+ 16,316
Argentine N.E. ..	Aug. 5	6,800	+	926	†	31,702	+ 1,116
Bilbao R. and Canta ..	June *	4,325	+	669	†	24,777	+ 1,796
Bolivar ..	"	7,000	—	1,339	†	109,372	+ 23,089
Brazil ..	"	M3,864,000	+	M32,770	†	M 2263,800	+ M694,580
Brazil Gt. Southern ..	Apr. *	Mis. 32,750	—	M3,300	†	M 69,250	+ M4,200
B. Ayres & Pacific ..	Aug. 5	89,000	—	3,000	†	430,000	+ 16,000
Do. Gt. South'n ..	"	99,000	+	22,000	†	500,254	+ 69,346
Do. Western ..	"	49,000	+	4,000	†	242,000	+ 4,000
Central Argentine ..	"	112,000	+	11,000	†	563,900	+ 73,100
C. Ur'g'ay of Mts V. ..	"	10,250	—	398	†	57,188	+ 188
Do. East'n Ex. ..	"	2,992	—	339	†	19,458	+ 1,666
Do. North'n Ex. ..	"	1,443	+	5	†	9,090	+ 800
Do. West'n Ex. ..	"	1,336	+	4	†	7,859	+ 432
Colombian National ..	June *	11,840	+	946	†	65,500	+ 7,188
Cordoba Central ..	Aug. 5	36,800	+	775	†	193,900	+ 11,275
Costa Rica ..	May 20	5,413	—	986	†	251,583	+ 50,728
Cuban Central ..	Aug. 5	9,440	+	2,808	†	48,528	+ 5,809
Dorada Extension ..	July *	9,600	+	1,100	†	54,500	+ 1,500
Egyptian Delta ..	"	4,423	—	152	†	48,153	+ 9,051
Entre Rios ..	Aug. 5	10,900	+	2,200	†	62,600	+ 14,400
French Sante Fé ..	May	94,572	+	4,945	†	443,607	+ 71,319
Gt. South. of Spain ..	July 29	Ps. 74,211	+	Ps. 5,584	†	Ps. 1,012,294	+ Ps. 355,289
Gt. West. of Brazil ..	Aug. 5	7,600	+	1,100	†	280,200	+ 34,800
Havana Central ..	July 29	5,560	—	509	†	23,590	+ 942
Inter. of C. Amer. ..	May *	37,809	+	16,495	†	180,392	+ 71,429
La Guaira and Car. ..	June *	15,250	+	2,000	†	49,250	+ 7,000
Leopoldina ..	Aug. 5	29,522	+	720	†	667,448	+ 223,783
Manila (Nr. & Sth.) ..	"	7,735	+	918	†	306,061	+ 2,614
Midland Uruguay ..	June	11,796	+	2,346	†	124,302	+ 11,193
Mogyana ..	May	M1,492,000	+	M277,000	†	M 6,639,000	+ M125,900
N. W. of Uruguay ..	June *	825,500	+	3,386	†	2,688,127	+ 334,844
Nitrate ..	July 31b	29,898	+	9,553	†	621,664	+ 208,289
Paraguay Central ..	Aug. 5	3,000	—	1,020	†	15,240	+ 5,280
Paulista ..	May *	M1,500,000	+	M126,000	†	M 9,400,000	+ M101,000
Peruvian Corp'n ..	July *	583,430	+	510,592	†	510,798,927	+ 51,543,84
Salvador ..	Aug. 5	21,500	+	592	†	1,098,828	+ 85,370
S. Paulo (Brazilian) ..	July 30	40,615	—	3,428	†	736,053	+ 69,585
Sorocabana ..	May *	M1,269,000	+	M23,000	†	M 6,960,000	+ M292,000
Taital ..	June *	21,143	+	10,643	†	225,909	+ 93,023
United of Havana ..	Aug. 5	28,831	+	3,877	†	152,041	+ 20,534
West'n of Havana ..	"	5,758	+	484	†	30,116	+ 1,485
Zafra and Huelva ..	May *	11,359	+	3,806	†	57,758	+ 21,572

SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1824.

FUNDS OVER £10,500,000.

FIRE (INCLUDING LOSS OF PROFITS), LIFE, ACCIDENT, ILLNESS, ANNUITIES, PENSIONS, LEASEHOLD, BURGLARY, CLASS BREAKAGE, TRANSIT OF SECURITIES, FIDELITY, PROPERTY OWNERS' LIABILITIES, HORSE DRIVING ACCIDENTS, MOTOR CAR RISKS, THIRD PARTY, EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY AND MARINE INSURANCES EFFECTED ON THE MOST FAVOURABLE TERMS.

Edinburgh: 35, St. Andrew Square.

London: 5, Walbrook, E.C., and 5, Pall Mall, S.W.

PHENIX ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1782.

Head Office: PHENIX HOUSE, KING WILLIAM STREET, LONDON, E.C.

Total Assets Exceed £16,000,000.

Claims Paid Exceed £94,000,000.

Chairman—RT. HON. LORD GEORGE HAMILTON, P.C., G.C.S.I.

FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT. MARINE.

Loss of Profits following Fire, Workmen's Compensation, Fidelity Guarantee, Burglary, Trustee and Executor, &c.

Prospectuses and Proposal Forms may be obtained on application to any of Branch Offices or Agencies, or to the Head Offices.

General Manager - SIR GERALD H. RYAN.

THE LIVERPOOL & LONDON & GLOBE INSURANCE CO., LTD.

FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT. MARINE.

ASSETS EXCEED £14,400,000.

Head Offices:
1, Dale Street, Liverpool.

London Chief Offices:
1, Cornhill, E.C.

The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 6 PER CENT. (Increased from 5 per cent. on Thursday, July 13.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

When money and discount rates fluctuate so faintly that, in military language, a "range-finder" would almost be required to distinguish the changes of one day from another, there is not much to be written about Money markets. Some days the intimation is that the "turnover" is bigger, sometimes it would appear that nobody wants any credit, and, generally speaking, there is so little doing in the open discount market as to put the most picturesque descriptive writer to utter rout. The only influence ruffling it this week has been the offering of some Russian credit bills. Otherwise rates incline downwards.

All the week day-to-day money has been $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 per cent. and seven-day loans no more than 5 per cent., or $4\frac{3}{4}$ to 5 per cent. Sixty-day bank bills, too, have been quoted at $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and three months at $5\frac{3}{8}$ per cent., fine trade paper being just $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. higher for both usances. Treasury bills have also remained steady at $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for three months', $5\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. for six months', and 6 per cent. for nine months' paper. What has been done in bullion at the Bank of England is now quite rightly hidden, so we can serve no good purpose in speculating on the effect of the state of foreign exchanges upon our power to attract or retain gold. The weekly return, however, continues interesting, although we are no longer able to say

within an approach to certainty how or why the stock of gold rises or falls. For the past week there is an increase of £1,666,000 in the coin and bullion held, but whether it comes from the internal circulation or from foreign parts, we cannot say. The fact, however, that the note circulation has contracted by £511,000, points to the probability that at least some portion of the gold increase is also money withdrawn from circulation. Against that view may be put the fact that there is now little or no gold in the hands of the public, its place having been taken by notes. As the revenue figures partly show, the Government's borrowings last week exceeded its spendings, and there is consequently an increase of £3,615,000 in the public deposits, which are £54,625,000. A year ago the total was nearly £143,000,000, and we wonder if Mr. McKenna is alert enough to draw inferences of a warning description from this change.

Coupons of the 5 per cent. French (London) Loan now due will be paid at the sterling rate of Fr.28 20c. per £1. Coupons must be lodged at the dividend pay office, and will be payable at the expiration of not less than three clear days from the day of presentation. They cannot in any circumstances be withdrawn after they have been lodged for payment.

It was announced in the beginning of the week by Reuter's Agency that the Government of New Zealand is about to issue £8,000,000 of the total of £12,000,000 which was authorised during a recent session of Parliament. What the terms are we do not yet know.

According to the official statement for the week ended August 9, currency notes amounting to £3,345,785 in £1 and £1,235,751 10s. in 10s. notes were issued, against which £2,675,644 in £1 and £1,053,533 in 10s. notes were cancelled. There was therefore an increase of £852,339 10s. in the amount outstanding at a total of £118,696,767 10s., made up of £90,369,004 in £1 notes and £28,327,763 10s. in 10s. notes. During the same period currency note certificates for £260,000 were issued, and £100,000 were cancelled, so that the amount outstanding was increased to £9,990,000. There is also an investment reserve account of £2,379,050 5s. 2d. Against these £28,500,000 is held in gold, £94,702,055 14s. 2d. in Government securities, and £7,723,762 1s. at the Bank of England, while £104,000 has been advanced to bankers other than Scottish and Irish banks of issue, and £36,000 to the Trustee Savings Bank.

Some life has been visible in the Silver market, which began the week flat, or at least tending that way. From being sellers, however, the Indian dealers turned buyers, and the consequence was that the price of silver bars went up almost $\frac{1}{2}$ d., or from $31\frac{1}{2}$ d. to $31\frac{3}{4}$ d. per oz., but there was subsequently a reaction, which brought the quotation back to $31\frac{3}{4}$ d.

It has been decided by the Secretary of State for India that, whenever the Government of India sell deferred telegraphic transfers on London, payable 16 days from date of issue, the payees will be allowed to obtain from the Accountant-General at the India Office bills payable at the Bank of England 15 days after date without days of grace.

Applications for the Rs. 30,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 4,85,000 in bills, Rs. 1,58,80,000 in deferred telegraphic transfers, and Rs. 1,52,75,000 in immediate telegraphic transfers. Of these Rs. 6,000 were allotted in bills, Rs. 17,04,000 in deferred transfers, and Rs. 12,89,000 in immediate transfers, tenders for bills and deferred transfers at 1s. 4 3/4d. and for immediate transfers at 1s. 4 1/8d. receiving about 56 per cent. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is again Rs. 30,00,000.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, August 9, 1916.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued	£ 73,025,870	Government Debt	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	54,575,870
		Silver Bullion	—
	£73,025,870		£73,025,870

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 42,188,110
Reserve	3,484,719	Other Securities	80,642,144
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts) ..	54,625,309	Notes	36,879,055
Other Deposits	88,980,712	Gold and Silver Coins ..	1,974,937
Seven Day and other Bills ..	31,506		
	£161,684,246		£161,684,246

Dated Aug. 10, 1916.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year.

Last year. Aug. 11.		Aug. 2, 1916.	Aug. 9, 1916.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,503,490	Rest	3,410,042	3,484,719	74,677	—
144,604,347	Pub. Deposits ..	51,009,979	54,625,309	3,615,330	—
85,075,819	Other do. ..	85,517,391	88,989,712	3,472,321	—
38,616	7 Day Bills ..	31,924	31,506	—	418
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
45,915,039	Gov. Securities ..	42,188,361	42,188,110	251	—
148,135,566	Other do. ..	75,657,166	80,642,144	4,984,978	—
51,724,667	Total Reserve ..	36,676,809	38,853,992	2,177,183	—
				7,162,579	7,162,579
				Increase.	Decrease.
56,310,911	Note Circulation	36,657,625	36,146,825	—	510,810
65,738,047	Coin and Bullion	54,884,434	56,550,807	1,666,373	—
22½ p.c.	Proportion ..	26.9 p.c.	27.0 p.c.	0.1 p.c.	—
5 "	Bank Rate ..	6 "	6 "	—	—

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1916.	1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
January	1,071,948,000	918,685,000	153,263,000	—
February	1,107,655,000	960,743,000	146,912,000	—
March	1,364,599,000	1,231,392,000	133,207,000	—
April	1,090,356,000	976,264,000	114,092,000	—
May	1,447,416,000	1,164,194,000	283,222,000	—
June	1,147,630,000	960,209,000	187,421,000	—
July	340,561,000	300,466,000	40,095,000	—
" 12	319,832,000	289,141,000	30,691,000	—
" 19	290,135,000	394,307,000	—	104,172,000
" 26	288,665,000	332,781,000	—	44,116,000
August 2	290,541,000	260,768,000	29,773,000	—
" 9	281,203,000	273,843,000	7,360,000	—
Total ..	9,040,541,000	8,062,793,000	977,748,000	—

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For 7 days ended Aug. 5.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
Customs	National Debt Service ..
Excise	Interest, &c., on War Debt ..
Estate, &c., Duties ..	Development & Road Impvt.
Stamps	Payments to Local Taxation
Land Tax and House Duty.	Other Consolidated Fund
Property and Income Tax ..	Charges
Excess Profits Tax	Supply Services
Land Values	Bullion Advances
Post Office	For Advance for Interest
Crown Lands	on Exchequer Bonds under
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	Capital Expenditure
Miscellaneous	(Money) Act, 1904
Bullion advances repaid ..	For Treasury Bills (nettamt.)
For Treasury Bills (nett amt.)	For Exchequer Bonds issued
War Loan, 1925-8	under the War Loan Re-
War Loan, 1925-45	demption Act, 1910
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919 ..	Issues under Section 1 of
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920 ..	War Loan Act, 1915
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1921 ..	Under Telegraph (Money)
War Expenditure Certificates	Act, 1913
War Savings Certificates ..	Under Post Office (Lon-
Other Debts created under	don) Railway Act, 1913
War Loan Act, 1915	Under Housing Act
Telegraph Money Act, 1913	Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8 ..
Under Post Office Rly. Act,	Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11 ..
1913	E. Africa Protectorate Loan
Under Military Works Acts,	Cunard Loan repayment is-
1897-1903	ued to reduce debt under
Under Housing Act	the Cunard Agreement
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920	Deficiency advances repaid
East Africa Protectorate	China Indemnity issued to
Loan repayments	reduce debt under Finance
Cunard Loan—repayment on	Act, 1903
account of principal	Ways and Means Advances
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	repaid
China Indemnity	Increase in Exchequer
Ways and Means Advances	balances
Decrease in Exchequer	
balances	
£53,138,201	£53,138,201

FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	July 21, 1916.	July 14, 1916.	July 7, 1916.
	£	£	£
Gold coin and certificates ..	52,409,800	53,920,400	52,248,400
Gold Redemption Fund ..	386,270	394,000	402,200
Gold Settlement Fund ..	19,912,200	23,726,200	24,520,000
Legal tender notes, silver, &c.	2,760,400	2,055,800	7,376,400
Total reserves	75,468,600	80,096,400	84,547,000
5% redemption fund against			
F.R. bank notes	90,000	90,000	90,000
10-day bills and loans ..	3,432,600	2,122,600	1,593,400
30-day bills and loans ..	5,348,000	5,151,000	4,158,800
60-day bills and loans ..	7,260,400	7,088,200	6,333,200
90-day bills and loans ..	6,024,200	5,746,000	5,458,400
Maturities over 90 days ..	798,600	911,800	882,400
Total	22,865,800	21,019,600	18,426,200
Investments—			
U.S. Bonds	9,949,200	10,517,800	10,517,800
One year U.S. Treasury			
notes	1,438,000	909,200	909,200
Municipal Warrants ..	5,544,600	5,484,800	5,047,200
Federal Reserve notes—nett.	4,002,800	4,152,000	4,822,600
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—			
nett.	2,396,400	4,011,200	4,084,400
All other assets	951,200	1,648,800	828,000
Total assets	122,704,600	127,929,500	129,272,400
Paid-up capital	11,036,600	11,035,200	10,971,600
Government Deposits ..	10,855,400	19,495,200	22,884,000
Reserve deposits—nett. ..	98,400,000	94,988,400	93,029,400
Note circulation—nett. ..	2,024,000	2,019,600	1,998,400
Fed. Res. notes in circulation	338,400	344,000	344,200
All other liabilities	50,200	47,400	44,800
Total liabilities	122,704,600	127,929,800	129,272,400
Gold reserve against nett			
liabilities	68.8%	69.4%	67.8%
Cash reserve against nett			
liabilities	69.3%	71.2%	74.3%

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	Aug. 5, 1916	July 29, 1916	July 22, 1916	Aug. 7, 1915
	£	£	£	£
Loans	643,452,000	637,518,000	635,600,000	519,046,000
Reserve held in own Vaults ..	85,206,000	85,540,000	84,740,000	88,900,000
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk.	33,098,000	32,754,000	32,650,000	26,346,000
Reserve held in Other Depos.	10,154,000	10,564,000	10,560,000	6,968,000
Net Demand Deposits ..	618,352,000	624,438,000	622,820,000	510,538,000
Net Time Deposits	47,074,000	36,756,000	36,808,000	28,914,000
Circulation	6,250,000	6,290,000	6,290,000	7,496,000
Excess Lawful Reserve ..	21,800,000	21,340,000	20,772,000	33,840,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits.

NEW YORK STATE BANKS & TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.).

	Aug. 5, 1916.	July 29, 1916.	July 22, 1916.	Aug. 7, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Loans	141,876,000	143,256,000	144,722,000	117,772,000
Specie	11,986,000	12,022,000	12,080,000	9,858,000
Deposits	149,792,000	150,854,000	151,466,000	121,674,000
Legal Tenders	1,752,000	1,822,000	1,830,000	1,706,000

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Aug. 10, 1916.	Aug. 3, 1916.	July 27, 1916.	Aug. 12, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold in hand	191,933,840	191,727,650	191,460,520	172,890,960
Silver in hand	13,538,440	13,562,480	13,581,800	14,713,840
Bills discounted	17,128,360	18,669,520	17,971,360	10,789,080
Advances	47,471,240	47,587,400	47,668,400	23,787,760
Note circulation	653,196,920	647,869,200	643,635,720	523,032,120
Public deposits	5,500,160	3,100,040	3,017,200	3,595,640
Private deposits	85,173,200	86,332,920	90,930,680	94,619,440
Foreign Bills	65,680	61,640	70,360	69,280

Proportion between bullion and circulation 31.45 per cent., against 31.72 per cent. last week. Advances to the State £336,000,000, increase £4,000,000. The adjourned payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium amounted to £26,057,240, decrease £181,200, and at the branches to £31,170,800, decrease £107,200.

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	July 31, 1916.	July 22, 1916.	July 15, 1916.	July 31, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Total Coin & Bullion ..	124,852,200	124,891,150	124,839,600	122,260,550
Treasury Notes	20,804,130	28,421,400	20,973,400	12,869,700
Bills discounted	327,100,050	304,582,000	320,836,250	239,229,250
Advances	636,550	613,600	647,750	852,000
Note circulation	351,228,200	342,014,650	346,981,650	276,908,200
Deposits	119,779,750	119,150,450	119,269,550	82,580,200

Clearing House returns during June, £257,755,660 against £276,664,805 in May

IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Aug. 5, 1916.	July 29, 1916.	July 21, 1916.	Aug. 5, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Notes in reserve	7,710,000	11,180,000	10,340,000	5,553,300
Gold	154,600,000	154,740,000	154,570,000	158,235,200
Gold in reserve abroad ..	186,760,000	186,800,000	186,770,000	9,008,600
Treasury Bonds	389,900,000	376,220,000	380,710,000	—
Circulation note issue ..	681,280,000	675,310,000	671,160,000	394,500,000
Treasury deposits	21,570,000	21,000,000	20,410,000	20,348,400

NETHERLANDS BANK (12 Florins to the £).

	Aug. 5, 1916.	July 29, 1916	July 22, 1916	Aug. 7, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold and Silver	49,825,166	49,304,333	49,303,100	31,405,654
Bills and Advances	12,659,833	10,535,083	10,384,583	13,243,278
Note circulation	55,833,333	55,381,666	54,298,416	42,464,618
Deposits	9,503,166	7,437,000	8,626,166	2,992,143

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	July 29, 1916	July 22, 1916	July 15, 1916	July 31, 1915
Gold	£ 43,652,687	£ 42,979,700	£ 42,654,787	£ 27,925,355
Silver	30,612,301	30,491,191	30,430,581	29,775,711
Foreign Bills ..	3,836,301	3,877,271	3,835,376	4,950,786
Discounts and Short Bills ..	23,312,826	23,592,286	23,630,659	26,914,881
Treasury Account, &c. ..	30,391,184	30,447,620	32,659,602	30,976,708
Notes in Circulation ..	88,435,166	88,374,299	88,657,131	80,035,928
Current Accounts, Deposits	30,879,670	30,813,008	31,915,696	26,549,191
Dividends, Interests, &c. ..	1,852,460	2,160,130	2,151,888	2,259,968
Government Securities ..	912,084	985,745	1,148,029	3,697,119

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	June 30, 1916	June 20, 1916	June 10, 1916	May 31, 1916
Total cash	£ 45,005,320	£ 45,121,040	£ 45,231,720	£ 45,573,920
Inland Bills	17,957,920	17,316,880	16,726,800	16,749,800
Foreign Bills	833,720	841,360	834,360	836,120
Advances	8,421,580	8,289,720	8,325,400	8,969,400
Government securities ..	8,439,960	8,559,160	8,334,360	8,345,320
Circulation	135,162,600	130,097,160	126,598,560	123,593,000
Deposits at notice ..	17,913,640	14,207,720	13,674,880	12,342,200
Current accounts ..	15,366,800	16,096,480	18,332,280	18,374,600

BANK OF SWEDEN.

	July 29, 1916.	July 22, 1916.	July 15, 1916.	July 31, 1915.
Gold	£ 9,217,000	£ 9,218,000	£ 9,221,000	£ 6,300,000
Balance abroad and				
Foreign Bills	8,863,000	8,862,000	9,117,000	4,907,000
Swedish and Foreign				
Govt. Securities ..	3,837,000	3,848,000	3,455,000	2,782,000
Discounts and Loans ..	2,909,000	3,145,000	3,130,000	2,769,000
Notes in circulation ..	17,568,000	17,349,000	17,907,000	15,342,000
Deposits at notice ..	6,300,000	6,624,000	6,095,000	4,922,000

SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	July 31, 1916	July 22, 1916.	July 15, 1916.	July 31, 1915.
Gold and silver ..	£ 13,304,188	£ 13,359,680	£ 13,306,268	£ 11,867,688
Bills	6,147,092	5,285,884	6,940,956	6,291,308
Note circulation ..	17,022,928	16,275,284	16,515,284	16,406,900
Current and deposit				
accounts	4,522,408	4,448,516	6,051,740	3,725,596

BANK OF NORWAY.

	July 31, 1916.	July 22, 1916.	July 15, 1916.	July 31, 1915.
Gold	£ 6,326,000	£ 6,326,000	£ 6,579,000	£ 3,420,000
Balance abroad and				
Foreign Bills	6,461,000	6,156,000	5,570,000	3,517,000
Gov't Securities ..	767,000	767,000	762,000	636,000
Discounts & Loans ..	4,783,000	5,020,000	5,518,000	4,852,000
Notes in Circulation ..	11,864,000	11,807,000	12,077,000	7,912,000
Deposits at notice ..	4,053,000	3,992,000	3,871,000	1,392,000

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.
Paris	chqs.	28.13½	28.15	Antwerp	short	—	—
Brussels	chqs.	—	—	Italy	sight	30.75	30.77
Amsterdam ..	sight	11.52½	11.52½	Constantinople	3 mths	—	—
Berlin	chqs.	—	—	Rio de Janeiro.	90 dys	12½ d.	12½ d.
Hamburg	chqs.	—	—	Buenos Aires ..	90 dys	48½ d.	48½ d.
Vienna	sight	—	—	Calcutta	T.T.	1/4 d.	1/4 d.
Petrograd	3 mths	156½	156½	Bombay	T.T.	1/4 d.	1/4 d.
New York	cable	4.76½	4.76½	Hong Kong	T.T.	2/16 d.	2/16 d.
Lisbon	sight	35½	35½	Shanghai	T.T.	2/16 d.	2/16 d.
Madrid	sight	23.47½	23.65	Singapore	T.T.	2/16 d.	2/16 d.
				Yokohama	4 mths	2/16 d.	2/16 d.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Aug. 8, 1916.		Aug. 10, 1916.	
		Sellers.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Buyers.
Amsterdam ..	Cable transfers ..	11.50	11.53	11.50	11.53
"	Three months' bills ..	11.65	11.70	11.65	11.70
Paris	Cable transfers ..	28.11	28.16	28.13	28.17
"	Three months' bills ..	28.50	28.55	28.53	28.57
Marseilles ..	Three months' bills ..	28.50	28.55	28.53	28.57
Switzerland ..	Cable transfers ..	25.20	25.26	25.20	25.26
"	Three months' bills ..	25.55	25.65	25.55	25.65
Petrograd ..	Cable transfers ..	156½	157½	156½	157½
Genoa, &c. ..	Cable transfers ..	30.75	30.85	31.20	31.30
"	Three months' bills ..	31.20	31.30	32.60	32.70
Spain	Cable transfers ..	23.57	23.65	48	48½
"	Three months' bills ..	48½	48½	35	35½
Lisbon and Oporto	Cable transfers ..	35½	36	16.85	16.95
"	Three months' bills ..	nom.	nom.	nom.	nom.
Scandinavia ..	Cable transfers ..	16.80	16.90	16.50	16.60

* Nominal

TREASURY BILLS.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months	5½	5½
Six months	5½	5½
Nine months	—	—
Twelve months	6	6

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted	5½	5½
Three months	5½	5½
Four months	5½	5½
Six months	5½	5½
Three months fine inland bills	6—6½	6—6½
Four months	6½	6½
Six months	6½—6½	6½—6½

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	6	6
" short loan rates	6½	6½
Bankers' rate on deposits	4	4
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	4½	4½
" 7 and 14 days' notice	4½	4½
Current rates for 7 day loans	4½—5	4½—5
" for call loans	4½—5	4½—5

The Week's Stock Markets.

Nothing much need be said about stock markets this week. In the last day or two the tone has become decidedly cheerful owing to the splendid progress of the Russian and Italian armies and the less spectacular, but equally effective, hammer blows on the Western front. Dealers have been asking how much longer the pitiable and pitiless Habsburg Empire can hold out, and they have answered the question by putting up prices. Another incentive to hopefulness was found in the favourable figures of the Bank return, and Mr. McKenna's somewhat smug complacency over our war expenditure also had a reassuring effect. But withal it has not brought much grist to the Stock Exchange mill. After the Saturday holiday (which is to be repeated throughout this month) the accumulation of orders did not lead to the marking of 3,000 bargains, and the daily record has been lower since. Of course, it must be remembered that we are now in the midst of the holiday season, when business is always slack unless there is a first magnitude boom in progress, instead of which we have only the feeble splutters of rather damp squibs. Here and there a group of shares are taken in hand and carried along with great enthusiasm for a few days or weeks, but there is not much sustained support, and cannot be while dealings are on a cash basis and Government borrowing proceeds at such a pace. Already the shipping boom has boiled over, and the sharp break in Royal Mails may be regarded as a useful danger signal. Meat shares came into temporary prominence, and no doubt several of the companies are making very handsome profits, but it is always imprudent to buy on the strength of one or two good years, and meat companies will prove no exception to the rule. Conditions will be very different when five million hungry men have to find their own food instead of having it found for them by a paternal Government. Elsewhere the arbitration agreement between the United States and Mexico has had a favourable influence on Yankees, especially as it is reported that further large munition contracts have been placed in America, but prices of the leading securities are not tempting except to sellers, and moreover the Government has now control of most of the stock. We must just wait patiently a little longer till we see our way more clearly, and meantime be thankful that all goes well for the Allies on every front.

With the highly encouraging war news and slightly easier monetary conditions the Stock Exchange has been in a decidedly bullish frame of mind, and all it wants is more business to keep the pot a-boiling. Unfortunately, with holidays in full swing, and all interest concentrated on the various phases of the fighting on the different fronts, we are in the doldrums so far as dealings are concerned, and there seems little prospect of much improvement in this respect for some time to come. Under the lead of Consols and the War Loan, however, the gilt-edged market, after being depressed, has improved a substantial fraction nearly all round, and the issue of the New South Wales 5½ per cent. loan had no effect except locally. Consols gained as much as ¼, and the 4½ per cent. War Loan ½, but some of the other leading securities only managed to regain last week's level. Colonials have moved within narrow limits, and leave off without much change on balance. Very little of interest has occurred in the Foreign Bond section, and as a rule prices have been just steady. Belgian 3 per cent. lost a fraction, while, curiously enough, German Threes are up ¼, probably on purchases by refugees in neutral countries. Cuban Ports have gained a point, and Egyptian Unified is a fraction higher. Japanese and Russians

have been steady, but Portuguese have lost a little ground. Peruvians and Uruguays have been firm.

Now that the interim Home Railway dividends are complete the mild ripple of interest they created has almost vanished, but the market has been firm and confident. Great Westerns and North-Westerns have each put on $\frac{3}{4}$, and Caledonian ordinary, Great Central preferred, Great Northern deferred, Great Eastern, Brighton deferred, Midland de-

to make any headway, and Grand Trunks have been left practically unchanged. Argentine Rails have been steady without attracting much interest. Mexicans rallied fairly well on the more hopeful outlook, and Leopoldinas displayed some strength.

Bank shares have displayed a weak tendency, but they have been pushed too hard recently, probably because they are getting more and more control of the small investment business of the country, and often have opportunities of recommending their own shares to prospective purchasers. Bank of Australasia lost $\frac{1}{2}$, Barclay "B" $\frac{1}{2}$, (Chartered of India $\frac{1}{2}$, Lloyds $\frac{1}{2}$, London River Plate $\frac{1}{2}$ and Parr's $\frac{1}{2}$. Shipping shares have lost a good deal of their animation, and a sharp break in Royal Mails rather put a damper on the market. Meat shares came into strong favour, British and Argentine and Smithfields being particularly prominent. Among miscellaneous shares, British Oil and Cake also had a good following. Textile shares were dull, and Coats, English Sewing Cotton, and a few others fell back a little, but Bradford Dyers and Calico Printers were a shade harder. Breweries were firm, as several of the reports now being issued are better than expected. Guinness jumped 20 to 270, and Bass and Watney Combe preferred ordinary each gained a fraction. In the Land group, Forestral advanced smartly and Nigers were in strong request, but leave off below the best. Hudson's Bays eased off a trifle. Less interest was taken in the Engineering section, and almost the only movements of importance were sharp gains in Dominion Steel and Steel Company of Canada. Miscellaneous Industrials were rather a blank market, but Salt Unions received some support and are a fraction to the good.

Oil shares have been quiet and neglected, with scarcely any movement in the leading shares, such as Shells, Royal Dutch, Mexican Eagles, &c. Burmahs improved a little, and carried British Burmahs with them, while Bakus and Russian Petroleum were firm on the reports. Anglo-Egyptians, Anglo-Maikops, New Caucasians, North Caucasians, and Premier Oils were all lower, but Kern Rivers were the turn harder. Among Rubber shares, interest has been mainly confined to Java descriptions, Anglo-Javas, East Javas, Kawies, and Djembars all being in strong request. Indian and Ceylon estates have been rather out of favour, owing to recent returns being unsatisfactory in some cases. Jugras improved on the excellent report, and United Sua Betongs, Sialings, Linggis, Johore Rubber Lands, Sumatra Consolidated, Sungei Kruit, and others were well supported and showed considerable strength. Business, however, has been on a small scale all round, in spite of the stimulus imparted by the recovery in the raw material.

LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

SUGAR.—No alteration was made in official quotations, and arrivals coming to hand pass readily into consumption, while distributors experience difficulty in meeting demands. Canadian and American granulated, spot, 41s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Stocks in the three chief ports of the U.K. total 51,000 tons, against 72,000 same time last year. U.K. consumption for last month, 119,800 tons, against 145,300 last year.

COFFEE.—Spot transactions during the greater part of the week partook of retail proportions, but reserve on the part of importers helped to keep prices at a steady level. Terminal market disclosed a quiet state of affairs. September, sold, 46s.; December, 48s. 3d. to 48s.; March, 48s. 9d. to 49s. 3d.

COCOA.—Market firm, and a moderate inquiry prevailed. No auctions were held this week. Imports during July, 179,700 cwts., against 206,600 last year. Consumption, 32,900, against 77,000 cwts. in 1915.

TEA.—Generally fair competition existed at public sale, both with regard to Indian and Ceylon, but while the finer grades ruled steady, common and poor liquoring descriptions were distinctly weaker. During the week 26,000 packages India, 31,000 packages Ceylon, and 5,000 packages Java were submitted.

SPICES.—Pepper firm, though quiet. Black Singapore, September-November steamer, sold, 73d.; white, ditto, 93d.; and Muntok, 91d. Fair Zanzibar cloves, spot, were dealt in at 63d.; August-October delivery, 67d. Tapioca fully steady in value, though business is still kept down.

RICE.—More activity was shown, and rates ruled firm. No. 2 cleaned Rangoon, spot, sold, 16s. 3d., and Siam, broken, 13s. 9d. to 14s. Beans firmer. September-October, Rangoon, sold, 120 10s.

FIBRES.—Business proceeded quietly, but in the absence of any undue pressure to sell rates moved steadily. Coarse, August-October, sold, 48s.; and October-December, 47 10s. New Zealand nominal. Jute firm, but at the same time quiet. Diamond grade, August, Dundee, sold, 37 5s.; native firsts, September, ditto, 30 15s.; and October, 30.

SHELLAC.—After being active and stronger, the market became unsettled. T.N. fair, on spot, sold, 122s.; August, 121s., 122s., 120s. 6d., and 122s.; October, 122s., 124s. 6d., 122s., and 124s.; December, 125s., 127s., 124s., and 126s. 6d.

RUBBER.—Moderate support was accorded, and more steadiness ensued as only comparatively small supplies continue to reach brokers' counters. Crepe, spot, sold, 2s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 2s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; October-December, 2s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 2s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Ribbed smoked sheet, spot, sold, 2s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 2s. 4d. Fine hard Para, spot, 2s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 2s. 11d.

COPRA.—Very quiet features continued in this market, and quotations ruled nominally unaltered in most instances.

CORN (Mark Lane).—Enhanced freights and crop damage reported from America are mainly responsible for the general

	Last Week	This Week		Last Week	This Week
Consols.....	58 $\frac{1}{2}$	59 $\frac{1}{2}$	N.S.W. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1922-7	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$
War Loan 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	" 5% 1921-3	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$
India 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	96	New Zealand 4%	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$
" 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	60 $\frac{1}{2}$	60 $\frac{1}{2}$	Queensland 4%	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	86
Australian 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1920-22	70 $\frac{1}{2}$	70 $\frac{1}{2}$	" 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % new	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$
Canada 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1940-60	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	Union of S. Africa 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	95
" 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1920-5	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	" 1920-5	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$
N.S.W. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	Victoria 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1920-5	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$
" 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 5-yr. b	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	Westn. Aus. 4%	83 $\frac{1}{2}$	83 $\frac{1}{2}$
Belgian 3%	63	62 $\frac{1}{2}$	French War Loan, 5% ..	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$
Brazil, 1913	67	67	Japan 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % (1st)	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$
" New Funding	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	81 $\frac{1}{2}$	" (2nd)	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$
Chinese 1896	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	Russia 4%	71 $\frac{1}{2}$	71 $\frac{1}{2}$
" 1913	75 $\frac{1}{2}$	75 $\frac{1}{2}$	" 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	80 $\frac{1}{2}$
Egypt Unified 4%	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	" 5%	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$
Brighton defd.	65	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	London and S.-W. dfd. ..	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$
Caledonian defd.	10	10	" Do. new pf.	100	100
Chatham ord.	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	Metropolitan	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$
Gt. Central pf.	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	" Do. 5% New pf.	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$
" dfd.	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	Met. District	19	18 $\frac{1}{2}$
Gt. Eastern	39 $\frac{1}{2}$	39 $\frac{1}{2}$	Midland dfd.	61 $\frac{1}{2}$	61 $\frac{1}{2}$
Gt. Northern dfd.	40	39 $\frac{1}{2}$	Nth. British dfd.	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
Gt. Western	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	99	Nth.-Eastern	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lancs. and Yorks.	74 $\frac{1}{2}$	73 $\frac{1}{2}$	Nth.-Western	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$
			Sth.-Eastern dfd.	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	29
Canadian Pacific	187 $\frac{1}{2}$	107	Chesapeake	63	64 $\frac{1}{2}$
" Do. 6% Notes	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	Eric	37	38 $\frac{1}{2}$
E. Indian Guar. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % debts.	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	" Milwaukee	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
Grand Trunk ord.	12	12	" N. Y. Central	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	110 $\frac{1}{2}$
" Do. 3rd pf.	28	28	" Southern	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	25
" Do. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 3-yr. Notes ..	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	" Southern Pacific	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$
" Do. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 5-yr. " ..	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	" Union Pacific	144 $\frac{1}{2}$	147 $\frac{1}{2}$
Atchison	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	" U. S. Steel	90	92 $\frac{1}{2}$
Baltimore	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	Cent. Argentine ord.	79	79 $\frac{1}{2}$
Antofagasta dfd.	129	129	" Do. 5% Notes	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$
" Do. 6% Notes	100	100	" Do. 6% "	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
Brazil Common	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	" Leopoldina	38	38 $\frac{1}{2}$
B. A. & Pacific	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	" Mexican ord.	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	18
B. A. Gt. Southern	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	" San Paulo (Brazilian) ..	192	192
B. A. Western	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	" United of Havana	83 $\frac{1}{2}$	83 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bank of Australasia	118 $\frac{1}{2}$	118	" London City & Midland ..	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Barclay & Co. "A"	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	" London County & West. ..	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	15
" Do. "B"	118 $\frac{1}{2}$	118 $\frac{1}{2}$	" London Joint Stock	22	22
Capital & Counties	23	23	" Nat. Prov. of Eng. (£10 $\frac{1}{2}$ pd)	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 $\frac{1}{2}$
Chartered of India	61	60 $\frac{1}{2}$	" Do. (£12 pd)	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	31 $\frac{1}{2}$
Hongkong & Shanghai ..	79 $\frac{1}{2}$	79 $\frac{1}{2}$	" Parr's	31	31
Lloyds	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	25	" Standard of S.A.	11	11
London & Provincial	17	17	" Union & Smiths	25	25
London & S.W.	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$			
Apollinaris ord.	12	12	Forestral Land	50/9	52/6
Armstrong, Whitworth ..	37/9	38	Furness, Withy	53/3	53/6
Associated Cement	32	32	Hudson's Bay	64 $\frac{1}{2}$	64 $\frac{1}{2}$
Birmingham Small Arms	45/1	45/5	Imperial Tobacco pf. ord	23/3	23/3
Borax dfd.	34/6	34/6	" Do. dfd. "A"	36/6	36/6
Bovril	20/3 $\frac{1}{2}$	20/9	Kynochs	29/3	29/3
Brazil Traction	62 $\frac{1}{2}$	62 $\frac{1}{2}$	Lever Bros. "C" pf.	21/1	21/1
British Amer. Tobacco ..	85/1	85/1	Lyons, J.	47 $\frac{1}{2}$	48
Brown (John), & Co.	32/9	32/9	Marconi	38	38 $\frac{1}{2}$
Brunner, Mond	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	Maypole Dairy dfd.	23/6	23/6
Cammell-Laird	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mond Nickel ord.	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Castner-Kellner	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	National Steam Car	22/6	21/6
Coats	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	Pears, A. & F.	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cunard	88/1	86/1	P. & O. dfd.	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	33 $\frac{1}{2}$
Dennis Bros.	32/3	32/6	Royal Mail	127	128 $\frac{1}{2}$
Dorman, Long	34/1	34/1	South Durham Steel	32/1	32/1
Eastmans	8/1	8/1	Underground Inc. Bds.	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$
English Sewing Cotton ..	45/1 $\frac{1}{2}$	44/6 $\frac{1}{2}$	Vickers	37/1	37/1
Fine Cotton Spinners	30/1	30/1			
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	7/3	6/9	Mexican Eagle pf.	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 $\frac{1}{2}$
Baku (ros.)	3/1 $\frac{1}{2}$	3/3	" North Caucasian	26/6	24/9
Burmah	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	" Roumanian Cons.	14/6	14/9
Lobitos	35/3	35/3	" Royal Dutch (100 gulden)	45	45 $\frac{1}{2}$
Maikop Combine (ros.) ..	2/6	2/6	" Shell	58 $\frac{1}{2}$	58
Maikop Pipeline	4/1	4/1	" Spies (10/-)	13/9	13/6
Mexican Eagle	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	" Ural Caspian	35/0	34/6
Anglo-Java Rub. (2/-) ..	5/9	5/9	" Merlimau 2/-	5/1 $\frac{1}{2}$	5/3
Anglo-Malay 2/-	11/6	11/6	" Pataling 2/-	33/3	33/3
Ayer Kuning 1/-	34/1	35/3	" Port Dickson 2/-	21/11	3/8
Bukit Mertajam 2/-	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	41/1 $\frac{1}{2}$	" Rubber Trust 2/-	22/9	23/9
Bukit Sembawang 2/- ..	3/6	3/6	" Sapumakande 1/-	21/9	21/9
Carey United 1/-	35/1 $\frac{1}{2}$	34/6 $\frac{1}{2}$	" Selangor United 2/-	21/10	21/11
Grand Central 1/-	25/1	24/9	" Sialang 1/-	62/1 $\frac{1}{2}$	63/1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Gula Kalumpung 1/-	27/6	27/6	" Singapore Para 2/-	31/10	31/9
Highlands 1/-	52/9	53/1	" Singapore United 2/- ..	21/10	3/1
Java Para 1/-	32/6	32/3	" Taping 2/-	3/2	3/2
Johore Rubber Lands 1/-	25/10 $\frac{1}{2}$	26/1	" Tandjong 1/-	75/6	76/1
Langen Java 1/-	45/1	45/6	" Tandjong Malim 1/- ..	25/1	25/1
Linggi 2/-	20/1	20/4 $\frac{1}{2}$	" Tebrau 1/-	67/6	65/3
London Asiatic 2/-	71/1 $\frac{1}{2}$	71/1 $\frac{1}{2}$	" United Serdang 2/-	12/1	12/1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Malacca 1/-	87/6	85/1	" United Temaling 2/- ..	21/1 $\frac{1}{2}$	3/1
Malayalam 1/-	29/4 $\frac{1}{2}$	29/6	" Vallambora 2/-	18/1	18/7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Abbottiakoon (10/-)	7/1	6/9	De Beers dfd. (£2 10s.) ..	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Brakpan	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	East Rand	14/3	14/9
Broken Hill Prop. (8/-) ..	60/1	61/3	Gt. Boulder (2/-)	13/1	13/1
Cam & Motor	14/9	12/6	Meyer & Charlton	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Central Mining (£12)	68	68 $\frac{1}{2}$	Modder "B"	61 $\frac{1}{2}$	61 $\frac{1}{2}$
Chartered	13/1	13/3	" Do. Deep	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
City Deep	4	4	" New Modder (£4)	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	18
Cons. Gold Fields	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	" Rand Mines (5/-)	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	34 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cons. Langlaagte	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	" Rio Tinto (£5)	61 $\frac{1}{2}$	61 $\frac{1}{2}$
Crown Mines (10/-)	3	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	" Van Ryn Deep	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	34 $\frac{1}{2}$

ferred, and South-Eastern deferred all improved a little, but North British is lower, as the market has not yet got over the dividend disappointment. American Rails, after being rather despondent, rallied sharply on the reported agreement for arbitration between the Washington and Mexican Governments. It is also believed that the threatened big railway strike has been averted, and there is talk of further large contracts for munitions being placed, but perhaps that should be accepted with a grain of salt. Canadian Pacifics have not been able

stability of this market, and in many cases prices have gone further forward since last Monday, wheat and flour participating most. Demand fair, and business checked at intervals. Wheat: English whites and reds delivered up range to 63s. per qr. (504 lbs.). Imported grades, No. 1 Northern Manitoba, held for 63s., ex ship. Flour: American first spring patents, 50s. upwards, and Canadian patents, 49s. to 50s., both landed. Oats: La Plata, landed, 30s. 9d. upwards. American white clipped, No. 2, 32s., ex quay. Grinding barley: American (ordinary), 44s., and La Plata, on sample, 43s. 6d. to 45s. 6d., both ex quay. Maize: new La Plata (sound), 53s. 6d., ex quay.

CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING AUGUST 11, 1916.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
Sugar —per cwt., duty 14, 98% polarisation	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Wool —per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tate's Cubes No. 1	2 7 1½	2 7 1½	Australian	3 3 10½	3 3 10½
Ditto, H.T.S.	2 6 7½	2 6 7½	Scoured Merino	9 3 3 2	9 3 3 2
Fine granulated	nom.	nom.	Scoured Cr'sabr'd	10 2 3 2	10 2 3 2
Lytle's granulated	41 7½ 42 1½	41 7½ 42 1½	Greasy Merino	1 4 1 11	1 4 1 11
Foreign granu- lated, first marks	nom.	nom.	New Zealand	3 2 3 10 3	2 3 10
f.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	(scoured) Merino	1 2 1 10	1 2 1 10
German Cubes f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	2 10 3 2	2 10 3 2
French Cube	nom.	nom.	Cape snow white	0 2 2½	0 2 4
Crystallised, West India	nom.	nom.	Indiarubber p. lb.		
Beet, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Plantation, Spot		
Tea —per lb., duty	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Crepe	0 2 2½	0 2 4
1½ lb.			Coal —per ton		
Indian Pekoe	0 0 9½ 11½	0 8 1 0	Durham, best	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 9 1 0 9½	0 9 1 0 9½	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Orange	0 9 1 1 10	0 9 1 1 10	East Hartlepool	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 9 1 1 3	0 9 1 1 3	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Pekoe Souehong	0 9 1 1 3	0 9 1 1 3	Steam, best	45/ 47/6	47/6 50/
Ceylon Pekoe	0 9 1 1 3	0 9 1 1 3	Seconds	40/	40/
Broken	0 9 1 1 3	0 9 1 1 3	Lead —per ton	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Orange	0 9 1 1 3	0 9 1 1 3	English Pig	29 15 0	30 7 6
Broken	0 9 1 1 3	0 9 1 1 3	Foreign soft	28 15 0	29 2 28½
Pekoe Souehong	0 9 1 1 3	0 9 1 1 3	Quicksilver —per bottle firsthand	£ 17 8 17 8	£ 17 8 17 8
Cocoa —per cwt.	s. s.	s. s.	Tin —per ton		
duty 6d. per lb.			English Ingots	£ 172 173	£ 173 175
Trinidad—per cwt.	78 0 83 0	79 0 84 0	Do. bars	£ 173 174	£ 174 176
Grenada	72 0 81 0	72 0 81 0	Standard cash	£ 167 10 0	£ 171 5 0
West Africa	nom.	nom.	Tin Plates, per box	28/6 basis.	28/0 29/0
Ceylon Plantation	76 0 90 0	76 0 90 0	Copper —per ton.		
Guayaquil Arriba	95 0 103 0	96 0 100 0	English, Tough	nom.	nom.
Coffee —per cwt.			per ton	£ 124 120	£ 124 120
duty 42½ per cwt.			Best Selected	£ 146	£ 146
East India	67 0 95 0	67 0 95 0	Sheets	£ 106 0 0	£ 112 0 0
Jamaica	62 0 120 6	62 0 120 6	Standard	£ 106 0 0	£ 112 0 0
Costa Rica	62 0 85 0	62 0 84 0	Jute —per ton.		
Provisions —			Native firsts for sh'pmt. August	nom.	£ 31 5 0
Butter , per cwt.			Oils —		
Australian finest	nom.	nom.	Linseed, per ton	£ 37 138	£ 37 138
Irish Creameries	164/ 170/	170/ 176/	Rape, ref. English,	£ 48 50	£ 48 50
Dutch ditto	nom.	nom.	barrels	nom.	nom.
Russian finest	nom.	nom.	Brown English,	nom.	nom.
Normandy baskets	nom.	nom.	naked	£ 39 10 0	£ 38 15 0
Danish finest	184/ 186½	194/ 196½	Cott'n Seed, crude	£ 44 54	£ 43 15 3½
Brittany rolls	14/6 17/6	14/6 17/6	Ditto, refined	1/1½	1/1½
Bacon —per cwt.			Petroleum Oil, per 8 lbs.	1/2½	1/2½
Irish	114 0 118 0	117 0 122 0	Water White	—	—
Continental	100 0 118 0	108 0 122 0	Oil Seeds, Linseed	3 16 6	3 17 0
Canadian	89 0 92 0	102 0 112 0	Calcutta—per 410 lbs., Aug.-Sep.	65/	65/
American	89 0 92 0	90 0 94 0	Rape, Toria	nom.	nom.
Hams —per cwt.			Iron —per ton		
Irish	136/ 150/	136/ 150/	Cleveland Cash	nom.	nom.
Canadian	104 0 110 0	111/ 115/	Tobacco —duty		
American	66 0 101	68 0 105 0	unmanufactured	5/6 to 6/2½ per lb.	
Cheese —per cwt.			Maryland & Ohio	0 6 0 10	0 6 0 10
Edam	nom.	nom.	per lb. bond	0 5 1 6	0 5 1 6
Canadian	90 0 94 0	90 0 96 0	Virginia leaf	0 6 0 10	0 6 0 10
Gouda	nom.	nom.	Kentucky leaf	0 4 1 0	0 4 1 0
English Cheddar	94 0 106 0	100 0 108 0	Latakia	1 0 6 0	1 0 6 0
Wilt's leaf	88 0 97 0	93 0 97 0	Havana	0 6 2 0	0 6 2 0
New Zealand	88 0 97 0	93 0 97 0	Manila	2 0	2 0
Rice —per cwt.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Cigars, duty 10/6 per lb.		
Garden Siam	17 3 17 6	17 3 17 6	Timber —Wood.		
spot	16 3	16 3	Dantsig and	130/ 150/	130/ 150/
Rangoon 2 stars	16 3	16 3	Memel Fir, per load	280/ 600/	280/ 600/
Wheat —per 120.			Indian Teak	52/	56/
English	17 6 18 6	18 0 19 0	Flour —per sack.		
Irish	15 0 16 0	15 6 16 6	Town households,	47/6 upds.	52/ upds.
Danish	17 6 19 0	17 6 19 6	official	2 1 3	2 2 0
Copra —			American, 1st pa-	£ 47 142	£ 49 143
Malabar, London	33 0 0	33 0 0	tents		
Aug.-Sept.	31 15 0	31 15 0	Turpentine —		
Ceylon, London	30 0 0	30 5 0	American Spot		
South Sea	30 0 0	30 12 6	Spelter		
F.M.S.	30 5 0	30 12 6	G.O.B. as to posi-		

METALS.—Copper: The standard market advanced until the middle of the week, "three months" participating most, when cash delivery left off at £108 10s., and three months £106 10s. A further upward movement was established at Thursday's session, cash being officially fixed at £110 to £111, and three months £108 to £109. Tin: The tendency continued rather irregular from time to time, while dealings were on a limited scale, with rates moving in an upward direction, standard cash delivery by Thursday reaching £169 10s., three months £170 10s. Spelter, G.O.B., August, £47; October, £40. Lead dearer. English, £30 5s.; foreign, August, £29 2s. 6d.; October, £28 10s. Quicksilver remains at £17 12s. 6d. to £17 15s.

COTTON (from our Manchester Correspondent).—The feature of interest in the market during the past week has been the further

hardening tendency in raw cotton rates, and sellers of yarn and cloth have been forced to put up their quotations. Buyers have been slow to follow the advance, and in most instances the offers made have been unworkable. Much difference of opinion prevails as to whether the strong feeling in raw cotton circles is justified, but many reports as to the weather in the American belt are generally unfavourable. It may be said that the Egyptian growth continues to do very well. There has been plenty of inquiry in piece goods for export, but only a small part of the demand has been at practicable rates. For India most of the attempts at transactions in grey shirtings have been futile, owing to the buyers not being willing to come up in price. Some special sales have occurred in light fabrics for Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras, and a fair amount of inquiry has been reported in printing cloths. Letters and telegrams from China refer to the further reduction of stocks, and in Shanghai they are obtaining better prices than a few weeks ago. Fresh buying, however, is checked by the fuller prices required by manufacturers. The general inquiry for some of the smaller outlets has been fairly encouraging; but buyers and sellers have experienced much difficulty in arranging terms of fresh contracts. In home trade goods buyers have been afraid to purchase freely, and in most quarters a waiting policy has been adopted. In American yarns for home use prices are on a higher level than for a very long time back. A fairly healthy demand has been dealt with; but spinners to secure fresh orders have had to be prepared to sacrifice part of their margin of profit. Trade has been generally quiet in shipping yarns. Egyptian spinnings have been strongly held at hardening rates, but not much fresh business has been put through.

What Balance Sheets Tell.

ANGLO-CONTINENTAL SUPPLY CO., LTD.

Owing to the war no accounts could be presented last year, and the report now submitted covers the two years to December 31 last. Nett profits amounted to £311,627 as against £188,370 for 1913, and £48,810 is written off for depreciation against £22,250. It is proposed to pay a dividend of 7 per cent. for each of the two years, of which 4 per cent. was paid in January last; 3 per cent. will be paid on August 25, and 7 per cent. on September 25. The amount to be carried forward is £35,384, an increase of £20,600. As compared with the balance-sheet for 1913 creditors are up £54,000 at £137,676, while deposits have shrunk £41,000 to £65,236. Goodwill remains at £468,728, but deposits have been reduced £14,500 by depreciation allowances to £406,136, and buildings, plant, &c., by £34,300 to £159,156. Cash in hand is £195,000 less, but still amounts to the substantial sum of £98,863, while investments have increased by £133,000 to £231,240, stocks by £180,000 to £518,130, and debtors by £46,000 to £55,550. It is a good record considering the difficulties with which the company may have been faced.

WM. HANCOCK AND CO., LTD.

For the year to May 31 the profits were practically the same as for the previous twelve months at £46,577, but £2,140 more was brought forward, and the available balance of £49,745 is £2,880 larger. It is proposed to repeat the dividend of 6 per cent. on the deferred shares, and after placing £5,000 to reserve against £3,000 (raising the fund to £135,000) there remains £4,045, or £880 more, to be carried forward. The report gives no information about the progress of the business and no profit and loss account is furnished, but, as the dividend shows, it is a well-managed brewery, able to hold its own in spite of legislative restrictions. Creditors are up £39,100 at £121,130 and stocks of beer, wine, spirits, &c., are £42,400 higher at £111,860, these being the only changes in the balance-sheet that need be noted.

HANCOCK AND CO. (NEW ZEALAND), LTD.

With so many Anzacs employed elsewhere, it is not surprising that the results for the year to March 31 should show some falling off. Nett profits amounted to £27,456, a decrease of £2,140, and £560 less was brought in, but there were small savings on debenture interest and depreciation. It is, therefore, possible to repeat the dividend of 10 per cent., and as £4,350 was written off goodwill a year ago, while there is no similar appropriation on this occasion, the carry forward is £2,470 higher at £11,000. Creditors are up £9,560, and deposits £7,430, while freehold properties have increased by £8,250, stocks by £26,460, and debtors by £14,000, while payments in advance are £7,300 lower. To all appearance, this Antipodean hotel business is doing remarkably well, but we should expect that with such a capable organiser as Sir Joseph Lyons at its head.

COMMERCIAL GAS CO.—In the first half of 1916 the revenue from the sale of gas increased by £16,930 to £226,336, and from residual products was £34,721 larger at £86,678, so that the entire revenue of £348,161 is £51,000 up. Cost of gas manufacture, however, rose £46,766, and there were slight increases in other outgoings, so that the nett revenue of £68,151 is only £4,511 better. The balance of £79,151 brought forward was, however, £17,876 larger, and therefore the nett revenue of £147,302 is £22,387 greater, and the directors maintain the dividend on the 4 per cent. stock and the ½ per cent. stock at the statutory rates, the one of £4 18s. 8d. and the other of £4 13s. 4d. per cent., less tax.

The Chartered Company's Railways.

Those two railway companies, the Mashonaland and the Rhodesia, which belong to and are entirely controlled by the Chartered Co., did a poorish business in their financial year ended September 30 last. The boards of the two are identical, with the exception of Mr. Otto Beit, who is a director of the Rhodesia Railways, Ltd., but not of the Mashonaland Railway Co., Ltd., where he seems to be replaced by Lord Lurgan. The trustees for the debenture-holders are, however, different for each company, but their names are of no consequence at present, nor are their annuities, sinecure, oppressive. In the business year of the two companies all species of traffic declined, or, at least, all articles of any consequence, and the entire revenue of the Mashonaland Railway Co., Ltd., was, at £194,111, £80,102 smaller than that of the preceding year, and after paying sundry fixed outgoings, such as trustees' fees £200 and unallotted balance of directors' fees £1,057, the clear balance of £180,314 shows a reduction of £77,807. As the interest on the debenture stock took £290,604, or £7,640 more than the year before, the debit on nett revenue account is increased by £83,003 to £97,035, notwithstanding a reduction of £2,444 in the depreciation allowances. The several lines embraced in the Mashonaland system, such as the Beira-Salisbury, the Kalomo to Broken Hill, and the Lomagunda, did badly. How it fared with the Mount Hampden Junction-Shamva line, which appears for the first time in the accounts, we do not know. It, however, gave a nett revenue of £7,500, and its cost has been £244,190. But the Beira-Salisbury lines' nett receipts fell off £53,640 to £86,681, and the Kalomo-Broken Hill line £32,762 to £83,354. The Lomagunda line, however, gave £580 more at £10,067, but in spite of all, the product was poor, and the financing which has to be accomplished must still be irksome. The company owes £5,510,000 on debentures, besides £1,185,552 to the Rhodesia Railways Trust, Ltd., and the ever-benevolent Mr. Otto Beit has, through his Beit Railway Trust, supplied the Mashonaland company, under hire-purchase arrangements, with approximately £166,033 worth of engines and rolling stock. Other wise, it might have had difficulty in providing for its traffic, especially should the Chartered Co. happen to be hard up. How the deficiency in the revenue required to cover the debenture interest is to be met, the shortage on which was last year £97,355, together with the £43,950 owing to the Rhodesia Railways and the £11,668 payable to the Blinkwater Railway Co., Ltd., we do not know any more than why the Mashonaland Railway has a floating debt, "sundry accounts" due in South Africa and London, amounting to £99,205. But its total floating debt on these heads is still £252,179, although £50,459 below last year's. Happily, the Chartered Co. has still considerable unspent resources left, and when the war is over and the Germans are expelled from Africa as a race ambitious to oppress, the whole face of affairs may swiftly alter. Not only so, but the "Chartered" board may get compensation for its war efforts—be expert enough to diddle the inhabitants of Rhodesia out of their land. Elbow-room for hope and imagination is still ample.

During the past year no money was received on capital account by the Mashonaland Co., although £267,203 was spent, but that leaves the company still with £530,914 of unspent debenture money in hand, although it owes £94,427 more to the Rhodesia Railways Trust. What does it actually owe to the good Mr. Beit?

Like its yokefellow, as one might describe the Mashonaland Railway Co., the Rhodesia Railways, Ltd., had a poor year of it, contrasting the years ended September 30, 1914, and September 30, 1915. Gross revenue fell off £186,270, and notwithstanding some small economies nett revenue was £141,715 less. The decline was due principally to the smaller high-grade traffic from over sea, but there was also a "practical cessation" of the carriage of railway construction material, and a temporary decrease in the tonnage of

chrome ore exported, balanced slightly by increases in total and coke tonnage and revenue, as well as in copper ore and other mineral traffic carried. The number of passengers fell off 65,649 to 290,597, and the weight of goods 50,062 tons to 166,363 tons. The tonnage of minerals, however, increased 19,327 tons to 378,531, and minerals gave an increase of £26,545 in the receipts, else the display would have been to that amount worse. Since the year closed affairs have somewhat improved for both companies; the gross revenue of the Rhodesia Railways being £70,281, and the nett £65,602 better for the first six months, and that of the Mashonaland system respectively £30,821 and £17,022 up. For the September 30, 1915, year, however, the gross revenue was £794,615, and the nett, after crediting £29,585 received for hire of rolling stock, £409,546. Out of this free income debenture interest—up £6,859 at £277,022—was paid, the permanent way and plant renewals provided for, and £167,337 less, at £58,175, left to carry to the balance-sheet, where it swells the total carry-forward to £177,930. Capital expenditure went on, but only to a small extent, and by crediting £22,310 against engines sold and expenditure transferred, the nett amount added to the capital load for the year was only £14,842, and there is £305,335 yet to pay away before all the debenture money is exhausted. The Beit Railway Trust, however, here again appears to be usefully supplementing other funds, for up to September 30, 1915, it had supplied £485,000 worth of engines and rolling stock, which the company is, like the Mashonaland, redeeming by half-yearly payments. It is also guaranteeing the repayment by the Mashonaland Railway Co. of £122,525 money advanced for similar purposes. Altogether interest on debentures, &c., took £277,022 last year, or £6,859 more than a year ago. £9,610 more at £20,607 was assigned to depreciation of way and works, but depreciation of rolling stock and equipment got £2,425 less at £30,935. The nett revenue was altogether £149,450 smaller at £413,873, inclusive of £4,327 nett received for land. Among miscellaneous facts worth putting down are these:—Miles open Rhodesia Railways, 1,397; Mashonaland, not supplied except for the Beira-Salisbury section of 374 miles, but earnings stated to have been 15s. 1d. per train mile in 1914, and only 4s. 6d. last year. Expenses rose 5d. per train mile to 5s., so that on the Kalomo to Broken Hill section, while receipts fell 7d., working expenses rose 5d. per train mile. Why complete statistics are not provided may perhaps be explained by "Chartered" humour. It always was a funny company the Chartered, and we owe it many a merry hour in days gone by. The share capitals of these two Chartered masterpieces, for example, are—Rhodesia Railways, £8,000; Mashonaland Railway, £450,000. The former seems to owe on debentures and subsidies £6,550,000, the latter something like £6,500,000. Did the board of the Chartered Co. hope to sell the Mashonaland shares to its faithful public some day, and consider the Rhodesia property too good to let go? What is the total amount paid to the directors of these two railway corporations by way of fees? Ah, let us wait for colder weather before tackling problems, and meantime be satisfied to know that the railways may come out all right, be the fate of "good old Chartered" what it may. Its board will make a good fight for "a place in the South African sun," you may bet your last white pebble.

ARGENTINE NORTHERN LAND CO., LTD.—Sales by auction were out of the question in the conditions which prevailed in Argentina in 1915, but this company was able to dispose of some townships by private treaty on the basis of payments spread over six years. The value of the sales for the year was £7,837, or £3,387 more, and after providing for all charges the nett profit was £2,728 up at £3,731, out of which £1,100 is placed to the reserve for doubtful debts, and the balance carried forward is increased by £162 to £2,631. In view of the present holding of land, the directors do not consider it desirable to make further purchases at present, and the capital released by the sale of lands is being put into Treasury bills, of which £8,000 have been bought.

Our Foreign Trade in July.

It is mostly prices that do it, nevertheless the diminution in the adverse trade balance which last month's figures show is very satisfactory, because it should tend to ease somewhat the passing strain on the nation's credit caused by the excess of our purchases abroad. Imports for the month were only £1,413,000 larger than in July, 1915, but the total, including bullion, was none the less £78,376,907, and it was swollen more disagreeably than ever by the higher prices paid. A few food commodities were somewhat cheaper, such as wheat and oats, but nearly everything else in that sub-division was dearer, even margarine, and it was the same with raw materials required for our manufactures. Raw cotton, for example, shows an increase on July 12 months before of 6.5 per cent. in quantity and 52 per cent. in value. Flax and hemp are both sensibly dearer, so are hides, jute, and leather. Rubber also remains higher than 12 months ago, as is shown by the increase of 13.2 per cent. in the quantity and of 28.2 per cent. in value. Tea alone amongst articles of general consumption or raw materials of any kind has slightly receded in price, but the rise in some other instances has not perhaps been excessive, circumstances considered. It is none the less sufficient grievously to increase the cost of living and of everything necessary to civilised life within the country. Our tables show that the value of the imports was £76,772,000, or 1.3 per cent. higher than in July, 1915, which had one working day more than last month. To that extent the increase in bulk is somewhat hidden. Exports rose £11,602,000, or 33.4 per cent., to £46,323,000, but there has been a decrease of 16 per cent., or £1,514,000 in the value of the re-exports, bringing them down to £7,895,000. Subjoined is the summary exhibit for the month and the seven months :—

IMPORTS.

	July.			Inc. or Dec. as compared with 1915.
	1914.	1915.	1916.	
General Merchandise	£ 59,376,484	£ 75,723,767	£ 76,772,371	+ 1,048,604
Gold	6,554,640	622,084	721,873	+ 99,789
Silver	1,100,408	617,949	882,663	+ 264,714
Total	67,031,532	76,963,800	78,376,907	+ 1,413,107

EXPORTS.

	£	£	£	£
Brit. & Irish Produce	44,405,380	34,721,511	46,323,057	+ 11,601,546
For. and Col. M'dse..	7,825,916	9,408,790	7,894,981	+ 1,513,869
Gold	2,769,523	559,620	4,327,415	+ 3,767,795
Silver	968,138	438,615	1,011,011	+ 572,396
Total	55,968,957	45,128,536	59,556,404	+ 14,427,868

IMPORTS.

Seven months ended July.				
	£	£	£	£
General Merchandise	435,250,317	504,445,132	550,767,226	+ 46,322,094
Gold	35,488,752	6,632,295	7,090,769	+ 458,474
Silver	7,061,279	5,893,104	7,242,448	+ 1,349,284
Total	477,800,348	516,970,531	565,100,443	+ 48,129,852

EXPORTS.

	£	£	£	£
Brit. & Irish Produce	229,862,991	218,344,399	288,130,938	+ 69,786,539
For. and Col. M'dse..	67,102,332	60,731,810	62,016,022	+ 1,284,212
Gold	25,134,305	6,090,104	26,664,792	+ 20,574,628
Silver	8,381,538	4,677,159	4,950,503	+ 273,344
Total	330,481,226	289,843,532	381,762,255	+ 91,918,723

VISIBLE BALANCE OF TRADE.

July.				
	£	£	£	£
Imports.. .. .	67,031,532	76,963,800	78,376,907	+ 1,413,107
Exports.. .. .	55,968,957	45,128,536	59,556,404	+ 14,427,868
Excess value of im- ports over exports	11,062,575	31,835,264	18,820,503	- 13,014,761
Seven months ended July.				
	£	£	£	£
Imports.. .. .	477,800,348	516,970,591	565,100,443	+ 48,129,852
Exports.. .. .	330,481,226	289,843,532	381,762,255	+ 91,918,723
Excess value of im- ports over exports	147,319,122	227,127,059	183,338,188	- 43,788,871

What has principally caused the increase in exports is also, in a predominant degree, higher prices. At the same time we are in several commodities showing increased exports measured by quantities, and that is most encouraging. Cement, for instance, went out last month to an extent 9.5 per cent. greater in quantity and 30.8 per cent. in value than in July, 1915. Cotton yarn, too, rose 12.4 per cent. in quantity and 45.6 per cent. in value, but cotton piece goods declined 12.5 per cent. in quantity, although 15.4 per cent. up in value, which is not so pleasant. There has also been a decline of 15.4 per cent. in the quantity of iron and steel exported, nevertheless its value is 32 per cent. above that of July last year. Linen yarn and piece goods have both gone up in quantity and also in price, the value of the linen piece goods exported being 33.9 per cent. up and accompanied by an increase of 7 per cent. in quantity. Woollen and worsted tissues have been in some demand abroad, and the quantity of the yarn is 51.2 per cent. up, while that of the tissues is 70.6 per cent. larger, but values are in the one instance up 91.1 per cent. and in the other only 75.5 per cent. Worsteds fabrics, however, have gone abroad to an extent 6.3 per cent. less in quantity, although 33 per cent. up in value. These contrasts warn us not to be too boastful yet about our power to beat the enemy out of the field or, more to the purpose, to continue the supply of foreign nations with their ordinary requirements, in spite of the unheard-of drain of the war. Nevertheless, we are doing a larger business, and it is marvellous to see how we have managed to keep our hold of markets abroad, and in some cases to enlarge them.

It is also a point not to be forgotten that we must be to some extent filling the gap caused by the disappearance of German foreign trade. After all, in the past two years of war, the Hohenzollern Empire must have lost something approaching £750,000,000, the market, or f.o.b. value of goods that would have been exported and sold at some profit price had peace been maintained. The world has gone on in spite of the stoppage of that trade, and where it has been possible its disappearance has contributed to our gain.

No clear inference must be drawn from the statistics of imports and exports of gold and silver published in these Board of Trade figures. For one thing, all the gold lying in the world to our credit is not now brought into this country, and because some of it is stored abroad, it follows that we probably make payments by drafts upon that gold which can be cashed without coming to London. Other influences tending to blur the figures are also at work, and therefore the Board of Trade statistics can only be regarded as an evidence of the tendency of things. They show that in the seven months of the year now expired only £7,091,000 of gold was entered as having been imported, against £26,665,000 exported in the same time. This would give an excess of £19,574,000 in gold exported, and were that the exact truth it would be quite enough by itself to account for the, on the whole, steady tendency of money to get dearer in the City. Probably the real drain has been larger than this, and even if smaller, it will probably be a matter for astonishment and admiration in days to come when the financial history of this war comes to be unfolded that we should have financed its devouring requirements with so little disturbance to our financial stability.

ARGENTINE EASTERN LAND CO., LTD.—Profits on land sales in the year ended December 31 fell off by £1,603 to £228, but the working account yielded a surplus of £5,768, and the total income, including £80 from rents, was £2,009 up at £6,084. Against this, however, £569 was written off for sales cancelled, together with £128 for adjustment of harvest products in 1913 and 1914, and after providing for other charges the nett profit was £2,231, or £1,707 more. With £1,610 brought in, the available total was £2,231 better at £3,841, and the whole of this is carried forward. On balance property accounts show an increase of £5,484 at an aggregate of £123,524, while, on the other hand, £6,250 was received from a call on the shares, making the paid-up capital £118,750, and loans were reduced by £4,041 to £7,143. Since the end of the year a further call of 2s 6d per share has been made on the 50,000 partly-paid shares, of which £6,187 has been received, and the balance of the loans has been paid off.

American Business Notes.

A new law dealing with the creation and distribution of credit—with what might be called the democratisation of moneylending—has been passed by the United States Congress and was signed by President Wilson on July 17 last. It was known as the Rural Credits Bill, and is designed to do for the farmer that which the Federal Reserve Banks are endeavouring to do for the trader, the small manufacturer, the little people in towns who need occasional or constant help from credit in all the minor industries of life. This new law interests us more even than the Federal Banking law did, with its reserves designed to make money always cheap to the small borrower, to everybody, no matter what the circumstances might be. The new Act, indeed, is the corollary or companion to the Banking Act, and it promises to revolutionise the facilities for borrowing, for obtaining credit, in rural districts. Twelve Farm Loan District Banks are to be created in the same manner as the Federal Reserve banks, and the Secretary of the Treasury is to be at liberty to buy as much of the minimum capital of \$750,000, which each of these Farm Loan banks must have, as the public may fail to take up. On its portion of the capital stock, moreover, the Government is to receive no dividends. Also the Secretary of the Treasury is to be at liberty to order the temporary deposit of Treasury money in these Federal Land banks, although the aggregate so placed is not to exceed \$6,000,000 at one time, and that is prudent.

How is the system thus modestly capitalised at the start going to operate? It is to create a wider market for farm loan bonds, and first mortgages executed to Federal Land banks, or to Joint Stock Land banks, and farm loan bonds issued under the provision of the new law will be deemed and held to be "instrumentalities of the Government of the United States," and as such they and the income derived therefrom shall be exempt from Federal, State, municipal, and local taxation. That is to say, a privileged security having land, and presumably the stock thereon, as foundation, will be created by these Rural Banks and put into circulation, as investments worthy of the confidence of the thrifty. Hitherto the farmers have been at a disadvantage in the matter of credit—but they are so everywhere except where they unite to help themselves, are so even where the land is nominally their own, as in the States and in many parts of the British Dominions, although not in the United Kingdom itself, where "disadvantage" is not the word, but "paralysis." Thanks to these new Rural Credit Banks, as Mr. Carter Glass, chairman of the Senate and House of Representatives Joint Committee on the Bill, said, for the first time in the history of the country the farmers in the United States "will be in a position to receive fairplay." By utilising the millions of dollars collected under the Federal Reserve Act, short-term mortgages and personal loans can be made available for the farmers to an extent never hitherto possible. They can borrow cheaply and pay back slowly over an arranged more or less lengthy term of years.

Thus the Act is "revolutionary," as Mr. Charles Calwell, president of the Corn Exchange National Bank of Philadelphia, admits in the *Public Ledger*. It entirely changes the system of farm mortgages and broadens the market for them. Heretofore the farmer has placed his mortgage with an individual, renewing every two or three years with commissions and good rates of interest. Now these mortgages taken up by the Federal Land Bank system will become securities for marketable bonds issued free of tax, and the field in which to do business is already immense, and must increase. Farm mortgages in the United States "exceed four billion dollars"—that is to say, aggregate more than £800,000,000—and part of this huge, hid-away debt will now be, as it were, mobilised, and will become a marketable security through the means of the new Farm Loan Banks. They will in some respects thus fulfil the functions of the hypothecary banks in

Argentina and elsewhere in South America. Repayment of the loan granted to the farmer, and on which these Land Bank bonds will be secured, will be made by annuity in the same way that we advocate for the so-called premium bonds which we are waiting for our Government to issue in order to raise money for the war. Presumably, therefore, the marketable bonds will themselves be in series, repayable either by drawings or at fixed dates, as in France. How the thing works for the original borrower may be stated in a sentence. Suppose a farmer has borrowed \$1,000 at 5 per cent. interest to be paid off in annual instalments within 20 years, that means an annual charge of \$80.24, of which in the first year \$50 will be interest and \$30.24 principal, but each year that passes the amount of interest to be paid will grow smaller and the balance left to redeem principal larger, until in the last year of all out of his \$80 less than \$4 will be interest and about \$77 principal. This means that in the 20 years he will have paid \$1,605 for his \$1,000 loan, and as the Federal Land Bank will issue its own bonds in order to get money to lend in this fashion, it will have to arrange such issue so as to echelon repayments at dates convenient for utilising the accumulations from the instalment repayments of farmers. Quite a new and widely-sought-after security will be made available to the general investor, and it may give rise to some inflation of land values now and then, but that will be as nothing compared with the good that may be done. Is there no moral to be drawn from this story for us at home? Yes, more than one, and we invite readers to think over the subject. Events are moving rapidly, and the same aspirations after the unfettered possession of the land they live on are seething in the minds of our brave fighters at the front which Mr. J. Young Simpson in his interesting book "Self-Discovery of Russia," describes as inspiring the Russian peasant.

Insurance News.

A new insurance company has been founded in Paris, with a nominal capital of £160,000, of which £40,000 is paid up. One-third of the capital has been subscribed in France, one-third in England, and the balance in Norway. In France the company will only transact reinsurance business, and direct marine insurance, but in other countries it will undertake direct insurance and reinsurances of all classes. The new company makes its entry in the insurance world at an opportune time to take the places of the German reinsurance companies with whom business relations in future will be impossible.

The cost of the principal fire losses in the United Kingdom during July were heavier than in the previous month, the total being estimated at £251,000, as compared with £174,000 in June. In July last year, however, the losses came to £449,000.

For the first half of the current year the fire losses in Canada and the United States came to £25,155,000, an increase of £6,677,000 as compared with the first half of last year, but a decrease of £1,445,000 when compared with the first six months of 1914.

A striking commentary on the German financial position comes to hand in the shape of correspondence which has appeared in some of the Dutch papers, in which German insurance companies, as evidence of their soundness, have been emphasising the smallness of the amounts of German war loan held by them. It appears that a committee has been formed by the Swiss Government to decide upon the steps to be taken to safeguard the rights of Swiss policyholders in foreign insurance companies, whose financial position might be affected by the war. The challenge was taken up by one of the large German offices, whose directors maintained that no grounds for apprehension existed in the case of the German companies, stress being laid upon the fact that the amounts invested in their war loans represented only a small proportion of the total funds, the greater part of their resources being invested in mortgages. As to whether the said mortgages may be

regarded as better security than the war loans of the Imperial Government seems to be a point upon which the critics disagree. The mortgages would appear to have their doubtful aspect, inasmuch as all the balance-sheets of the German companies show appreciable amounts of mortgage interest in arrears. In the matter of these arrears the position is hardly likely to improve during the "hard times ahead" foretold by the Kaiser.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

RAILWAYS.

Caledonian.—Interim on the ordinary at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum for first half of current year, payable Sept. 2, same as a year ago.

Cambrian.—Interest on the "A," "B" and "C" debenture stocks for half-year to June 30, payable Sept. 1.

Cockermouth, Keswick, and Penrith.—Interim on consolidated for half-year ended June 30 at rate of 2 per cent. per annum, payable Sept. 1. The increase in the interim dividend over that paid for the corresponding period last year is not due to any increase in receipts, but merely with a view to the equalisation of dividends.

Furness.—At the rate of 2 per cent. per annum on the ordinary for half-year ended June 30 with £7,455 forward, same as a year ago with £5,611 forward.

Glasgow and South-Western.—Interim for first half-year, 1916 at the rate of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum on ordinary, this being $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum on the preferred ordinary, and 1 per cent. per annum on the deferred, payable Sept. 2.

Great Western.—Interim of 2 per cent. for the half-year ended June 30 on the consolidated ordinary, same as a year ago, payable Aug. 23.

Lanarkshire and Ayrshire.—Interim of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. actual, less tax on the ordinary, with £3,980 forward, same as last year.

Rhymney.—Interim of 8 per cent. per annum, payable Aug. 19, with £6,726 forward, same as a year ago, with £3,114 forward.

MISCELLANEOUS.

African Produce.—Interim for half-year to May 31 at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, less tax. For the whole of year to Nov. 30, 1915, $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. was paid.

Bank of British North America.—Interim, payable Oct. 6, of 30s. per share, less tax, for half-year ended May 31 last, being at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, against 8 per cent.

Colonial Property and Rubber.—Interim for half-year to June 30 at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, payable 10th inst., same as a year ago.

Consolidated Cambrian.—Interim for six months to June 30 on the ordinary at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum.

Crocker, Sons and Co.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on both preference and ordinary for half-year ended June 30, payable Aug. 19, same as a year ago.

Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds.—Final on the ordinary at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for half-year ended June 30, and a bonus of 1s. per share, free tax, same as a year ago.

Hampden Cloncurry Copper.—2s. per share, less tax, payable Aug. 31.

Harrod's Stores.—Interim on the ordinary for half-year ended July 31 at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, same as a year ago, payable Aug. 31.

Harrod's Stores Founders' Shares.—Interim for half-year ended July 31 at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, same as a year ago, payable Aug. 31.

Industrial Bank of Japan.—At the rate of $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum for half-year ended June 30, payable Aug. 9 by the Yokohama Specie Bank, 7, Bishopsgate, E.C., upon presentation of coupon No. 20 at the rate of 2s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per yen, same rate as that for preceding half-year, and against 5 per cent. for the corresponding half of 1915.

John Moir and Son.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, less tax, for half-year ended June 30, payable Aug. 19, same as a year ago.

Klanang Produce.—First interim of 25 per cent. on account of year ending Dec. 31 next.

Malaysia Rubber.—Interim of 5 per cent., to be paid, less tax, Sept. 1.

Merchants' Trust.—Interim of 2 per cent. on the preference and ordinary for half-year ended July 31, same rate as a year ago.

Moss' Empires.—Interim on the ordinary at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, less tax, same as last year.

North Broken Hill.—2s. per share, less tax, payable Sept. 22, same as before.

Powell Duffryn Steam Coal.—Interim for half-year to June 30 of 9 per cent. on the ordinary, tax free, payable Sept. 5, against 10 per cent.

Railway Investment.—Interim on the preference of £2 per cent., less tax, payable Sept. 5, same as a year ago.

Scottish Northern Investment Trust.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, less tax, on the ordinary, same as last year.

Spratt's Patent (America).—Interim of 6d. per share, less tax, payable Sept. 9.

Workington Iron and Steel.—Final of 7 per cent. on ordinary, making 10 per cent., less tax, for year, against 4 per cent.

Colombia External Debt.—General Investors and Trustees, Ltd., announce, in connection with the offer of bonds of the Republic of Colombia 6 per cent. external debt, that offers at £73 18s. 9d. per cent. and below were accepted in full.

MINING RETURNS FOR JULY.

Abosso.—9,470 tons, producing £13,571 (June, £14,150).
 Ashanti.—8,923 tons; value, £37,623 (June, £40,238).
 Aurora West.—15,100 tons; profit, £4,498 (June, £4,528).
 Balaghat.—2,350 tons, 1,618 ozs. fine gold (June, 1,625 ozs.).
 Bantjes.—23,260 tons; profit, £330 (June, loss £1,006).
 Brakpan.—58,800 tons; profit, £35,143 (June, £35,163).
 Bullfinch Prop.—6,400 tons; profit, £1,859 (June, £1,604).
 Burma Corp'n.—1,267 tons lead (June, £1,309 tons).
 Cape Copper.—Output, 229 tons (June, 197 tons).
 Champion Reef.—15,175 tons; 9,402 ozs. fine (June, 9,310 ozs.).
 Chenderiang Tin.—31 tons; profit, £1,050 (June, 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons).
 City and Sub.—28,000 tons; profit, £20,298 (June, £20,758).
 City Deep.—58,500 tons; profit, £59,503 (June, £59,323).
 Cons. Langlaagte.—50,350 tons; profit, £22,161 (June, £24,081).
 Cons. Main Reef.—27,430 tons; profit, £11,920 (June, £14,049).
 Crown.—178,000 tons; profit, £56,070 (June, £63,072).
 Durban Road. Deep.—27,200 tons; profit, £2,155 (June, £2,165).
 East Rand Prop.—163,000 tons; profit, £43,344 (June, £42,514).
 Ferreira Deep.—47,830 tons; profit, £26,831 (June, £37,432).
 Geduld.—27,300 tons, £42,481; profit, £14,089 (June, £13,220).
 Geldenhuis Deep.—55,500 tons; profit, £13,726 (June, £13,625).
 Ginsberg.—15,551 tons, £15,237; profit, £2,817 (June, £3,049).
 Glencairn.—21,650 tons; profit, £1,356 (June, £1,067).
 Glynn's Lydenburg.—4,167 tons; profit, £8,104 (June, £3,808).
 Gov. Areas Mod.—58,400 tons; profit, £20,669 (June, £19,275).
 Globe and Phoenix.—6,380 tons; profit, £18,418 (June, £19,771).
 Ivanhoe.—20,565 tons; profit, £9,006 (June, £9,011).
 Jibutli (Anantapur).—5,100 tons, 747 ozs. (June, 742 ozs.).
 Jupiter.—25,000 tons, £26,231; profit, £5,102 (June, £5,567).
 Kamunting Tin.—45 tons; profit, £3,091 (June, 47 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons).
 Knight Central.—26,300 tons; profit, £1,890 (June, £3,473).
 Knight's Deep.—109,100 tons; profit, £17,502 (June, £19,019).
 Lonely Reef.—5,110 tons; profit, £5,016 (June, £5,196).
 Langlaagte Est.—47,070 tons; profit, £13,480 (June, £14,029).
 Luipaard's Vlei.—21,000; profit, £4,548 (June, £4,872).
 Main Reef West.—24,370 tons; profit, £2,423 (June, £3,054).
 May Consolidated.—13,370 tons; profit, £454 (June, loss £107).
 Meyer and Charl.—15,000 tons; profit, £20,558 (June, £20,584).
 Modder "B."—45,000 tons; profit, £57,160 (June, £58,256).
 Modder Deep.—40,100 tons; profit, £45,190 (June, £40,947).
 Mount Boppy.—6,360 tons; value, £5,700 (June, £5,000).
 Mysore.—26,215 tons, 16,602 ozs. (June, 16,540 ozs.).
 New Goch.—31,320 tons; profit, £9,483 (June, £9,447).
 New Heriot.—13,500 tons; profit, £8,648 (June, £8,439).
 New Modder.—54,400 tons; profit, £66,442 (June, £70,518).
 New Primrose.—22,700 tons; profit, £3,008 (June, £3,202).
 New Unified.—14,800 tons; profit, £4,157 (June, £4,101).
 North Anantapur.—2,280 tons, 1,108 ozs. fine (June, 1,208 ozs.).
 Nigel.—10,300 tons, loss £2,829 (June, loss £2,824).
 Nourse.—48,300 tons; profit, £61,422; profit, £9,231 (June, £5,861).
 Nundydroog.—8,100 tons, 7,587 ozs. (June, 6,643 ozs.).
 New Kleinfontein.—52,700 tons; profit, £16,737 (June, £10,558).
 Ooregum.—13,175 tons, 7,554 ozs. fine gold (June, 7,410 ozs.).
 Pahang Cons.—Black tin produced 220 tons (June, 228 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons).
 Princess Estate.—23,500 tons; profit, £1,173 (June, £1,082).
 Randfontein Cent.—193,841 tons; profit, £76,331 (June, £70,163).
 Rayfield Tin.—50 tons (June, 50 tons).
 Renong Tin.—Output, 1,139 piculs, or 68 tons.
 Robinson Deep.—50,800 tons; profit, £25,201 (June, £26,501).
 Robinson.—58,800 tons; profit, £32,789 (June, £33,183).
 Roodepoort United.—33,405 tons; profit, £3,114 (June, £3,089).
 Rose Deep.—63,500 tons; profit, £17,476 (June, £19,278).
 Sheba.—6,753 tons, 2,109 ozs.; loss, £340 (June, profit, £1,881).
 Simmer and Jack.—60,900 tons; profit, £17,460 (June, £22,178).
 Simmer Deep.—68,400 tons; profit, £4,901 (June, £5,599).
 Sub Nigel.—8,700 tons, £17,593; profit, £4,235 (June, £3,470).
 Sudan.—2,758 tons for £4,785 (June, £4,575).
 Taquah.—5,550 tons; output, £15,267 (June, £15,490).
 Transvaal Estates.—16,315 tons; profit, £11,368 (June, £11,079).
 Van Ryn Deep.—41,950 tons; profit, £50,089 (June, £50,109).
 Van Ryn.—37,200 tons; profit, £17,870 (June, £17,358).
 Village Deep.—53,100 tons; profit, £30,064 (June, £22,882).
 Village Main Reef.—28,000 tons; profit, £13,101 (June, £14,975).
 Vogelstruis Estates.—11,592 tons, 1,959 ozs. (June, 2,828 ozs.).
 Wanderer.—13,296 tons; profit, £1,602 (June, £1,622).
 West Rand Cons.—33,600 tons; profit, £5,929 (June, £7,234).
 Witwatersrand.—45,250 tons; profit, £24,065 (June, £24,176).
 Wit. Deep.—42,420 tons; profit, £14,208 (June, £15,559).
 Wolfram Mining and Smelting.—Output, 27 tons (May, 27 tons).
 Wolhuter.—36,000 tons; profit, £13,626 (June, £13,836).

Colonel W. V. Constable, R.E., has been elected chairman of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Co., Ltd., in place of the late Colonel Sir William Bisset; Colonel Sir Donald Robertson, K.C.S.I., has been elected deputy-chairman, and Sir Walter Roper Lawrence, Bart., G.C.I.E., has been elected a director to fill the vacancy on the board.

NORMANBY IRON WORKS CO.—This concern for the past five years has been merely a branch of Pease and Partners, Ltd., and it is rather farcical to keep up all the paraphernalia of a separate existence. In the year to June 30 the interest received was £3,300 higher at £14,605, of which directors' fees and administration expenses, &c., absorb £928 and debenture interest £2,540. Out of the balance it is proposed to raise the dividend from 6 to 8 per cent., and to double the sinking fund appropriation at £1,600, which will still leave £1,607, or £1,130 more, to be carried forward. There is nothing in the balance-sheet to detain us.

Tea, Oil and Rubber.

Although there has been a marked recovery in the price of rubber and the share market has kept gratifyingly steady, business has been painfully small in part, no doubt owing to the holiday season. Holders are always unwilling to sell on a rising market, and there are just enough buyers to absorb any stock offered, but the amount changing hands is comparatively trifling. The rise in the price of the commodity is something of a puzzle. In July, according to the Board of Trade returns, the imports of rubber amounted to 121,250 cents, against 118,380 cents in June, while the re-exports were only 73,200 cents against 103,120 cents. Consequently the amount retained here was over 48,000 cents, as compared with 15,260 cents in the preceding month. Last week's figures show that stocks are still accumulating. Imports were 1,513 tons and 1,068 tons were delivered, with the result that stocks now amount to 7,300 tons, against 4,830 tons at the corresponding date last year. During July the United States took only 30,350 cents against 69,250 cents, and although both Russia and France took rather more, they did not compensate for the shrinkage in shipments to America, which may be partly accounted for by the fact that manufacturers there are now buying direct from Singapore and getting the rubber through San Francisco. Anyhow, when the Mincing Lane reports speak of the rise in price being due to scarcity of supplies, we can only rub our eyes and wonder what it means.

Excellent results were obtained by the Jugra Land and Rubber Estates, Ltd., in the year to April 30 last. Rubber output amounted to 803,130 lbs., against an estimate of 739,500 lbs.; an increase of 278,800 lbs. over the previous 12 months, while the average price obtained was 7.12d. higher at 2s. 9.76d., and the all-in cost fell from 1s. 1.35d. to just a shade over 1s. Consequently the proceeds and stocks in hand show an increase of £56,200 at £111,126, while crop expenses were only £3,000 higher. Charges on rubber sales and colonial expenditure were £6,000 up, and £2,040 was paid for war risk insurance, so the nett profit is £45,800 higher at £71,186. Out of this it is proposed to pay a dividend of 20 per cent., against 10 per cent., and to carry forward £29,835 (an increase of £25,500), subject to excess profits duty. Only £1,895 is allowed for depreciation of plant and buildings, and the reserve, £77,680, is almost entirely derived from share premiums. The estate seems to be in such good shape that no depreciation may be necessary, but the coconut and coffee ventures are not particularly profitable, and a loss may have to be faced on these one day. In any case, it would be prudent to make more provision for the risks of the future, while prices and profits are relatively high. Output for the current year is estimated at over one million lbs., but since April the average price has been considerably below that realised last year, and the outlook calls aloud for a prudent husbanding of resources, especially as the company has nearly 16,000 acres undeveloped. There was a profit of £236 from coconuts against a loss of £260 last year, and a profit of £200 from coffee against a loss of £110, but it is evident that the prosperity of the company depends almost entirely on rubber, of which there are 5,000 acres planted, against 2,546 acres under coconuts. When in full bearing the output of rubber should be 1,500,000 to 2,000,000 lbs. a year, and if the profit fell to 6d. per lb.—which would be quite a handsome commercial return—the gross profit would be less than £50,000. However, perhaps that is looking too far ahead, and for the present it is sufficient to say that the estate appears to be excellently managed and moderately capitalised according to present-day standards. Except that the cash and Treasury bills in hand have risen to £38,200, against less than £1,000 last year, there is nothing in the balance-sheet that calls for comment.

Considerable progress is shown in the report of the Baku Russian Petroleum Co. (1909) for the year to December 31 (o/s). Gross profit from trading was

£72,950, an increase of £45,700, and the total revenue was £87,985, an increase of £42,300. Nett profit comes out at £73,047, an increase of £40,700, and it is proposed to write off £40,000, or a trifle less than last year, for depreciation, to set aside £10,000 against £5,000 for taxes in England and Russia, £13,895 for reserve against exchange fluctuations (against a credit of £2,230 last year), £6,092 for discounts, and £3,060 for depreciation of investments, thus absorbing the whole amount available. For convenience of calculation and comparison the figures are rendered at the conventional rate of 9.41 roubles per £ sterling, but the rate prevailing on December 31 was 16.20 roubles per £, and the difference between the normal and the actual rate on the trading profit in Baku amounts to £34,760. This difference remains in abeyance except for the sum of £3,217 charged to profit and loss and £13,895 placed to special reserve as stated above. An arrangement has been made with the holders of the company's debentures under which, in consideration of the rate of interest being temporarily increased from 5½ to 6½ per cent., the sinking fund payments due January, 1916 and 1917, are postponed until January, 1918. Gross production of oil for the year amounted to 6,293,170 poods, a decrease of 109,000 poods, which is fully accounted for by the two months' strike at Bibi-Eibat in 1914, when the influx of water caused serious damage to many of the wells. However, the average nett production per week from plots worked by the company 14,700 poods higher at 80,434 poods, and the average price realised by the company was 42.60 kops. per pood, an increase of 7.13 kops. The amount of boring done during the year was 3,977 ft., against 4,132 ft. in 1914. Capital expenditure (exclusive of advances to the Romany Zabrat Co.) amounted to £24,840, against £52,540 in 1914 and £84,940 in 1913. The decrease was principally at Bibi-Eibat, where conditions did not warrant heavy outlay at a time when materials were abnormally costly and labour very scarce. Changes in the balance-sheet are not of much significance in view of the artificial rate of exchange adopted, but the company is steadily strengthening its position, and it ought to do well when normal conditions are restored.

All things considered, good progress was made by the Russian Petroleum Co., Ltd., in the year to December 31 (o/s). A further considerable reduction was effected in the liabilities, bills payable being reduced by £13,600, and the balance of the loan from the Russian Government, amounting to £12,870, was paid off, but there has been an increase of £8,300 in accrued debenture interest, and after allowing for other variations there is a nett reduction of £15,550. An arrangement was made with the debenture-holders to postpone payment of interest until six months after the declaration of peace, and no interest has been paid since May, 1915. Profit on trading amounted to £65,920, an increase of £13,000, and the nett profit comes out £12,300 better at £41,607, which has been carried to the reserve for depreciation, &c., raising it to £85,510. The rouble is converted at the normal rate of 2s. 1½d., which is, of course, much above the figure ruling last year. Output of oil amounted to 4,064,000 poods, a decrease of 230,000 poods, and the weekly average was 78,160, a decrease of 4,420 poods, but the average price realised was 41.756 copecks, or exactly 6 copecks more than in 1914. During the year the price fluctuated between 27½ and 58½ copecks per pood, but since February last a maximum of 45 copecks has been fixed. Mr. A. R. McDonell, the British Vice-Consul at Baku, in his report on the oil industry, states that the yield of the Baku fields in 1915 was the lowest for 20 years, with the exception of 1914, and the monthly production steadily decreased. This falling off, he says, is undoubtedly due to the fact that much less drilling has been done owing to the high prices of materials, the increased difficulty in obtaining necessary supplies, the increased price of labour, and the greatly increased prices asked by the drilling contractors. Let us hope that it will not be long till normal conditions are restored.

It is not surprising that the Premier Oil and Pipe Line Co., Ltd., has been unable to submit accounts since the war started, seeing that practically the whole of its interests are in the much overrun territory of Galicia. Since the Russian retirement last year it is believed the wells and refineries have been worked for the benefit of the Germans and Austrians, and that the properties have not so far suffered material damage, but what the position may be when the Austrians again retire is not so certain. Anyhow, the company is in the unfortunate position that the bulk of the preference shares are held by Germans and Austrians, and although they represent only one-third of the capital their voting power gives them virtual control of the company. This has always led to dissensions on the board, and militated against the success of the venture by divided counsels. It is now proposed that the preference shares shall have only one vote each instead of two, which would have the effect of giving the ordinary shares (mostly held in England) control of the company. Meetings are summoned to pass the necessary resolutions, and at the same time alter various articles which are cumbersome or obstructive. With the German vote eliminated there is a good opportunity of getting these sensible proposals adopted, and we should not think that the English holders of preference shares will raise much objection.

When the Yankees go in for publicity in company affairs they do it whole-heartedly, and the report of the Mexican Petroleum Co., Ltd., of Delaware, is a voluminous pamphlet profusely illustrated with photographs supplemented by a special report on the properties by Mr. J. C. White, State Geologist, of West Virginia. Therefore, if the shareholders have not yet had the satisfaction of handling dividends, they get enough literature to interest them for an hour or two in their spare time. We have only space to deal with the bald results for the year 1915 compared with those of the previous 12 months. Owing largely to the continued anarchy in Mexico, the sales dropped nearly two million barrels to 6,287,530 barrels, but the average price obtained was 69.08 cents. against 63.61 cents., and the revenue was only \$440,000 lower at \$5,000,890. Operating expenses were reduced \$340,000 and \$70,000 was saved in other directions, while \$105,000 more was received as interest and bond interest required \$50,000 less, so that the nett profit comes out \$170,000 up at \$2,888,100. This is added to the previous surplus of \$8,372,700, raising it to \$11,260,800, and is carried forward, although it represents over 20 per cent. on the issued capital, of which \$12,000,000 is in non-cumulative 8 per cent. preferred stock. Cost of properties has increased \$3,300,000 to \$62,472,000, cash in hands of trustees is up \$430,000, and cash in banks \$230,000. Stocks of oil are up \$72,000, but other materials are \$180,000 lower, while accounts receivable have increased \$900,000, and the claim against the Mexican Government is put \$1,166,000 higher at \$2,172,870. During the year \$1,420,000 new common stock was issued, but the bonded debt was reduced by \$280,000. Accounts payable have increased by \$1,270,000, and reserves are up \$400,000 at \$1,819,000. Except that the capital is heavy, and that the claim against the Mexican Government is of doubtful value, the balance-sheet looks fairly healthy.

BRITISH BORNEO PARA RUBBER.—Of this company's estate of 3,013 acres, 900 acres are planted, and the output last year was 240,596 lbs. of dry rubber, an increase of 44,138 lbs. For this an average of 2s. 10½d. per lb., or 8d. per lb. more, was received, while the "all-in" cost was 1½d. less at 1s. 1d., and the profit was £9,253 better at £18,037. A year ago the dividend was 15.2754 per cent., free of income-tax; for the past year it is 15 per cent., paid in two equal halves, and apparently subject to income-tax. The balance of £7,537 left to carry forward is £6,085 up, but it is subject to directors' fees, manager's bonus and excess profits tax. Whatever money remains after meeting the excess taxation will be applied towards the redemption of debenture stock, of which £12,000 is outstanding.

UNITED PLANTERS CO. OF CEYLON.—Profits for the year ended December 31 showed an increase of £15,028 at £48,280, and a good part of the gain is stowed away in various directions. For

instance, an extra £1,800 at £2,800 is set aside to meet bad and doubtful debts, and the amount written off rubber cultivation is increased to a like extent at £3,300, while £1,000 more at £1,300 is written off new clearings account, together with £2,100 off factories and machinery. Out of the balance £2,000, or the same as a year ago, is transferred to reserve, and the dividend of 10 per cent., tax free, is repeated, leaving £14,168 to be carried forward, as against £3,428 brought in, the increase being due to the necessity of making provision for excess profits duty. No particulars are given of the working of the properties.

BAMGAON TEA.—Although the weather in 1915 was, on the whole, unfavourable, the crop was well above the estimate, and exceeded the previous year's output by 67,277 lbs. at 680,905 lbs. The average price rose by .73d. to 7.65d., but the cost laid down in London was .76d. heavier at 8.01d., and the nett profit was, therefore, only £667 up at £7,547. Out of the surplus at the end of 1914, £1,016 was paid for excess profits tax, leaving £1,933, and after providing for various charges, the nett amount now available is only £474 better at £8,013. The directors, however, repeat the dividend of 30 per cent., less tax, as well as the appropriation of £1,000 to reserve, and carry forward £3,633, or £703 more, subject to excess profits duty. For the current year the crop is estimated at 648,480 lbs. at a cost of 8.19d. laid down in London.

Answers to Correspondents.

* A Key to these Answers will be posted early each week for a subscription of ONE GUINEA per annum, 11s. for six months, or 5s. 9d. for three months.

Deposits against future queries may be lodged with the Publisher.

B. W. J.—The time has not yet come to average, in our opinion, and may not come for a year or two. There is nothing for it but to hold on and wait.

W. G.—Company handicapped by lack of capital, which it is not likely to get at present, owns a number of properties which might pay well if developed, but the shares are a long lock-up, and there is always the risk of reconstruction.

S. M. M.—The prospects look satisfactory, but the shares seem high enough at present.

F. J. W.—Profits of both will no doubt continue good for some time to come, but it would be prudent to take your profit on some of your shares, if not all, in both concerns.

D. S. C.—They are high enough for the present, and we think you should sell.

Kew.—They are quite good to hold. The security is excellent, and they are guaranteed by a strong company.

J. B.—We see no objection to a further small purchase.

Senex.—We should leave them severely alone.

Devon.—No, we do not.

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The Week in Mines.

The strong tendency of the Eastern Rand group has been the dominant incident in the Mining markets this week. Johannesburg operators have been persistent buyers of their favourite shares, the Modder, Barnato and Consolidated Mines Selection groups, in which appreciable rises have been established. The buying has also been accompanied by purchases made on local account, which were believed to be of an influential character. In other departments the tone generally has been firm, with business fairly active. Broken Hill Proprietary, Eastern Pioneers, and Diamond shares have been buoyant.

SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

The South African market has been quite cheerful, with interest chiefly directed to the Far Eastern Rand group. Both New Modders and Modder Leases have established fresh high records on buying largely from the Cape, the former rising $\frac{3}{4}$ to $17\frac{1}{2}$, and the latter 3s. 6d. to 42s. 6d. Brakpans have risen $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$, Modder Deeps $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{6}{8}$, Springs $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$, and Van Ryn Deeps $\frac{1}{4}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$. Coal Trusts have improved $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$, Sub-Nigels have put on another $\frac{1}{8}$ at $1\frac{1}{8}$, on recent rich developments, and Consolidated Mines Selections have spurted 2s. 3d. to 20s. Johnnies have risen 1s. to 18s. 3d. in view of the rise in Modder Leases. Village Deeps at $1\frac{1}{2}$ were supported on the July return being the best for a long time past, and Nourse at $\frac{1}{2}$ and Bantjes at 14s. 6d. were better for a similar reason. The Diamond group has developed strength, notably Jagersfonteins, which have risen $\frac{1}{8}$ to $3\frac{1}{8}$, and De Beers deferreds and prefs., which are $\frac{3}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ higher at $11\frac{1}{2}$ and $13\frac{3}{4}$ respectively. In the Rhodesia department, Cam and Motors relapsed 2s. 3d. to 12s. 6d. on Mr. Kingston's report, but Chartered have been supported at 13s. 3d., and Rhodesia Coppers improved to 2s. 13d. on the resumption of dividends. Among West African shares, Ashanti Goldfields at 18s. 9d. and Presteas at 8s. 6d. are both easier.

COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Copper shares have been a firm market, in sympathy with a rise of $\frac{1}{2}$ in the price of the metal. Hampdens have risen 3s. 6d. to 39s. 6d. on the dividend announcement, and Utahs and Anacondas are $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{8}$ higher at 163 $\frac{3}{4}$ and 167 $\frac{3}{4}$ respectively. Rio Tintos are unaltered at 61 $\frac{1}{2}$. Tin shares, however, have been dull, in spite of a slight rise in the metal. Dolcoaths at 10s. 6d., Nigerian Tin Corporations at $\frac{1}{8}$, and Rambutans at $1\frac{1}{8}$ are all easier. The Broken Hill group has been more active and firmer on the higher prices ruling for lead and silver. Proprietary have been in good demand, and are 1s. 9d. higher at 61s. 6d., while Norths have risen 9d. to 47s. The Russian group shows a further advance, partly owing to the scarcity of stock, but business has been on a fair scale. Irtysys have advanced 2s. to 50s., Kyshtims 3-32 to 2 19-32, Russian Minings 1s. to 23s. 6d., Russo-Asiatics $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{6}{8}$, and Tanalyks $\frac{1}{4}$ to 2 21-32. Orsk Priority remain at $1\frac{1}{2}$, in spite of a further dividend declaration.

Mexican shares have benefited slightly by the improved political situation. Among Indian shares, Mysore at 3 27-32 and Ooregums at 20s. 6d. have weakened slightly. Balaghats, on fresh buying, have jumped 1s. 3d. to 5s. 9d. Steady buying of Waihi gold shares has been a prominent incident in the Australasian section, the shares rising 7-32 to 2 5-32, while Waihi Grand Junctions have risen 9d. to 19s. 3d. Eastern Pioneers have been actively dealt in up to 10s.

MINING NEWS

WEST AFRICAN MINES.—This company in 1915 did much better than in 1914. A profit of £1,885 was realised instead of a deficit of £7,594, and this added to the credit balance of £4,742 brought forward gives a total of £6,627. But the directors consider it advisable to set aside £3,217 as a provision against a doubtful loan, thus reducing the amount carried forward to £3,410. The output of tin during the year amounted to 111 tons of concentrates, and in the first six months of this year a further 46 tons have been shipped.

WILLOUGHBY'S CONSOLIDATED.—The profit and loss account for the year ended December 31 shows a credit balance of £16,356, an increase of £6,508 on 1914. This sum, added to that brought forward, makes £39,024, which is carried forward. During the year 169 claims were sold and 20 abandoned. In regard to land 2,248 acres were sold at an average price of just under 30s. Four farms, aggregating 4,407 acres, reverted to the company. Revenue from occupied land increased from £16,155 to £16,818, but that from town sites and residential plots decreased from £7,112 to £6,253. Revenue from cattle also declined, from £8,711 to £7,963. From investments a profit of nearly £8,000 was made, as against less than £2,000 in 1914. The cash position prevents a dividend, besides the question of depreciation.

RHODESIA COPPER AND GENERAL EXPLORATION AND FINANCE CO.—This company's income in the year to May 31 derived from investments, &c., increased from £7,638 to £7,943, while a profit of £1,499 was made on land sales and share realisations, making a total of £9,442. The profit and loss account shows a credit balance of £6,216, against £5,886, which, added to the sum brought in, makes £13,324. A dividend of 13d. per share of 4s. 6d., free of tax, is declared, and £5,990, against £7,108, is carried forward. No dividend was paid last year, but in the preceding year 3 per cent. was paid.

SIBERIAN PROPRIETARY.—The nett profit for the year to January 13 last amounted to £8,425, as against £2,347 last year, a result which is to be attributed to the improvement recorded by the Orsk Co., in which the company is largely interested. The profit makes the debit balance of £62,390 brought in to be reduced to £53,965.

ORSK GOLDFIELDS.—A further marked improvement is recorded by this company; the output was increased from £80,261 to £102,728, the working profit being £21,487 larger at £51,404. After writing off depreciation the nett profit is £26,944, against £13,961, to which has to be added the sum brought in, making a total of £27,969. Interim dividends on the priority and preference at the rate of Rs. 1.70 and 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ kopecks per share, tax free, respectively, absorb £16,826, leaving £11,143 to be carried forward. The board has decided to pay on October 16 an interim dividend for 1916 of Rs. 1.70 on the priority shares and of Rs. 7.50 on the preference shares, both free of tax. No dividends have been paid by the company until this year since its formation 10 years ago.

BLACKWATER MINES.—A further improvement is registered by this company in the past year. The gross revenue increased by £14,856 to £115,242, and as expenditure at the same time declined by £321 the profit rose by £15,766 to £58,310. Expenditure upon development amounted to £10,879, and upon plant to £10,874. The tonnage crushed was 4,217 tons larger at 54,643 tons; the yield per ton rose by 2s. 7d. to 42s. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per ton, but costs were also higher. Reserves of ore have declined from 104,564 tons, valued at 15.52 dwts., to 91,251 tons, valued at 11.23 dwts. per ton. The dividend is raised from 1s. per share to 2s. per share, tax free, and after writing off £4,198 for depreciation and £15,018 for development (less redemption), prospecting and shaft sinking, and adding £10,120 to the gold reserve, £15,801 against £16,361 is carried forward.

PROGRESS MINES.—This company, which like the Blackwater belongs to the Consolidated of New Zealand group, did better in 1915 than in 1914. Including sundry revenue the gross profit was £17,590, as against £16,064. Debenture interest, depreciation, and development, &c., absorb £18,530, leaving a nett debit of £939 as against a debit of £9,549 shown on account of 1914. The tonnage milled rose by 3,010 tons to 36,160 tons, but the yield declined by 4s. 2d. per ton. Costs, however, were reduced by 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per ton. Although the mine is not yet in sight of a resumption of dividends, recent developments indicate that the property is by no means played out yet. The general manager again estimates the tonnage to be milled at 80,000. The gross revenue for the year rose from £53,450 to £57,348.

CONSOLIDATED GOLD FIELDS OF NEW ZEALAND.—This company likewise achieved better things this year as the result of the better luck which attended its subsidiaries. The profits increased from £18,221 to £24,713, but £10,628 of this has to be allowed for depreciation, and £8,384 has been written off investments on account of the interest acquired a few years ago in the Kotuku Oilfields Syndicate, which has ceased operations. Sundry creditors have been reduced by £9,638 to £14,240, and sundry debtors are £2,528 lower. Cash at bankers has increased during the year from £4,336 to £8,336. Thus the financial position has been considerably improved in the past year, and £11,899 against £9,889 is carried forward. At the Wealth of Nations mine the tonnage crushed was slightly larger at 25,844 tons, the yield per ton being 32s. 5d. as compared with 31s. 9d. in 1914. Costs rose by 4d. per ton, and the working profit was £18,045, equal to 13s. 11d. per ton, an increase of £2,091, equal to 1s. 5d. per ton. Ore reserves have risen by 8,782 tons to 36,836 tons, valued at 11.23 dwts. per ton.

WARNER AND CO., LTD.—Trading profits for the year ended June 30 were £4,043 up at £16,180, but only £593, or £2,275 less, was brought in, so that the nett gain is £1,768 at £16,773. Income-tax absorbed £1,300 more, but the provision for depreciation is reduced by £567 to £2,944, and the dividend on the ordinary shares is increased from 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., leaving £754, or £160 more, to be carried forward. Changes in the balance-sheet are not of much importance, but it may be noted that current liabilities are £2,000 higher at £10,029, while debtors have risen by £7,898 to £17,486, against decreases of £555 to £10,357 in stocks, £1,190 to £14,035 in cash and bills, and £1,970 to £32,121 in investments. The item of cash and bills included £3,006 for overdue bills (accepted) on Germany, Belgium, and French Ardennes, which cannot be presented owing to the war, and stocks and sundry debtors also include small sums in those countries.

SOUTH SUBURBAN GAS CO.—Nett revenue for the June half-year was £40,553, an increase of £7,691, but of that increase £6,132 came from the balance brought forward. The dividends are retained at £4 16s. 8d. per cent. per annum on the ordinary and West Kent ordinary stocks, with £12,765 left to carry forward, which is larger by just the amount of the increased profits mentioned. A year ago £2,712 was set aside to a special purposes fund, but there is nothing withdrawn from the nett revenue this time. Gross revenue was £32,874 larger at £252,629, but expenses rose £33,711 to £214,219, so that the nett balance shown of £40,410, before taking account of the balance brought forward, was £837 smaller. Sales of gas increased 4.39 per cent., principally owing to the gas fires during the unseasonable weather. The company has now 16,810 gas fires on hire, besides 53,000 cookers and other heating appliances. The number of consumers has increased by 793. The demand has been less active for coke, although prices have been well maintained. Among other products, sulphate of ammonia has been in less home demand than expected, but has sold well for export.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

SOUTH METROPOLITAN GAS.

The half-yearly general meeting of the South Metropolitan Gas Co. was held on Wednesday at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., Dr. Charles Carpenter (the chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. F. McLeod) read the advertisement convening the meeting.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the first paragraph of the report giving the result of the half-year's working made it clear that they had made both ends meet with a little to spare. It must be remembered, however, that the dividend of £4 8s. per cent. which they now proposed to pay was less by £1 1s. 4d. per cent. than that declared two years ago, and that by the increase in the price charged for gas to consumers they had been drawing upon them to a larger extent. The co-partnership bonus to the company's employees had also been considerably reduced, so that the present satisfactory balancing of the accounts had been provided by contributions from consumers, shareholders and employees. As to the question whether they were not running too great a risk in reducing the price of gas by 2d. per 1,000 cubic feet, he did not think they were, for the reason that they were now getting the freightage of coal more into their own hands. When war broke out they were paying for freight from the North to London under 3s. per ton. Then their ships were all commandeered by the Admiralty. He made no complaint as to this; they were modern in construction and admirably suited to the purpose. The company had to charter others to take their place, and had to pay pretty heavily. To the Government they actually paid five times the figure (for very awkward and unsuitable vessels) for which those they took from the company were running. After meeting the increased insurance charges, seamen's wages, &c., their costs amounted to only 4s. per ton—a very different figure from that set by the Government of 15s. per ton. In his opinion the business of shipping had been badly bungled. It should have been properly controlled long ago, as it might well and easily have been. The directors saw their way to reduce the price for gas out of the lower freight costs. Roughly speaking, 1s. per ton in freight was the equivalent of 1d. per 1,000 cubic feet. The consumption of gas had remained at pretty nearly the figure at which it stood a year ago. To be exact, it was nearly three-quarters per cent. more. The domestic consumption had certainly been checked by the earlier hours kept and the reduction in the amount used in the public lamps. On the other hand, the industrial demand had considerably increased, partly as the result of the war and partly by reason of the fact that the convenience and economy of gas, even in large units of consumption, was being more and more realised by manufacturers. They had also been aided in the half-year's working by the returns from residual products, the most important of which was coke. At one time about half their production of coke went to the Medway for cement making. Nearly the whole of this trade was lost when rotary kilns were introduced, but a very useful substitute was found in the fuel markets of Northern Europe. These markets, however, had been interfered with owing to the general shortage of fuel in the country, and the board had therefore been increasing their efforts to dispose of the company's make within the metropolis, with promising results. There was little doubt that the gas undertakings should be the fuel suppliers of the future, not only gaseous but solid. In other words, the raw coal should pass through their hands for the extraction of the valuable residuals and the solid fuel passed on to the steam raiser. It might well be considered whether the policy adopted by Parliament of putting the suppliers of gaseous and the electric energy into competition had not had its day. Both industries stood firm to-day as necessities of life. In the case of the gas undertakings the sliding scale had been an admirable device for the stimulation of progress and controlling the share of the profits to be taken by the shareholders. There had also been an appreciable increase in the value of the company's other by-products, both those of tar and ammonia, which there was every reason to believe would be maintained until the end of the war. When this time arrived no one could foresee what might happen, but it was perfectly certain that British manufacturers would have to work together in much greater harmony than was the case in the past, both to avoid waste and reduce cost of production. There was also the not less important matter of how far legislation could be utilised to support the efforts of the home producer. Fortunately, there was now in process of formation an association of chemical manufacturers whose province would be to deal with these, among many other matters. The company had, in common with all other employers, suffered considerable inconvenience from the reduced supply of labour. They were, however, employing an increasing number of females, with satisfactory results in all cases. Altogether they had some 400 females in their employ, and they entered into the co-partnership as earnestly as the men. With regard to the slot meter system, it spoke very highly for the officials who had control of this department that the loss sustained by breaking them open had been only £130 out of a revenue of something like £480,000.

Mr. Frank H. Jones (deputy-chairman) seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman then proposed a resolution authorising the directors to raise £750,000 further capital "by the issue of ordinary stock, preference stock, and debenture stock, or by any of those modes, in such amounts, at such times, and in such

manner as they may deem desirable, pursuant to the powers contained in the company's Act of 1916."

Mr. J. Mews seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

An extraordinary meeting was held subsequently, when, on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by the Deputy-Chairman, Mr. E. Honoratus Lloyd, K.C., was elected a director in the place of Mr. Laurence Rostron, deceased.

WATNEY, COMBE, REID AND CO.

The ordinary general meeting of Watney, Combe, Reid and Co., Ltd., was held on Tuesday at the Westminster Palace Hotel, Mr. H. Cosmo O. Bonsor, the chairman of the company, presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. W. S. Bradley) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman, in the course of his address, said: Gentlemen,—When we met you last year the board expressed their very grave anxiety as to how the year under review would turn out. We then had the experience of nine months of increased taxation, which placed 2d. per quart as the minimum additional price on the consumer, and we had lost 23 per cent. in sales in consequence of the increased price. We were also aware that the prices of all the commodities we use had risen to a great extent, and they continued to rise through the autumn of 1915 and the spring of 1916. British barley advanced to the price of 60s. per quarter or over, which I believe is almost an unprecedented price in the annals of agriculture. Everything that a brewer uses went up by leaps and bounds, and during the present year we have had to contend against those increased prices. But when I addressed you last year we were not aware of the further troubles which were in store for us. In December an order was issued that no treating should be allowed in public-houses. I believe that the order was necessary, but it caused the greatest possible inconvenience, and threw very serious responsibilities on the retailer. In December the hours of sale on licensed premises were reduced to five and a-half hours a day. That, again, interfered tremendously with trade, particularly with the draught beer trade. In March we heard that it was necessary to restrict the output of beer, and in April there was an additional shilling per barrel taxation. These restrictions have worked extremely unevenly over the brewing industry. In some localities where breweries and licensed houses are placed, where there are large munition works or a large camp of troops, or near docks, where a great deal of activity is in existence, the trade has not suffered to anything like the extent that it has in residential quarters; and you must recollect that, although our business is spread practically over the whole of the United Kingdom, the great bulk of our profitable trade is done in the City, the West-End, and the West-End suburbs of London, and consequently we have suffered, and our retailers have suffered, very considerably. We are restricted to brew 15 per cent. less than we brewed in 1915, and 30 per cent. less than in 1914. The only way to cut down consumption was again to increase the price to the consumer, and prices were increased by a minimum of 1d. per quart, or 3d. per pint, practically over the whole of the retail trade, and more as you got up into the stronger beers. I believe that that has more or less had the desired effect, but the increased price does not compensate a brewer for the reduction in trade, and I believe the reduction in trade is a very serious loss to pretty nearly every retailer. Now I will turn to the figures of the balance-sheet. For the year we have just concluded, June 30, 1916, we sold 57,600 barrels less than in 1915, and 193,000 odd barrels less than in 1914. We have paid directly to the Government £976,557, and that figure does not include the amount of income-tax we have collected from rents and interest. Consequently we have handed over to the Government certainly a million of money. That is £206,500 more than we paid in 1915 on the reduction of trade. I have been asked to account for the fact that the large figure of £10,153,000 has been increased by £130,000 since last year. We invested £150,000 cash in freeholds. We had the opportunity of buying freeholds of leasehold houses where the leases were getting very short, and we bought on a very fair basis—I think it was on a 5 per cent. scale. Then a very old and esteemed customer of Messrs. Watney's died; he was a free customer, with the exception that he had a loan on mortgage on his freehold houses, and we bought those houses on a valuation from the executors of his estate. Our cash shows a decrease of £200,000. On the face of it, that looks rather a bad figure, but you will see that our stocks of barley, malt, &c., are considerably higher. In barley and malt £130,000 is invested, and we carry a very much larger stock of those commodities than we have ever previously done. We may be right or wrong, but we thought it was right, having cash, to secure ourselves against a possible shortage in the coming year. On the debtor side of the account, sundry creditors appear large, but, practically, that is all beer debts owing to the Government giving us an additional month's credit. When we come to the profit and loss account, our trading account is, I think, most satisfactory, considering the difficulties we have experienced. The real crux of the whole thing is on the debtor side of the account. Bad debts—I forget the actual amount—are £29,000 more than last year, and £35,000 more than in 1914. We call them bad debts, but they are not bad beer debts, which are practically nil. This figure is really the allowances we have had to make to our various tenants off their rents in consequence of the grave restrictions on their trade. We could, of course, have deducted it on the other side from the rents, but I thought it was much better to show the heavy burden of £35,000 reduction in two years of the rent account in the form of bad debts, and to impress upon the shareholders where the shoe pinches, because

£35,000 would have paid considerably more than 1 per cent. on the preferred ordinary stock. I anticipate that you, as business men, would not expect me to say anything as regards the future. All I will say is this, that we have carried forward a larger sum than we have ever before carried forward, which is the best evidence we can give that we view the future with great misgiving. However, we are secure in our stocks of barley and malt, and we shall, at any rate, be able to supply our customers up to the limited extent we are allowed to. If fresh difficulties arise—I can hardly think they will—we shall have to meet them as business men, because, after all, it is the duty of business men to deal with difficulties as they come.

The Deputy-Chairman (Mr. Charles J. Phillips) seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

TRANSVAAL AND RHODESIAN ESTATES.

The annual general meeting of the Transvaal and Rhodesian Estates, Ltd., was held on Tuesday at Salisbury House, London Wall, E.C., Mr. G. R. Bonnard (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. E. J. Sloan) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, after dealing with the accounts, said: I must again call your attention to our freehold real estate in Rhodesia, mainly in Salisbury, its capital, embracing over one-fifth of the area of that city. You will, however, see the impossibility of our turning this important asset to revenue-producing account until after peace is declared and immigration to the different centres of Rhodesia is restarted and continued in increasing numbers. The outlook for cattle ranching in Rhodesia, as you are aware, in my opinion, and in the opinion of people very much better able to judge than I am of its future as a ranching country, is certain to be attended with remarkable success, and since I last addressed you much has occurred to strengthen these views. We own with the Amalgamated Properties of Rhodesia an equal interest in a ranch aggregating some 130,000 acres near to the township of Gwanda. Breeding has been carried on there with pedigree Hereford and Devon bulls crossed with native cows. As a consequence we now possess some hundreds of half-bred Hereford and Devon cattle, our total herd numbering nearly 1,000 head. As opportunity offers further stock will be purchased and extended ranching operations carried on. We also hold in equal portions with the Amalgamated Properties of Rhodesia an estate of approximately 160,000 acres in the Tuli district, and shall shortly complete arrangements for the acquisition of an adjoining estate to which I referred last year. This company's Kent estate, consisting of some 22,000 acres, situated about 20 miles by railway from Salisbury, constitutes an almost perfect nursery for the breeding and rearing of cattle. We have here at the present time some 600 head, including pure-bred Hereford bulls and cows and pure-bred heifer and bull calves bred on the estate. All the cattle are in excellent condition, the calves growing out especially well. Operations will be extended on this estate with a view to creating a high-class stock of breeders, both bulls and cows; such bulls in this category as we may not require here will be of the greatest value and assistance to us in connection with our other ranching interests. Your mining properties in Rhodesia consist of the Fred and Fernando mines, comprising 89 and 13 claims respectively, with three other blocks aggregating 40 claims and an option to purchase a block of 30 claims known as the Celtic, immediately adjoining the Fred. They are all situated in the Filabusi district of Southern Rhodesia, and are in close proximity to each other, the Fred being our principal mining property. There are three principal reefs on the Fred mine, which are being thoroughly developed, and we have every reason to believe that this work will lead to very satisfactory results. The reef on the Fernando mine is small but rich. It would appear that we are on the verge of a further remarkable discovery in the Far Eastern Rand, where already developments have disclosed gold reefs of high value, which can undoubtedly be worked at very considerable profit. If this be so, it must greatly increase the potential value of real estate in Johannesburg, especially your sites, which are principally situated in the most valuable parts of that city's area. Lastly, to deal with your company's English real estate, there is nothing I can add to the information conveyed to you at our last meeting except to say that the outstanding mortgage on the Canons Park Estate has been reduced to £9,500, and I have every reason to believe that the views of my colleagues and myself as to this asset becoming in time very valuable will be fully justified.

Mr. J. W. Carr seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

General Life Assurance Co.—The Right Hon. H. E. Duke, K.C., M.P., has resigned his seat on the board on appointment as chief secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

Van Diemen's Land Co.—The directors announce that the Bill for the reorganisation of the company's capital has passed both Houses of Parliament and received the Royal Assent. Permission has since been obtained from the Treasury Committee for fresh issues of capital to carry out the conversion forthwith. Accordingly, the directors have resolved that the capital of the company shall be £520,000 divided into 220,000 fully-paid "A" shares of £1 each and 10,000 fully-paid "B" shares of £30 each, and that such conversion shall take effect as and from the 20th inst., each existing share of £22 being therefore converted into 22 "A" shares of £1 each and one "B" share of £30.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1916, and August 5, 1916:—

	Estimate for the Year 1916-1917.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1916, to Aug. 5, 1916.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1915, to Aug. 7, 1915.
Balances in Exchequer on April 1—	£	£	£
Bank of England	—	25,111,065	81,898,728
Bank of Ireland	—	463,941	1,552,224
REVENUE.		25,575,006	83,450,952
Customs	—	22,256,000	13,440,000
Excise	—	16,260,000	18,400,000
Estate, &c., Duties	—	11,089,000	13,031,000
Stamps	—	2,415,000	2,019,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	—	310,000	330,000
Property and Income Tax and Super Tax	—	26,755,000	13,745,000
Excess Profits Duty	—	12,454,000	—
Land Value Duties	—	80,000	41,000
Post Office	—	10,600,000	8,900,000
Crown Lands	—	160,000	160,000
Receipts from Suez Canal ..	—	—	—
Shares and Sundry Loans ..	—	495,894	189,933
Miscellaneous	—	2,228,134	1,007,218
Revenue	—	105,103,028	71,263,151
Total, including Balance		130,678,034	154,714,103
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion	—	1,550,000	280,000
For Treasury Bills (net amount)	—	26,255,000	—
For War Loan, 1925-1928	—	—	35,300,000
For 3% Exchequer Bonds, 1920	—	—	242,345
For War Loan, 1925-1945	—	424	333,500,000
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919	—	29,869,000	—
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920	—	79,714,500	—
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1921	—	48,437,000	—
For War Expenditure Certificates	—	17,614,000	—
For War Savings Certificates	—	14,850,000	—
For other Debt created under the War Loan Act, 1915	—	10,000,000	—
Temporary Advances—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £345,000,000 in 1916-1917 and £207,742,000 in 1915-1916)	—	409,396,500	208,742,000
Total		768,364,458	732,778,448
EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Estimate for the Year 1916-17.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1916, to Aug. 5, 1916.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1915, to Aug. 7, 1915.
EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£
Permanent Charge of Debt ..	—	11,025,351	11,855,273
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	—	42,450,361	463,637
Road Improvement Fund	—	—	529,622
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c.	—	1,628,121	1,862,640
Other Consolidated Fund Services	—	680,701	774,078
Supply Services	—	571,367,031	384,061,298
Expenditure	—	627,151,565	399,546,608
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion	—	1,790,000	445,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	—	60,914	60,914
For Treasury Bills (net amount)	—	—	23,515,000
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan (Redemption) Act, 1910	—	—	16,395,500
For Repayments to the Bank of England ..	—	—	160,226,185
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913	—	150,000	830,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 ..	—	135,000	—
Under Housing Act, 1914	—	18,900	500,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8, issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1908	—	38,000	27,000
Old Sinking Fund—1910-1911: Issued under the Finance Act, 1911—			
Section 16 (1) (b)	—	20,000	50,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1911-1912—Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Co. (Acquisition of Capital) Act, 1914	—	—	250,000
Temporary Advances repaid—Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £81,360,000 in 1916-17 and £25,056,000 in 1915-16)	—	112,256,500	25,056,000
	1916, Aug. 5.	1915, Aug. 7.	
Balances in Exchequer—	£	£	
Bank of England	25,655,434	105,166,522	
Bank of Ireland	1,088,145	709,719	
Total		768,364,458	732,778,448

Memo.—Treasury Bills outstanding on August 5, 1916 *£856,557,000.

* Includes £694,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the Account.

Treasury, August 7, 1916.

Shawinigan Water and Power.—Earnings for June were maintained at the same level as the previous month, viz., \$160,000, or at the rate of \$1,920,000 per annum.

Messrs. Petersen and Co., Ltd., of 6, Lloyd's Avenue, E.C., announce that the London American Maritime Trading Co., Ltd., which is managed by them, has absorbed the Leander Steamship Co., Ltd., recently controlled by Messrs. Scaramanga Brothers. The fleet of the London American Maritime Co. consists of nine cargo steamers of about 4,000 tons gross each, and the Leander Co. of four steamers of between 2,600 tons and 3,100 tons each.

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You can always obtain gratis the best advice regarding your stocks and shares through the medium of the *Answers to Correspondents* column of

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LONDON:

"THE INVESTORS' REVIEW,"
Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

The List will be closed on or before Tuesday, the 15th August, 1916.

NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT 5¼ PER CENT. LOAN, 1920-1922.

ISSUE OF

£2,500,000 DEBENTURES TO BEARER.

Convertible into 5½ per Cent. Inscribed Stock at any time up to the 20th October, 1916.

Price of Issue, £100 per cent.

Interest payable 15th February and 15th August.

Six Months' Interest payable 15th February, 1917.

Principal repayable at par on the 15th August, 1922, the Government having the option of redemption, in whole or in part, at par, on or after the 15th August, 1920, on giving three months' notice.

The Government of New South Wales will comply with the requirements of the Colonial Stock Act, 1900, in order that Trustees may invest in this Inscribed Stock subject to the provisions set forth in the Trustee Act, 1893.

The London County and Westminster Bank, Limited, are instructed by the Government of New South Wales to offer the above Loan for subscription. The Treasury has been consulted under the notification of the 18th January, 1915, and raises no objection to this Issue.

New South Wales Debentures and Stock domiciled in London are not, and will not be, subject to income-tax in New South Wales, or to death duties in that State.

The Stock will be inscribed at the London County and Westminster Bank, Limited, Lothbury, and will be transferable at that Bank free of stamp duty. Dividend Warrants will be transmitted by post at the Stockholder's risk.

The revenues of the State of New South Wales alone are liable in respect of this Stock and the Dividends thereon, and the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom and the Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury are not directly or indirectly liable or responsible for the payment of the Stock or of the Dividends thereon, or for any matter relating thereto.—40 and 41 Vict., cap. 59, sec. 19.

Applications on the form prescribed will be received at the London County and Westminster Bank, Limited, Lothbury, and must be for multiples of £100, and be accompanied by a deposit of £5 per cent. on the nominal amount applied for.

Payment will be required as follows, viz.:—

£5	per cent.	on application.
£15	"	" 22nd August, 1916.
£30	"	" 18th September, 1916.
£50	"	" 13th October, 1916
£100		

Payment in full may be made on the 22nd August, 1916, or on any subsequent day, under discount at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

Forms of Application can be obtained at the London County and Westminster Bank, Limited, 41, Lothbury, E.C., 21, Lombard Street, E.C., or at any of the Branches of the Bank, and of Messrs. R. Nivison and Co., Bank Buildings, Princes Street, E.C.

No. This Form may be used.
FORM OF APPLICATION
FOR

NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT 5¼ PER CENT. LOAN, 1920-1922.

To the London County and Westminster Bank, Limited.

GENTLEMEN,—I/we hereby apply for £..... of the New South WALES GOVERNMENT 5¼ PER CENT. LOAN, 1920-1922, according to the Prospectus of the 10th August, 1916, and undertake to pay £100 for every £100 of Debentures, and to accept the same or any less amount that may be allotted to me/us, and to pay for the same in conformity with the terms of the said Prospectus.

I/we enclose the required deposit of £....., being £5 per cent. on the nominal amount applied for.

Name

Address

.....August, 1916.

The Investors' Review

FOUNDED BY A. J. WILSON, FEBRUARY, 1892.

Vol. XXXVIII.—No. 972.]
NEW SERIES.

[Registered as a
Newspaper.]

SATURDAY, AUG. 19, 1916.

[Price 6d.]

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(Registered in Japan.)
ESTABLISHED 1880.

Subscribed Capital	Yen 45,000,000
Capital Paid Up	Yen 30,000,000
Reserve Fund	Yen 20,400,000

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Capital Issued	1,125,000
Capital Paid Up	562,500
Reserve Fund	550,000

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Paid up Capital	669,587 10 0
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits ..	354,791 5 3
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	606,962 10 0

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EDWARD SATTERTHWAITE,

Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange,
Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London.

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Vol. XXXVIII.—No. 972. SATURDAY, AUG. 19, 1916.
New Series.

(Registered as a Newspaper.) Price 6d.

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Telegrams advising about new securities cost **Half-a-Crown** each, plus cost of the telegram.

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Correspondents can have their lists of investments overhauled and advised upon by letter on terms varying according to the time taken.

Groups of Five Stocks for investment supplied at the rate of **One Guinea**, each list different.

Passing Events.

Expenditure was only £23,098,247 in the week ended the 12th inst., or barely £3,300,000 a day, a welcome reduction could it be depended on to persist. It may be, as Mr. Montagu's statistics lead us to hope, that the daily outgoings, although varying with the times and seasons, or as bills from abroad come in for payment, will on the whole keep well below the £6,000,000 a day for the remainder of the war. It must never be forgotten, however, that at least £1,000,000 a day of our outgoings is incurred on behalf of our Allies, and whatever their demands may be, we are bound to meet them. It is a comfort, indeed, to think that we are much more able to meet them than our enemies are to provide for their allies, the Turks and Bulgarians. Out of the week's expenditure £21,454,249 went to supply services, or slightly more than £3,000,000 a day. The decrease on the previous week's outgoings was, in fact, £12,146,000, and there were abatements of a minor kind in other directions. Against the decline in outgoings we have to place an increase in the revenue from taxation and State services, the total for the week having been £6,605,000, or upwards of £1,000,000 above the previous week's receipts. This increase was thanks to excess profits duty, to Customs and the Post Office, all of which gave more than in the previous week, the Post Office alone £900,000 more. As for excess profits duty, in the past fortnight this has yielded £4,632,000, of which £2,374,000 came in last week, but ordinary income-tax receipts were only £626,000, compared with £1,044,000. The entire week's revenue, however, did not amount to two days' expenditure, and accordingly the floating debt continues to increase. Exchequer bonds were sold to the amount of £3,404,000, bringing up the total to £161,425,000. Of last week's sales £2,131,000 were in five-year bonds, falling due in 1921. Of War Savings Certificates only £2,250,000 was sold, as compared with £2,700,000 in the previous week, but War Expenditure Certificates continued to yield a little more than £760,000. Last week's receipts from this source, in fact, were £766,000, or £6,000 more than in the preceding week, and the total of these outstanding is therefore now £18,832,000, while of War Savings Certificates the total is £17,100,000. A nett

amount of £15,232,000 in Treasury bills was sold, raising the aggregate outstanding to £871,789,000. Thus floating debt in all its forms had risen in the end of last week to nearly £1,100,000,000, and that it should have attained to this magnitude with so little disturbance to the Money market is, we repeat, a remarkable testimony not only to the immense wealth of the country, but to the admirable efficiency of its credit machinery.

Whatever people's feelings may be with regard to the Parliamentary franchise in this country, and the antiquated or corrupt methods of electing M.P.'s, emphatically the present is not a time to begin tinkering at the Constitution. Undoubtedly the register upon which the next election will have to be fought, whether in June next year or June, 1918—and we think it is about as likely to be the later date as the earlier—offers the most bewildering spectacle of anomalies, confusion, and injustices that could be imagined. It stands out now before the eyes of even the most conservative of citizens as one of those grotesque absurdities whose survival fills the mind with amazement, but the country has allowed it to exist for so long, and the territorial and plutocratic interests have hitherto been powerful enough to bar the way against any general or logical reform, that there it must stand, a world's derision. We shall consequently have to celebrate a scrap election on an imperfect and very inadequately tinkered-up old register one of these days, when this weary Parliament is at last allowed to die—unless the upheaval, which means revolution, comes first. We must take the risk, and do our best; there is no help for it. Sundry patchings were outlined by Mr. Asquith, and his excuse for avoiding great changes was just what was to be expected. He could do no otherwise. The Bill does not modify, either by way of enlargement or contraction, the present qualification for the franchise; all that it proposes to alter are a few secondary matters. Those who are away from home on war work will be safeguarded against disfranchisement, and soldiers, sailors, and war workers of all classes who are on the existing register are to be placed on the new, whether their qualifying premises are retained or not. Other persons "who are in course of qualification, at whatever stage and however early in the stage of qualification, and whose course of qualification was necessarily inter-

rupted" by their leaving home in order to engage in war work, are, under the proposed measure, entitled to be considered as if their course of qualification had continued its normal progress. The law, in fact, will be taken just as it is, but all hindrances to its creaky working are to be swept aside by the new Bill. It is a speeding-up bill to clear the way for an election next year, and the wrangle that has arisen around it is not in the interests either of good Government or a better law.

Naturally, there will be much grumbling and no small criticism indulged in by Constitution menders over "this weakness on the part of the Ministry," as it will be called, whereas said Ministry has really shown true courage in going no further. It would simply be impossible at the present time to take up any measure of domestic reform, least of all franchise reform, which goes to the roots of the Constitution, with that earnestness and absence of preoccupation necessary to the framing of wise laws of every kind. That, however, need not hinder those who are inclined from employing their leisure and distracting their thoughts from more painful subjects by drawing up schemes for a new franchise law to be enacted when the war ends. It will have to be a broadly-founded, sweeping measure, of that there can be no doubt at all. Those who are fighting for the world's liberty, and who survive, are not going to come back home to sit down tamely under election or other laws framed entirely in the interests of the landowner and the capitalist, and buttressed by outworks like the City Livery and the University franchises. The "property qualification" will have to disappear, as well as the plural vote. So, instead of worrying the Ministry, whose time is fully occupied with the war, in the House of Commons or in the Press, let M.P.'s and politicians who cannot be at peace with themselves, or cease from slandering all and sundry of their aversions, form a group or groups, and set to work to thrash out franchise problems and learn their complexity. Too many people, especially M.P.'s, seem to have no work to do at present, and a good many of the chosen do not at times seem capable of taking any useful share in the business of Government, even if given a chance. But many idealists are afoot, and idealists may be useful in their day and generation if they will earnestly gather together and try to think or thrash out problems of electoral and other reform in a spirit of anxious solicitude for the welfare of their country and their kind, and for nothing beyond. If they do not, it is by no means impossible that they may be caught unawares by the swirl of an upheaval that will carry the nation and mankind towards summits or depths of change the most eagerly speculative have never yet imagined.

In answer to Sir Edward Carson, Mr. Asquith on Wednesday stated it to be the opinion of the Government that this country "would not tolerate the resumption of diplomatic intercourse with Germany after the war until reparation had been made for the murder of Captain Fryatt." The announcement was greeted with general cheers, and when he went on to add that he and his Government were in consultation with our Allies, some of whom have suffered brutality even more gross than we have, with a view to decide upon the best and most effective steps to be taken, and as to what conditions should be exacted in the terms of peace to secure reparation and satisfy justice, there was again a general assent and cheering. Since the announcement was made, however, it has been turned over, and the Prime Minister's enemies, of whom there are many among the less enlightenedly patriotic, think that these phrases may mean nothing. Supposing the grumblers right, which they are not, can we not trust France, Italy, and Russia to see to it that they mean much? Had Mr. Asquith stopped at the first phrase quoted, the interpretation generally given to his words would have been that no negotiations of any kind would be entered into with Germany until reparation had been made for the Fryatt and other crimes. His second

phrase seemed to weaken the first, because it implies the preliminary negotiation of a treaty. Now the instinct of the people is "no negotiations, no treaty," until—as this journal has unceasingly demanded—every reparation possible has been made to Belgium, to Northern France, to Poland, and to Serbia for the crimes perpetrated against the people.

Mr. Runciman is to be congratulated, first of all, on his restoration to health, and then on the happy manner in which he has demonstrated his restored capacity for work by his successful visit to Italy. Is this new fashion of intimate ministerial intercourse going to prevail in future to the displacement by and by of the cumbersome and antiquated system of ambassadors with their etiquettes and circumlocutions? Democracies need not be surprised should it be so. Again and again since this war began Ministers of the Allied Powers have themselves conferred together, ambassadors being either altogether put aside or relegated to second place, and here is Mr. Runciman travelling to Rome to discuss business with the Italian Ministry, arriving at a thorough agreement, accompanied by an enhanced sentiment of goodwill between the two nations, all in a matter of a week or less. It would have taken the old machinery of diplomacy months to get such a thing begun, let alone finished. As yet no particulars have been published of the terms of the agreement concluded, but we may infer that Italian grievances about shipping facilities and freights, supplies of coal and steel, &c., have been discussed, and smoothed away or removed. Also we think it probable that the support of British credit and the assistance of British capitalists in the development of Italian industries and agricultural and other resources will likewise have been considered, and the lines of future commercial and industrial relationships more or less definitely marked out. But it is of no use attempting to discuss these or any points connected with Mr. Runciman's excursion; all we have scope to do is to congratulate the Minister on his success, and to cordially endorse the sentiments of friendship and mutual trust that it has strengthened or evoked. Italy, France, and Russia must henceforth all be partners with us in the work of regeneration which must follow the war, and not least partners in the Mediterranean. And the spirit of our partnership must be one of sincere and unselfish co-operation, not one of greed and covetousness, least of all one of envy and hatred.

A profusely illustrated volume, entitled "Canada, the Country of the Twentieth Century," has been issued by the Department of Trade and Commerce of the Government of the Dominion under the authority of Sir G. E. Foster, the Minister of Trade and Commerce. It is compiled by Mr. Watson Griffin, and offers an immense amount of information about every part of Canada, its products, the possibilities of its soil, the achievements of its population, its wealth in minerals, in available water-power, &c. For example, Mr. Griffin tells us that the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec have available approximately 8,400,000 24-hour horse-power in electric current. By controlling the discharge of waters on rivers where the difference between high and low water is great this, he adds, could be enormously increased, and the uses to which electricity can be applied are continually expanding, so that although Canada has unmeasurable stores of coal, neither Government nor people must neglect to develop their water-power. The water supply varies in different parts of the country, and in the Maritime Provinces coal is so handy that the necessity to turn to stored water or waterfalls is in no way pronounced, but even in the Prairie Provinces and the Northern Zone, as it is called, there is water capable of being utilised to develop electric power, and it is estimated that north of the Nelson and Saskatchewan River systems the water forces whose capacity has already been estimated are capable of supplying for seven months in the year, from May to November, 2,406,000 24-hour horse-power

current. As for British Columbia, it is splendidly endowed with water powers, which its equally splendid endowment in coal deposits have not prevented the citizens from making efforts to bring into use. That is one field of enterprise about which valuable information is to be found in this volume, and it is equally full of suggestive facts with regard to the agricultural and pastoral achievements and possibilities of the various provinces and regions within the Dominion. Canadian fisheries, too, about which much is told, play an increasingly important part in the supply of food to the world, and there may be possibilities of many kinds as yet unsuspected in the far-away ice-bound North-West territories. Not the least alluring part of the volume's contents is its illustrations, which give us the means of forming a conception of cities like Montreal, Toronto and Quebec in the East, and of Winnipeg, Brandon, Saskatoon, Vancouver, and other places in the West and on the Pacific Coast, as well of the open country, its crops, and scenery. Nor are the ports on the great lakes omitted, so that by the study of this compilation alone the public can get a very full and, we think, on the whole, fair idea of what Canada is to-day and of what it may be capable of in the happy days of the peace to come.

We are in some senses sorry to note that the New South Wales Loan has been left to the extent of 80 per cent. of the total on the hands of the underwriters. It is to be hoped, however, that the politicians who control the financial operations of that State will grasp the true meaning of this failure. The loan has been left alone by the investor, not because he has definitely begun to distrust the ability of New South Wales to meet its engagements, but because our market has really no money at all to spare at present for any British settlement or foreign Government whatsoever. It is a pity colonial Governments do not realise that sufficiently to show a measure of consideration for our position. The market, we hear, expects that in a little while the investing public will absorb this loan and let the underwriters escape, and possibly the market is right in its guess, because money is being made in heaps by the war. None the less does it remain true that the more the demands for our capital can be restricted for the next few years, the better will it be for the financial health of Australia and for us. No matter what financial or professional optimists may say, the London money market is going to have enough to do to straighten out the home financial complications when this war is over to keep it not only busy but severely constricted for several years after. Prudent colonial statesmen, therefore, should discipline themselves and try to educate their people to rely upon home resources instead of on us. It is not true patriotism on their part to be coming here on any and every pretext that can be clutched at to borrow and borrow and borrow. The old proverb is true, "he that goes a-borrowing goes a-sorrowing," and if New South Wales and other States like it do not curtail their loan demands they will not have to hunt far for their grief. That is the lesson of the latest New South Wales loan disappointment.

All the way from the University of Iowa comes to us an essay on "Some Aspects of British Rule in India," by Mr. Sudhindra Bose, who is lecturer on Oriental politics in that University. Mr. Bose's name is not unfamiliar to us, and consequently his essay commanded more immediate attention than a stranger's might have received. We hope it will be read and considered by many people at home here, because we shall have the greatest difficulty in preventing things from going wrong with us in India after the war unless the thorny problems of Indian administration are studied with broad-minded intelligence now. There is nothing revolutionary or subversive in Mr. Bose's essay. It is a carefully put together *résumé* of facts, tendencies, and mentalities relating to British rule in India, and unheated comments on the defects and fruits

thereof. British ideals are not unrecognised, but the failure of our administrators in India to fulfil these ideals becomes only too painfully evident from the mere perusal of our blunders. India wants to govern herself. That desire—we may now even describe it as that demand—lies at the basis of political action not specially in one city or province or in another, but throughout the entire Peninsula. Year by year the Indian National Congress becomes more and more the expression of native Indian opinion on reform and on self-government, and that opinion can no longer be ignored. The old methods of ruling India without reference to native sentiment, or only with such reference as the temperament of the transitory administrator dictates, will have to be abandoned. It will be useless when the war is over to try to put aside Indian demands by purring about "the necessity of educating the people" of various races and religions under our dominion to be able to govern themselves, and just as useless to insist upon the danger of inter-racial or provincial strife if our all-levelling hand is removed. It will remain in our power—at least, we hope so—to maintain order and to adhere to an attitude of fair play between disputants in all things Indian, but the ordering of the people's lives, the control of the local, and to an increasing extent of the general, taxation, the making of laws and the administration of them must be handed over to the natives of India to a far greater extent than hitherto as soon and as completely as may be demanded or possible when peace returns. And as for power of the Indian peoples to govern themselves, Mr. Bose says quite truly, "Self-government alone fits men for self-government." "Alien rule," he insists, "by removing all responsibility, can never fit men for positions of responsibility. No one can hope to learn how to swim by sitting on the bank." As an example of the consequences of our bungling and inept, perhaps because often half-hearted, attempts to keep the various divisions of India apart in order the easier to keep them all in subjection, Mr. Bose cites the effect of Lord Curzon's Prussian-Junker method of coercing Bengal, the richest, most populous, and, on the whole, perhaps, most progressive division of the Peninsula. When Viceroy of India his lordship conceived the idea that this large and rapidly progressive part of the Indian Empire might become dangerous to British supremacy if left to expand undisturbed; so he proceeded to tear it asunder, to make two Bengals of it, and in doing so probably attained more valuable results in the way of bringing the peoples throughout India, no matter what the race or creed or political association, nearer together as one, as a *nation*. If that effect was produced in a time of peace and comparative prosperity by a high-handed alien administrator, whose mind was essentially Prussian or autocratic in its texture and attitude towards the subject peoples, how much more will any injustice, any bungling or rough-handed inequity perpetrated upon one of the high-spirited races who have fought and died for us in the Tigris Valley, in Egypt, in the plains of Northern France and swamps of Picardy, tend to alienate the whole population from the British, and to raise a spirit of independence we dared not oppose! A good deal is said by Mr. Bose about the trade policy we have followed in dealing with India, and it is a subject that much can be said upon, but all we need note now is that the trade and fiscal system pursued by the India Office, and by its servant the Vice-Regal Government, under which every British interest came first and every Indian interest second or nowhere, will have to be abandoned. India, in short, must be brought within the fiscal system and within the comity of free peoples forming the Empire, and made a co-partner instead of remaining a mere slave or chattel State.

Why is the loaf up again to 9d. in London? Is the Government to blame or the "cornering" market robber, or is it shortness of crops? We do not think the Government is to blame, nor is there any sign of holding back grain or flour in this country, but harvest prospects are said to be poor in the United States,

and owing to the lateness of the spring it is by no means certain yet that the Canadian harvest will be garnered in good condition or consist wholly of full-eared, ripe grain. There is, however, a large surplus of wheat in Australia which lower freights and more ships might render available, and if once the Germans are forced to allow the Dardanelles to be opened, as they may be before long if General Sarraïl now has the freedom to move he has waited for so long, the loaf ought not to be dear long. A writer in the *Times* points out that the three great consuming countries, France, Italy, and the United Kingdom, are in a much better position at the beginning of this the new cereal year than they were twelve months ago. In France and Italy, for instance, the stock of breadstuffs is 3,750,000 qrs., against only 700,000 qrs. a year ago, and although the grain on passage to the United Kingdom is now about 200,000 qrs. less than it was then, the stock in granary is 570,000 qrs. larger, so that altogether the three countries have available 8,003,000 qrs., instead of 4,880,000 qrs. in the middle of August a year ago. Given better facilities and lower freights to bring the grain from abroad to this country, and not only should there be no want anywhere amongst the Allies of the *Entente* next winter, but bread should be cheaper with us in the coming months than it is now. A year ago American wheat in London was quoted at 57s., and in New York at 43s., Canadian at 60s., and household flour at 43s.—the quartern loaf being then 8d to 8½d.; but bakers are now more closely banded together, and from the consumers' point of view they may make them more amenable to control by the Government. The following little table, also extracted from the *Times*, gives an interesting record of the course of prices during the past six weeks.

	U.S.A. Wheat. London.	U.S.A. Wheat. New York.	Canadian Wheat. London.	Household Flour. London.	Bread Average U.K.
	Per Qr. s. d.	Per Qr. s. d.	Per Qr. s. d.	Per Sack. s. d.	Per 4lb. d.
July 1	48 0	37 0	52 0	40 6	8
" 8	52 0	40 0	54 0	41 6	8
" 15	54 0	41 4	56 0	43 6	8
" 22	55 0	44 0	60 0	46 6	8½
Aug. 5	58 0	46 9	69 0	50 6	8½
" 12	68 0	52 9	72 0	54 6	9
" 15	67 0	52 0	71 0	53 6	9

With the belated announcement of the Furness Railway the interim dividend declarations for the past half-year are complete. Except in the case of one or two Tubes, which have done better under the arrangement with the Underground Electric Railways, the distributions are at the same rate as a year ago. It cannot be said, however, that this fact throws any useful light on the actual position of the companies, because no figures are given that would allow a reliable opinion to be expressed, and we think that both for its own sake and for the benefit of the public so largely interested the Government ought to insist on a summary of the results being published along with the dividend announcements. The figures must be available, and we cannot see what harm would be done by giving them. Most of the companies will require more capital presently, and the policy of concealment will not, to say the least, facilitate raising it, as nothing is more subversive of confidence. But we get one small peep behind the scenes in the case of the North British. It pays no interim dividend on the ordinary, and it did not do so last year, so that the omission would not have caused any comment this time. The directors, however, state that they have a dispute with the Government over £100,000 spent on wagon repairs, the suggestion being that but for this they could have paid a dividend. We have no means of knowing anything about the merits of the question, but its disclosure is not without piquancy. Is the North British being badly treated by the Government, and have other lines similar grievances, although they do not cry out about them? Or did the North British think that while the railway was under Government control it would be a fine opportunity for over-

hauling arrears of maintenance? A difference of £100,000 on wagon repairs is fairly "steep"—it represents over ¾ per cent. on North British ordinary—and we confess we should like fuller particulars. Possibly both the Government and the company have good grounds for their attitude, but the only satisfactory solution is to resume publishing accounts in the proper statutory form, or as near that as the exigencies of the situation will permit. The enemy would not benefit to the extent of a brass button by the information, but it would help to let the public know how they stand with regard to the £1,300,000,000 or so of capital invested in the railways.

Preliminary figures giving the Canadian Pacific Railway Co.'s earnings, expenses and net revenue for the year ended June 30 last have been cabled over, and are of the most satisfactory description. Gross earnings from the railway and lake and coastal steamers rose \$30,616,885 to \$129,481,885, an increase almost as great as was the decline shown a year ago. Working expenses, however, have risen \$14,945,965 to \$80,255,965, so that the net earnings are only \$15,650,920 higher at \$49,225,920. Fixed charges at \$10,306,196 show a reduction of \$139,804, and deducted from the nett revenue, leave \$38,919,724, or \$15,790,724 more, as the year's clear revenue, from which the tiny \$125,000 contributed to the pensions fund is deducted, together with \$1,923,289, being the nett earnings of coastal steamers, and the commercial telegraph and news departments of the company now transferred to a special account. This transfer is \$429,289 more than was withdrawn a year ago, and consequently the final clear balance of \$36,871,435 is just \$15,262,435 better, and the surplus after paying all dividends declared for the year, including presumably the 2½ per cent. declared on the ordinary stock for the June quarter, is \$15,444,158, which contrasts with almost nothing left a year ago. It is added that the special income for the year, after making allowances for contingent reserves, is \$9,940,955, so that there ought to be a considerable margin of excess profits available for taxation by the Dominion Government. All the surplus is not likely to be distributed as extra dividend or bonus to the stockholders.

As the general manager of the Nigerian Railway says, the most interesting part of a railway report is usually a comparison of the results with those of the previous year's working. But conditions in 1915 (the year under review) were so different from those prevailing in the previous twelve months, that the two periods cannot be properly compared with the idea of getting any useful light on the progress of the undertaking. In 1914 the Nigerian Railway had seven months of great prosperity, followed by five very lean months after the war broke out. Last year there was a recovery to some extent from the first effects of the trade disorganisation, and perhaps the most hopeful sign is that the poorest takings were experienced in May and June, while there was a progressive improvement from August onwards, and December gave the best results of the year. The manager, therefore, seems justified in believing that the past year has seen the full limit of the setback, and that future reports will show a return in some measure to the progress that has been so unfortunately interrupted. No actual hostilities occurred in the neighbourhood of the railway, and at no time during the year was the service suspended over any section of the line. The railway depends mainly on natural products, for which the demand is bound to continue and increase, and there is no indication that any permanent injury has been done to its trade, but in the immediate future a good deal depends on whether sufficient shipping tonnage is available to deal with the export trade, and in the existing scramble for tonnage Nigeria may not be able to secure its fair share. Gross receipts amounted to £622,500, a decrease of £4,300 compared with the estimate, and of £141,400 compared

with 1914. Passenger receipts fell £18,600, or 12 per cent., and goods traffic £126,400, or 28 per cent. Working expenses were cut down to £436,200, or £10,700 below the estimate and £13,000 below 1914, but the ratio to receipts jumped from 58½ to 70 per cent., as was inevitable in face of such a heavy drop in earnings at the same time as the cost of stores and materials advanced anything between 10 and 100 per cent. Nett revenue comes out at £186,300, a decrease of £128,600, and represents a return of 2½ per cent. on the capital expenditure, against 4½ per cent. After making all necessary appropriations and adjustments, there is a charge on the public funds of £78,500, against a surplus of £55,000 in 1914. Under the circumstances, the results may be considered quite as good as could be expected, and we have no doubt that the line will give a good account of itself when normal conditions are once more restored, and we are glad to see that the management have not considered it necessary to raise rates except to a very limited extent on a few special articles well able to bear the increased charge.

Compared with the year to March 31, 1915, the results of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways, Ltd., for the past 12 months do not show up so badly, although there has been a further decline in earnings, but there is a lot of leeway to make good before the 1913-14 level is regained. Gross receipts amounted to £192,800, or £2,280 less than in 1914-15, and £63,000 less than two years ago. Average receipts per mile were only 3s. less, but last year there was a drop of £101 to £312 12s. 7d. Passengers carried numbered 5,184,000, against 5,605,000 last year and 7,320,000 two years ago, and the receipts fell to £116,413, a decrease of £5,020 following a drop of £34,800. Goods traffic showed a small recovery of £2,750, but last year there was a decrease of £23,800. These are sad difficulties to struggle against, and unfortunately it was impossible to reduce expenses, which, indeed, were £1,040 higher at £142,110, mainly owing to the unprecedented increase in the cost of fuel. Consequently the ratio to receipts rose from 72.31 to 73.70 per cent., and in order to bring it down to the agreed level of 64 per cent., £18,716 has to be credited to revenue and placed to suspense account until normal conditions are restored. Nett revenue amounts to £69,408, but with interest earned and the nett profit from working the Helouan Line, together with £9,000 more brought forward, there is a total balance of £107,335, or £8,300 more, to be dealt with. Last year the preference shares received 2½ per cent. (against 5 per cent. for the previous year), but after providing for fixed charges it is proposed to carry forward the balance of £65,228, or nearly £33,000 more than the amount brought in. This is done because of the unprecedented conditions prevailing in Egypt, the abnormal price of coal, stores, and materials, and the uncertainty of the financial outlook. While we sympathise with the preference holders in having to go without any return on their investment, we think the directors have acted prudently, and we can only hope that conditions will soon take a turn for the better. The company has always been well managed, and it is no fault of the directors that it has fallen on evil times. As arranged, the Helouan Railway was handed over to the Government on December 1 last, and all work, except that of an absolutely necessary nature, was suspended during the year.

As the springs owned by Apollinaris and Johannis, Ltd., are situated in Germany and Austria, the result of the war has been to bring the business of the company practically to a standstill, it being impossible to obtain further supplies from the springs. Debenture interest has been paid up to the end of March, but it is now imperative to husband the company's cash resources, and the debenture-holders are consequently now being asked to accept deferred interest certificates in lieu of cash until the expiration of one complete financial year of the company after peace has been signed.

These certificates will carry 6 per cent. interest, payable half-yearly in cash, and they must be redeemed in full before any dividend can be paid on the preference or ordinary shares. It is considered that this course is in the best interests of the debenture-holders themselves, and many of them, as well as the trustees, have concurred in the scheme. A meeting has been called for the 30th inst. to consider the proposal, but really the debenture-holders have little option in the matter.

War taxation and restrictions have not impaired the earning power of the great Burton firm of Bass, Ratcliff and Gretton, Ltd. In the report for the year to June 30 no particulars are given as to the amount of the sales, but the nett profits are up £38,900 at £376,470, and it is possible to raise the dividend from 10 per cent. to 12 per cent., while £25,000 more at £75,000 is placed to reserve fund (raising it to £675,000, against the intangible asset of £800,000 for goodwill), and the balance left to carry forward is only £10,500 less at £56,933. That practically tells the whole story so far as it is revealed, and probably the increased profit is due more to higher prices than to larger sales, although we notice that debtors have risen £34,000 to £814,385, which may be taken to indicate a certain expansion in business. It is stated that as war conditions still continue, the directors have considered it advisable to conserve the resources of the company, and we may therefore assume that ample provision has been made for depreciation and other conditions, a prudent policy which the company has always followed in the past, or it would not now be so prosperous. Creditors have increased £153,000 to £595,300, but deposits are £16,000 lower at £32,750. Cash is £28,000 up at £297,160, and stocks have increased £171,000 to £1,080,000, but the value of premises, plant, &c., is £18,500 lower at £1,030,000. Investments at current quotations are £12,000 up at £1,060,000, and the position altogether is a very strong one.

In the year to March 31 the trading profit of the Ship Canal Portland Cement Manufacturers, Ltd., dropped £5,160 to £7,810, and after writing off £10,000 for depreciation there is a loss of £9,175, against a nett profit of £6,850 for the previous 12 months. The preference dividend was paid to June 1, 1915, but the directors had to pass the December 1 payment, and including £1,080 brought forward there is a debit balance of £10,835, which has been adjusted by Mr. Herbert T. Parke, the largest shareholder, releasing the company from the payment of a like amount out of the sum standing to his credit on loan account. This is an extremely generous action, and we hope it will help the company to tide over difficulties which are largely the result of war conditions. The

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anticipated speeding-up of the cement production to the stage of profit-earning has not been attained, owing to a variety of causes. One of the main reasons is the loss of skilled workmen and the almost insurmountable difficulty of obtaining skilled mechanics to erect additional plant and machinery and effect the necessary running repairs and renewals. Experience has proved that it is impossible during a period of dislocation of business to operate a plant to its full capacity, and in order to obtain essential production it is necessary to have a surplus of stand-by plant on a more generous scale than is required under normal conditions. Consequently, although a third kiln has been erected and the capacity brought up to an output of 2,000 tons per week, it has not been practicable to attain this level, and the difficulties have been increased by the inferior quality of coal available. Some of the other arguments put forward to account for the poor results seem more in the nature of excuses than reasons, but we do not wish to judge the company harshly in face of the admitted difficulties with which it has had to contend. During the year nearly 10,000 preference shares were issued at par and fully paid, and loans from bankers increased £30,000, but other loans were reduced by £12,000. Capital expenditure amounted to £38,078, an increase of £17,000, and stocks are up £14,000, but sundry debtors are £10,600 lower. There was only £74 cash in hand, and formation expenses stand at £7,190, so the company has a longish way to travel to turn the corner.

A statement has been issued by the Metropolitan Electric Supply Co., Ltd., giving a brief abstract of the results for the first six months of the past four years, being two pre-war and two war periods respectively. It shows that, except for a slight decrease in the first half of last year, there has been a steady increase in the number of units sold, and the advance has been most marked in the past six months, notwithstanding the adverse effect on the lighting load produced by the Daylight Saving Act and the restricted lighting regulations. The number of units sold was 11,601,000, an increase of 2,064,000 units over last year, and of nearly three millions over the first half of 1913, a surprisingly gratifying result in the circumstances. Gross revenue was £18,650 higher at £132,960, but owing to the increased price of coal, which cost 50 per cent. more than in 1914, the nett revenue is only £1,100 up at £55,610. Out of this it is proposed to pay an interim dividend of 2 per cent. per annum, leaving an unappropriated balance of £25,368. Such an increase in the business is certainly astonishing when all the adverse conditions are taken into consideration.

Some details which have now been revealed indicate that the agreement made between the Imperial Government and Mr. Hughes, the Australian Premier, for a solution of the spelter problem is a very far-reaching measure. The British Government has undertaken to purchase annually while the war lasts 100,000 tons of concentrates, and the same quantity yearly for 10 years after the war, and 45,000 tons of Australian spelter annually for the same period. To produce 45,000 tons of spelter will absorb another 120,000 tons of concentrates, and, together with the amount taken privately, over 250,000 tons of zinc concentrates will be smelted within the Empire after the war, as compared with about 20,000 tons before the war. Of the remainder of Australia's production of zinc concentrates, estimated at about 150,000 tons, negotiations are in progress by which they will be taken by French and Belgian smelters. The total monetary value of the agreement made by the British Government is about £25,000,000, which shows that the authorities have at last been convinced of the necessity of setting up an Imperial industry to render this country less dependent than formerly upon foreign supplies of spelter, the danger of which has been demonstrated by the war. Although the arrangement made will not suffice to place this country absolutely independent of foreign spelter, it will prevent the control of the metal going back to

Germany, since the latter will be unable to secure in future any portion of the Broken Hill production of raw material. The British Government has also agreed to lend £500,000 to the zinc producers of Australia to establish smelting works to treat something like 40 per cent. of the concentrates, and it will, presumably, arrange with the British smelting companies, who are extending their works to treat an additional 100,000 tons of concentrates, to smelt the quantity which it has arranged to buy. The arrangement made by the Ministry of Munitions with the British smelters is the least satisfactory part of the whole scheme from the public point of view. These companies are to receive back their excess profits tax, provided it is expended on construction of new works. This gift of money will, of course, benefit the companies only, whereas if the money had been used by the Government to build its own smelters, both the capital and the profits on it would have remained with the State. As it is, it loses both.

The Union Government is making fresh efforts to lease some of its areas on the Far Eastern Rand. It invites tenders for the leasing of mineral rights on the Modderfontein and Brakpan farms, totalling 2,463 claims, and it has modified its terms slightly, which, with the further experience gained on this part of the Rand, will, it is hoped, encourage capitalists to come forward this time, in spite of previous refusals. The larger area of the two, consisting of 1,812 claims, adjoins the Brakpan Mines, and this company is more likely to be the bidder than any other, while the other and smaller area may go to the Modderfontein B company, whose property adjoins it. Only one of the Government areas has been leased so far—namely, that acquired by the Barnato group six years ago for the Government Gold Mining Areas (Modderfontein), Ltd. In spite of the favourable way in which this property has developed, it is highly improbable that the Barnato interests would tender for a similar property on the same terms. No promotion profits are allowed in the flotation of companies to work Government areas, and a large slice of the profits, calculated on a sliding scale, goes to the Government. On the present occasion, however, an underwriting commission of 5 per cent. will be allowed, but the other terms will remain practically the same. But in order to secure capital for the exploitation of the other large areas lying dormant on the Far Eastern Rand, the present gold law will have to be modified on the lines, more or less, laid down in Mr. Kotze's report. The question of what modifications are necessary is being investigated now by the Government, which desires to secure as soon as possible the working of new areas to counterbalance the effects of the exhaustion of the older properties.

The Latest Securities Borrowing Arrangements of the Treasury.

"You did not deal either adequately or fairly with Mr. McKenna's review of the nation's financial position last week," we are told, and stand admonished if unrepentant. But who will instruct us as to the full significance of the following summing up of our position? It is the concluding part of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's speech, and deserves to be enshrined here for use at a future day, if use it we dare against German experts like Dr. Helfferich:—

"Our total indebtedness at the end of March next Mr. McKenna estimated at £3,440,000,000. From that might fairly be deducted the amount of our advances to Allies and Dominions, some £800,000,000, leaving our indebtedness at £2,640,000,000. That was out of all proportion to anything we had ever known or thought of before. But was it a burden we were unable to bear? Our national income might probably be put at £2,500,000,000, perhaps £2,600,000,000. It was estimated by one authority at £2,400,000,000 in 1913-14, and £2,700,000,000 at the present time. Another authority put it as high as £3,000,000,000, but he thought that an exaggerated figure. Our total indebtedness on March 31 next would just about equal one year's national income, which, of course, was not a burden intolerable to contemplate. (Sir C. Henry: What do you mean by national income?) He thought it was a well-

understood term. It meant the aggregate income of every person in the country. Compared with our total national wealth our indebtedness on March 31 next would not be very much. It was estimated that the total of our capital wealth was £15,000,000,000. All the estimates he was giving to the Committee were of a conservative nature. Our national indebtedness would be only about a sixth of the capital wealth. We should have, at the end of next March, a revenue equal to 20 per cent. of the whole debt, and we should be able to pay out of existing taxation the interest on the debt, provide a considerable sinking fund, and still leave a large margin. (Hear, hear.) He did not wish to lay himself open to the charge of optimism, and therefore he expressed no opinion as to when the war would come to an end. He was merely giving figures as to what would be our financial position at the end of the financial year. There was every reason to be proud of the manner in which British credit had stood the test. (Cheers.) 'Gigantic revenue had been raised, the Treasury were borrowing gigantic sums. Of course, there was difficulty, strain, and stress, both internal and external, in working the mere machinery to secure these sums, but they were securing the money, and he had not the slightest doubt if the British public would continue to show the same readiness and willingness to support their country by payment of taxes and by lending money, we would be able to maintain our credit right to the end of the war, no matter how long it lasted.'

Note with what adroitness Mr. McKenna parried the awkward question, "What do you mean by 'national income'?" It was beautiful, and in many ways the summary was admirable—just provided the kind of material most needed to help us to keep up our financial courage and to fend off the risks of a new large loan from the path of the Government. It is a perpetual and increasing marvel to us to see the skill and apparent facility with which the Government manages to finance its way by its various expedients in creating and disposing of floating debts. We hope it may be able to go on doing so until at least the end of the financial year, and that in the meanwhile some accord may be reached between Ministers and the City on the best method to be pursued in converting our floating obligations into a permanent, or long usance, type of debt acceptable not only to investors at home but to those of other countries. A universal interchangeable, tax exempt, security bearing the endorsement of all the Allies of the Entente should be aimed at.

For we, at least, are making ourselves more universally a debtor State than any of the other Powers of the Entente, as is inevitable. The universality of our credit enlarges our capacity to help our friends to an almost indefinite extent, as the list of additional securities issued this week reminds us. It should clinch the argument of those who keep insisting that our next "Funding Loan" should, on the narrowest view, take the form of a "tax free" security, available for investors in all parts of the world. Through help of a stock of that kind alone does it seem possible for us to avoid danger of credit strains and risks of temporary financial confusion when the temporary debts contracted by the Treasury have to be liquidated.

Along with the latest extension of its acceptable stock lists the Treasury has wisely extended the date for repayment to five years instead of the two hitherto fixed. Investors who have already lodged their American—i.e., United States—stocks and bonds with the National Debt Commissioners on loan for two years may now get the period extended to five years by giving notice in the way prescribed by the advertisement not later than September 14 next, and we think they should hasten to make the change. Not only will the extension of time for repayment give the Government more elbow-room in view of the probable duration of the war, either generally or in some places and under some guises, but it should carry us well past the season of confusion sure to meet the Allies immediately after the killing has been in great part ended, as it probably will be soon. It will really be patriotic, therefore, to convert deposits of securities for two years into deposits for five—or from Scheme "A" to Scheme "B"—and there ought to be less hesitation felt about taking that step because of the care with which the Government seeks to protect the investor at all points from loss. It guarantees him payment in full of all interest and dividends it receives on the securities pledged with it, plus $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum on the face value of the

securities paid on its own behalf as bonus or consideration for the loan of the stocks. Any securities paid off during the five years, which are calculated to run from March 31, 1917, the whole of the money will be handed to the depositor without deduction, and should the Government be itself compelled—or think it advisable—to sell any of the securities lodged with the National Debt Commissioners, it promises to give the owner over and above the average price realised a bonus of 5 per cent. The same bonus will be paid at the end of the term of deposit should the securities sold not be replaced. The owner will then receive the full amount of the average price actually realised, notwithstanding that it exceeds the deposit value, plus 5 per cent. The nation's credit, in short, is pledged to ward off from the depositor any danger of loss in a manner most absolute. And the depositor, moreover, may still get his stocks back at the end of two years if the Government gives three months' notice of its intention to liquidate the account.

Along with the extension of the scheme devised to assist the Government in protecting the foreign exchanges an extension in the range of the securities taken in pledge is also announced. On behalf of the Government, the National Debt Commissioners will now accept certain specified Argentine Government and Railway stocks and bonds, a number of stocks of the Dominion of Canada and of Canadian Railways, together with sundry Chilian, Danish, Dutch, Egyptian, Japanese, Norwegian, Swedish, and Swiss securities, all duly specified in the advertised lists. Probably this extension is only the beginning of a fresh departure, and the further the scheme is pursued the greater must become the influence its success will exercise over the terms on which the great funding loans of the future will have to be arranged and issued. For the present the duty of everyone is to hand over to the Treasury all holdings of the stocks it asks for with alacrity and for as long a term as it may want to borrow them.



D A 64A

SUMMER-TIME RAMBLES.

No. 2.—A SHORT ROUND AT REIGATE.

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Protectionists Out for Loot.

What or whence is this "British Empire Producers' Association" which has suddenly sprung into prominence by giving a lunch in the Waldorf Hotel? Has the affair been got up by Protectionists here, or does the inspiration come from our Protectionist colonies? every one of which has been so lavish in pushing forward what it called "progress and development" by means of borrowed money that all have had to fall back on Protectionist tariffs, as evidence of their subjection to the usurer. Whatever the origin of this body, it is violently Protectionist, and a Mr. Sandback Parker, whom we never heard of before, as chairman of the association, made a speech at the luncheon, in which Protectionism, with all its selfishness and brutal contempt for every interest except self-interest, was put forward without a trace of shame, with eager clutch at the chance of becoming rich on other people's impoverishment. Take a sample or two. "There were proposals in various quarters that this country should admit the products of Allies and the Dominions overseas on equal terms." In Mr. Sandback Parker's opinion, "this course would ruin any chance of the Empire being self-supporting," and the statement was greeted with "hear, hears," so profound was the conception the audience had of the need for economic solidarity among the Allies. The orator went on to declare that "it could not be too strongly urged that production was the bedrock foundation of all manufacture and trade, and that control of reliable and regular supplies was of greater importance than mere cheapness." Yes, perhaps, and what of it? It may be truism or may be nonsense, but, if true, is it not true for the Allies as much as for our colonies? In the opinion of the association, further alleged Mr. Parker, "the future conditions under which our workers lived and worked must be improved, and that unless steps were taken to increase production in this country, not only would improvement be impossible, but it was probable that conditions would be worse than before the war." And how is improvement for the workers to be assured? By limiting production and increasing prices to the consumer; by narrowing markets and robbing the poor? Protectionists always hypocritically endeavour to justify their demand for taxes to enable them to make sure of exacting high prices and restricting markets by misrepresenting facts and consequences. And a Free Trade country like this has had a more prosperous working population and less difficulty on the whole with its labour than any Protectionist country on earth. What is the experience of Australia and New Zealand with labour? Have not the procession of Ministries who govern, or obey, in these countries been compelled to truckle to labour and to bribe it, and to obey its behests in a manner nowhere else seen, not even in Junker-ridden Germany? "If security of markets were given by a tariff," bawled this apostle of hate, of new wars, "the advantages reaped by the employers from that tariff should be fairly shared with the workers, and this could be best achieved by a higher level of wages and improved conditions of life." Has that ever been so? You sneak half-a-crown out of the unsuspicious citizen's pocket, and ostentatiously hand him back sixpence; then persuade him to contemplate how rich you make him. We must not ignore, though, that unabashable selfishness of this kind, openly proclaimed and supported by the most outrageous assertions of what is not true or in accordance with experience, goes down with the multitude, especially with the working man; nor that these people are organising themselves to propagate a new Gospel of jealousy, hatred, and war, in order to overreach, rob, and betray. It is, therefore, time for Free Traders to be up and doing. Why not proceed to form an Association of Consumers, and one of co-operative and co-ordinated industrials, among the peoples in the Allied nations to uphold the right to live free in business, as in every other manifestation of human energy? Into the membership of these Leagues, or this League, of Consumers and "Producers," those in the colonies

who love and cherish freedom might be admitted on repentance and abjuration of their morals and conscience-besmirching fiscal heresies.

By-the-Way War Notes.

Probably no good would be done, and yet for the sake of human kind one regrets that the self-besotted German people cannot read the speech delivered by Mr. Montagu last Tuesday on the vote for the Ministry of Munitions. Mr. Montagu marshalled his facts with great skill and effect. They were most encouraging facts, and if it were possible to instil any shade of common sense into the Junker, other views than those now held regarding the peace to come might find acceptance even in the Kaiser's barbaric surroundings. Compared with two years ago, we are now in a commanding position so far as men and the material and appliances required by these men for the efficient accomplishment of their mission of wholesale slaughter are concerned. In the matter of shells, Mr. Montagu said that what it took twelve months to produce in 1914-15 could now from home sources be provided—of 18-pounder ammunition in three weeks, of field howitzer shells in a fortnight, of medium-sized shells in eleven days, and of heavy shells in four days. That is to say, our factories are now producing every four days as much heavy howitzer ammunition as it took us a whole year to produce at the 1914-15 rate of output. Lumping all descriptions of gun and howitzer ammunition together, this country "is now manufacturing and issuing to France every week about as much as the whole pre-war stock of land service ammunition in the country." That is a fact which the enemy might as well take note of, because, although it may be true, as Mr. Montagu also said, that the Germans are continuing to increase their output of explosives, guns, &c.—as, indeed, they must be if they are to keep the field at all—there can be no question that both in quantity and quality the Germans are now being out-distanced and out-classed by ourselves and our Allies.

Every week, moreover, increases the efficiency of our munition workers and enlarges their output, as is proved, not only by the excellence of our shooting which dominates and begins to outrange the German, but by the fact that we are rapidly attaining a capacity of production which removes the necessity for having to depend upon the United States for much of our war material. When the Ministry of Munitions was organised we were dependent on the United States for about 70 per cent. of our total requirements in shells, and now we are able to do altogether without any American supply of light shell bodies, orders for which are in process of being discontinued. In heavy shells American supplies were invaluable during the development of our new factories, and orders to makers in the States are still necessary, but if home and Canadian output comes up to expectation, ultimately that help should also be dispensed with. Moreover, owing to the increase in the numbers and to enlargements in the size of our factories, national and private—and against three national factories employed on Army supplies before the war there are now 95—prices have been brought down. In home contracts the saving is reckoned by Mr. Montagu—and he is an expert in figures—at £20,000,000 a year on the cost of shell alone. American shell contract prices have been reduced 15 per cent., Canadian 12½ per cent., and fuse, gaine and T. prices are 20 to 25 per cent. lower, while the cost of trench warfare munition has been reduced by from 40 to 50 per cent. The statements about the personnel of the factories—its great expansion from 1,635,000 before the war to 2,950,000 now, including 450,000 women—and about the marvellous development of the capacity of women to undertake all manner of mechanical engineering work, are also of the utmost value and a great encouragement to the mass of people, who have even now formed no clear conception of what the war is and involves. So the House as a whole interpreted most favourably a most admirably lucid review of the facts and of the progress made.

But there were carpers, well-meaning or other, and

they brought up Mr. Lloyd George, whose frank references to our early difficulties, mistakes and blundering efforts were really, by reflex action, most cheering because looked back on from the heights of our success, and whose emphatic testimony to the spirit now animating our troops at the front, from a visit to which he has just returned, formed a suitable corollary to the statements made by his successor in the Ministry of Munitions. "I have never seen men more cheerful," said Mr. George. "It is not the cheerfulness of ignorance, but of men who have been through it. They are full of confidence and hope, and they have a sense right through from one end to another that victory is certain." "Our French Allies," he added, "all speak of our men with an enthusiasm which would warm your hearts." Many of these splendid troops have only had six months' training, whereas in the old days a soldier was supposed to take from two to three years to become expert in his profession. Confidence like this, and honest well-deserved praise will react upon the workers at home and increase their determination to make sure that no failure of supplies can occur at any point, that the brave, confident warrior shall always have an ample supply. Every effort must continue to be made to furnish these brave, cheerful soldiers with an overwhelming equipment of guns and munitions, so that they may, without severe loss of life among themselves, smash their way through the often diabolically effective trench and gun defences of the enemy to final victory.

A German professor, bearing the whimsically suggestive name of Schmoller, has been discoursing in the *Deutsche Politik* on the peace that "victorious" Germany is going to grant us. Of course, Germany is still victorious in the eyes of this grotesque dreamer, "the most eminent political economist" in Deutschland, we are told by the Berne correspondent of the *Morning Post*. But he admits that everybody wants peace, and even Germany and Austro-Hungary, in spite of their victorious position, are ready to conclude "any peace which corresponds with the results of the war." We thoroughly agree, but suggest that the professor is a trifle premature. "Results" are being gathered every day on all fronts, and should in time alter the German standpoint. To the Germans, at present, however, "results" still signify the retention of Alsace and Lorraine, and the expectation of "other concessions" from England, Russia, France, and Italy, but the happy Schmoller thinks it would be a mistake "to ask too much at once." The Kaiser and his Junkers are therefore advised not to overstrain their demands, for "our opponents will realise that it will be easier for them to cede territory than to pay an excessive war contribution, which we should otherwise require. Russia will be quite unable to pay any war contribution, and it would be too difficult for France and Italy to do so. England will certainly prefer to sacrifice a portion of the Belgian Congo than to pay." The solemn fatuitist knows nothing of Smuts, or of Belgian progress on Tanganyika. "I imagine," he drones on, that "England will keep Calais under the pretext that it will compensate her for the sacrifice she has made for France"! Dazzlingly illuminative, is it not?

It is unnecessary to quote further. We give illustrations like this of the German military and professorial mind-yeastings, just as of the Kaiser's heroics, from time to time merely to show how far *les Boches* yet are from the point at which a hint of making peace could go to them from our side. Their vanity has become a kind of intellectual putrescence now wholly gangrenous and self-deceptive. Probably the bulk of Germans will never realise the position into which their slave-driving masters have already led them, and whether or not those in authority over them have so much at stake, are so warped in mind by their own fulminant self-conceit and bestial lusts as to leave us no choice except to go on killing and killing all Germans we can reach, by shot and shell, by deprivation of food, until the fighting capacity of a doomed race is exhausted.

We believe the bulk of our fellow-citizens now sadly realise that this is the true character of the task the

Kaiser and his ghouls have forced upon the Allies. It is getting on for two years now since this writer first came to the conclusion that there could be no man-redeeming end to the war except the one brought about by German race-effacement. For centuries, perhaps for ever, the peoples of Germany must bear the stigma and burden of their crimes. We said that long ago, but only of late have many rallied to the support of that view. Among those whom we are delighted to welcome is Mr. Francis Gribble, whose frank articles, in the *Evening Standard* especially, are refreshing to read, and a welcome counteractive to the asphyxiating gases of the pro-German peace intriguers ever busy among us. In one of his latest articles Mr. Gribble discusses the effect of a refusal on the part of the Allies to treat with the Hohenzollern on the minds of the German people, and arrives at the conclusion that it would have no peace-retarding or hate-augmenting effects at all, but probably the contrary. The now gagged and suppressed part of the German population dislikes the Hohenzollerns perhaps as much as we do. It is a common saying in democratic circles in Germany that "a Hohenzollern never keeps his word," and certainly no monarch of all the brood has ever yet done so, though that may be because no absolute monarch ever could for long and live. They are a coarse-grained brood of thieves and liars, any way, these Hohenzollerns, and must be treated accordingly. As Mr. Gribble remarks, the Kaiser himself is "wanted," in the police sense, for the murder of Captain Fryatt, "which he certainly authorised, if he did not actually order." The Crown Prince is "wanted" for stealing pictures from a chateau in France, and Prince Eitel Fritz, as we mentioned last week, "for stealing women's underclothing, with the Duke of Brunswick for his accomplice, from a country house in Belgium." Flummeries like "All-highest," "Most Holy and Apostolic," "Great War Lord," and the rest of the thaumaturgic properties of despot-impostors now flaunted in our eyes, must be treated with the contempt they deserve from men who are free.

So besotted are the Teutons in mass that they probably comprehend little of what is going on at the theatre of war. The bulletins put together for their beguiling are still drawn up in the arrogant, truth-contemning style of the bully insolent, and are still believed by the mob. But that does not mean a return of victory to the side of the robber swarms on any front. Everywhere the mastery of the Allies over the doomed hosts is increasingly asserting itself. "Not on the West front," some people are ever ready to say in their woodenness, and they are wrong. The Germans are mastered and in process of destruction, not only before Verdun, but along the Somme, and the rate at which the remaining troops of the Kaiser are being consumed there and everywhere may be guessed at by the fact that boys of seventeen and eighteen are being called up for active service or to be prepared therefor. So far as the boys in their eighteenth year are concerned, that news has long been known, and a German deserter, who has escaped by swimming the Rhine near Schaffhausen, asserts that the 1919 lads are being summoned to join now, or boys of seventeen. We cannot take the statement of such a man for gospel truth until confirmed, but there is no inherent improbability in his assertion. We are consuming the

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ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD AND REMITTANCES
MADE FOR STEAMERS' DISBURSEMENTS.

males of the German nation on all fronts, and by no means least on the Western front, at a speed greater now than at any time since the war began, because the destruction goes on now simultaneously on all fronts with an effectiveness never reached before. What are left of the fighting pawns the Kaiser can drive to the shambles, are being daily eaten away on all battle arenas by warriors more manly and by an artillery as well served and of better quality than his own. We read daily little incidents of trenches captured and recaptured and captured again, but it is not in the trenches and in attacks and counter-attacks around their ruins that the enemy is probably losing most of his men; it is in the systematic and well-ordered bombardment of the country behind the trench fighting line. It is by the systematic, well-ordered and unrelenting destruction of their gun emplacements, and bombing of their railway communications and of their supply columns and depôts, the continuous rain of death upon their assemblages of men over a range of probably twelve or more miles behind their front, almost from the east of Verdun to the Ypres salient, that the Allies are wasting them away. And every day our aircraft range far in the rear of the enemy's hosts, observing, destroying, more and more dominant over the implacable, Heaven-blighted savage.

At no point, except around Zeebrugge and in the Mediterranean or Adriatic does anything approaching a gleam of success ever attend German displays of brute energy, and in all probability the Zeebrugge submarine depôt cannot be dealt with effectually by our Navy because of the large number of Belgians held there in bondage, working by compulsion for their Prussian taskmasters. It is said that King Albert has deprecated any shooting that might involve risk to the lives of his unarmed people held helpless, but, whether he did so or not, humanity forbids that we should rain explosives on Zeebrugge if in so doing we made helpless Belgians partakers of the enemy's punishment. Our efforts to put down the submarine piracy must therefore be confined to the open sea, and as in all probability the Germans are using the mouth of the Scheldt, notwithstanding the fact that it is Dutch, as channel for U boats put together at Antwerp, it is understandable enough how a certain number of these skunk pirates sneak through to work mischief. How many fail, how many perish and are never more heard of, we are not told, but we know that the results advertised to the world by the German Government are small compared with the efforts involved, and have no influence whatever in slackening the pressure of the blockade. Also we grow ever more resolved, and should lose no chance to let the Ballins know, that for every unarmed trader sunk by their pirates a fifty-fold reparation will be demanded. Neither in the North Sea, however, nor in the Baltic can this submarine warfare do anything to help the barbarian Empires towards victory, but much still further to strengthen the determination of the Allies to have no word to say about peace until all the abominable savagery has been beaten to the dust and the nests of the robber hordes destroyed.

And the way is being cleared now, not only on the Western front, but among the Italian Alps and in Poland and Lithuania. This last week has brought the news of a brilliant further advance of the Russian troops commanded by General Brussiloff, a progress attained by masterful strategy, determined fighting and complete mastery over the German commander. Some half of General von Bothmer's army has been made prisoner—viz., about 85,000 officers and men, 70 guns, 342 machine guns, 45 mortars, and 130 ammunition wagons, all in a four-days' sweep ended on the 8th inst. It is perhaps too much to hope that the Russian armies in Galicia will be able to get behind the Austro-German forces and work their way up towards Warsaw, so as to hem in Hindenburg and compel further wholesale surrenders; but the movements now in course of execution tend that way, and hardly a day

passes without bringing news of an ever-welcome Russian advance. Hindenburg may soon be called upon to pay for his wolf's work at Tannenberg and his crimes last year in Poland. We now look also for good news from the Balkans, as the forward movement there has commenced, and no local success of the Turks in Asia Minor or in Western Persia can do anything to stay the unrelenting progresses of the Russian armies towards Constantinople. Our Indian troops still lie helpless on the Tigris, under the Simla curse, but in the desert of Suez all goes as it should, and General Smuts—whom we congratulate on having recovered from his fever—is rapidly herding up the enemy—he and his Belgian and Portuguese Allies. The remaining Germans are being rapidly "kraaled," reports General Botha, who has just returned in happy mood from a visit to the East African seat of war.

The four Russian generals operating under General Brussiloff have captured the following batches of prisoners between June 4 and August 12: The table, which we take from the *Daily Chronicle*, does not include several depôts of ammunition and engineering and telegraph materials, as well as a large number of rifles and 20 miles of narrow gauge railways also seized:—

	Officers.	Men.	Can-non.	Machine Guns.	Mortars &c.	Munition Carts.
Gen. Kaledine....	2,384	107,225	147	459	146	—
„ Letchitsky ..	2,139	100,578	127	424	44	35
„ Sakaharoff ..	1,967	87,248	76	232	119	128
„ Stecherbacheff	1,267	55,794	55	211	29	129
Total.....	7,757	350,845	405	1,326	338	292

To add to these figures, we get the news on Friday morning that, in later operations, a Russian General Bezobrazoff—a name new to us in this war—captured on Wednesday a further 7,506 of the enemy, 198 of them officers, besides 17 heavy guns and a great quantity of ammunition. No wonder the Kaiser has to fall back on the troops of his beloved ally, the Turk. Austria is played out, and both the Hohenzollern's big partners in crime, together with Bulgaria, the abandoned, must be costing his dupes at home more money than they can find. Be not impatient; the judgment draws near.

Critical Index to New Investments.

CANADIAN VICKERS, LTD.

An issue is being made for this company consisting of £1,000,000 in its 6 per cent. first mortgage registered debentures of £100 each. The debentures are redeemable at 103 per cent. within 25 years by means of a half-yearly cumulative sinking fund of 2 per cent., and principal and interest, sinking fund and premium are all unconditionally guaranteed by the well-known Vickers, Ltd., in this country, whose own profits have been such as to enable it to pay 12½ per cent. on its ordinary capital for the past three years and to make accumulations of £1,019,000. The Canadian offshoot, which is incorporated in Canada, and which is now getting this money, has an authorised share capital of \$5,000,000, or more than £1,000,000, and is entitled to a subsidy of \$102,456 (£21,052) per annum for 35 years, of which 33 are unexpired. This subsidy is given by the Dominion of Canada Government in connection with the construction, maintenance, and working by the company of a floating dry dock at Montreal, and there are no doubt many other directions in which profitable scope for the company's enterprise can be found. Already upwards of £1,000,000 has been spent upon the floating dock works and equipment, and the company's works are fully employed. Last year's profits, indeed, were more than enough to pay interest and sinking fund on these debentures. The price, therefore, at which they are offered by the Law Debenture Corporation, Ltd., viz., par, does not seem at all unreasonable even in present circumstances, and that was the view the market took, for the debentures were snapped up as soon as offered.

REGULATION OF FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

LOAN OF SECURITIES TO THE TREASURY (SCHEME B).

The Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury hereby give notice that as from the 14th August, 1916, they will be prepared to accept certain securities upon deposit on the following terms and conditions.

(1) The securities to which this scheme applies will be:-

(a) Those specified in the annexed list.

(b) Such as may from time to time be added to that list by public notice.

(c) Such American Dollar Securities as are from time to time being accepted for deposit under the scheme of 24th March, 1916 (Scheme A).

(2) Holders of American Dollar Securities who have already deposited them under Scheme A (Deposit on loan for two years) may transfer their deposit to Scheme B by giving notice, NOT LATER THAN 14th SEPTEMBER, 1916, of their desire to do so (such notice to be given on a form to be obtained at the National Debt Office, 19, Old Jewry, E.C.). This form, when approved, will be returned for lodgment with the Certificate of Deposit (or provisional receipt) so that the transfer to Scheme B may be completed.

(3) The securities will be transferred to the Treasury for a period to expire at the end of five years from the 31st March, 1917, subject to the right of the Treasury to return them to the holders at any time on or after the 31st March, 1919, on giving three calendar months' notice in writing of their intention to do so. If any of the securities are paid off during the period of deposit, the amount received in respect of the repayment will be paid over to the depositor in sterling on surrender of the deposit certificate (in the case of non-sterling securities at the exchange of the day on which the repayment is received).

(4) While the securities are on deposit with the Treasury the lender will receive from the Treasury all interest and dividends paid in respect of them and also, by way of consideration for the loan a payment at the rate of one-half of one per cent. per annum, calculated on the face value of the securities.

(5) At the end of the period of deposit the securities or other securities of the same description and to the same nominal amount will, subject to the provisions of paragraph (6), be returned to the lender by the Treasury.

(6) The Treasury will have the right at any time during the currency of the loan to dispose of the securities should they find it necessary to do so, but in the event of their being so disposed of, the lender will continue to receive from the Treasury the same payments as he would have received if the securities had been retained, and at the end of the period of the loan, the Treasury will either return to him securities of the same description and to the same nominal amount as those originally deposited, or, at their option, they will pay to him the deposit value of the securities with an addition of 5 per cent. on that value, plus accrued interest from the last preceding interest date.

In the case of securities in respect of which the holder is entitled to repayment at a fixed date or by drawings within a fixed period, the Treasury when making payment will, if the deposit value plus 5 per cent. is less than the redemption value, make a further addition of an amount equal to the enhancement in value due to the approach of the date of redemption while the securities have been upon deposit.

For the purposes of this paragraph "deposit value" means in the case of sterling securities the net mean quotation (i.e., the quoted price less accrued interest or dividend in cases in which such accrued interest or dividend is included in the quoted price) on the London Stock Exchange of the day preceding the publication of the notice including the securities in the Treasury List for deposit under Scheme B, and in the case of dollar securities the sterling equivalent at the exchange of the day of the net quotation of the New York Stock Exchange of that day. In the case of unquoted securities or quoted securities in respect of which the current quotation may not be regarded as representing the true market value, the prices will be fixed by the Treasury. Thus for all securities included under headings (a) and (c), clause (1), and all securities transferred from Scheme A, the day for fixing the deposit value will be August 11th, 1916, and for additional securities under heading (b) the day preceding the notice of their inclusion in the scheme.

(7) Holdings of £100 (\$2,000) and upwards will be accepted for deposit by the Treasury through the American Dollar Securities Committee, 19, Old Jewry, E.C. Arrangements for the aggregation of smaller holdings for purposes of deposit will be made by bankers and other agents as under Scheme A.

(8) Holders of bearer bonds (or share certificates transferable by delivery) will be required to lodge the bonds and coupons with the Treasury, and holders of registered stock or bonds will be required to execute a transfer of such stock or bonds. Bonds upon which British stamp duty has not previously been paid may be deposited unstamped. When the bonds have been lodged with the Treasury, or when the transfer of the stock or bonds has been registered in the Company's books, the bonds or stock will be entered in the holder's name in a special register kept by the Treasury for the purpose, and a certificate of entry in this register will be issued to the holder. The title of bonds or stock entered in the Treasury Register may be transferred upon that register by deed in the ordinary way. In the case of registered stock or bonds, the Treasury will bear all charges in respect of the original transfer into their name in the Company's books, and of the re-transfer in the Company's books into the name of the person in whose name the stock or bonds stand in the Treasury Register when finally released; transfer deeds for intermediate transfers in the Treasury Register will be subject to stamp duty in ordinary course, and to a registration fee of 2s 6d. All transfer deeds in respect of bearer bonds or share certificates transferable by delivery will be free of stamp duty and registration fee. At the end of the period of the loan the bonds or certificates deposited (or bonds or certificates identical as far as possible in all respects with those deposited) will, subject to paragraph (6), be delivered to the depositor upon surrender of the deposit certificate. The Treasury will, if desired, exercise as far as possible the voting and other rights attached to the securities in the way that the owners of the deposited securities may indicate.

(9) Arrangements have been made by the Stock Exchange Committee for dealings on the Stock Exchange in the deposit certificates of securities deposited under the scheme.

(10) The interest and dividends on all deposited securities, together with the additional payment at the rate of one-half of one per cent. per annum, will be paid to the holder for the time being on the Treasury Register, by warrant, as soon as they have been received by the Treasury. Non-sterling dividends will be paid in sterling at the exchange of the day

on which the Treasury books are closed for the purpose of preparing the warrants. For convenience of payment, in cases where interest or dividends are payable half-yearly, a full half-year's additional payment (viz., $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.) will be added to the first dividend payment, and on the termination of the loan, the amount due from the actual date of deposit to the date of return will be calculated, and any overpayment or underpayment will be adjusted when the return is effected. A similar procedure, *mutatis mutandis*, will be applied in cases of quarterly or other periodical payments of interest or dividends.

(11) Under section 2 of the Government War Obligations Act, 1915 (5 and 6 Geo. 5, c. 96), and section 68 of the Finance Act, 1916 (6 and 7 Geo. 5, c. 24), trustees and companies are enabled to take advantage of the scheme notwithstanding any provisions of their trust or constitution, and are not liable for any loss arising from so doing.

(12) The Treasury reserve the right to refuse, either in whole or in part, any offer to deposit securities under the scheme.

LIST OF SECURITIES.

Argentine Government	4 per cent. Bonds (1897).
" "	4 per cent. Railway Guarantees Rescission Bonds (1897-9).
" "	4½ per cent. Internal Gold Loan (1888).
" "	4½ per cent. Sterling Conversion Loan (1888-9).
" "	5 per cent. Loan (1886-7).
" "	5 per cent. Loan (1887-8-9) (North Central Railway Extensions).
" "	5 per cent. Railway Bonds (1890).
" "	5 per cent. Buenos Ayres Water Supply and Drainage Bonds (1892).
" "	5 per cent. Internal Gold Loan (1897).
Argentine Great Western Railway Company	5 per cent. Debenture Stock.
Brazilian Government	5 per cent. Funding Bonds (1898).
Buenos Ayres Great Southern Railway Company	4 per cent. Debenture Stock.
Buenos Ayres Great Southern Railway Company	5 per cent. Preference Stock.
Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway Company	4 per cent. 1st Debenture Stock.
Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway Company	4½ per cent. 2nd Debenture Stock.
Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway Company	4½ per cent. Consolidated Debenture Stock.
Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway Company	5 per cent. (1912) Debenture Stock.
Buenos Ayres Western Railway Company	4 per cent. Debenture Stock.
Canada (Dominion of)	3 per cent. Sterling Bonds or Stock, 1938.
" "	3½ per cent. Sterling Bonds or Stock, 1909-34.
" "	3½ per cent. Registered Stock, 1905-5.
" "	(Canadian Pacific Railway) 3½ per cent. Land Grant Bonds or Stock, 1938.
" "	3½ per cent. Bonds, 1914-19.
" "	4 per cent. Stock, 1940-60.
" "	4½ per cent. Bonds, 1920-25.
Canadian Northern Railway Company	4 per cent. Debenture Stock (Guaranteed by Dominion Government), 1934.
Canadian Northern Railway Company	4 per cent. 1st Mortgage Consolidated Debenture Bonds (Guaranteed by Manitoba), 1930.
Canadian Northern Ontario Railway Company	3½ per cent. Stock (Guaranteed by Dominion Government), 1961.
Canadian Northern Pacific Railway Company	4 per cent. 1st Mortgage Debenture Stock (Guaranteed by British Columbia), 1950.
Canadian Pacific Railway Company	Perpetual 4 per cent. Consolidated Debenture Stock.
Canadian Pacific Railway Company	4 p.c. Preference Stock.
Central Argentine Railway Co.	4 p.c. Debenture Stock, 1938.
" "	4½ p.c. Preference Stock.
Chilian Government	4½ per cent. Loan (1886).
" "	4½ per cent. Gold Loan (1906).
" "	5 per cent. Loan (1897).
" "	5 per cent. Loan (1909).
" "	5 per cent. Loan (1910).
" "	5 per cent. Loan (1911) 1st Series.
" "	5 per cent. Loan (1911) 2nd Series.
Copenhagen City	4 per cent. Bonds (1908).
" "	4 per cent. Bonds (1910).
Danish Government	3 per cent. Loan (1875).
" "	4 per cent. Loan (1912).
Dutch Government	3 per cent. Bonds (1806).
" "	3 per cent. Bonds (1898, 1899, 1905).
Egyptian Government	3 per cent. Guaranteed Loan.
" "	3½ per cent. Preference Bonds.
" "	4 per cent. Unified Bonds.
Grand Trunk Railway Co.	Perpetual 4 per cent. Consd. Debenture Stock
Grand Trunk Ry. Co.	Perpetual 5 per cent. Debenture Stock.
Grand Trunk Great Western Railway Co.	Perpetual 5 per cent. Debenture Stock.
Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Co.	3 per cent. 1st Mortgage Sterling Bonds (Guaranteed by Dominion Government), 1962.
Japanese Government	4 per cent. Sterling Loan (1890).
" "	4 per cent. Sterling Loan (1905).
" "	4 per cent. Sterling Loan (1905). 1st Series.
" "	4½ per cent. Sterling Loan (1905). 2nd Series.
" "	5 per cent. Sterling Loan (1907).
Norwegian Government	3 per cent. Conversion Loan (1888).
" "	4 per cent. Loan (1911).
Stockholm City	4 per cent. Bonds (1900).
Swedish Government	3½ per cent. Loan (1880).
" "	3½ per cent. Loan (1900).
" "	4-3½ per cent. Loan (1908).
Swiss Government Federal Railways	3½ per cent. Bonds.

THE SECRETARY AND COMPTROLLER GENERAL,
NATIONAL DEBT OFFICE, 19, OLD JEWRY, LONDON, E.C.
12th August, 1916.

Clerical, Medical & General Life Assurance Society.

For the 6th consecutive time the Quinquennial Valuation has been made at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. interest.

To the Reserves so brought out £197,000 has been added.

All Securities have been written down to market values.

On Nov. 3rd the Directors will declare a Divisible Surplus of £795,924, which will maintain the high rates of Bonus paid in 1911.

The prospects of the Society are excellent.

15, St. James's Square, Pall Mall,
LONDON, S.W.

The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 6 PER CENT. (Increased from 5 per cent. on Thursday, July 13.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

From day to day there are slight ups and downs in the rates for call and short notice loans, but as a rule the quotation remains at $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 per cent. for call and $4\frac{3}{4}$ to 5 per cent. for notice loans. If the Treasury draws in by its various devices for attracting more money than it pays out, or, as was the case this week, if the railway companies are withdrawing money from their bankers with which to pay their half-yearly dividends, then loans are rather dearer. Otherwise the market just simmers along, transacting its business with wonderful serenity and waiting on events in courage and good hope. The same may be said about discounts, which do not really alter more than a fraction of 1 per cent. under any circumstance. The Treasury bill rate governs the market, reinforced by the state of foreign exchanges, and these do not become appreciably more adverse; in fact, the New York rate has hardened a trifle, on the news about the £50,000,000, particulars regarding which are summarised below, and although yesterday French, Italian and Spanish rates moved somewhat against this country, the general position remains much as before. Buenos Ayres 90-day exchange, for instance, holds at 48 11-32d., but the Valparaiso sole is slightly worse at 9d. All things weighed, the Paris rate stands the strain marvellously.

Had conditions been usual the addition of another £863,000 to the stock of gold in the Bank of England, bringing it up to £57,414,000, might have had a sensible influence in cheapening credit outside. As it is the market was just pleased, and went on its way.

Along with the increase in gold held came a further decline of £441,000 in the note circulation which is now £35,706,000, so that the Reserve is £1,304,000 larger at £40,158,000 and the Proportion one-eighth per cent. higher than last week's at $27\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. It is, however, $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. higher than a year ago. "Other Securities" have gone up £3,169,000 to £83,811,000, and the money thus procured has gone on to other deposits for the moment, which are £4,872,000 up at £93,862,000, the Government deposits being £403,000 down at £54,522,000. Why the other securities and other deposits have gone up concurrently we cannot interpret, but perhaps the market was driven to borrow in order to meet big railway dividends, and it may be that credit operations in connection with the transfer of securities to the Treasury figure on the private side of the Bank's business until completed. The matter is of no importance either way.

We cannot say that the American bankers are guilty of excessive benevolence in the terms they have demanded, for the new loan of \$250,000,000 (£50,000,000) which our Government has had to raise in New York to help it to sustain the exchange while paying its bills for ammunition supplies, ordered at very good prices indeed for the suppliers. In dealing with New York, a new system of borrowing has had to be fallen back upon by our Government. The mere national security has no longer been held sufficient. Accordingly, the official statement of the terms arranged is that the loan takes the form of gold notes dated September 1, which notes are to be covered by securities valued at £60,000,000, or \$300,000,000. These securities are to consist of the bonds, &c., indicated in the newest list to be found in our advertising columns this week of stocks to be bought or borrowed by the Exchequer. Our Government reserves the right to redeem the entire issue in whole or in part on 30 days' notice within any time up to August 31 next year at the price of 101 plus accrued interest, and during the following year up to maturity at 100 $\frac{1}{2}$. The Banking Syndicate in New York, headed by Messrs. J. P. Morgan and Co., is alleged to have underwritten the issue at 98 nett. And as regards the security we give for the loan, it has to be maintained all the time at a market value 20 per cent. in excess of the amount lent. Until the stocks, &c., we are now gathering can be sent over, we must deposit New York Stock Exchange securities or cash. The loan is said to have been subscribed as soon as offered. Well may our Ministry of Munitions be stimulated to exercise the utmost energy in elevating our own productive capacity to the level of our war necessities.

It is reported from New York that the Japanese Government has bought there £6,000,000 of our Treasury bills, thus utilising part of the £10,000,000 of its money deposited there.

According to the official statement for the week ended August 16, currency notes amounting to £3,043,190 in £1 and £1,014,908 in 10s. notes were issued, against which £2,185,400 in £1 and £870,666 in 10s. notes were cancelled. There was therefore an increase of £1,201,633 in the amount outstanding at a total of £119,718,400 10s., made up of £61,226,695 in £1 notes and £28,491,705 10s. in 10s. notes. During the same period currency note certificates for £690,000 were issued, and £450,000 were cancelled, so that the amount outstanding was increased to £10,230,000. There is also an investment reserve account of £2,380,324 4s. 7d. Against these £28,000,000 is held in gold, £96,644,076 4s. 4d. in Government securities, and £7,053,648 2s. 6d. at the Bank of England, while £104,000 has been advanced to bankers other than Scottish and Irish banks of issue, and £36,000 to the Trustee Savings Bank.

Bar silver has not rallied much from the decline noted a week ago. The quotation has never been higher than $31\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz., and it closes to-night at $31\frac{1}{8}$ d., there being few buyers to be found.

Applications for the Rs. 30,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 2,73,33,000. Of these Rs. 50,000 were allotted in bills, Rs. 26,96,000 in deferred transfers, and Rs. 3,54,000 in immediate transfers, tenders for bills and deferred transfers at 1s. 4 3-32d. and for immediate transfers at 1s. 4d. receiving about 23 per cent. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is again Rs. 30,00,000. Between April 1 and August 15 the local sales were Rs. 8,09,60,713, realising £5,431,244.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, August 9, 1916.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued	£ 73,996,210	Government Debt	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities	£ 7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	£ 55,546,210
		Silver Bullion	—
	£ 73,996,210		£ 73,996,210

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 42,188,270
Res	£ 3,493,678	Other Securities	£ 83,811,349
Public Deposits (including		Notes	£ 58,290,415
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	£ 1,867,561
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	£ 54,221,928		
Other Deposits	£ 93,862,127		
Seven Day and other Bills	£ 26,862		
	£ 166,157,595		£ 166,157,595

Dated Aug. 16, 1916.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year.

Last year. Aug. 18.		Aug. 9, 1916.	Aug. 16, 1916.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,532,109	Rest	3,484,719	3,493,678	8,959	—
102,664,486	Pub. Deposits ..	54,625,309	54,221,928	—	403,381
124,635,900	Other do. ..	88,989,712	93,862,127	4,872,415	—
31,300	7 Day Bills ..	31,506	26,862	—	4,644
				Decrease.	Increase.
45,615,269	Gov. Securities.	42,188,110	42,188,270	—	160
146,183,559	Other do. ..	80,642,144	83,811,349	—	3,169,205
53,617,867	Total Reserve ..	38,853,992	49,157,976	—	1,303,984
				4,881,374	4,881,374
				Increase.	Decrease.
£	Note Circulation	£	£	£	£
39,011,616	Coin and Bullion	35,146,875	35,705,795	—	441,020
67,125,702	Proportion ..	56,550,807	57,413,771	862,964	—
23½ p.c.	Bank Rate ..	27.0 p.c.	27.1 p.c.	0.1 p.c.	—
5		6	6	—	—

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1916.	1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
January	1,071,943,000	918,685,000	153,258,000	—
February	1,107,055,000	960,743,000	146,312,000	—
March	1,364,599,000	1,231,392,000	133,207,000	—
April	1,090,356,000	976,264,000	114,092,000	—
May	1,447,416,000	1,164,194,000	283,222,000	—
June	1,147,630,000	960,209,000	187,421,000	—
July	1,239,193,000	1,316,695,000	—	77,502,000
August 2	260,541,000	260,768,000	29,773,000	—
" 9	281,203,000	273,343,000	7,360,000	—
" 16	276,710,000	283,050,000	—	6,340,000
Total ..	9,317,251,000	8,345,843,000	971,408,000	—

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For 7 days ended Aug. 12.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE
Customs	National Debt Service ..
Excise	Interest, &c., on War Debt ..
Estate, &c., Duties ..	Development & Road Impvt.
Stamps	Payments to Local Taxation
Land Tax and House Duty.	Other Consolidated Fund
Property and Income Tax ..	Charges
Excess Profits Tax	Supply Services
Land Values	Bullion Advances
Post Office	For Advance for Interest
Crown Lands	on Exchequer Bonds under
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	Capital Expenditure
Miscellaneous	(Money) Act, 1904
Bullion advances repaid ..	For Treasury Bills (nett amt.)
For Treasury Bills (nett amt.)	For Exchequer Bonds issued
War Loan, 1925-8	under the War Loan Re-
War Loan, 1925-45	demption Act, 1910
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919 ..	Issues under Section 1 of
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920 ..	War Loan Act, 1915
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1921 ..	Under Telegraph (Money)
War Expenditure Certificates	Act, 1913
War Savings Certificates ..	Under Post Office (Lon-
Other Debts created under	don) Railway Act, 1913
War Loan Act, 1915	Under Housing Act
Telegraph Money Act, 1913 ..	Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8 ..
Under Post Office Rly. Act,	Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11 ..
1913	E. Africa Protectorate Loan
Under Military Works Acts,	Cunard Loan repayment
1897-1903	issued to reduce debt under
Under Housing Act	the Cunard Agreement
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920 ..	Deficiency advances repaid
East Africa Protectorate	China Indemnity issued to
Loan repayments	reduce debt under Finance
Cunard Loan—repayment on	Act, 1903
account of principal	Ways and Means Advances
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	repaid
China Indemnity	Increase in Exchequer
Ways and Means Advances	balances
Decrease in Exchequer	
balances	
£43,790,529	£43,790,529

FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	July 28, 1916.	July 21, 1916.	July 14, 1916.
	£	£	£
Gold coin and certificates ..	51,986,200	52,409,800	53,920,400
Gold Redemption Fund ..	333,600	336,229	394,000
Gold Settlement Fund ..	29,582,200	19,912,200	23,726,200
Legal tender notes, silver, &c.	5,417,800	2,760,400	2,055,800
Total reserves	76,299,800	75,408,600	80,096,400
5% redemption fund against:			
F.R. bank notes	90,000	90,000	90,000
10-day bills and loans ..	3,471,600	3,432,600	2,122,600
30-day bills and loans ..	3,664,200	5,348,000	5,151,000
60-day bills and loans ..	8,063,800	7,260,400	7,088,200
90-day bills and loans ..	6,063,800	6,024,200	5,746,000
Maturities over 90 days ..	761,100	708,600	611,800
Total	22,203,600	22,563,800	21,019,600
Investments—			
U.S. Bonds	9,731,200	9,949,200	10,517,800
One year U.S. Treasury			
notes	1,585,000	1,438,000	909,200
Municipal Warrants	5,444,000	5,544,600	5,484,800
Federal Reserve notes—nett.	4,001,600	4,002,800	4,152,000
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—			
nett	2,524,000	2,395,400	4,011,200
All other assets	1,102,800	951,200	1,648,800
Total assets	123,018,000	122,704,600	127,929,800
Paid-up capital	11,041,200	11,036,600	11,035,200
Government Deposits ..	11,308,400	10,855,400	19,495,200
Reserve deposits—nett ..	98,253,200	98,400,000	94,988,400
Note circulation—nett ..	2,024,400	2,024,000	2,019,600
Fed. Res. notes in circulation	338,400	338,400	344,000
All other liabilities	52,400	50,200	47,400
Total liabilities	123,018,000	122,704,600	127,929,800
Gold reserve against nett			
liabilities	66.9%	68.8%	69.4%
Cash reserve against nett			
liabilities	69.9%	69.3%	71.2%

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	Aug. 12, 1916	Aug. 5, 1916	July 29, 1916	Aug. 14, 1915
	£	£	£	£
Loans	646,588,000	643,452,000	637,518,000	520,588,000
Reserve held in own Vaults ..	86,402,000	83,206,000	85,540,000	91,884,000
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk.	32,472,000	33,098,000	32,754,000	26,114,000
Reserve held in Other Depos.	10,440,000	10,154,000	10,564,000	5,852,000
Nett Demand Deposits ..	624,512,000	618,352,000	624,438,000	512,586,000
Nett Time Deposits	45,844,000	47,074,000	36,756,000	29,100,000
Circulation	6,246,000	6,250,000	6,290,000	7,402,000
Excess Lawful Reserve ..	21,660,000	21,800,000	21,340,000	35,116,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits.

NEW YORK STATE BANKS & TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.).

	Aug. 12, 1916.	Aug. 5, 1916.	July 29, 1916.	Aug. 14, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Loans	141,266,000	141,876,000	143,256,000	117,924,000
Specie	12,008,000	11,936,000	12,022,000	9,995,000
Deposits	149,200,000	149,792,000	150,854,000	121,938,000
Legal Tenders	1,742,000	1,752,000	1,822,000	1,740,000

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Aug. 17, 1916.	Aug. 10, 1916.	Aug. 3, 1916.	Aug. 19, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold in hand	192,035,640	191,933,840	191,727,670	175,694,440
Silver in hand	13,539,640	13,538,440	13,562,480	14,716,560
Bills discounted	17,605,040	17,428,360	18,669,520	11,118,600
Advances	47,332,160	47,471,240	47,587,400	23,563,960
Note circulation	652,656,840	653,196,920	647,869,200	535,974,440
Public deposits	5,672,280	5,500,160	3,100,040	4,452,120
Private deposits	85,188,720	85,173,200	86,332,920	98,502,840
Foreign Bills	74,880	65,680	61,640	69,480

Proportion between bullion and circulation 31.50 per cent., against 31.45 per cent. last week. Advances to the State £336,000,000, unchanged. The adjourned payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium amounted to £25,943,960, decrease £113,280, and at the branches to £31,051,280, decrease £119,520.

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	July 31, 1916.	July 22, 1916.	July 15, 1916.	July 31, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Total Coin & Bullion ..	124,852,200	124,891,150	124,839,600	122,260,550
Treasury Notes	20,804,130	23,421,400	20,973,400	12,869,700
Bills discounted	327,100,650	304,582,000	320,836,250	239,229,250
Advances	636,550	613,600	647,750	852,000
Note circulation	351,228,200	342,014,650	346,981,650	276,908,200
Deposits	119,779,750	119,150,450	119,269,550	82,580,200

Clearing House returns during June, £257,755,660 against £276,664,805 in May

IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Aug. 12, 1916.	Aug. 5, 1916.	July 29, 1916.	July 21, 1916.
	£	£	£	£
Notes in reserve	10,870,000	7,710,000	11,180,000	10,340,000
Gold	154,930,000	154,600,000	154,740,000	154,570,000
Gold in reserve abroad ..	196,230,000	186,760,000	186,800,000	186,770,000
Treasury Bonds	387,330,000	389,000,000	376,220,000	380,770,000
Circulation note issue ..	687,620,000	681,280,000	675,310,000	671,160,000
Treasury deposits	20,000,000	21,570,000	21,000,000	20,410,000

NETHERLANDS BANK (12 Florins to the £).

	Aug. 12, 1916	Aug. 5, 1916.	July 29, 1916	Aug. 14, 1915
	£	£	£	£
Gold and Silver	49,777,250	49,825,166	49,362,333	31,411,666
Bills and Advances	12,911,833	12,659,833	10,535,083	13,132,000
Note circulation	55,398,916	55,833,333	55,381,666	44,471,484
Deposits	10,184,666	9,505,166	7,437,000	3,128,101

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Aug. 5, 1916	July 29, 1916	July 22, 1916	Aug. 7, 1915
	£	£	£	£
Gold	43,858,317	43,652,687	42,970,700	28,157,686
Silver	30,253,941	30,612,301	30,493,191	29,493,098
Foreign Bills ..	3,793,227	3,836,301	3,877,271	4,781,694
Discounts and Short Bills ..	23,500,503	23,312,826	23,392,286	26,674,549
Treasury Account, &c. ..	30,468,461	30,291,188	30,447,620	30,737,545
Notes in Circulation ..	89,470,730	88,485,166	88,372,299	80,956,956
Current Accounts, Deposits ..	30,471,396	30,879,670	30,813,006	25,951,405
Dividends, Interests, &c. ..	1,644,549	1,852,460	2,106,130	1,496,376
Government Securities ..	1,035,867	912,084	985,745	2,759,794

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	July 10, 1916	June 30, 1916	June 20, 1916	June 10, 1916
	£	£	£	£
Total cash	44,942,800	45,005,320	45,121,040	45,231,720
Inland Bills	18,567,320	17,957,920	17,316,880	16,726,800
Foreign Bills	832,760	833,720	841,360	834,360
Advances	7,815,960	8,421,880	8,289,720	8,325,400
Government securities ..	8,777,400	8,439,960	8,559,160	8,334,360
Circulation	135,856,800	135,162,000	130,097,160	126,598,560
Deposits at notice ..	14,091,120	17,933,640	14,207,720	13,674,880
Current accounts ..	15,068,720	15,386,800	16,096,480	16,332,280

SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	Aug. 7, 1916.	July 31, 1916.	July 22, 1916.	Aug. 7, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold and silver ..	13,269,908	13,304,188	13,359,680	11,897,652
Bills	6,817,848	6,147,092	5,285,884	6,193,856
Note circulation ..	16,667,376	17,022,928	16,275,284	15,981,392
Current and deposit accounts ..	5,421,452	4,522,408	4,448,516	4,450,180

BANK OF NORWAY.

	Aug. 7, 1916.	July 31, 1916.	July 22, 1916.	Aug. 7, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	6,326,000	6,326,000	6,326,000	3,408,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	6,467,000	6,461,000	6,156,000	3,603,000
Govt. Securities ..	767,000	767,000	767,000	637,000
Discounts & Loans ..	5,251,000	4,783,000	5,020,000	4,161,000
Notes in Circulation ..	11,854,000	11,864,000	11,807,000	7,856,000
Deposits at notice ..	4,481,000	4,052,000	3,992,000	1,452,000

BANK OF SWEDEN.

	Aug. 5, 1916.	July 29, 1916.	July 22, 1916.	Aug. 7, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	9,214,000	9,217,000	9,218,000	6,299,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	9,144,000	8,863,000	8,862,000	5,029,000
Swedish and Foreign Govt. Securities ..	3,823,000	3,837,000	3,848,000	2,770,000
Discounts and Loans ..	3,346,000	2,909,000	3,145,000	6,921,000
Notes in circulation ..	18,227,000	17,568,000	17,349,000	15,253,000
Deposits at notice ..	6,151,000	6,300,000	6,624,000	4,623,000

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.
Paris	chqs.	28.15	28.12½	Antwerp	chqs.	—	—
Brussels	chqs.	—	—	Italy	3 mths	30.77	30.87
Amsterdam ..	sight	11.52½	11.54½	Constantinople	90 dys	122½	123½
Berlin	chqs.	—	—	Rio de Janeiro ..	90 dys	48½	48½
Hamburg	chqs.	—	—	Buenos Aires ..	90 dys	1/4½	1/4½
Vienna	sight	—	—	Calcutta	T.T.	1/4½	1/4½
Petrograd ..	3 mths	156½	155½	Bombay	T.T.	1/4½	1/4½
New York	cable	4.76½	4.76½	Hong Kong	T.T.	2/1½	2/1½
Lisbon	sight	35½	35	Shanghai	T.T.	2/1½	2/1½
Madrid	sight	23.05	23.56	Singapore	T.T.	2/4½	2/4½
				Yokohama	4 mths	2/1½	2/1½

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Aug. 15, 1916.		Aug. 27, 1916.	
		Sellers.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Buyers.
Amsterdam ..	Cable transfers ..	11.52	11.55	11.53	11.55
	Three months' bills ..	11.68	11.72	11.70	11.75
Paris	Cable transfers ..	28.15	28.18	28.13	28.18
	Three months' bills ..	28.55	28.60	28.50	28.55
Marseilles ..	Three months' bills ..	28.55	28.60	28.50	28.55
Switzerland ..	Cable transfers ..	25.18	25.28	25.18	25.28
	Three months' bills ..	25.55	25.65	25.55	25.65
Petrograd ..	Cable transfers ..	150½	157½	156½	157½
Genoa, &c. ..	Cable transfers ..	30.85	30.95	30.80	30.90
	Three months' bills ..	31.30	31.40	31.25	31.35
Spain	Cable transfers ..	23.65	23.75	23.63	23.73
	Three months' bills ..	48	48½	48	48½
Lisbon and Oporto	Cable transfers ..	34½	35½	34½	35½
Scandinavia ..	Cable transfers ..	16.90	17.00	17.00	17.10

* Nominal

TREASURY BILLS.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months ..	5½	5½
Six months ..	5½	5½
Nine months ..	5½	5½
Twelve months ..	6	6

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted	5½	5½
Three months ..	5½	5½
Four months ..	5½	5½
Six months ..	5½	5½
Three months fine inland bills	6-6½	6-6½
Four months ..	6½	6½
Six months ..	6½-6½	6½-6½

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	6	6
" " short loan rates	6½	6½
Bankers' rate on deposits	4	4
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	4½	4½
" 7 and 14 days' notice	4½	4½
Current rates for 7 day loans	4½-5	4½-5
" for call loans	4½-5	4½-5

The Week's Stock Markets.

Attention has been concentrated on the new scheme for the further regulation of foreign exchanges to the almost complete exclusion of everything else, but there was little enough business to transact, and dealers had plenty of time to discuss the latest move, often with a sad lack of knowledge of the details which even the most perfunctory reading of the announcement would have provided. It is now made perfectly clear that the Government has no intention of making a jobbing profit on any of the securities deposited, and if any of the stocks are sold at a profit in excess of the 5 per cent. bonus originally promised in such eventuality the holder will receive the full benefit. Another grievance which it was sought to exploit was the position of a holder who at the end of five years received back his securities which in the meantime might have greatly depreciated. The grumblers apparently overlooked the fact that the depositor would receive a certificate which will be just as negotiable as the original stock if he feels inclined, or is compelled, to realise. On the whole, however, the scheme has been well received, and the market is looking forward with some interest to see whether, once securities that have long reposed in strong boxes have been dug out, the holders will be more disposed to traffic in them (or the equivalent certificates), and so help to revivify what has been for a long time a somewhat somnolent section of the House. The first effect of the new scheme is seen in the announcements from New York that a British Government loan of £50,000,000 has already been arranged, as we duly note in our Money Market. With the continued satisfactory progress of the war on all fronts the tone of markets has been cheerful, in spite of the very attenuated amount of business transacted, but New South Wales has not achieved much of a success with her loan, the underwriters being saddled with about 80 per cent. of the issue. On Monday last the Official List appeared with double prices for the first time since the House reopened after the war, and the innovation was hailed as a good omen. A "quarter" price was established for the War Loan and ½ for Consols, but for the majority of stocks very wide prices were quoted, and the quotations cannot be regarded as of any real interest until they approximate more closely to actual dealing prices. Naturally, however, the jobbers must protect themselves while transactions are still mainly a matter of negotiation. As anticipated, the shipping boom has largely fizzled out, and nothing of importance has stepped into its place. There cannot be any real activity or initiative anywhere while the country is spending £30,000,000 to £35,000,000 a week on the war.

It has been another dull week on the Stock Exchange, and if members had not had "Scheme B" for the regulation of foreign exchanges and the revival of double prices in the Official List to discuss and criticise they would have had little to do but twiddle their thumbs. On Monday alone, when there was an accumulation of orders over Saturday's holiday, the markings of business exceeded 3,000, and that spells wearisome stagnation in the majority of markets. Double prices appeared in Monday's List for the first time since the war, and they were scrutinised with a good deal of interest, but the general conclusion was that much closer quotations would have to be obtained before they will be of much practical value. Thanks to the excellent war news, the tone

of markets generally was cheerful and confident. Consols have scarcely moved, but there has been a good demand for the 4½ per cent. War Loan, probably for the sake of conversion rights, and the price has risen a substantial fraction. A few Colonial loans have improved, but dealings have been on a small scale, and the non-success of the New South Wales issue acted as a damper. Stocks included in the first Treasury list under "Scheme B" were marked up all round, an indica-

	Last Week	This Week		Last Week	This Week
Consols.....	59½	59½	N.S.W. 4½% 1922-7	95½	95½
War Loan 3½%.....	86½	86½	" 5% 1921-3	99½	99½
" 4½%.....	96	96	New Zealand 4%	88½	88½
India 3%.....	60½	61½	Queensland 4%	86	86
" 3½%.....	70½	70½	" 4½% new.....	96½	96½
Australian 5½% 1920-22	97½	97½	Union of S. Africa 4½%	95	94½
Canada 4% 1940-60	86½	86½	" 1920-5	95½	95½
" 4½% 1920-5	95½	95½	Victoria 4½% 1920-5	95½	95½
N.S.W. 4%.....	86½	86½	Westn. Aus. 4%	83½	83½
" 4½% 5 yr. b	97½	97½	French War Loan, 5%	86½	86½x
Belgian 3%.....	62½	63	Japan 4½% (1st)	95½	95½x
Brazil, 1913.....	67	68	" (2nd)	95½	95½x
" New Funding	81½	81	Russia 4%	71½	71½x
Chinese 1896	93½	93½	" 4½%	80½	81
" 1913	78	78	" 5%	90½	90½
Egypt Unified 4%	80½	81	London and S.-W. dfd.	25½	26
Brighton dfd.	65½	65½	" Do. new pf.	100	98x
Caledonian dfd.	10	9½	Metropolitan	24½	24½
Chatham ord.	9½x	9½	" Do. 5% New pf.	88½x	90
Gt. Central pfd.	16½	16½	Met. District	18½	18½
" dfd.	8½	8½	Midland dfd.	61x	61
Gt. Eastern	39½x	39½	Nth. British dfd.	15½	15½
Gt. Northern dfd.	39½x	39½	Nth.-Eastern	105½	106½
Gt. Western	99	97½x	Nth.-Western	106½	104x
Lancs. and Yorks.	73½	73	Sth.-Eastern dfd.	29	29½
Canadian Pacific	187	187½	Chesapeake	64½	65½
Do. 6% Notes	106½	106	Eric	38½	38½
E. Indian Guar. 4½% debts.	92½	92½	Milwaukee	100½	99½x
Grand Trunk ord.	12	12	N. Y. Central	110½	110
" 3rd pf.	28	28	Southern	25	25
" 5½% 3-yr. Notes	96½	96½	Southern Pacific	103½	103½
" 5½% 5-yr. "	96½	96½	Union Pacific	147½	147½
Atchafson	107½	108½	U. S. Steel	92½	96½
Baltimore	90½	91½	Cent. Argentine ord.	79½	81½
Antofagasta dfd.	129	129	" Do. 5% Notes	97½	97½
" 6% Notes	100	100	" Do. 6% "	101½	101½
Brazil Common	7½	7½	Leopoldina	38½	38½
B. A. & Pacific	40½	42½	Mexican ord.	18	18½
B. A. Gt. Southern	85½	87½	San Paulo (Brazilian)	192	193
B. A. Western	87½	89½	United of Havana	83½	84½
Bank of Australasia	118	118	London City & Midland	8½	8
Barclay & Co. "A"	8x	7½x	London County & West.	15	15½
" "B"	118½x	118	London Joint Stock	22	22
Capital & Counties	23	23	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (£10 pd)	28½	28
Chartered of India	60½	60	" Do. (£12 pd)	31½	31
Hongkong & Shanghai	79½	78x	Parr's	31	31
Lloyds	25	24½	Standard of S.A.	11	11
London & Provincial	17	16½	Union & Smiths	25	24½
London & S.W.	11½	11½	Forestal Land	52½	52½
Apollinaris ord.	1½	1½	Furness, Withy	53½	51½x
Armstrong, Whitworth	38½	38½	Hudson's Bay	64½	61½x
Associated Cement	3½	3½	Imperial Tobacco pf. ord.	23½	23½
Birmingham Small Arms	45½	46	" Do. dfd. 'A'	36½	37½
Borax dfd.	34½	34½	Kynocha	29½	30½
Bovril	40½	40½	Lever Bros. "C" pf.	21½	21½
Brazil Traction	61½	62	Lyons, J.	48	48
British Amer. Tobacco	85½	88½	Marconi	38½	38½
Brown (John) & Co.	32½	33½	Maypole Dairy dfd.	23½	23½
Brunner, Mond	4½	4½	Mond Nickel ord.	38	38
Cammell-Laird	6½	6½	National Steam Car	21½	20½
Cassner-Kellner	31½	31½	Pears, A. & F.	1½	1½
Coats	6½	6½	P. & O. dfd.	335	340
Cunard	86½	85½	Royal Mail	128½	128½
Dennis Bros.	32½	32½	South Durham Steel	32½	32½
Dorman, Long	34½	33½	Underground Inc. Bds.	91½	91½
Eastmans	8½	7½	Vickers	37½	36½x
English Sewing Cotton	44½x	44½	Mexican Eagle pf.	187	183
Fine Cotton Spinners	30½	30½	North Caucasian	249	25½
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	6½	6½	Roumanian Cons.	149	149
Baku (10s.)	3½	3½	Royal Dutch (100 gulden)	45½	45½
Burmah	4½x	4½	Shell	58	58½
Lobitos	35½	36	Spies (10/-)	13½	13½
Maikop Combine (10s.)	2½	2½	Ural Caspian	34½	33½
Maikop Pipeline	4½	3½	Merlimau 2/-	5½	5½x
Mexican Eagle	1½	1½	Pataling 2/-	33½	33½
Anglo-Java Rub. (2/-)	5½	6½	Port Dickson 2/-	3½	3½
Anglo-Malay 2/-	11½	11½	Rubber Trust 2/-	23½	23½
Ayer Kuning 1/-	35½	36½	Sapumalkande 2/-	21½	21½
Bukit Mertajam 2/-	41½	41½	Selangor United 2/-	21½	21½
Bukit Sembawang 2/-	3½	3½	Sialang 1/-	63½	64½
Carey United 1/-	34½	34½	Singapore Para 2/-	3½	3½
Grand Central 1/-	24½	25½	Singapore United 2/-	3½	3½
Gula Kalumpung 1/-	27½	28½	Tanjong 2/-	32½	31½x
Highlands 1/-	53½	54½	Tanjong 1/-	76½	76½
Java Para 1/-	32½	32½	Tanjong Malim 1/-	25½	25½x
Johore Rubber Lands 1/-	26½	26½	Tebrau 1/-	65½	65½
Langen Java 1/-	45½	47½	United Serdang 2/-	12½	12½x
London Asiatic 2/-	71½	71½	United Temaling 2/-	3½	3½
Malacca 1/-	85½	85½	Vallambrosa 2/-	187½	173x
Malayalam 1/-	29½	30½	De Beers dfd. (£2 ros.)	11½	12
Abbotiokong (10/-)	6½	6½	East Rand	149	143x
Brakpan	4½x	4½x	Pt. Boulder (2/-)	13½	13½
Broken Hill Prop. (8/-)	61½	61½	Meyer & Charlton	5½	5½x
Cam & Motor	12½	11½	Modder "B"	6½x	6½x
Central Mining (£12)	6½	6½	" Do. Deep	6½	6½x
Chartered	13½	13½x	" New Modder (£4)	18	18½x
City Deep	4	4x	Rand Mines (5/-)	34½	37½x
Cons. Gold Fields	1½	1½	Rio Tinto (£5)	61½	61½
Cons. Langlaagte	1½	1½	Van Ryn Deep	34½	1½
Crown Mines (10/-)	2½	2½			

tion of the favourable reception of the mobilisation proposals. Other South American issues improved considerably, probably on the hope that some of them might be included in subsequent lists. Guatemala Fours, Peruvian Salt Bonds, Uruguay Fives and Venezuela (Diplomatic) were particularly prominent. Almost the only weak spot was Spanish Fours, which fell a point.

Home Railways opened well, but the demand was not sufficient to absorb the small amount of stock that came on offer,

and prices finish substantially lower irrespective of the dividends deducted. North-Westerns declined to 104, Great Westerns to 97½, Midland deferred to 61, Great Northern deferred to 39½, Lancs and Yorks to 73, South-Eastern deferred to 29½ and Caledonian preferred to 43½. American Railroads improved on the success of the British Government loan and rumours of very large contracts for munitions. At the finish, however, the tendency was easier owing to the uncertainty with regard to the labour situation and the threatened railway strike, which President Wilson has not yet succeeded in settling. All the principal shares are substantially higher on balance. Canadian Pacifics have risen over a dollar on the excellent results recorded for the past year, but Grand Trunks have just been steady. Among Foreign Railways Argentines have been most prominent, as several of them are included in the Treasury deposit scheme, but the top prices have not been fully maintained. Havana Terminals and San Paulos also received good support. Mexican (Vera Cruz) advanced smartly on the announcement that the line is to be restored to the company, and it is hoped that this is the first step towards the gradual re-establishment of order in the country.

A moderate amount of business has passed in Bank shares, but sellers have predominated, and prices are mostly lower. Several of the leading London banks have lost ¼ to ½, but Bank of New South Wales, Bank of Victoria, and Hongkong and Shanghai have moved upwards to a similar extent. There was some inquiry for the more prominent Brewery shares, and prices were firm. Land shares were quiet without much change. Hudson's Bays, after advancing, reacted, and Nigers were weak, but Pahangs and Pekins gained a trifle. Among Textiles, Coats advanced, but lost the improvement, and Courtaulds were weak. Calico Printers were in demand on the excellent dividend statement, and Bradford Dyers also were strong. Armament shares were firm, Pease and Partners being particularly prominent, and Vickers improved on the Canadian debenture issue. Shipping shares had little steam left in them, and prices showed a drooping tendency, but P and O. as an exception were well supported. Meat shares, after their recent advance, reacted on profit-taking, and at best they have only had a small following. Salt Unions advanced smartly on rumours of an amalgamation with Brunner Mond or some other big chemical group. British Oil and Cake Mills improved, and British American Tobacco had a sharp spurt. Marconis also scored a small gain. City Services were marked down 25, but these sensational-looking movements mean little or nothing. National Steam Cars continued to dwindle, but Brazilian Tractions showed some strength. A little business was scattered throughout the Miscellaneous list, but it would be futile to chase the changes of threepenny bits up and down over the week.

Oil shares have been dull and neglected, and the changes, as a rule, are microscopic. On the whole, the tendency has been fairly firm, but the largest movement is a fall of ¼ in Shell Transport preferences. Burmahs have gained ½, and Eagle Transports half that fraction, but for the rest a nimbler sixpence or less would cover the fluctuations in either direction. However, there was some support for Assams, Bibi Eibats, Lobitos, North Caucasians and Premiers, while New Caucasians and Ural Caspians were weak. Rubbers have moved within very narrow limits, but, on the whole, have kept wonderfully firm. Bukit Cloh, Bukit Rajah, Damansara, Federated Selangor, Glenshiel, Jong Landor, Pegoh, Port Dickson, Sungei Choh and several others have improved a good fraction, but Kuala Lumpur lost 3s., and the Trust group also was rather weak.

LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

SUGAR.—There is a good steady demand for all grocery descriptions, and the comparatively small supplies on offer from time to time clear at full prices. No alteration was made in official quotations, except for Lyle's yellow crystals, which were raised 3d. Stocks of raw kinds in the three chief ports of the United Kingdom total 50,000 tons, against 68,600 same time last year.

COFFEE.—Spot market remains very quiet and without new feature, business being quite retail in extent at unchanged prices. Good bold Costa Rica, sold, 76s.; fine bold Vera Paz, 95s. 6d. The terminal market though quiet proved generally firm. September delivery, sold, 46s. 9d., 47s.; December, 48s. 9d. to 49s.

COCOA.—With a revival of demand regarding colonial imports, firm to dearer prices were secured, but foreign kinds failed to experience any appreciable support. Fine red Grenada sold up to 82s. 6d.; extra bold Costa Rica, 85s.

TEA.—The market during the week ruled very quiet at a further slight decline respecting common and thin liquoring qualities, but the finer grades cleared to a steady inquiry at full recent rates. During the week 15,200 packages Indian, 30,500 packages Ceylon, and 4,000 packages Java were submitted.

SPICE.—General trade was carried on quietly, but firm values were required for pepper. Cloves hardened, and fair Zanzibar, on spot, found buyers at 7½d.; August-October delivery, 7½d. Tapioca mostly unaltered.

RICE. continued firm on reserved offers. No. 2 cleaned Rangoon, spot, sold, 16s. 6d.; No. 1 garden Siam, 17s. 4½d. Bran firm.

FIBRES firmly held, though actual dealings were on a small scale. Of jute, native first marks, August-Dundee, sold, £32 2s. 6d. to £32 5s.; October, £30 15s. to £31 5s. Hemp quiet. Coarse, August-October, sold, £48 10s.

SHELLAC stronger, with a good inquiry, both spot and forward. T.N. fair, spot, sold, 127s.; October, up to 130s., and then 129s. 6d.; December, to 133s., and then 132s.

RUBBER steady during the greater part of the week, and supplies coming to hand continue somewhat restricted. Plantation, spot, crepe, sold, 2s. 3d. to 2s. 2½d.; October-December, 2s. 4½d. to 2s. 4½d. Ribbed smoked sheet, spot, sold at 2s. 2½d. to 2s. 2½d. Fine hard Para, spot and near, 2s. 1½d. to 2s. 1½d. Soft fine, August-September, 2s. 6d. Ball, 1s. 9½d.

COPRA without new feature, quotations for the main part being nominally unaltered.

METALS.—Copper: The standard market exhibited a rising

CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING AUGUST 18, 1916.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
Sugar —per cwt., duty 14½, 98% polarisation	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Wool —per lb. Australian, Scoured Merino	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tate's Cuba No. 1	2 7 1½	2 7 1½	Scoured Cr'sbr'd	3 -3 10½	3 -3 10½
Ditto, H.T.S.	2 6 7½	2 6 7½	Greasy Merino	10½-2 3	1 9½-2 2
Fine granulated	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	14-1 11	1 10½-2 3
Lytle's granulated	41 7½-42 1½	41 7½-42 1½	New Zealand (scoured) Merino	3 -2 10	3 -2 10
Foreign granulated, first marks	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	2 -1 10	1 2-1 10
f.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	Cape snow white	10-3 2	2 10-3 2
German Cubef.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Indiarubber , lb. Plantation, Spot		
French Cube	nom.	nom.	Crepe	0 2 4	0 2 2½
prompt	nom.	nom.	Coal —per ton		
Crystallised, West	nom.	nom.	Durham, best	nom.	nom.
India	nom.	nom.	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Beet, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	East Hartlepool	nom.	nom.
Tea —per lb., duty	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Seconds	nom.	nom.
1½ lb.			Steam's, best	47½ 50½	47½ 50½
Indian Pekoe	0 8½-1 0	0 8½-1 0	Seconds	40½	40½
Broken	0 9-1 0½	0 8½-1 0½	Lead —per ton.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Orange	0 9½-1 1	0 9-1 2½	English Pig.	30 7 6	31 0 0
Broken	0 9½-1 1	0 9½-1 1	Foreign soft	£29½-£28½	29 15 0
Pekoe Souchong	0 8½-1 0½	0 8½-1 0½	Quicksilver —per bottle firsthand	£17½-£17½	£17½-£17½
Ceylon Pekoe	0 9-1 1	0 9-1 1	Tin —per ton		
Broken	0 8½-1 0	0 8½-1 0	English Ingots	£173-£175	£174-£175
Orange	0 8½-1 0	0 8½-1 0	Do. bars	£174-£176	£175-£176
Broken	0 8½-1 0	0 8½-1 0	Standard cash	£171 5 0	£169 5 0
Pekoe Souchong	0 8½-1 0	0 8½-1 0	Fine Plates, per box	28½-29½	30½-30½
Cocoa —per cwt., duty 6d. per lb.			Copper —per ton.		
Trinidad—per cwt.	79 0-84 0	79 0-84 0	English, Tough	nom.	nom.
Grenada	72 0-81 6	70 0-82 6	per ton	nom.	nom.
West Africa	nom.	nom.	Best Selected	£124-£120	£125-£122
Ceylon Plantation	76 0-90 0	76 0-90 0	Sheets	£146	£148
Guayaquil Arriba	96 0-100 0	96 0-100 0	Standard	£112 0 0	£112 0 0
Coffee —per cwt., duty 42½ per cwt.			Jute —per ton.		
East India	67 0-95 0	67 0-95 0	Native first for	£31 5 0	£31 15 0
Jamaica	62 0-82 0	62 0-82 0	wh'pmt. August		
Costa Rica	62 0-84 0	62 0-84 0	Oils —		
Provisions —			Linseed, per ton.	£37½-£38½	£37½-£38½
Butter, per cwt.			Rape, ref. English,	£45-£50	£48-£50
Australian finest	nom.	nom.	barrels		
Irish Creameries	170½-176½	180½-184½	Brown English,	nom.	nom.
Dutch ditto	nom.	nom.	naked	nom.	nom.
Russian finest	nom.	nom.	Cott'n Seed, crude	£38 15 0	£38 15 0
Normandy baskets	nom.	nom.	Ditto, refined	£43½-£53½	£43½-£53½
Danish finest	194½-196½	198½-200½	Petroleum Oil, per		
Brittany rolls	nom.	nom.	8 lbs.	1½	1½
doz. lb.	14½-17½	14½-17½	Water White	1½	1½
Bacon —per cwt.			Oil Seeds, Linseed	—	—
Irish	117 0-122 0	120 0-126 0	Calcutta—per 4½		
Continental	108 0-122 0	112 0-126 0	lbs., Aug.-Sep.	3 17 0	3 17 6
Canadian	102 0-112 0	114 0-110 0	Rape, Toria	65½	69½
American	90 0-94 0	91 0-96 0	Iron —per ton		
Hams —per cwt.			Cleveland Cash	nom.	nom.
Irish	136½-150½	136½-150½	Tobacco —duty, unmanufactured		
Canadian	111½-115½	92 0-115 0	5/6 to 6½ per lb.		
American	68 0-105 0	68 0-109 0	Maryland & Ohio		
Cheese —per cwt.			per lb. bond	0 6-0 10	0 6-0 10
Edam	nom.	nom.	Virginia leaf	0 5½-1 6	0 8-1 6
Canadian	90 0-96 0	94 0-99 0	Kentucky leaf	0 6-0 10	0 6-0 10
Gouda	nom.	nom.	Latakia	0 4½-1 0	1 0-3 0
English Cheddar	100 0-108 0	100 0-108 0	Havana	1 0-6 0	1 0-6 0
Wilts loaf	nom.	nom.	Manila	0 6-2 0	0 6-2 0
New Zealand	93 0-97 0	94 0-98 0	Cigars, duty 10/6		
Rice —per cwt.			per lb.	2 0	2½ upds.
Garden Siam	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Timber —Wood.		
spot	17 3-17 6	17 3-17 6	Pitch Pine	250½-270	250½-270
Rangoon 2 stars	16 3	16 6	Indian Teak	200½-600½	40½-600½
Eggs —per 120.			Flour —per sack.		
English	18 0-19 0	19 0-20 0	Town household,		
Irish	15 6-16 6	19½	official	55½	55½
Danish	17 6-19 6	18 6-21 6	American, 1st pa-	52½ upds.	51½ upds.
Copra —			tents		
Malabar, London			Turpentine —		
Aug.-Sept.	33 0 0	32 10 0	American Spot	2 2 0	2 2 9
Ceylon, London	31 15 0	31 15 0	Spelter —		
South Sea	30 5 0	29 10 0	G.O.B. as to posi-		
F.M.S.	30 12 6	30 7 6	tion	£49-£43	£54-£48

tendency last Monday, being influenced by firm American advices, cash delivery reaching £116 and three months £113, but the improvement was lost on the following day, when, after a little irregularity, values of these dates closed at £115 10s. and £112 10s. During the middle of the week sellers manifested no little reserve, and prices again moved in an upward direction, cash touching £116 and three months £113. At Thursday's session the tendency was in a downward direction and no business transpired, cash being officially quoted at £114 to £115 and three months £111 to £112. Dealings have been on a small scale this week. Electros, £128 to £124. Tin irregular. At the week commencement Standard cash left off at £173 10s. and three months at £174 10s.,

being firmer. A relapse set in until Wednesday, when cash settled down at £171 and three months at £172. Rates were rather better held on Thursday, cash being finally fixed at £171 5s. and three months at £172 5s. Business continued on a limited scale since Monday. Spelter dearer. G.O.B., August, £53, and November, £47. Lead irregular. Soft foreign, August to November, £29 15s. to £28 5s. Quicksilver remains unaltered at £17 12s. 6d. to £17 15s.

CORN (Mark Lane).—There has been no improvement in business this week, and prices in some cases have shown a recession, wheat participating most, after occasional irregularity. Wheat: English, whites and reds, delivered up, range to 64s. 6d. per qr. (504 lbs.); imported, No. 1 Northern Manitoba, 70s. 6d. ex ship, and 71s. 6d. landed. Flour: American first spring patents, 52s. upwards; and Canadian patents, 51s. to 52s., both landed. Oats: La Plata, 30s. 6d. to 31s. 9d., landed, according to quality. American, white clipped, No. 2, 32s., ex quay. Grinding barley: American (ordinary), 44s. ex ship, and 44s. 6d. landed. La Plata, 44s. upwards, ex quay. Maize, new La Plata (sound), 53s. 9d., ex quay.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—The market has not been at all active during the past week, but in some quarters a fair amount of business has been done, and it is now and again suggested that in small lots the trade passing is of larger dimensions than appears on the surface. Prices are on a distinctly high level, and under the circumstances some caution on the part of operators is not unnatural. Advices relating to future supplies and prices in the raw material are still very mixed, and it is too early for any definite estimates of the probable yield in America to be published. In cloth for India inquiry has been fairly extensive, but buying has run in grooves, and much more has been done in bleaching cloths than in grey staples. Shirtings still drag, but rather more activity has shown itself in dhooties and jaconets, chiefly for Bombay. According to letters from China, stocks in dealers' hands are very low, but buyers cannot be stimulated to place orders more freely, and trade has been largely confined to bleaching cloths. A steady and generally encouraging demand continues to be experienced for Egypt, and remittances are better than a week or two ago. Workable offers for South America appear to be fewer in number, but shipments continue on a free scale. The home trade has been slow in the way of orders being secured by manufacturers, but such a state of affairs is usual at this time of the year. Owing to increased activity recently some producers of printing cloths are better situated, and in Burnley and district all machinery is being run for which operatives are available. In American yarns for home consumption purchasing has been irregular, and now and again some variation in prices shows itself. Individual spinners, however, are firm enough when tested, and the output continues to be well absorbed. Most of the bids in export yarns have been quite impracticable. Bolton spinnings remain in fair request, and full rates have to be paid for anything wanted.

Another Lawsonian Derelict.

Those unfortunate people who put money into the General Omnibus Supply (Manufacturing Co.), Ltd., had the opportunity last week of listening to an instructive and lurid history of the concern by Mr. H. E. Burgess, the Official Receiver. It was one of a group of companies promoted by, or on behalf of, the notorious Harry J. Lawson, and to understand the story it is necessary to refer to some of the others. Apparently the group had its origin in the fact that Mr. Stuart A. Curzon, at one time associated with the London General Omnibus Co., was in business as a dealer in second-hand motor-buses, which he bought from the L.G.O., and he was approached by Mr. Lawson with a view to exploiting this connection on a wider and more lucrative scale. Accordingly, in May, 1913, the General Omnibus Supply Co. was formed, with a capital of £1,000, subsequently increased to £36,000, but the amount issued was only £100, and it does not appear whether even that was paid up. Two months later Greater Omnibus Services, Ltd., was formed to buy these obsolete 'buses from the Supply Co. Mr. Curzon purchased them from the London General Omnibus Co. at £400 to £450 (including the cost of putting them in order), and passed them on to the Supply Co. at £500 to £550. The Supply Co., in turn, sold them to Greater Omnibus Services at prices ranging from £850 to £950, so that quite handsome profits were made, most of which went into the pockets of Lawson and Curzon. Between July, 1913, and May, 1914, nearly £44,000 was received by the Supply Co., of which £17,830 was paid to Curzon and £10,850 to Lawson, the public having subscribed £91,500 (including £7,500 debentures) on the prospectus of Greater Omnibus Services. The latter was subsequently amalgamated with the Premier Omnibus Co. under the title of the London Pre-

mier Omnibus Co., Ltd., but although official investigation is overdue, its time has not yet come, and we need not follow its career farther for the moment.

At this stage the condensed report of the Official Receiver's statement becomes rather obscure, but in 1914 a circular was issued calling attention to the large dividend about to be paid by the Supply Co., and inviting further subscriptions. The public were evidently beginning to get some knowledge of the business, and only £1,720 was subscribed, of which £580 was used in paying a handsome dividend on the original shares. This paved the way for the prospectus of the General Omnibus Supply (Manufacturing Co.), Ltd., which appeared in July, 1914, bearing the following names as directors:—The Marquis of Tweeddale, Sir G. H. Lacon, Bart., F. W. Sanderson, P. G. Shepard, A. H. Fellows, and C. S. Windsor. Lord Tweeddale and Sir G. H. Lacon were shareholders in the Supply Co., but they resigned their directorships in August, 1914, and Messrs. Shepard and Windsor followed suit. Meantime Mr. Lawson was appointed managing director, and a Mr. Swinburn also joined the board, although in the return filed at Somerset House in March, 1915, the latter did not appear as directors, while the names of those who had resigned did. Among other things, the prospectus of the Manufacturing Co. stated that 30 per cent. had been paid on the ordinary shares of the Supply Co., and dividends of 90 per cent., 180 per cent., and 230 per cent. on the deferred shares, but the fact that the issued capital was only £100 was carefully concealed. The Manufacturing Co. had a nominal capital of £420,000 divided into 400,000 guaranteed ordinary shares of £1 each and 400,000 founders' shares of 1s. each, subscribers being entitled to apply for ten of the latter in respect of every hundred ordinary. The ordinary were to be entitled to 7½ per cent. per annum, together with 30 per cent. of the further divisible profits, and the "guarantee" consisted of an insurance policy which would, of course, lapse whenever the premiums ceased to be paid.

On the face of this impudent, but stale flat-catching production, the public subscribed over £40,000, and we can only be thankful it was not more, for the whole of the money has disappeared except a beggarly £100, and unpaid calls (probably irrecoverable) of £4,000. Preliminary expenses absorbed £6,150, obstreperous shareholders in the Premier Omnibus Co. were paid out for £3,100, a sum of £2,500 was paid for shares in the Army and Navy Contract Corporation (another Lawson venture), with a liability for a like amount. Another £5,340 went in payment of Mr. Curzon's business, although it had already been sold to the Supply Co., £1,795 was advanced to the London Premier Omnibus Co., and £2,340 to the Greater Omnibus Services. Mr. Lawson had to be content with £1,520, but his dummy British Contract Corporation got £5,000, so he did not do so badly. Following the recent disclosures in connection with Mr. Lawson's promotion of the Bleriot Manufacturing Co., it is not surprising that the shareholders requested that the Public Prosecutor's attention should be called to the facts, and the Official Receiver promised that a searching investigation would be made, and in due course reprehensible facts would be reported to the proper quarters. It is a sordid story, and such things should not be possible if proper machinery were employed to bring delinquents automatically to book. Unfortunately the bigger the delinquent or delinquency, the greater the immunity. This is the rule here in regard to malign industries of this description. After all, Lawson can urge that he only imitated and travestied other concoctions of "joint stock" type made by people who thought, or professed to think, they were doing nothing dishonest in arranging to "scoop" a trusting public. Does the public forget and forgive? We may discover when the war is over.

Pennsylvania Water and Power.—Gross earnings for July, \$108,150, showing an increase of \$22,099 over the month of July, 1915.

American Business Notes.

No wonder that business people in New York, and, indeed, all over the United States, are delighted with the foreign trade statistics of the Republic for its fiscal year closed June 30 last. In merchandise alone the excess value of exports over imports was \$2,135,000,000, or £427,000,000. A figure of such magnitude was never approached before, and although it is brought down a little by including the bullion figures, even then the surplus of export values over import was \$1,758,000,000, or £352,000,000. For the previous year, also almost entirely a year of war, the excess was only \$1,094,420,000, or £218,884,000, and for the year before that, wholly a peace year, \$470,653,000, or £94,130,000. Does this mean that the United States is stepping in to lay hold of the export business Germany has been for two years hindered from doing by her mad criminal war of aggression? No, it does not mean that. The reason why the export trade is overshadowing the import so phenomenally is two-fold. First, the demands of the Entente Powers for war stores of every description, and, next, the great rise in prices. Outside the range of articles embraced in war requirements, there does not seem to have been any appreciable expansion in the foreign trade of the Republic.

It might be said that there is exception in the case of sugar. The export value of the sugar exported in the year 1913-14 was only about £400,000, whereas in the succeeding year it was upwards of £5,000,000, and in the year closed June 30 last about £16,000,000, but this increase is due in great part to the stoppage of supplies of sugar from Germany. We used to import from £8,000,000 to £12,000,000 or more worth of sugar from Germany every year, producers there being content to let us have it cheap. For two years back we have imported none. The gap has been partly filled up by drafts from the United States, and as the demand came upon a narrow market it naturally forced prices up, and the great American total for the past year is really a war total.

It is, however, in explosives and everything directly relating to the murder industry, as the German man of business no doubt regards it, that the expansion has been most marked, and doubtless most profitable. Iron and steel manufactures exported were valued at £120,000,000 last year, against £45,250,000 in the preceding year, and in like manner the exports of brass and copper manufactures have risen from £4,000,000 to about £32,000,000. As for explosives, in 1913-14 the aggregate value of these exported was only about £1,300,000, and for the past year it was £90,000,000. War waste was also reflected in the sales of gunpowder, the weight of which exported reached 200,000,000 lbs. last year, and the manufacture of gun-cotton explosives absorbed 450,000 bales of cotton or cotton "linters." The total value of all the merchandise exported in the past fiscal year was accordingly £866,800,000, which compares with £556,000,000 for 1914-15 and only £473,000,000 for 1913-14.

Enormous increases like these could not fail to have some influence in augmenting the value of the imports, in spite of the brutal tariff still in force, and imports rose in value to all but £440,000,000 in the past year, which compares with £335,000,000 in 1914-15 and £378,800,000 in 1913-14. It by no means follows, however, that these aggregates indicate a proportionate development in the weight or bulk of the trade any more than a wider dispersal of the articles sold. As we have said, prices had an increasingly powerful influence on the totals. Last year's price of gunpowder, for instance, was 81 cents per lb., compared with 66 cents in the preceding year, and the difference means "nearly £6,250,000 added to the value of the powder exported." Locomotives cost \$16,100 apiece last year and only \$9,300 in the preceding year. Steel rails were worth \$32.40 per ton, compared with \$29.60, and raw cotton was valued at 12 cents per lb., against 8.5 cents. Everything, in fact, was dearer, and the higher prices were not confined to exports by any means, but we do not yet possess details of the increases in regard to

imports. All we can say is that the value of raw materials imported, such as nitrate of soda, raw milk, tin, indiarubber, vegetable oil and seeds, &c., was considerably greater than for 1915-16, and in a minor degree indicated increased quantities.

And the main sources of the increased import trade were British and French. The United States took more produce from Canada, Cuba, Mexico, Argentina, British India, Japan, Australia, Egypt, British South Africa, and China, Chile and Brazil, but most from Europe.

As for bullion, the total amount of gold imported during the 12 months was almost £100,000,000, or \$494,009,000. Out of that total £50,000,000 was drawn in from Canada in payment of British debts, and another £24,000,000 arrived from the United Kingdom direct, besides which nearly £8,000,000 came from Australia, together with £5,000,000 from the West Indies and about £3,500,000 from South Africa. Against imports of this magnitude there was an export of £18,050,000, the metal going to the extent of nearly £6,000,000 to the West Indies, with £3,000,000 to Canada, £2,000,000 to South America, and only £1,250,000 to Great Britain. Thus the nett import of gold last year was £80,752,000, which compares with a nett import of £5,070,000 in the preceding year, and with a nett export of £9,100,000 for 1913-14. There was an excess in the value of silver exported, but it amounted to little more than £5,000,000; that is to say, the exports for the 12 months came to £11,600,000, of which £9,000,000 were sent to the United Kingdom, while the imports reached £6,831,000, of which £4,000,000 were drawn from Mexico, where many people still manage to exist.

The Brooklyn Rapid Transit Co.'s report for the fiscal year ended June 30 disclosed a nett revenue of \$16,304,000, out of which a dividend of 6 per cent. was again paid on the company's stock. Its revenue, in fact, increased by \$1,521,000, while the expenses were barely \$734,000 up, so that the nett revenue of \$12,255,000 drawn from working the business was \$787,559 better, the ratio of expenses to receipts having been brought down from 56.61 per cent. in the previous year to 56.15 per cent. Results are better, indeed, than the management expected to secure during the transition period, and the board expresses the opinion that when everything is adjusted and the whole system consolidated and in full working order the product for the stockholders may be expected to improve. For three years in succession the company has now given its stockholders 6 per cent. and retained a substantial surplus. For the past year the surplus is \$1,144,000 after paying the dividend, and it must not be forgotten that interest and rental charges show an increase of \$550,000 at \$5,244,000, taxes at the same time having risen by about \$138,000 to \$1,838,000. The 6 per cent. dividend, moreover, has taken fully \$800,000 more in each of the past two years than it did for 1913-14, and yet the surplus left is of the substantial amount just stated.

Insurance News.

According to the report just issued of the Fire Commissioner, the losses from fire in New York City for the year 1915 were the lowest in any year since the greater city was consolidated, the total being only £1,150,000. In the first year after the creation of the paid fire department, 50 years ago, when the population was only one-eighth of its present size, the fire losses actually were nearly £200,000 more than in 1915, so that the past year's results reflect the highest credit on all concerned in the duty of protecting the property and belongings of the inhabitants of this large city, while the insurance companies must have had a highly satisfactory experience.

Although as a consequence of the war the premium income of the Russia Insurance Co. showed a falling off in most departments as compared with the previous year, yet owing to the great development of the marine side of the business the total gross income from all

sources was nearly five million roubles higher at Rs. 68,110,000. The London branch of this great Russian office only dates back four years, but in addition to important offices in this country and the United States, its operations have been carried far afield in China, Holland, Egypt, and elsewhere. As the result of the year's operations the disposable profit was Rs. 2,307,000, and shareholders receive a dividend of 20 per cent.

Marine underwriters have adopted resolutions of a far-reaching character, which will be placed before the Government, indicating what in their opinion should be the attitude of this country after the war towards enemy countries in relation to marine insurance, and representative underwriters have undertaken to support the Government in any measures which may be necessary to give effect to their recommendations. It is realised that only by effective legislation will it be possible to prevent the channels of communication which existed before the war between underwriters of the Allied countries and those of enemy countries being reopened after the war. It should also be possible to arrive at an understanding with the companies of neutral origin who otherwise might be tempted to accept reinsurance business from present enemy countries.

Tea, Oil and Rubber.

After showing some recovery in the earlier part of the week, the price of standard crêpe is again back practically at last week's level, and the tone is not very strong, as stocks show a further increase. On the upward move the tendency in the share market hardened a little, and it has since kept wonderfully firm, no doubt largely owing to the scarcity of stock. In several cases where dividends were deducted the quotation immediately recovered the amount taken off, but dealings are still woefully restricted, although there has been a fair inquiry for shares from the provinces. No great increase in activity can be expected under present market conditions; the boom in the early months of the year probably satiated the bulk of rubber investors, and with the shares actually paid for, the majority will be very reluctant sellers. That undoubtedly adds to the stability of the market, but it does not tend to generate business. Some uneasiness has been caused by the recent poor returns from the Ceylon group, and the explanation seems to be that the estates felt severely the effects of drought at the beginning of the year, and have not yet recovered, but there is no fear that they have suffered any permanent injury, and it is even argued that the rest may do the trees good. Ceylon, at any rate, has the advantage of being a very cheap producer, and will be able to hold its own whatever happens. All the same, the temporary limitation of output is a useful reminder of the peculiar risks of tropical cultivation from which many people seemed to think that rubber was immune, but they tend to increase rather than diminish with the age of the plantations.

Mr. J. S. M. Rennie continues to fight valiantly for some modification of the treatment meted out to rubber companies by the Exchequer in the matter of excess profits. In a letter which appears to have been sent circularwise to several journals he instances a company with a share capital of £150,000 which was incorporated only in 1910, and up to June 30, 1914, had only paid one dividend of 5 per cent., whose profits for the first post-war year came to over £22,000, or nearly 14½ per cent. Of this £22,000 the Surveyor of Taxes now demands £7,750 as excess profits tax, thus leaving the company barely enough money to pay a 10 per cent. dividend. "That is unjust," Mr. Rennie contends. "You take no account of the fact that the company is new," and he contrasts the lot of this selected example with that meted out to another company, which differs only in dates of planting, and whose shareholders have received for the past four years dividends of 130, 100, 25, and 37½ per cent. consecutively. This company, he declares, will not be liable to any excess profits duty unless it makes a profit amounting to 160 per cent. on

its capital. We should like to know whether that is the truth, because if it is, Mr. McKenna will be well advised in setting his experts at work to find out another and more equitable way in which to assess the profits of this comparatively new industry. We have never been sure that the cut-and-dried method adopted to determine how excess profits are to be arrived at is the right one, but we have no hesitation at all in maintaining the opinion that whatever can be equitably extracted from the profits of any company, firm, or individual to help the nation to bear the burden imposed by this war ought cheerfully to be assented to and made available. Why not fix a $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. average dividend as the starting point for rubber companies, and take two-thirds of the excess profits beyond that?

Dealings in shares of Java companies have been very prominent for some time past, and the report of the Kali Glagah (Java) Rubber and Produce Co., Ltd., is of special interest on that account. Satisfactory progress was made in the year to March 31 last, the output of rubber showing an increase of 86,320 lbs. at 136,700 lbs., while the average price realised was 2s. 7.6gd. against 2s. 1.10d. Coffee did not do so well, the yield being 1,034 cwts., or 980 cwts. less, but it sold for 49s. against 36s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. For the current year the output of rubber is estimated at 200,000 lbs., and the coffee crop at 2,790 cwts., of which 2,430 cwts. have been sold forward at the huge price of 73s. 7d. per cwt. in Java. That will give the profits a good lift, but rubber is the mainstay of the company. Out of a planted area of 950 acres, 510 acres were in bearing at the close of the financial year, and the yield was 287 lbs. per acre, which may be regarded as very good for a young estate, and no doubt the average will reach 350 to 400 lbs. before long. Total receipts amounted to £20,797, an increase of £11,800, and the nett profit was £12,730, an increase of £10,220. A smaller amount was brought forward, but after writing £1,500, or £1,000 more, off preliminary expenses, and raising the dividend from 5 to 15 per cent., £2,405, or £1,480 more, remains to be carried forward. It would have been more prudent to place something to reserve or wipe out the preliminary expenses amounting to £3,870, but the capital is moderate, and the prospects are encouraging so long as the price of rubber keeps up.

In July, 1914, Tampico Oil, Ltd., found itself in a decidedly bad way, and a scheme of reconstruction was proposed, under which the International Mexican Oil Syndicate undertook to guarantee working capital to the extent of £100,000. But the war broke out, conditions in Mexico did not improve, and the Tampico Co. went into voluntary liquidation. Then negotiations were opened with the Kern River Oilfields of California, Ltd., which has had its share of vicissitudes, and a new arrangement has been come to with that company. The liquidation of the Tampico Co. has been stayed and the debenture-holders have agreed to accept arrears of interest to June 30, 1915, in debentures of the same issue, and that interest from the date mentioned shall be payable only out of profits. In return for this concession and permission to create £25,000 prior lien debentures, the debenture-holders are to receive the same rate of interest as may be paid in any year on the "A" shares. Creditors for £23,378 also agree to accept debentures with such amended rights. The Kern Co. will have the right to appoint two Tampico directors, and it undertakes to advance up to £10,000 (other ambitions have become more modest since 1914) for pressing requirements, accepting prior lien debentures in payment for same. Further, it will have the right to take sub-leases of alternate blocks of 500 acres each (not exceeding in the aggregate 14,000 acres) out of the total area of 28,500 held by the Tampico Co. in Mexico, subject to paying a proportionate part of the concession rents and to the payment of royalties on a sliding scale to the Tampico Co. Within six months after the grant of such sub-leases the Kern Co. will commence drilling three wells to a depth of 2,500 ft., or until oil has been struck in payable quantities. It is a sporting kind of arrangement, and we

doubt if the Tampico holders could have done much better for themselves in the circumstances, but all they can do now is to wait and hope for the best.

BATAVIA PLANTATION INVESTMENTS.—Rubber yields for June 76,523 lbs., increase 6,058 lbs.; crops for six months 337,682 lbs., increase 30,905 lbs.

The Week in Mines.

The past week has witnessed a further development of the "boom" in Eastern Rand shares, which has established fresh high "records" for New Modderfonteins, Modder B's, Coal Trusts, and Springs. So far as the amount of business was concerned, the extent of the rise in prices would have been unjustified under normal conditions; but with speculation on borrowed money impossible under the temporary regulations a comparatively small demand is sufficient to move prices to an appreciable extent. The buying has come chiefly from the Cape, and the leading interests on this side have not done more than follow the lead of Johannesburg. Purchases have been stimulated this week by the Union Government's invitation of tenders for two areas in the Modderfontein and Brakpan districts, and by the prospect that very shortly further steps will be taken to secure the exploitation of the large Government areas now lying dormant.

SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

Prices of South African shares show a general advance with the biggest rises in the Far Eastern Rand group. New Modderfonteins are $\frac{1}{4}$ higher at 18 after allowing for the deduction of the dividend, and Modder B's are 7-32 to the good at 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd. Brakpans have risen $\frac{1}{8}$ to 4 13-32xd., and Coal Trusts $\frac{1}{4}$ to 3 21-32xd. Modder Leases have risen 1s. 6d. further to 44s., and Johnnies have been actively bought up to 19s. 3d., a rise of 1s. Consolidated Mines Selection at 20s. 6d., Cloverfields at 9s. 3d., Van Ryn Deeps at 3 23-32, Gold Fields at 1 $\frac{1}{4}$, and African Farms at 9s. 6d. have all been prominently firm. Oceana Devels have spurted 2s. to 7s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and in the Western Rand group Randfontein Centrals are 1s. 9d. higher at 12s. Simmer Deeps have again been bought on amalgamation rumours, and are now quoted just under 3s. There was a fair amount of buying from the Cape early in the week, but it subsequently diminished. This induced a certain amount of profit-snatching, which left prices rather below the highest points reached in the majority of cases. The Rhodesian department has been rather dull, with Cam and Motors depressed at 11s. 6d. Chartered, however, have improved to 13s. 6d. Diamond shares have been strong on the increasing activity of the industry, which is indicated by the further large influx of natives to the mines. De Beers deferreds have spurted $\frac{1}{2}$ to 11 $\frac{1}{2}$, and the preferences are $\frac{1}{8}$ higher at 14. Premier deferreds rose $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$, and the prefs. $\frac{1}{4}$ to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ on the announcement of a dividend, the first since the war began, on account of arrears on the preference shares. West African gold shares have been featureless.

COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Base metals have advanced further this week, and the shares have consequently shown an upward tendency. Copper shares have improved on the rise of £6 $\frac{1}{2}$ in the price of standard, with Anacondas and Utahs prominent at a rise of $\frac{1}{8}$ to 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 17 respectively. Tin shares, too, have responded to the advance of £3 a ton in the price of the metal; Dolcoaths have risen 1s. 6d. to 12s., Pahangs 6d. to 11s. 9d., Rayfields (Nigeria) 1s. to 6s. 6d., and Anglos 1s. to 9s. 9d. Broken Hill shares have been firm, but the market seems scarcely to have appreciated the monetary value of the spelter scheme. British Props have risen 1s. 6d. to 25s. 6d., and Norths, one of the two biggest producers of zinc concentrates, are 1s. higher at 48s., while Zinc Corporations have risen 9d. to 15s. 6d. on attention being drawn to the strong financial position of the company.

The Russian group has been less active, with a disposition on the part of recent purchasers to take profits. Orsk Priority, however, are 3-32 higher at 17-32, and Siberian Props have been firm at 12s. in spite of the announcement that the Troitzk Goldfields, a subsidiary, has sold its Russian property owing to the continued unsatisfactory conditions at the mine. Mexican Mines have been firm, with Santa Gertrudis in demand at 13s. Great Boulders have been in request at 13s. 3d., but the Indian group has shown a weakening tendency, with Mysore down to 3 $\frac{1}{2}$.

MINING NEWS.

SOUTH-WEST AFRICA.—This company's profits underwent a further diminution in 1915 owing to the effect of the war on the German colony now in British occupation. The profit declined from £42,424 to £12,597, and the nett balance from £40,302 to £11,967, which sum is added to £84,859 brought forward. A sum equal to the amount of interest on investments deposited and on bankers' balances in Germany accrued during 1915 has been placed to reserve. As no provision has been made for depreciation of investments no dividend is again recommended. The last distribution was 5 per cent. on account of 1913. Investments stand in the books at £1,341,391 against £1,253,275 at the end of 1914. These include £220,000 of 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

War Loan, £100,000 of Irish Land stock, £150,000 of German 4 per cent. loan, £175,000 of Prussian 4 per cent. Consols, and £258,870 of other German securities. All the German securities are inscribed or deposited in Germany. The British and neutral securities owned by the company stand in the books at £590,374, and had a market value on December 31 of £540,000, as against £467,000 at the end of 1914. Negotiations are now in progress for the sale of the Rietfontein property either for cash or the formation of a British company after the war for its exploitation. Prospecting operations are now suspended, and no information regarding the operations of the Otavi Mines and Railway Co. since the outbreak of war has become available.

TRANSVAAL GOLD OUTPUT.—The production last month was £3,232,891, a decrease of £39,367 on July last year. The following table shows the monthly production since January, 1911:—

Month.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
January ..	£ 2,765,386	£ 3,130,830	£ 3,353,116	£ 2,708,470	£ 3,037,058	£ 3,344,948
February ..	2,594,634	2,989,832	3,118,325	2,660,186	2,872,406	3,201,063
March	2,871,740	3,588,688	3,358,050	2,917,346	3,202,514	3,384,121
April	2,836,267	3,133,383	3,334,358	2,904,944	3,160,651	3,205,643
May	2,913,734	3,311,794	3,373,998	3,059,320	3,243,347	3,303,377
June	2,907,854	3,202,517	3,173,382	3,049,558	3,208,224	3,235,767
July	3,012,738	3,255,198	2,783,917	3,111,398	3,272,258	3,232,891
August	3,030,360	3,248,395	3,092,754	3,024,037	3,307,975	—
September ..	2,976,065	3,176,846	2,999,686	2,982,630	3,299,423	—
October ..	3,010,130	3,265,150	3,051,701	3,116,754	3,388,122	—
November ..	3,057,213	3,216,965	2,860,788	3,040,677	3,317,534	—
December ..	3,015,499	3,297,962	2,857,938	2,952,755	3,317,949	—
Total ..	34,991,620	38,757,560	37,358,040	35,588,075	38,627,461	22,907,810

NATIVE LABOUR RETURNS.—For the first time since January these returns show an increase, amounting to 628, which compares with a decrease of 1,262 in June. There was again a decrease—of 679—at the gold mines, but at the diamond mines there was a further increase of 1,234, following an addition of 646 in June:—

Month.	Natives on Gold mines.	Natives on Coal mines.	Natives on Diamond mines.	Total natives.
July, 1915.....	190,026	9,371	—	199,397
August	196,866	9,943	—	206,809
September	204,833	9,743	—	214,576
October	210,017	9,513	—	219,530
November	210,068	9,432	—	219,500
December	209,438	9,309	134	218,879
January, 1916.....	209,835	9,228	802	219,865
February	209,426	9,468	970	219,864
March	203,575	9,588	917	214,080
April	199,936	9,827	938	210,701
May	194,765	9,811	1,459	206,035
June	192,809	9,859	2,105	204,773
July	192,130	9,932	3,339	205,401

KOFFYFONTEIN MINES.—This company in common with other South African diamond mines resumed washing operations on a partial scale in January last, the funds for the work being provided by the De Beers Co., which controls it, and which is continuing to finance it. But much larger amounts are likely to be required in the near future by the company owing to the probable change in the working of the mine, similar to the change which has taken place in the working of all diamond mines. In that event a large expenditure of new capital will be required, and if the mine is to be worked at a profit the company will require additional capital, for which some shareholders may not feel inclined to subscribe. In these circumstances the De Beers Co., which already owns nine-tenths of the issued capital, is offering to purchase the remaining Koffyfontein shares at £1 12s. 6d. per share. Shareholders who wish to take advantage of this offer, which will remain open until August 31, are requested to communicate with the secretary of the De Beers Co., 15, St. Swithin's-lane, E.C.

BROKEN HILL PROPRIETARY.—The nett profit for the half-year ended May 31 amounted to £243,559, after deducting £27,965 for depreciation, £17,036 for debenture interest, and £15,000 for the sinking fund. For the preceding half-year the nett profit was £242,969, and for the corresponding period of last year £196,000. The company must obviously continue to do well while the war lasts owing to the high price of metals, and meanwhile its iron and steel business is being rapidly developed.

BROKEN HILL BLOCK 14 CO.—In the half-year ended March a nett profit of £10,874 was made as compared with £4,358 in the preceding half-year. A dividend of 6d. per share was paid on all shares, which, together with the half-year's interest on the preference shares, absorbed £6,500, and £5,000 has been set aside as provision against a fall in the prices of metals. A balance of £52,389, against £53,005, is carried forward.

BROKEN HILL BLOCK 10 CO.—The total expenditure on working account in the half-year ended March 31 was £3,181, and after writing back £2,610 in respect of a surplus ascertained on concentrates and adding interest on investments, a nett loss of £145 is shown. A sum of £4,263 has been written off plant and machinery, and £57,687 against £61,794 is carried forward.

MINING AND TAXATION.—An official report has been issued of the proceedings at the private meeting, held last week, of representatives of the mining industries to consider taxation

questions. Mr. J. H. Corder-James, vice-president of the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy, who presided, made the interesting announcement that the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy, the Iron and Steel Institute, the Institute of Metals, and the Institution of Mining Engineers, as representing all the branches of the mineral and metal industries, are acting together in urging upon the Imperial Government the necessity, in the national interest, of establishing in London a Department of Minerals and Metals to co-ordinate information on the Empire's mineral resources, and to assist and stimulate their development. To show the necessity of such a department, we may point out that, owing to the lack of scientific knowledge regarding certain ores, the Department of Agriculture has had to prepare for the use of manufacturers in this country a number of special reports on the use and treatment of various metals, particularly the rarer kinds, such as tungsten and manganese. Before the war the Germans were practically the only buyers of the rare metals; they knew their uses and how to treat them. Thus when the war broke out our metal industries had to begin research work in order to fill the wants which had hitherto been supplied by Germany. Moreover, it was not until recently that something like an adequate use has been made of the various scientific societies in this country. When the Munitions Ministry was formed a great deal of time was wasted owing to the absence of competent scientific advisers, and it took a long time before this deficiency in our war organisation was made good. A really strong State Department of Mining and Metallurgy would, therefore, have been of inestimable value to the country had such been in existence when war broke out.

What Balance Sheets Tell.

DOMINION STEEL CORPORATION, LTD.

This company and its subsidiaries had a very prosperous year to March 31 last. Total production from the collieries amounted to 5,261,200 tons, an increase of 711,000 tons over the previous 12 months, and 214,000 tons more than in the year ended March 31, 1914. Pig-iron output advanced 142,000 tons to 329,660 tons, steel ingots 128,000 tons to 371,090 tons, blooms and billets 104,000 tons to 142,280 tons, and wire rods 31,000 tons to 55,100 tons, but the production of rails fell off 65,000 tons to 35,200 tons. Nett earnings for the year, after providing for bad debts, &c., amounted to \$7,004,000, an increase of \$3,433,000, from which \$1,192,820, or rather more than last year, is set aside for depreciation. After providing for dividends on the preferred stocks there is a surplus of \$4,037,400, which raises the total undivided profits to \$5,596,100, an increase of \$3,018,000 over last year. During the 12 months the financial position of the company has been greatly strengthened. All the 5 per cent. five-year debentures maturing on November 1 last were paid off, and there has been a reduction of not less than \$250,000 in the annual charge for interest. Current liabilities were reduced by \$1,855,000, and at the same time current assets increased \$823,000, with the result that the proportion of assets to liabilities is now four to one against two to one a year ago, and there is a considerable sum in hand for any necessary purpose that may arise. The directors say they will endeavour to maintain and improve this position, so that when the present abnormal business comes to an end they will be able to undertake any extensions that may be desirable. Upwards of three thousand men, mostly from the collieries, joined the Overseas Forces, and no obstacle was put in the way of recruiting until it became apparent that the output of coal and steel was seriously threatened. "Representations were then made to the Government, and in view of the fact that a sufficient supply of these materials is as important as the enlistment of men, orders were issued to discontinue recruiting in and about the collieries." Since the close of the financial year a general advance of 10 per cent. has been granted to all the employees of the company, and the agreement with the miners which would expire on December 31 has been renewed for two years from January 1 next. One-fifth of the steel shipped from the works was in forms suitable for the manufacture of shells, and one-half of the total output was exported mostly to Great Britain and France, but considerable tonnages were also sent to South Africa, Australia, and the United States. We are glad to note that the directors are alive to the fact that the war trade is not permanent, and that they are prudently conserving the windfall of exceptional profits for future requirements. That is the best way to establish the business on a thoroughly sound basis.

THOMAS ADAMS, LTD.

This firm of lace manufacturers did amazingly well in the year to June 4, but unfortunately the report does not throw any light on how the results have been obtained—whether in the ordinary way of trade or from some exceptional source. Anyhow, nett profits amounted to £34,035, an increase of no less than £28,540. Last year the preference dividend was in arrears, but these have now been paid off, and a modest 5 per cent. is recommended on the ordinary shares. It is proposed to place £10,000 to reserve fund, raising it to £76,000, and to carry forward £11,600, or a trifle more than last year. The directors state, what is fairly evident, that it would have been easy to pay a larger dividend, but they have decided that the continuance of the war, and the uncertainties inseparable therefrom, make the strengthening of the company's position their first duty. In addition to the amount placed to reserve, they have set aside a substantial amount as a reserve against debts in enemy terri-

ories. Sundry creditors have increased £42,000 to £175,325, stocks are up £31,500 at £149,836, debtors £13,830 at £261,790, and cash, bills, &c., £10,700 at £34,270. Investments have been written down £7,350 to £23,990, the market price at the date of the balance-sheet.

A. M. PEEBLES AND SON, LTD.

Much better results are shown by this paper manufacturing company for the year ended June 30 than in the previous 12 months. Gross profits amounted to £30,986, an increase of £20,700, and the nett profit is £20,300 higher at £23,773. Out of this it is proposed to pay 5 per cent. on the cumulative preference shares, which got nothing last year, but the directors do not recommend the payment of any further dividends this year owing to the necessity of keeping available a substantial sum for the purchase of raw material on the most advantageous terms. Moreover, an arrangement has been made with regard to the £98,680 4½ per cent. debenture stock, which was due for redemption at 5 per cent. premium on September 15 next. The premium—£4,934—is to be paid on that date, but the debentures are renewed at 5½ per cent. for ten years, and are repayable at par on September 15, 1926, a satisfactory enough arrangement in the circumstances. This payment and the preference dividend absorbs £9,934, leaving £18,700 to be carried forward, subject to excess profits duty, against £4,860 brought in. Loans have been reduced by £12,300, but sundry creditors are up £8,350, while bills payable are £2,200 lower. Sundry debtors have increased £25,000, bills receivable £5,500, and cash balances £4,700, but stocks are down £16,000 in spite of higher prices, so the directors are prudent in keeping a large balance in hand.

GRAND CANAL CO.

Owing to the main line leading to Shannon, Limerick, &c., being closed for three months by reason of a breach which occurred in the canal at Edenderry last January this company suffered a severe set-back last half-year. Moreover, just as traffic was resumed the Sinn Féin rebellion broke out, and caused almost a complete cessation of the carrying trade. Receipts from freights and tolls show a decrease of £11,640, and total receipts at £31,507 are £11,350 lower, but there was a substantial saving in expenses and £3,650 more was brought forward, so that the balance available for dividend is only £1,500 less at £13,783. It is proposed to cut down the ordinary dividend from 4 per cent. to 2 per cent. per annum, and after writing off £1,200 against £500 for depreciation of investments the balance to be carried forward is only a trifle less at £4,257. It is stated that the actual cost of making good the Edenderry breach was £6,475, which has been charged to the accident and contingency fund.

WELDON, LTD.

In the year to June 30 profit on trading, interest, &c., amounted to £39,173, an increase of £1,240, and after providing £970 more for income-tax, the nett profit is £270 up at £36,040, while £1,520 more at £10,187 was brought forward. Under present conditions the directors are justified in considering the results highly satisfactory. It is proposed to repeat the dividend of 10 per cent., and £5,000 is set aside for depreciation of investments against a similar amount placed to reserve last year, leaving £11,977, or £1,700 more, to be carried forward. Investments stand at £107,000, those held at June 30, 1914, being taken at the market value on that date, and those purchased since at cost. Sundry creditors are £5,170 higher at £15,365, debtors are up £3,000 at £25,000, and stocks have increased £10,880 to £18,220, but cash in hand is £8,230 lower at £16,255.

ISAAC HOLDEN AND SONS, LTD.

Excellent results are shown by this Bradford firm for the year to June 30. Although expenditure was £16,500 higher at £49,700, the trading profits amounted to £63,750, and with £1,000 more brought forward, the total available is £18,500 higher at £70,025. Income-tax takes £4,300 more at £10,330, and £2,500 more at £10,000 is placed to depreciation fund, which will then amount to £117,500. The dividend is raised from 5 to 7½ per cent., £12,500 against £4,670 is placed to reserve, and the balance left to be carried forward is £2,000 higher at £8,250. Reserve will now stand at £47,500, which is not particularly generous against a capital of £610,000, and we are glad to see it has been liberally dealt with on this occasion. Creditors are up £18,000 at £43,300, and debtors, investments, cash &c. (all lumped together) are £30,000 higher at £145,630. Buildings, plant, stock, &c., have increased £11,000, but this is about counterbalanced by the amount written off for depreciation.

WOLSELEY SHEEP SHEARING MACHINE CO., LTD.

This is now a controlled establishment, and it seems to have done very well in the year 1915—better probably than appears on the surface, as the business seems to have been drastically overhauled in several directions. Nett profits, after allowing for depreciation and limitation of profits tax, amounted to £13,093, an increase of £5,300, but £27,000 less at £26,227 was brought forward. The dividend, however, is raised from 5 to 10 per cent., and after placing £5,000 against nil to reserve, £24,320, or £2,000 less, remains to be carried forward. A year ago, however, £23,000 was written off patents and goodwill, and £6,700 Austrian debts were also wiped out. Sundry creditors have increased £13,000 to £30,710, and sundry debtors £32,000 to £42,100. Stocks have risen

£10,000 to £49,230, but stocks in agents' hands are £11,400 lower at £40,720. Machinery and plant have been written down £5,000, tools, &c., £3,100, and fittings, &c., £1,600. The company will emerge in much better shape when it resumes ordinary business.

INSOLES, LTD.

This colliery company naturally did well in the year to June 30, but exact comparison with previous results is not possible as the nett profit is now struck after making unspecified allowances for excess profits duty, depreciation of leases and plant, &c., and for debts due by alien enemies. Even so it is £12,250 higher at £42,947, but £1,000 less was brought forward. The dividend remains at 10 per cent., but a bonus of 10 per cent. is added, so that the actual distribution is doubled, and the balance forward is increased by £3,350 to £8,080. Last year £3,000 was written off investments and £3,000 set aside for debenture redemption; it is stated that all the debenture bonds (£37,500) were paid off on July 1. The reserve fund is only £8,000, but the depreciation fund has been increased by £10,000 to £50,000. Sundry creditors are £26,000 up at £62,280, while debtors are £20,200 lower at £28,900, and stocks are £5,500 lower at £9,150. On the other hand, cash has increased £18,500 to £59,980, and investments have been just doubled at £98,900. Yes, evidently it was a very prosperous year.

WRIGHT, BINDLEY, AND GELL, LTD.

For the year to June 30 the nett profits were £18,780, an increase of £8,000, and as £5,000 more was brought in the available balance of £24,230 shows an increase of £13,000. It is proposed to pay a dividend of 5 per cent., against nil, and to carry forward £9,490 (an increase of £4,000), subject to excess profits duty. Sundry creditors have increased £12,000, debtors £18,000, stocks £8,000, and cash, &c., £6,300, but investments are £3,300 lower at £24,100, and the market value on June 30 was only £17,890, but no provision has been made for depreciation, and the reserve fund is only £11,000, against an issued capital of £255,000. Property was sold to the value of £13,530, and buildings, plant, &c., have now been reduced to £19,120 after deducting depreciation. These prosperous times ought to be taken advantage of to further strengthen the company.

GEORGE WHITECHURCH, LTD.

For the year to June 30 the trading profit was £117,936, an increase of £12,800, but commission, salaries, &c., required £6,700 more, and £35,540 is set aside to provide for excess profits tax in France. On the other hand, £9,000 less is set aside for depreciation. The nett result is that the profit comes out £10,350 lower at £29,300, but £4,000 more was brought forward, and the directors gaily recommend a bonus of 15 per cent. (against 5 per cent.), in addition to the dividend of 10 per cent. There will then remain £14,310, or £8,000 more, to carry forward, but last year £31,500 was set aside to form the nucleus of a reserve fund (£10,000), and to extinguish goodwill, and it would have been more prudent to continue that policy instead of increasing the bonus especially as an additional factory and plant have to be acquired. During the year 3,350 ordinary shares were issued at 20s. 6d., under the option sold to Mr. E. S. Whitechurch. Creditors have been reduced by £47,000, while debtors are £14,000 higher. Cash is £28,000 lower, but this is mainly accounted for by the investment of 590,000 francs in the French National Defence loan. The bulk of the assets is represented by stock-in-trade valued at £108,900, while the factories have been written down to £8,930.

The old-established advertising agency carried on by Mr. F. P. Algar, under the style of F. Algar, at 11 and 12, Clements Lane, E.C., has been transferred to Mr. F. J. Gurr, who has managed the business for 20 years past, and who will continue it under the same style at the same address.

Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Co.—Major A. D. G. Shelley, R.E., deputy-chairman, has been elected chairman, in succession to the late Colonel Sir William Bisset, K.C.I.E., R.E., Sir E. C. K. Ollivant, K.C.I.E., to be deputy-chairman, and Mr. C. A. R. Crommelin to the vacancy on the board. Mr. S. G. S. Young to be secretary.

Canadian Crop Conditions.—Mr. R. M. Horne-Payne, the director representing the Canadian Northern Railway System in Europe, has received the following cable from the company's third vice-president:—"Crop cutting general within ten days—outlook continues favourable within the territory served by our lines, notwithstanding speculators' reports to the contrary. Farmers still delivering about 200,000 bushels daily at our stations, and we will probably handle 10,000,000 bushels more of last year's crop, making about 135,000,000 bushels as our share thereof, in addition to large shipments flour."

Copies of THE INVESTORS' REVIEW can be obtained in Paris at

Messrs. W. H. Smith & Son's,
248, Rue de Rivoli.

JULY RUBBER OUTPUTS.

Company.	Current Estimate.	Last All-in Cost.	July, lbs.	(+) or (-) lbs.	Months.	Aggregate lbs.	(+) or (-) lbs.
Aboyne Clyde	392,629	110.26	27,627	+ 2,603	1	27,627	+ 2,603
Allagar	312,000	1/2.05	26,500	+ 900	7	153,200	+ 7,100
Alliance	163,716	1/2.05	10,620	+ 1,725	7	66,802	+ 1,002
Alor Pongsu	270,000	1/0.88	22,819	+ 1,793	7	141,375	+ 24,853
Ampat	130,000	1/3.30	12,690	+ 3,150	10	125,600	+ 57,200
Anglo-Java	1,697,000	—	111,220	+ 34,620	7	920,920	+ 673,050
Anglo-Johore	270,000	1/4.20	19,603	+ 403	4	77,943	+ 2,874
Anglo-Malay	1,600,000	1/1	150,000	+ 19,761	7	952,572	+ 169,299
Anglo-Sum...	840,704	1/11.25	73,547	+ 3,865	2	152,702	+ 19,995
Asehan	180,000	1/4.13	24,064	+ 8,996	12	257,353	+ 119,769
As. T. Ceylon	211,316	1/0.50	15,089	+ 2,049	1	15,089	+ 2,049
Ayer Kuning	595,000	1/2.98	66,000	+ 27,517	7	342,922	+ 149,671
Bagan Seria	348,550	1/0.28	31,000	+ 6,564	7	182,613	+ 44,469
Bah Lias	—	—	9,847	+ 1,644	9	67,637	+ 32,790
Bajoe Kidol	110,000	1/9.12	8,000	+ 5,407	4	55,518	+ 11,289
Bakap	337,150	1/4.88	27,300	+ 5,119	1	27,300	+ 5,119
Bambrakelly	260,000	1/1.43	15,487	+ 2,429	4	66,128	+ 9,157
Bandar Sum.	246,000	1/8.45	29,458	+ 9,176	12	290,550	+ 85,144
Bandarjaria	213,000	—	16,250	+ 450	7	142,000	+ 53,027
Bandarapala	300,000	—	16,000	+ 7,000	7	89,800	+ 40,000
Bantardawa	220,000	1/7	18,280	+ 30	1	18,280	+ 30
Bantam	495,000	1/1.80	—	—	12	707,831	—
Banteng	286,222	1/1.94	32,340	+ 9,700	3	87,320	+ 31,360
Batak Kabit	25,209	1/3	27,500	+ 7,865	1	27,500	+ 7,865
Batang Mal.	300,000	1/2.60	25,600	+ 6,995	7	147,160	+ 30,329
Batu Caves	600,000	1/9.13	63,339	+ 7,975	7	359,152	+ 25,070
" Matang	131,016	1/3.64	12,600	+ 1,633	1	12,600	+ 1,633
" Rata	366,820	1/1.61	32,720	+ 6,920	1	32,720	+ 6,920
" Tiga	750,000	1/0.39	62,546	+ 5,546	7	422,564	+ 75,889
Be'uf'ri'ri'no	231,500	1/5.75	20,000	—	3	56,500	—
Bekoh	299,715	1/2.61	33,000	+ 4,579	1	33,000	+ 4,579
Bentota	210,000	1/0.33	7,615	+ 5,325	7	95,343	+ 8,897
Beranang	208,700	1/7.95	27,569	+ 12,769	1	27,569	+ 12,769
Bernam-Pet'k	222,400	1/2.41	23,400	+ 4,900	1	23,400	+ 4,900
Bidor	—	1/1.83	35,310	+ 7,350	4	130,500	+ 13,000
Bikam	310,000	1/4.24	35,700	+ 11,040	7	223,000	+ 73,664
Bode	100,360	1/6.98	16,576	+ 6,976	7	100,014	+ 46,594
Bradwall	400,000	1/5.08	35,590	+ 15,567	7	187,605	+ 40,753
Braunston	260,000	1/1.10	34,000	+ 1,850	10	295,400	+ 43,222
Brit Born Para	280,000	1/1	22,000	+ 3,000	3	62,000	+ 8,000
British Malay	—	1/1.26	23,700	—	7	122,147	—
Brooklands	397,007	1/3.77	46,669	+ 19,181	1	46,669	+ 19,181
Broome	249,496	1/3.77	31,721	+ 14,165	1	31,721	+ 14,165
Bukit Clob	290,000	1/0.39	22,000	—	7	122,000	+ 20,000
" Ijok	280,000	1/0.74	27,000	+ 4,500	7	176,000	+ 60,000
" Kajang	738,805	1/0.82	88,000	+ 23,000	1	88,000	+ 23,000
" Lintang	270,121	1/0.36	26,400	+ 2,900	1	26,400	+ 2,900
" Mert'jim	780,000	1/1.08	59,393	+ 10,793	4	224,096	+ 55,607
" Pan'ng	455,000	1/0.7	46,500	+ 9,340	7	265,500	+ 82,140
" Rajah	877,000	1/1.83	91,720	+ 30,659	4	288,842	+ 83,728
" Senba	850,000	1/0.77	63,000	+ 15,200	7	384,200	+ 105,600
Carey United	285,000	—	28,715	+ 7,715	10	179,994	+ 16,324
Castlefield	475,161	1/0.70	45,115	+ 6,271	1	45,115	+ 6,271
Cent. Trav.	240,000	1/3.08	17,720	+ 2,849	7	84,218	+ 20,836
Ceylon Para	682,031	1/4.23	67,754	+ 9,392	7	413,192	+ 93,894
Ceylon T. & R.	260,000	1/3.92	14,337	+ 2,934	7	121,081	+ 6,747
Changkat-Sal.	630,000	1/1.39	77,000	+ 23,200	7	420,000	+ 181,000
Chemb Malay	385,000	1/1.32	31,550	+ 2,917	7	214,421	+ 42,041
Cheras	170,000	1/6.62	15,600	+ 8,194	7	83,400	+ 39,987
Chersonese	720,000	1/1.44	59,613	+ 3,953	7	369,212	+ 29,594
Cheviot	370,000	1/3.48	22,610	+ 2,934	7	174,710	+ 53,880
Chimpul	150,000	1/1.75	14,399	+ 3,126	4	55,949	+ 13,614
Chota	190,000	1/2.34	16,675	+ 4,094	7	116,866	+ 37,615
Cicely	345,000	1/1.08	32,198	+ 3,718	4	116,414	+ 17,247
Cluny	225,000	1/3.01	19,415	+ 2,665	7	120,317	+ 24,955
Cons. Malay	809,000	1/1.93	66,706	+ 871	7	420,153	+ 68,980
Dalkeith	400,000	1/0.79	22,500	+ 700	7	172,800	+ 26,497
Damansara	650,000	1/1.95	61,475	+ 11,130	7	429,022	+ 95,807
Dangan	183,808	1/2	17,661	+ 4,403	1	17,661	+ 4,403
Dennistoun	580,500	1/0.27	52,366	+ 5,555	7	133,901	+ 57,900
Devitair	320,000	1/1.27	12,600	—	30	145,400	+ 9,920
Dimbula	340,000	1/0.36	24,000	+ 700	7	157,632	+ 5,783
Djasinga	242,120	1/4.51	29,000	+ 13,714	1	29,000	+ 13,714
Djember	80,000	—	8,700	+ 7,900	7	89,000	+ 46,300
Doranakande	210,000	1/2.30	14,121	+ 33	7	75,942	+ 6,527
Duff Develop.	400,400	1/7.40	56,500	+ 17,500	7	335,000	+ 136,000
Dusun Durian	520,000	1/1.47	64,545	+ 33,957	7	375,439	+ 178,885
E. Ind. & Cey.	175,540	1/3.36	13,607	+ 665	7	85,615	+ 5,375
Edinburgh	327,000	1/9.71	40,000	+ 15,000	7	224,500	+ 68,000
Elphill	170,000	1/8.21	15,248	+ 4,038	7	101,577	+ 43,422
Emerald	320,000	1/2	29,000	+ 9,280	6	144,400	+ 2,382
Eow Seng	170,000	1/1.20	14,440	+ 540	7	85,408	+ 35,736
Escot	180,000	1/2.32	20,000	+ 8,760	10	176,839	+ 85,736
Fed. Malay S.	1,538,982	1/9.50	157,000	+ 33,468	2	307,000	+ 73,468
Fed. Selangor	345,000	1/0.01	30,850	+ 15,496	4	110,605	+ 32,762
Galaba	103,144	—	10,600	+ 2,183	7	50,230	+ 6,844
Galang Besar	388,730	1/8.24	33,000	—	1	33,000	—
Garing	135,100	1/5.37	13,777	+ 2,977	1	13,777	+ 2,977
Gedong	150,000	1/3.49	15,000	+ 4,000	10	129,530	+ 28,345
Gen. Ceylon	184,000	1/0.68	20,179	+ 7,558	7	131,619	+ 45,228
Glen Bervie	835,000	1/0.10	62,860	+ 7,470	7	149,130	+ 79,778
Glenon	220,000	1/2.57	20,190	+ 991	10	190,300	+ 76,944
Glenishiel	240,000	1/1.96	15,333	+ 725	10	181,413	+ 14,058
Golconda	295,600	1/3.06	31,650	+ 11,322	7	193,900	+ 78,865
Golden Hope	498,000	1/1.86	53,861	+ 12,686	7	315,012	+ 64,173
Grand Cent.	225,000	1/2.04	25,160	+ 10,236	7	132,629	+ 21,702
Gula Kal'p'g	4,000,000	1/0.72	293,251	+ 49,358	7	1,986,187	+ 359,204
Harpenden	1,269,000	1/1.8	95,631	+ 3,421	7	608,099	+ 77,838
Hayoep	432,000	1/1.23	51,250	+ 18,465	7	272,150	+ 49,865
Haywood	451,000	1/4.50	41,733	+ 15,378	7	289,340	+ 120,023
Hewagam	200,000	1/3.28	18,708	+ 6,915	7	101,865	+ 4,306
Hid. Streams	650,000	1/2.80	40,000	+ 3,800	7	273,200	+ 30,100
Highlands	190,000	—	21,700	+ 8,200	7	122,200	+ 41,200
Inch-Kenneth	1,233,000	1/11.22	114,665	+ 5,781	7	711,523	+ 95,202
Inch-Kenneth	286,380	1/2.46	36,400	+ 13,600	2	66,150	+ 22,95
Inch-Kenneth	175,140	1/8.92	17,400	+ 5,100	1	17,400	+ 5,100
Java Amal.	450,000	—	28,200	+ 2,700	7	290,000	+ 93,470
Java R. & Prod	240,000	—	17,413	+ 9,113	7	174,233	—
Java Para	250,000	1/1.20	18,000	+ 5,700	7	137,100	+ 48,139
Java R. Plants	106,000	—	6,800	+ 1,500	7	96,624	+ 42,389
Jeram	—	—	24,158	+ 2,215	4	76,318	+ 17,016
Johore Para	167,100	1/1.80	12,600	+ 1,800	1	12,600	+ 1,800
" Rub Lds	1,016,000	1/0.06	76,871	+ 38,479	7	401,913	+ 213,722
Jong Lander	551,715	1/8.27	53,431	+ 13,863	1	53,431	+ 13,863
Jugra Estate	350,000	1/0.60	30,181	+ 19,957	4	112,495	+ 38,215
Jugra Land	1,090,000	1/1.35	80,577	+ 22,670	3	218,860	+ 71,267
Kajang	160,000	1/1.95	25,250	+ 17,550	7	114,375	+ 55,138
Kali Glagah	200,000	—	30,000	+ 1,040	4	54,200	+ 11,320
Kamp Kual'm	350,000	1/0.93	60,590	+ 1,000	7	197,500	+ 20,500
Kamunlog	725,650	1/1.93	80,065	+ 7,180	1	66,590	+ 7,180
Kapar Para	762,800	1/0.62	80,065	+ 33,185	7	416,768	+ 156,216
Karak	138,201	2/1.88	17,130	+ 4,693	7	103,014	+ 31,501
Kasintoe	263,000	2/1.39	11,000	+ 5,003	7	128,415	+ 94,132
Kawie Java	450,000	—	29,600	+ 5,300	4	155,900	+ 26,610
Keptigalla	591,000	1/4	46,150	+ 5,600	4	183,715	+ 27,618
Kepong	300,000	1/9.53	26,000	+ 2,000	7	162,500	+ 10,500
Kerala	215,000	—	21,360	+ 9,114	7	74,565	+ 25,519
Khotatamp'n	200,000	1/3.30	16,000	+ 1,800	6	86,000	+ 22,250
Killinghall	220,879	1/2.12	22,994	+ 6,179	1	22,994	+ 6,179
Kimanis	263,000	1/2.81	23,000	+ 12,250	7	121,800	+ 73,750
Kinta Kellas	445,000	1/2.81	43,323	+ 13,825	4	155,015	+ 70,415
Klabang	220,000	1/4.15	18,483	+ 1,543	7	116,344	+ 23,802
Klanang	—	1/0.91	32,583	+ 7,341	7	221,654	+ 5,726
Kombok	419,000	1/1.59	50,270	+ 13,080	7	291,530	+ 127,030
Kuala Klang	175,000	1/1.57	14,797	+ 557	10	157,920	+ 22,881
" Kubu	129,921	2/2.35	12,330	+ 3,515	1	12,330	+ 3,515
" Lumpur	1,409,230	1/0.55	132,660	+ 7,920	1	132,660	+ 7,920
" Nal	210,000	1/2.36	17,000	+ 5,914	7	97,500	+ 34,847
" Pali	160,000	—	16,422	+ 6,805	7	82,704	+ 30,666
" Selangor	600,000</						

Taiping..	483,685d	1/0.59	58,588	+ 14,602	1	58,588	+ 14,602
Tali Ayer ..	837,000	1/1.35	77,500	+ 23,710	3	219,250	+ 79,773
Tamiam ..	450,000	2/	51,038	+ 13,850	10	435,531	+ 193,325
Tangca Batu	175,000	1/3.59	15,000	+ 3,000	7	81,227	+ 773
Tangkah ..	400,000	1/5.74	33,366	+ 5,267	10	304,171	+ 74,471
Tanj. Malim	761,806d	1/3.76	75,240	+ 21,055	1	75,240	+ 21,055
Tandjong ..	1,266,536	1/2.28	121,486	+ 39,869	1	121,486	+ 39,869
Tangoel ..	222,825d	1/4.85	13,420	+ 2,110	1	13,420	+ 2,110
Tebrau ..	933,041d	1/1.95	78,279	+ 7,027	1	78,279	+ 7,027
Teekoy ..	205,000	1/5	22,215	+ 9,111	12	222,170	+ 85,478
Telagoredjo	237,000	—	28,000	+ 18,062	7	184,376	+ 156,191
TenomB'neio	530,000	1/11.93	49,200	+ 8,200	7	307,700	+ 53,300
Third Mile ..	425,000	1/0.30	45,324	+ 15,634	7	245,556	+ 80,498
Tremelbye ..	528,500d	1/0.38	58,000	+ 13,250	1	58,000	+ 13,250
Trolak ..	225,000	1/3	24,720	+ 6,836	10	216,772	+ 64,303
Ulu Rantau ..	217,648d	1/2.49	24,459	+ 2,582	7	131,004	+ 7,457
U. Sua Betong	800,000	1/1.77	66,154	+ 29,369	7	408,731	+ 222,161
U. Seidang ..	2,913,800	1/2.79	240,632	+ 16,059	11	2,781,214	+ 522,036
U. Sumatra ..	800,000	1/0.7	68,310	+ 11,050	7	436,640	+ 91,230
U. Temiang ..	414,000	1/3.28	40,570	+ 14,160	12	387,830	+ 124,320
Uva ..	154,450d	—	16,655	+ 2,803	7	103,498	+ 13,466
Vallambrosa ..	725,500	1/11.10	59,242	+ 14,686	3	159,550	+ 36,193
Val d'Or ..	250,000	1/3	29,300	+ 11,215	9	203,349	+ 91,597
Victoria ..	—	—	10,950	+ 9,075	1	10,950	+ 9,075
Windsor ..	253,000d	1/4.21	22,000	+ 8,944	7	135,600	+ 69,576
Woodend ..	180,000	—	13,735	+ 3,820	7	80,739	+ 15,924
Yam Seng ..	300,000	1/2.75	32,025	+ 8,027	9	256,498	+ 86,315
Yatiyantota ..	—	—	31,851	+ 3,031	7	186,709	+ 9,439

a Last year's crop.

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down.	Aug. 11	£ 7,354	+ 3,561	*	£ 117,874	+ 450
Grand Canal	" 11	1,086	+ 103	†	6,556	+ 368
Great Northern	" 11	29,135	+ 3,785	*	752,608	+ 18,208
Gt. Southern and Western.	" 11	36,054	+ 2,105	*	1,017,311	+ 42,573
Midland Great Western ..	" 11	13,007	+ 177	*	395,965	+ 7,279

* From Jan. 1. † From July 1.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

Assam Bengal ..	July 8	Rs. 1,38,000	+ 9,246	†	Rs. 17,82,529	+ 1,61,390
Bengal & N.-W. ..	July 1	3,97,570	+ 39,401	†	59,00,465	+ 6,10,699
Bengal Nagpur ..	" 8	9,84,000	+ 1,55,000	†	1,38,49,335	+ 24,33,751
Bombay, Baroda ..	Aug. 5	10,33,000	+ 74,000	†	2,43,84,000	+ 22,45,000
Burma ..	July 8	3,80,658	+ 46,946	†	57,52,556	+ 44,988
Delhi Umballa ..	July 29	59,200	+ 1,611	†	1,82,598	+ 77,549
East Indian ..	Aug. 12	20,48,000	+ 3,26,000	†	4,17,44,000	+ 11,33,000
Gt. Indian Penin. ..	" 12	16,97,400	+ 4,91,600	†	3,80,64,967	+ 74,79,826
Lucknow-Bareilly ..	July 1	43,682	+ 1,560	†	6,47,961	+ 86,851
Madras and S. ..	" 8	9,75,000	+ 85,041	†	1,45,52,152	+ 8,05,952
Mahratta ..	" 1	1,15,834	+ 13,672	†	17,25,425	+ 1,16,927
Nizam's Gd. (Broad) ..	" 1	72,130	+ 18,649	†	10,04,970	+ 66,573
Robilkund and ..	" 1	38,726	+ 1,665	†	6,01,000	+ 74,448
Kumaon ..	" 15	6,28,574	+ 70,188	†	94,24,651	+ 6,42,256
South Indian ..	" 15	6,28,574	+ 70,188	†	94,24,651	+ 6,42,256

a 13 days. † April 1. ‡ October 1.

COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

Beira ..	May *	£ 33,808	+ 2,094	—	£ 5,543,700	+ 271,500
Canadian Northern ..	Aug. 14	841,500	+ 443,900	†	1,780,000	+ 509,800
Canadian Pacific ..	" 7	2,955,000	+ 1,198,000	†	5,594,780	+ 727,595
Gr. Trk. Main Line ..	" 14	203,498	+ 40,828	†	1,193,143	+ 287,020
Gr. Trk. Western ..	" 14	37,192	+ 6,884	†	420,825	+ 97,380
Detroit G. H. & M. ..	" 14	13,486	+ 78	†	89,491	+ 33,224
Gr. Trk. Pac. Prairie Sc.	" 7	14,467	+ 3,677	†	743,394	+ 94,815
Mid. of Westn. Aus. ..	" 7	56,677	+ 6,565	†	88,012	+ 10,691
New Cape Central ..	July 22	4,854	+ 59	†	46,629	+ 6,206
Rhodesia ..	June *	1,687	+ 72	†	82,423	+ 6,719

a 9 days. * Months. † July 1. ‡ Jan. 1. c From Oct. 1.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Chesapeake & Ohio ..	July 31a	1,405,000	+ 17,000	†	3,370,000	+ 229,000
Chicago G.W. ..	" 31a	377,000	+ 69,000	†	1,250,000	+ 122,000
Colorado & South'n ..	" 21	287,000	+ 39,000	†	825,000	+ 101,000
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	Aug. 7	494,000	+ 24,000	†	2,553,000	+ 117,000
Louisv'e & Nashv'e ..	July 31a	1,698,000	+ 157,000	†	5,124,000	+ 520,000
Minn. S. P. (Soo) ..	" 21	701,000	+ 185,000	†	2,042,000	+ 638,000
Missouri Pacific ..	" 31a	1,028,000	+ 154,000	†	3,056,000	+ 539,000
Northern Pacific ..	" 21	1,603,000	+ 392,000	†	4,621,000	+ 1,056,000
Southern ..	" 31a	1,440,000	+ 345,000	†	5,383,000	+ 79,000

a 10 days. § Includes Wisconsin Central. † From July 1.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.

Anglo-Argentine ..	Aug. 12	£ 48,700	+ 2,096	M. 5	£ 1,626,630	+ 7,245
Auckland Electric ..	July 28b	21,587	+ 1,099	a	21,507	+ 646
Brazilian Traction ..	May §	M4,043,000	+ M 51,020	5	M 18,774,000	+ M 727,350
Brisbane Elec. Inv. ..	Apr. §	36,320	+ 3,730	—	62,690	+ 6,390
British Columbia ..	June §	36,399	+ 58,621	10	885,732	+ 458,569
B. A. Lacroze ..	July 29	Rs. 3,437	+ Rs. 289	12	490,828	+ Rs. 3,920
Burmah Electric ..	Aug. 12	Rs. 69,547	+ 3,240	*	Rs21,28,100	+ 102,224
Calcutta ..	" 12	14,100	+ 70	2	43,050	+ 858
Cordoba Light ..	July 8	£ 15,400	+ 4,695	4	£ 37,750	+ 883,132
P. & T. ..	June b	3,706	+ 25,925	6	25,925	+ 161
Hongkong ..	May §	15,693	+ 69	4	79,913	+ 1,440
La Plata ..	June 31c	Rs. 32,762	+ Rs. 2,271	8	Rs4,37,111	+ Rs. 31,700
Mexico ..	Nov. §	215,256	+ 108,666	5	3,193,106	+ 197,227
Puebla ..	Dec. §	40,000	+ 25,600	5	666,500	+ 44,500
Rangoon ..	July 8	4,357	+ 272	*	28,089	+ 1,436
Singapore Electric ..	May 20	£ 13,139	+ 1,897	8	£ 247,259	+ 29,716
Toronto ..	June §	438,997	+ 65,937	3	£ 601,709	+ 198,311
United of Monte V. ..	July	25,420	+ 59	9	263,288	+ 14,435
Vera Cruz ..	Mar. §	73,500	+ 32,300	5	203,900	+ 103,200
Winnipeg ..	June §	887,571	+ 8,926	4	£ 630,508	+ 8,864

b 28 days. * From Jan. 1. § Nett. a From July 1. c Two weeks.

MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

NAME.	NETT EARNINGS FOR MONTH.				NETT EARNINGS TO DATE.			
	Month.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year.	No. of Mths.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year.	No. of Mths.	
Atchafalpa T. & S. Fé	June	Dols. 3,702,000	+ 752,000	12	43,780,000	+ 7,729,000	12	
Atlantic Coast Line	"	776,000	+ 364,000	12	9,855,000	+ 2,811,000	12	
Baltimore & Ohio ..	"	3,204,000	+ 2,000	12	32,348,000	+ 4,458,000	12	
Canadian Northern ..	"	985,000	+ 591,700	8	8,537,800	+ 2,808,000	8	
Canadian Pacific ..	"	3,690,000	+ 1,012,000	12	42,226,000	+ 15,651,000	12	
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	"	2,583,000	+ 444,000	12	16,450,000	+ 4,542,000	12	
Chicago & N.W. ..	"	2,786,000	+ 534,000	12	24,607,000	+ 4,223,000	12	
Chicago Burl. & Q. ..	May	2,869,000	+ 1,230,000	11	37,764,500	+ 9,266,000	11	
Chicago G.W. ..	"	246,000	+ 38,000	11	3,851,000	+ 746,000	11	
Chicago Mil. & S.P. ..	June	1,894,000	+ 928,000	12	31,260,000	+ 6,545,000	12	
Chicago, Rock I. & P. ..	"	1,473,000	+ 419,000	12	16,811,000	+ 2,771,000	12	
Colorado & Southern ..	May	447,000	+ 227,000	11	5,317,000	+ 1,457,000	11	
Cuba ..	"	681,000	+ 140,126	11	6,211,534	+ 1,462,441	11	
Do. ..	"	261,131	+ 482	11	2,314,953	+ 626,709	11	
Delaware & Hud. ..	"	794,000	+ 93	5	3,486,000	+ 564,000	5	
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	"	798,000	+ 206,000	11	8,304,000	+ 2,440,000	11	
Erie ..	June	1,727,000	+ 182,000	6	8,611,000	+ 2,321,000	6	
Gr. Tr. Main Line ..	"	£ 277,450	+ £ 2,350	6	£ 1,103,650	+ £ 131,900	6	
Grand Trunk Westn ..	"	£ 61,000	+ £ 34,300	11	£ 239,500	+ £ 219,800	11	
Detroit G. H. & Mil. ..	"	£ 11,400	+ £ 15,100	6	£ 21,100	+ £ 41,200	6	
Gt. Northern ..	May	2,506,000	+ 899,000	11	34,457,000	+ 6,214,000	11	
Illinois Central ..	June	1,489,000	+ 1,009,000	12	14,555,000	+ 3,277,000	12	
Kansas City Southn. ..	"	301,000	+ 162,000	12	3,660,000	+ 676,000	12	
Lehigh Valley ..	June	1,150,000	+ 178,000	12	12,575,000	+ 1,703,000	12	
Louisville & Nashv. ..	May	1,698,000	+ 848,000	11	16,716,000	+ 7,508,000	11	
Minn. S. P. (Soo) ..	"	1,051,000	+ 714,000	11	12,581,000	+ 4,984,000	11	
Miss. K. & Texas ..	June	334,000	+ 25,000	12	5,041,000	+ 3,562,000	12	
Missouri Pacific ..	May	723,000	+ 55,000	12	12,567,000	+ 605,000	12	
New York Cent. & H. ..	June	5,484,000	+ 622,000	6	29,638,000	+ 11,281,000	6	
N.Y. N. Haven & H. ..	May	2,200,000	+ 462,000	11	20,240,000	+ 4,390,000	11	
New York Ont. & W. ..	June	272,000	+ 87,000	12	2,477,000	+ 366,000	12	
Norfolk & Western ..	"	2,001,000	+ 442,000	12	23,232,000	+ 9,787,000	12	
Northern Pacific ..	"	2,592,000	+ 430,000	12	31,032,000	+ 9,482,000	12	
Pennsylvania East ..	"	10,211,000	+ 1,761,000	6	50,768,000	+ 21,959,000	6	
and West Lines ..	May	1,201,000	+ 310,000	11	12,343,000	+ 1,747,000	11	
St. Louis & San F. ..	"	575,000	+ 108,000	11	6,524,000	+ 1,515,000	11	
Seaboard Air Line ..	"	2,022,000	+ 684,000	11	19,337,000	+ 7,077,000	11	
Southern ..	June	4,821,000	+ 1,223,000	12	48,191,000	+ 12,501,000	12	
Southern Pacific ..	"	3,780,000	+ 954,000	12	40,824,000	+ 10,643,000	12	
Union Pacific ..	"	967,000	+ 755,000	12	10,955,000	+ 5,051,000	12	
Wabash ..	"	—	—	—	—	—	—	

§ Includes Wisconsin Central. * Gross earnings. † Surplus.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—HOME.

		£	£	£	£	
Bristol ..	Aug. 11	12,902	+ 2,496	†	317,632	+ 12,399
Dublin United ..	" 4	7,506	+ 224	†	180,943	+ 6,688
Hastings and Dist. ..	" 11	2,081	+ 460	†	30,947	+ 1,143
Isle of Thanet ..	" 12	1,023	— 79	†	14,665	— 2,791
Lancashire United..	" 9	2,328	+ 589	†	56,655	+ 2,018
Provincial ..	" 12	3,309	+ 454	*	101,606	+ 5,454
Yorks. (Wst. Rdng.) ..	" 13	2,191	+ 584	†	57,205	+ 5,040

COMPANY MEETINGS.

BAKU RUSSIAN PETROLEUM CO., LTD.

Mr. Herbert Allen, presiding at the annual general meeting on Tuesday, said those who had read the directors' report or taken the trouble to analyse the accounts would be struck by the remarkable transformation which was effected in the financial position of the company between the beginning and the end of last year. They started with about £5,000 cash in hand, and finished up with nearly £65,000, a fact which he hoped would effectually allay the misgivings of a few shareholders who took such a despondent view of the situation a year ago, forgetting, apparently, that the company's troubles at that time were due entirely to well-defined causes of a temporary nature. Concurrently with increasing their cash and balances to the extent just stated they had met the entire capital expenditure of £24,840 out of current income, besides which they made an appreciable impression on the Baku liabilities, not the least of which was a reduction of £12,049 in the £50,000 Government loan. Altogether during the year their liquid assets were increased by £51,695, and their current liabilities by only £8,833, which meant that there was a nett reduction in the liabilities of £42,862. Since the date of the accounts a further inroad had been made in the local liabilities, and the remaining £9,000 of the Government loan had been paid off. The profit and loss account was interesting for the illustration it afforded of the recuperative powers of the company, the trading profit having recovered from £27,000 in 1914 to £72,000 in 1915, and the total gross profit from £45,621 to £87,985. They had charged against profit and loss everything in the way of loss and depreciation on the investments, and the current year's accounts were started with a practically clean sheet on their financial operations in London as distinguished from their oil business in Baku. They had made a clear nett profit from start to finish, after allowing for the losses and depreciation already mentioned, of £53,633. In preparing the accounts they had taken the Baku profits at the conventional rate of 2s. 1½d. per rouble, and debited profit and loss account with loss on all moneys actually remitted. He did not think it would be correct to show a loss on moneys which still remained in Russia, which might so remain until they could be remitted without loss, or which might never be remitted at all. That was where he thought those companies might be wrong who converted their entire profits, whether remitted or not, at the current exchange of 1s. 3d. per rouble. They had recently effected an arrangement with the debenture-holders suspending further sinking fund payments until January, 1918, by which time it was hoped there might be some recovery in the sterling value of the rouble. In the meantime, the moneys would be deposited in Russian banks, earmarked for the debenture-holders, and when released would reduce the debenture debt to about £65,000. It had already been reduced from £131,000 to £93,700 by the operation of the sinking fund. It was hoped the arrangement with the debenture-holders would result in a large saving to the company. The company was doing very little work on the Bibi Eibat plots which were leased from the Government. For years a prospect of reduced royalties had been held out to them, and they had spent a lot of money on those plots in consequence, but the royalty question had recently been shelved, and they were not going to lay out more money merely to benefit the national exchequer. For years Baku producers had struggled with unremunerative prices, and when at last they began to see a little margin over expenses, and consequently might be disposed to extend their operations, their enterprise was stopped with a snap. Another blow to the development of the industry was the decree of the Government fixing a maximum price of 45 copecks per pood for crude oil, of which the Government itself was one of the largest buyers. There were many properties that could not be worked at 45 copecks, and to this extent a valuable commodity would be lost to the country. On other properties, where at one time 10 to 15 copecks would have been considered a reasonable working cost, it was now 20 to 30 copecks. It was scarcely surprising, under all the circumstances, and with the knowledge that the hand of the Russian Government was so frequently against the industry, that new boring for oil in the Baku district was lower than it had been for 20 years. The high selling price of crude was the sole favourable condition under which their business was conducted last year. On most of their plots the company had substituted electrical energy for steam power, with very satisfactory results financially. With regard to the future, it was extremely difficult to offer any reliable forecast; much depended on the labour situation, the supply of materials and stores, and on the question of exchange—not so much the rate of exchange as whether they would be allowed to remit money from Russia at all. The Petrograd exchange on London was nominally no worse now than it was a year ago, but in practice it was much more difficult to effect remittances now than at any previous period since the war commenced, and the quoted rate, if not actually illusory, was quite one-sided. For the first seven months of the current year their trading at Baku had been better than for the corresponding period last year, and if present appearances went for anything they might perhaps at the end of the year have the best balance-sheet yet presented to the shareholders. The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

SOUTH WEST AFRICA CO.

An ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the South West Africa Co., Ltd., was held on Wednesday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. Edmund Davis, the Chairman, presiding.

The Secretary, Mr. C. Launspach, having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in dealing with the accounts, said: The balance of profit for the year under review is £11,967, which, added to the amount brought forward at December 31, 1914, £84,859, makes a total of £96,826. In 1914 we held £100,000 of 3½ per cent. War Loan, £50,000 of 2½ per cent. Consols and £50,000 of Treasury bills. The Treasury bills have been sold, and our holdings of old War Loan and Consols have been converted into new 4½ per cent. War Loan, of which we now hold £250,000, an investment which, we trust, you will all approve of. We have during the year under review disposed of our interest of £10,000 Crown Mines 5 per cent. first mortgage debentures and £9,200 Wankie Colliery Co. 6 per cent. first mortgage debentures, and have acquired £15,000 Union of South Africa 4 per cent. debentures and £5,000 New South Wales 4 per cent. debentures, besides increasing our holding of India 3½ per cent. stock by £25,000. Shares in other companies, so far as those deposited in Germany are concerned, stand at the same amount as in the previous accounts; those deposited in London show a reduction of about £24,000, due to realisations during the year under review. The cost price of shares sold is debited to this account, and the profit placed to profit and loss account. The only investment to which reference need be made at this meeting is our holding in the Otavi Exploring Syndicate. This syndicate is making shipments of very rich copper ore to this country, and is at present investigating a recent discovery of mottramite, containing vanadium, copper and lead. The company, as you know, carries on its operations under an official supervisor, appointed by the Board of Trade, and in addition the position of the company is now under the consideration of the Advisory Committee of the Board of Trade. Under these circumstances the operations of the company have been necessarily of a somewhat less extensive nature than in former years, and, on the other hand, there has been a corresponding decrease of expenditure. Prospecting operations in the veld being difficult under present conditions have ceased for the time being, and our mining engineer's contract has been suspended until the war is over. At the same time we are pleased to say that, while necessarily suffering from the effects of recent events, the Protectorate of South-West Africa seems to be in a fair way of recovery. We could sell fair quantities of land if we liked, but, having regard to all the circumstances, we have considered it prudent to withdraw our representative's general authority to effect sales, and have instructed him, instead, to refer each intended sale to us. The company's general representative, Mr. Tobias Toennesen, remained in South-West Africa throughout the entire period of hostilities until early this year, when he returned to Europe, after being relieved by our chief accountant, Mr. J. Askevold. Mr. Toennesen and Mr. Askevold are both Norwegian subjects. You will no doubt understand that our representative had a rather difficult and delicate task upon his hands in conducting the company's affairs during the period when the British forces were advancing from Cape Colony and the sea northwards towards our concession territory, at a time, too, when all possibility of referring home for instructions was cut off. It is a matter for satisfaction that the company has been enabled to emerge from these troubled conditions practically without loss, and we wish to place on record our appreciation of the satisfactory manner in which Mr. Toennesen has dealt with the position under such trying circumstances.

Mr. F. Eckstein seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

MOLASSINE CO.

The ordinary general meeting of the Molassine Co., Ltd., was held on Friday, at the offices, Tunnel Avenue, East Greenwich, S.E., Mr. Benjamin Horton, Chairman of the company, presiding.

The Secretary, Mr. A. E. Smith, having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen.—You have already had a copy of the report and balance-sheet showing a nett profit of £14,571 7s. 4d. There is not much to be said with regard to the balance-sheet as compared with last year. The share capital remains the same. The mortgage debenture stock has been reduced by £3,876, in accordance with the conditions under which the debenture stock was issued. The sundry creditors, bills payable, and loans from bankers are practically the same as last year. On the credit side you will notice that the leasehold property shows a slight increase, various improvements having been effected from time to time during the year. Plant and machinery have increased by £4,529 4s. 5d., various additions having been made to the plant, the principal item being new ovens in connection with the biscuit department. Cash at bankers last year amounted to £2,086 6s. 11d., against £558 13s. 1d. this year. Bills receivable £6,829 13s. 8d. this year, against £315 7s. 11d. last year. Sundry debtors show a decrease of £11,618 9s. 10d., and shares in other companies, as the report states, we propose to reduce from £4,656 10s. to £3,000. The increased value of the stocks is £11,588 19s. The freehold poultry farm at Twyford to-day stands at £6,048 14s. 0d., against £4,980 14s. last year, the difference being money spent on new plant. This is

a valuable property, as apart from the farm being a good advertisement, it makes a profit. The adverse balance of £12,364 13s. 5d. disappears by the amount credited to profit and loss account, and creates a new credit balance of £550 3s. 11d. It is disappointing that on account of continued hostilities our foreign business has had to remain suspended. We can but hope that the valuable goodwill we had created in America and Canada will not be entirely lost when we are able to resume business. While the results of the year are not so good as we would like, considering the obstacles we have had to surmount they may be considered satisfactory. Our chief trouble has been the impossibility of obtaining sufficient supplies of raw materials. We have been handicapped in this direction much more than other cattle-food firms, molasses, our chief ingredient, being most difficult to obtain. We are glad to say that the demand for Molassine meal was good all the year through, and it was with much regret that we were unable to deliver all that our customers required. The shortage of labour and transit restrictions have also made the year one of stress and anxiety. We have continued to make biscuits for the Army as required from time to time. Feeling the uncertainty of obtaining raw materials as freely as before the war, we have turned our attention to other possible products in which we might deal, and we think we have discovered, by the aid of our chemists, an article that in the future will become a source of revenue to the company. Probably you have already come across the new food for the soil manufactured by us under the name of Rito. It has already met with a ready sale amongst horticulturists and amateur gardeners, and from the many good reports we have had we have reason to hope that a regular trade will follow. We have also a number of experiments in progress with this article on barley, oats, wheat, potatoes, &c., and hope the results will prove the product valuable for agricultural purposes. So far the tests that we have made are thoroughly satisfactory, justifying us in applying for patent rights in this country and others. I now beg to move the adoption of the report and balance-sheet as presented.

Mr. H. Goodman seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The retiring director (Mr. Arthur W. Livingstone) and the auditors (Messrs. Cooper Bros. and Co.) having been re-elected, the meeting terminated with a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman, directors and staff.

Answers to Correspondents.

*** A Key to these Answers will be posted early each week for a subscription of ONE GUINEA per annum, 11s. for six months, or 5s. 9d. for three months.**

Deposits against future queries may be lodged with the Publisher.

F. B.—If you can get the shares at about 3 to 3½ they are a fair investment of the kind, as you will see from this week's paper, but the company's position is by no means strong.

Francis.—The report may be out as soon as this, but until we receive it we are a little in the dark. It is probable, however, that the company is doing better; therefore do not sell these shares at present.

W. B. W.—Yes, certainly, unless you hold any which are quoted at high prices, then you might sell.

C. L. N.—The underwriters had to take a considerable amount. We see no objection. It should be.

Box.—Unless you are prepared to keep them for a considerable time they look high enough now. In the long run there is a chance of bigger dividends, but the progress has been much slower than was anticipated.

D. C. L.—We cannot advise selling now. Dividends we hope will be continued, as the financial position is fairly strong. Traffics recently have shown a little recovery.

L. S. W.—(1) (3) Should be lent, but (2) (4) might be sold, as present prices are high enough, in our opinion.

Leith.—We fear there is no help for it. You must sell, and you can purchase quite as safe securities to yield you the same income. There is little prospect of any substantial recovery in prices generally for a long time to come.

The Treasury is desirous, in connection with the arrangements for regulating the American exchange, to purchase the following security:—City of Winnipeg 4 per cent. consolidated registered stock, 1940-60. The price offered is 80, plus accrued interest to the date of transfer to the Treasury. All holders of this security in the United Kingdom are invited to place it at the disposal of the Treasury, without delay, through their bankers or brokers (whose commission will be paid by the Treasury). Holdings of £5,000 and upwards may, if the holder prefers, be placed at the disposal of the Treasury by direct communication with the American Dollar Securities Committee, National Debt Office, Old Jewry, E.C. This offer has not the effect of rendering the dividends on the security in question liable to additional income-tax.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

Bradford Dyers.—On the ordinary for half-year to June 30 at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, payable Sept. 1, against 5 per cent. a year ago.

British Linen Bank.—Interim at the rate of 16 per cent. per annum, less tax, same as last year.

Calico Printers.—Nett profit for year ended June 30 £664,387, inclusive of £25,543 brought in. The directors recommend £300,000 be placed to reserve, and a dividend of 2½ per cent. on the ordinary, and at rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the preference for 1½ years ended June last, leaving £38,053 to go forward. Last year there was a loss of £54,176.

California Exploration.—Interim at the rate of 6d. per share, less tax, at 5s., payable Oct. 3, same as a year ago.

Crossley Bros.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the ordinary for half-year to June 30, against 4 per cent. Sept. 1.

Fairbairn, Lawson, Combe, Barbour.—On account of the continuance of war conditions, the directors do not propose to declare any interim on the preference or ordinary in respect of the current year. No interim on the ordinary has been declared for the two preceding years.

Fernhill Collieries.—On the ordinary of 20 per cent. for year ended June 30, against 16 per cent.

Festiniog Railway.—Interim for half-year to June 30 at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum on the 5 per cent. preference. The directors are unable to pay an interim on the 4½ per cent. preference or ordinary.

Glendon Rubber.—Interim of 10 per cent. for half-year to March 31, against 5 per cent.

Herne Bay Water Works.—At the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on the ordinary for half-year to June 30.

Humphreys (Limited), Knightsbridge.—Interim of 10 per cent. per annum on the ordinary for half-year to May 31.

J. and R. Allan.—Interim of 6d. per share, less tax, on the ordinary, same as last year.

John Oakley and Sons.—Interim on ordinary for half-year ended June 30, at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, less tax.

Maple and Co.—Interim of 6d. per share, payable Sept. 1, being at the same rate as last year.

Metropolitan Electric Supply.—Interim of 1s. per share (being at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum) on the ordinary, payable Aug. 15, less tax, with £25,368 forward.

New Brilliant Freeholds Gold.—6d. per share, payable Aug. 31.

Oriental Consolidated Mining.—50c. per share. Warrants will be dispatched from New York on Aug. 29, same as a year ago.

Palace Theatre.—17½ per cent. (against 10 per cent.), placing £5,000 to reserve, charging interest on mortgage amounting to £3,200, and income-tax £1,979, with £12,658 forward (against £10,761).

Preston Gas.—For half-year ended June 30 at the rate of 2½ per cent. on the preference, 4½ per cent. on "A," and £3 6s. 6d. per cent. on "B," less tax, payable Aug. 17.

Rambutan, Limited.—8d. per share, less tax, payable Aug. 24, against 6d., tax free.

Sir J. L. Hulett and Sons.—8 per cent., plus bonus of 6d. per share (total 2s. 11-5d. per share, less tax), payable Oct. 31, same as a year ago, but no bonus.

Sons of Gwalia.—Interim at the rate of 6d. per share, less tax, payable Sept. 29, same as a year ago.

South Manchurian Railway.—The profit and loss account for year to March 31 shows a credit balance of Yen 8,080,499 (£808,049). To reserve, £40,402; dividend to shareholders other than the Government at the rate of 6 per cent., £156,000; supplementary dividend at the rate of 2 per cent., £52,000; to special reserve, £250,000; bonus to officers, £30,000; forward, £285,747, against £256,099 brought in.

Stewarts and Lloyds.—Interim for half-year ended June 30 at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the preferred ordinary, to be paid on Aug. 31, same as a year ago.

W. T. Henley's Telegraph Works.—Interim on the ordinary at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, less tax, for half-year ended June 30, payable Sept. 1.

West Surrey Water.—Maximum at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum on the ordinary £10 issued under Acts of 1877, 1888, and 1901, and a maximum at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the ordinary £10 issued under Act 1869, same as a year ago.

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NOTICES.

**CITY OF TOKYO 5 PER CENT. LOAN OF 1912
STERLING ISSUES £5,175,000.**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the COUPONS due 1st September 1916, will be PAID on and after that date (Saturdays excepted), between the hours of 11 and 3, by the Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited, where lists may be obtained.

Coupons must be left three clear days for examination prior to their payment.

For the Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd.,
K. TATSUMI, Manager.

7, Bishopsgate, E.C.,
17th August, 1916.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the business of Advertising Agents carried on by Mr. F. P. ALGAR, under the style or firm of F. ALGAR, at Nos. 11 and 12, Clements Lane, London, E.C., has, from the 30th day of June, 1916, been transferred to Mr. F. J. GURR, and he will continue the said business at the said address under the same style.

All debts due from and to the said business, respectively, up to the 30th day of June, 1916, will be paid and received by the said F. P. ALGAR.

Dated this 15th day of August, 1916.

F. P. ALGAR,
F. J. GURR.

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LONDON:

"THE INVESTORS' REVIEW,"
Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1916, and August 12, 1916:—

	Estimate for the Year 1916-1917.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1916, to Aug. 12, 1916.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1915, to Aug. 14, 1915.
Balances in Exchequer on April 1—			
Bank of England	—	25,111,065	81,898,728
Bank of Ireland	—	463,941	1,552,224
REVENUE.		25,575,006	83,450,952
Customs	—	23,554,000	14,214,000
Excise	—	16,598,000	18,964,000
Estate, &c., Duties	—	11,725,000	13,623,000
Stamps	—	2,698,000	2,332,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	—	310,000	330,000
Property and Income Tax and Super Tax	—	27,381,000	13,900,000
Excess Profits Duty	—	14,828,000	—
Land Value Duties	—	80,000	41,000
Post Office	—	11,600,000	9,900,000
Crown Lands	—	160,000	160,000
Receipts from Suez Canal Shares and Sundry Loans ..	—	495,894	189,933
Miscellaneous	—	2,278,163	1,007,218
Revenue	—	111,708,057	74,661,151
Total, including Balance	—	137,283,063	158,112,103
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion	—	1,650,000	280,000
For Treasury Bills (net amount) ..	—	56,919,000	—
For War Loan, 1925-1928	—	—	35,300,000
For 3% Exchequer Bonds, 1920	—	—	242,345
For War Loan, 1925-1945	—	—	348,500,000
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919	—	30,542,000	—
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920	—	80,314,500	—
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1921	—	50,568,000	—
For War Expenditure Certificates ..	—	18,381,500	—
For War Savings Certificates	—	17,100,000	—
For other Debt created under the War Loan Act, 1915	—	10,000,000	—
Temporary Advances	—	—	—
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £345,000,000 in 1916-1917 and £213,218,000 in 1915-1916)	—	409,396,500	214,218,000
Total	—	812,154,987	756,652,448

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Estimate for the Year 1916-17.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1916, to Aug. 12, 1916.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1915, to Aug. 14, 1915.
EXPENDITURE.			
Permanent Charge of Debt ..	—	11,265,351	11,910,171
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	—	43,843,979	521,800
Road Improvement Fund	—	—	694,395
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c.	—	1,638,501	1,862,640
Other Consolidated Fund Services	—	680,701	774,078
Supply Services	—	592,821,280	407,288,793
Expenditure	—	650,249,812	423,051,877
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion	—	1,840,000	475,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	—	60,914	60,914
For Treasury Bills (net amount) ..	—	—	21,912,000
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan (Redemption) Act, 1910	—	—	16,395,500
For Repayments to the Bank of England ..	—	—	160,427,623
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913	—	150,000	830,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 ..	—	135,000	60,000
Under Housing Act, 1914	—	18,900	500,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8, issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1909	—	38,000	27,000
Old Sinking Fund—1910-1911:			
Issued under the Finance Act, 1911—			
Section 16 (1) (b)	—	20,000	50,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1911-1912—Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Co. (Acquisition of Capital) Act, 1914	—	—	250,000
Temporary Advances repaid—Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £96,511,000 in 1916-17 and £30,562,000 in 1915-16)	—	127,407,500	30,562,000
		779,920,126	654,601,914
Balances in Exchequer—			
Bank of England	30,997,096	101,245,815	—
Bank of Ireland	1,237,765	804,719	—
Total	—	812,154,987	756,652,448

MEMO.—Treasury Bills outstanding on August 12, 1916 *£871,789,000.

* Includes £413,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the Account.

Treasury, August 14, 1916.

Subscriptions to THE INVESTORS' REVIEW
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McGill St., Montreal.

The Investors' Review

FOUNDED BY A. J. WILSON, FEBRUARY, 1892.

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NEW SERIES.

[Registered as a
Newspaper.]

SATURDAY, AUG. 26, 1916.

[Price 6d.]

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THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LTD.

Head Office: 15, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.

Capital Authorised	£1,500,000
Capital Issued	1,125,000
Capital Paid Up	562,500
Reserve Fund	550,000

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Reserve Fund	2,000,000

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SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL.

Four per Cent. Guaranteed Stock	..	£529,988
"A" Preference Shares issued to New Zealand Government	..	500,000
"B" Preference Shares issued to New Zealand Government	..	250,000
Ordinary Shares	..	1,500,000

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Negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange.
Grants drafts on its Offices in New Zealand, Australia, Fiji and Samoa. Remittances made by telegraphic transfer.

ALEXANDER KAY, Manager

THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.

(Registered in Japan.)

ESTABLISHED 1880.

Subscribed Capital	..	..	Yen 48,000,000
Capital Paid Up	..	..	Yen 30,000,000
Reserve Fund	Yen 20,400,000

Head Office: YOKOHAMA.

Branches and Agencies at

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Bombay.	Honolulu.	Newchang.	Sydney.
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RESERVE FUND	£2,000,000
UNCALLED CAPITAL	£4,645,575
	£8,194,100

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FRANCIS SHIPTON, London Manager.

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Subscribed Capital	£1,078,875 0 0
Paid-up Capital	539,437 10 0
Further Liability of Proprietors	539,437 10 0
Reserve Fund	400,000 0 0

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Head Office—71 Old Broad Street, E.C.

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Paid up Capital	669,665 0 0
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits	354,791 5 3
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	606,962 10 0

REMITTANCES made by CABLE.

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Established 1841.

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Established 1817.



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Reserve Fund	2,675,000
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	3,500,000
	£9,675,000

Head Office: SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES.

London Directors:

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DAVID GEDDIE,

Assistant Manager.

Accountant.

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Authorised Capital	£1,000,000.	Subscribed Capital	£225,000
Paid-up Capital	£500,000		
Reserve Fund	£10,000		
	£1,010,000		
Uncalled Capital	125,000		
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	625,000		
	£1,760,000		

London Office—11, Leadenhall Street, E.C.

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PERCY ARNOLD, Manager.

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LIMITED.

INCORPORATED 1880.

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Reserve Liability of Proprietors	4,000,000
Total Capital and Reserves	£7,950,000

HEAD OFFICE 71, CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.

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TELEGRAPHIC REMITTANCES are also made.

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Owing to the restrictions placed upon paper supplies we cannot guarantee to provide newsagents with [copies for chance sales. Would regular readers of the "Investors' Review," therefore, kindly place an order with their local newsagents or, better still, subscribe direct to the publisher?

The Investors' Review.

Vol. XXXVIII.—No. 973. SATURDAY, AUG. 26, 1916.
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(Registered as a Newspaper.) Price 6d.

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The Investors' Review is a Subscription Journal, and will be delivered to subscribers in London by the first post, or sent to the country and abroad by the first mail, on Saturday Morning, on the following terms:—

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ANSWERS TO QUERIES.

One Reply to One Question — One Shilling. Any number of questions may be put and will be answered at the rate of **One Shilling** each. The questions should be numbered and a copy kept, as securities cannot be named with comments in the printed replies. Questions to be answered in the current issue should reach us not later than Friday morning.

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Deposits of "Query Money" may be made in advance, and will be acknowledged in the "Answers" column. Notice of exhaustion will also be given there.

Telegrams advising about new securities cost **Half-a-Crown** each, plus cost of the telegram.

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Passing Events.

Very heavy was the expenditure of the Treasury last week. It amounted to no less than £33,510,000, which was fully £10,400,000 more than that of the previous week. But, as we keep reminding readers, these ups and downs are inevitable, and when we consider also how stupendous is the amount of work we have to do to assist our Allies in maintaining the fight at its proper maximum of intensity, we need not be surprised if now and then a week's outgoings mount considerably higher than they did last week. Revenue came in well, in fact it was about £2,270,000 more than in the previous week and totalled £8,975,000, but it was not much more than a fourth of the payments, and, in fact, while the expenditure averaged £4,787,000 a day the revenue was only about £1,282,000. So, as usual, the Government had to borrow heavily, and the nett amount of Treasury bills put out during the week was £14,889,000, bringing up the total outstanding floating debt in this form to £886,678,000. In addition to this the Government sold £3,167,000 of Exchequer bonds, which was the lowest "trade" in any week since the beginning, if we exclude the figure against December 8, which did not represent a full week's sales. For the last fortnight the market has been unprecedentedly indifferent towards this form of debt, and it may not revive much until the holidays are over and the October dividend money comes out. With the small addition of last week, however, the total of these Exchequer bonds outstanding is now £164,591,000, and the bulk of last week's sales again centred on the five-year form of debt, which remains the most popular. Of Expenditure certificates only £541,000 were sold, or £220,000 less than in the previous week, but £2,250,000 was again paid into the Exchequer on account of War Savings certificates, or the same as before—and by and by it may be interesting to know how this uniformity was brought about. Altogether the Exchequer gathered in from all sources during the week £29,822,000, and that was £3,650,000 less than it spent, consequently the Exchequer balances were reduced by that amount to £28,585,000, which is enough in one sense and too little in another. For the first time in this financial year the year's Budget estimates as last adjusted have been published in the weekly return, and show an anticipated revenue of

£502,275,000 and an expenditure of £1,826,000,000, the greater part of which goes in actual war expenses. Interest on war debt, however, will cost £114,436,000 it is expected in the current year, and we fear it is an under-estimate. The total charge imposed by the debt, all sinking fund payments on the old debt being meanwhile suspended, will, assuming the estimate just quoted to be exact, exceed £127,000,000.

In answer to a question put by Mr. Mackinder, Mr. MacKinnon Wood says that altogether £82,639,000 of money has been drawn from the working classes on loans in support of the war. The Post Office Savings Bank shows an excess of deposits over withdrawals, comparing the figures at the end of August, 1914, with the latest dates. This excess is £1,082,000, and may mean money held back from investment, but trustee savings banks, which probably embody the transactions of a still poorer class of the community, show an excess of withdrawals over deposits amounting to £1,868,000, and most of this may have found its way into the Treasury. Whether we are to infer this or not is not explained, but it is a point on which information would be most valuable by and by, when the form the great funding of the debt is to take comes to be discussed. The Post Office issue of War Loan stock has amounted to no less than £39,870,000, and the same agency has sold Exchequer bonds to the value of £28,000,000, as also War Savings certificates for £15,555,000 in all. Thus the total mentioned at the beginning of this note is reached, and while delighted to see that the thrift has been so productive of help in the crisis, we have to acknowledge with regret that it is only about a tenth of what is needed, and not a quarter of what could probably have been secured had the quest been the right way gone about.

A discussion of some interest arose in the Commons on the adjournment motion about food prices. Some members complained with insistence about the depreciation in the purchasing price of the sovereign and consequent steadily advancing cost of living. All seemed to think that the Government could do what it liked with prices, and were liberal, as usual, in blaming the Ministry. Not one of them so much as mentioned the probable effect on prices of a substitution of paper money for gold, but shipowners came in for plenty of

abuse, and that at least let off pent-up bad humour. Even Mr. Winston Churchill, who really ought to have known better, joined the yapping pack, and did his best to prove himself a worthy journalistic colleague of the too celebrated Horatio Bottomley. Out of the scrimmage, however, certain facts did emerge, and we know now that, on the authority of Mr. Pretymann, the Secretary to the Board of Trade, the Government has virtually taken control of our entire shipping trade. It has done that by means of licences and otherwise, and yet freights cannot be absolutely controlled even now—never will be. They are considerably lower than they were for a time when, as Mr. Houston emphatically declared, the mismanagement of the Admiralty officials under Mr. Churchill created an artificial and dangerous scarcity in tonnage. However, the freight on wheat from the United States was last Saturday 12s. 2½d. per qr., and before the war it was 2s. 6d. The lowest figure touched since the war seems to have been 7s. per qr., and surely, with the German and other shipping available, and with better ordering of tonnage distribution, something less than 12s. might be established. It is mainly an affair of co-ordinated and well-regulated superintendence. On another point, Mr. Acland, Secretary to the Board of Trade, gave the welcome news that there was a larger stock of horned cattle in England and Wales at the present time than the country had ever before possessed, but labour for the fields is necessarily very scarce. It was too small before the war, and the number has probably been reduced by 300,000 since it arose.

Friday's *Morning Post* contains some unpleasant Dutch official figures with regard to the export trade of Holland in provisions. We have been sorry to see them. Naturally, the *Morning Post* makes use of them to gird at his Majesty's Government, and wants to know why it has not made the blockade more effective. It also cannot help having a smack at Sir Francis Oppenheimer, who used to be our Consul-General at Frankfort-on-the-Maine, and is now Commercial Attaché at The Hague. Sir Francis is a distinguished, able and upright Frankfort Jew, and therefore fair game for the disgruntled. Put all that aside, and look at the facts. As we have said, they look the reverse of pleasant because they seem to reflect upon the loyalty and commercial integrity of the Dutch traders. Our Foreign Office they do not concern at all. How on earth is it possible for us to prevent Holland from trading in her own produce with whom she pleases by any measures imaginable? If Dutch merchants are so greedy of gain as to be ready to betray the best interests of their country, and to turn their backs upon all that is most inspiring in civilisation, we cannot help it. Holland is a free country whose neutrality, whether hypocritical or other, we are bound to respect. This said, take a few of the figures. The contrast is between the first half of 1914 and the first of 1916, and shows that the quantity of butter sent to Germany in the earlier period was only 7,671 tons, whereas for the first half of the present year it was 19,026 tons. To England 3,652 tons were sent in the first half of 1914 and only 97 tons this year. In cheese, again, the exports to Germany increased 39,657 tons and to England fell off 9,034 tons; of eggs, 12,460 tons more were sent to Germany this year than two years ago, and we got 4,000 tons less. Of meat, too, 34,428 tons more have gone to Germany and 32,804 tons less have come to England. Of potato flour, Germany has taken 31,313 tons more and England 8,603 tons less, and of spirits the Germans have received 37,191 hectolitres more, but here we also have been favoured with an increase of 15,185 hectolitres. It would have been fairer, we think, to have given the figures for 1915 as well as those for 1914, so that we might see more exactly what this growth means. But probably that would not have served the political purpose of the conductors of this newspaper, which is always eager to discredit the Ministry, no matter how success in that enterprise might tend to weaken our

power to carry on this war to a successful issue. That and personal spites always colour the attitude of this newspaper, and, therefore, although we give these figures and regret that they should apparently tell so distressing a story for Holland, we cannot join in the mud-throwing.

We never believed that there was any real corner in wheat within these islands. Our grain markets are too independent of each other, and we have no ambitious gambler nowadays of the type with which the United States markets of all kinds are still too often infested. It is obvious that from Yankee operators, not British, the present high price for wheat has come. As Mr. Pretymann reminded the House of Commons, on July 3 last, No. 1 Northern Manitoba wheat was quoted in London at 52s. per qr., and by August 11 the price had risen to 72s. 6d. The same quality of wheat rose in the United States within the like time from 43s. 9d. to 57s. 9d. per qr. Jumps like these could not have been brought about except by market manipulations of the usual perfectly unscrupulous type, but in the long run this kind of thing will probably stimulate European nations to a better cultivation of their own soil, and impel them to struggle to be independent of supplies from Yankeeland. That was the drift of business before the war, and not by any means in grain alone. The latest experience of an engineered hoist of wheat will bite deep into the memory of the community, more deeply than usual, and before very long the smart men of Chicago and New York may feel moved to regret their success. It is the sort of success always which strips the many for the profit of the few—of the individual sometimes. And usually the great engineer of the corner gets hoist with his own petard. Will he be so in this case? Probably. Something depends on what happens in the Balkans, something likewise on the amount of additional freight put at the disposal of Australia, Argentina, India, and Canada, let alone smaller wheat-exporting areas. Of one thing be sure—there is no scarcity of grain in the world.

In former times we used to read with interest notes by Mr. Charles Tower in the *Daily News*, which struck us as being written by a man who knew Germany well, and was earnestly endeavouring to be thoroughly fair in his presentment of facts. Mr. Tower does not write any more for the *Daily News*, but has transferred his talents to the *Daily Mail*, and there we still find him well worth reading. The latest note of his we have seen which interests us above ordinary contains a warning to people here not to be too optimistic about a shortage of the German harvest. It is not a bad harvest, he says, on the authority of one who has seen and can be trusted, only patchy here and there, but on the whole good. He therefore will not be surprised if the hunger lessens in Germany when the crops have been gathered in, and therefore we must not count on ending the war soon by starving the Germans this coming winter. Well, if that is true, it is a pity, but we have to fight on all the same until victory is complete and final. Starvation comparable to the Prussian-induced *dissette* in Paris would have been the most humane because the simplest way to bring the besotted Teuton to his senses, to rouse the serf masses to assert themselves against their inhuman masters, but if it is not to be they must be bled out of their insanity, that is all. Suppose Mr. Tower right, then, what is the inference our Government should draw? It should determine to increase the severity of the blockade, and unite with its Allies in using the utmost diligence in supplying our Balkan armies with the means to press forward until the railway to Constantinople is taken out of the hands of the Germans, and the Dardanelles made to open of themselves, never again to be closed against civilisation.

It is not a flattering statement to make, but, unfortunately true enough—the country is relieved that Parliament has taken its holiday. That a great

majority of members of the House of Commons are genuinely patriotic in feeling and earnest in their desire, if they cannot help, to avoid doing anything that might hinder the progress of the war is true, but, unfortunately, the bulk of members are silent men. You never hear their voices in the House of Commons except in inarticulate noises of approval or disapproval, and amongst those who always thrust themselves before the public the patriotism is generally of a jumbled type, even where not altogether smothered in a sentimental gushiness. It is either that or the men are diseasedly self-assertive and always imperfectly instructed on current affairs. Some few have mean ends of their own, or "causes" mostly foreign to the root causes of the war, to further. In no direction has the essential helplessness of Parliament as aids to the Government been more conspicuously displayed than in a continual harping over peace negotiations, which amounts to a slander on the spirit of the great body of members. We have done our level best to try and reach some conception of the mentality of the men who keep worrying the Ministry on this subject, and have absolutely failed. If there had been signs in any direction that the Germans had been thrashed into reasonableness, that they had abandoned their arrogant claims for territorial expansion, their assertion of the "right" to be gruesomely inhumane and determinedly covetous, to kill snakeishly, to murder the innocent, to starve their prisoners and enslave at will and generally to play the beast, we might have found some excuse for the men who keep asking: "Have you opened negotiations?" "Are you willing to open negotiations?" "Don't you think the time has come to open negotiations?" "Have the Germans not given you a chance to open negotiations for peace?" and so forth and so on; but the testimony is all the other way. We search continually the news which comes from Germany and from neutral sources with German inspiration, and have never found a trace of a disposition to behave like reasonably honest men towards the Allies whom the Prussian aggression provoked to unite in self-defence. These men in Parliament who are harassing the Ministry in its conduct of the war ought to be ashamed of themselves, and we trust that by the time the House assembles again in October the more objectionable of them, and also some of the more piously worthy, will have acquired a little knowledge and sense. "Are we to understand terms of any kind have been suggested by Germany?" demanded Sir Henry Dalziel of Mr. Asquith. "Only what we have seen in the papers," the Prime Minister courteously answers. "Nothing official?" persists the peace-at-any-price microbe, and Mr. Asquith answers, "No." Now, this Scotch gentleman is a journalist of some experience, responsible, we believe, for *Reynolds' Newspaper*, amongst other lights—will-o'-the-wisp lights—and we cannot believe it possible that one so placed could put his hand on any evidence whatever that could have prompted him to these questions. Why does he put them, then? We can only suppose that he does it to keep himself in what is called "the limelight," and it is time the public spoke out in condemnation. For to offer to make peace now would be to betray civilisation, the future of mankind, for ever.

By the acquisition of control over the Prince Line of steamships Furness, Withy and Co. becomes one of the most powerful shipping corporations in the world, not merely in the United Kingdom. The whole of Prince Line, Ltd's., shares have not been bought, but the Furness, Withy Co. has secured a preponderating interest by agreement with Mr. James Knott, the founder of the Line, by private purchases, and also by picking up shares in the open market. Thanks to the hint given by this last method the speculative instincts of the market were awakened, and Prince Line shares were run up swiftly to an extravagant price. Since it became known that the whole of the capital had not been bought at an agreed on figure the eager buyers have been scurrying to unload, and the price has gone back again. An incident of that kind has no bearing upon

the fortunes of the Furness, Withy Co., and cannot affect the intrinsic value of the business in any way. That value should be great in almost any conceivable circumstances, for the Prince Line now consists of fully three dozen good, useful steamers, and as the Furness, Withy Co. will control, not only these, and the German ships taken over from Portugal, which it is to work without profit, but has likewise large interests in quite a number of other shipping companies, it is difficult to imagine where the far-reaching influence of the company in the ocean traffic of the world, whether now or after the war ends, will not be felt as a force. The reserves of the two companies alone, it may be added, must now amount to nearly £2,000,000, and the capital involved exceeds £4,000,000.

In the first half of this year the Bank of Bengal earned gross Rs. 37,85,881, including Rs. 4,16,828 brought forward. This is Rs. 2,98,580 more than in the corresponding half-year, but of that increase Rs. 1,16,521 belongs to the amount brought forward. Expenditure rose by Rs. 49,902 to Rs. 12,00,884, and the nett revenue was therefore Rs. 2,48,678 up at Rs. 25,84,996. Out of this the directors distribute altogether Rs. 16,00,000 in the form of a dividend at the rate of 12 and a bonus at the rate of 4 per cent., both free of income-tax. This time, too, they add Rs. 4,00,000 to the reserve, against nothing in the first half of 1915, and when the usual Rs. 50,000 has been assigned to the gratuity and pension fund Rs. 1,51,322 more at Rs. 5,34,996 will remain to be carried forward. Balance-sheet movements show an increase of Rs. 20,19,980 in bills discounted and purchased, and of Rs. 1,46,89,658 in Government securities held. For the first time a reserve for depreciation of investments amounting to Rs. 50,00,000 appears in the balance-sheet. Apart from that the liabilities of the bank on public deposits are up Rs. 72,40,772 to Rs. 3,36,11,681, while those to the public are Rs. 7,63,604 down at Rs. 23,73,70,307. Owing to the transfer of Rs. 50,00,000 to a special reserve, the total reserve is brought down to Rs. 1,58,00,000.

For the past twelve months closed on June 30, Guest, Keen and Nettlefold, Ltd., made a profit £40,080 larger than that of the previous year, but compared with three years ago the £424,480 thus attained is nearly £27,000 smaller. Are we then to conclude that the company has not got back to the magnificent state of prosperity then shown? By no means. The real profits of the past year are probably very considerably beyond the figure disclosed, beyond any sum ever before netted, for it is arrived at "after making provision for liabilities under the Munitions of War and Finance Acts," and what these provisions are we are not told. It may, however, be guessed that they have been liberal because the balance-sheet shows an entry of £744,765 against sundry creditors, including provision for liabilities under the Munitions of War and Finance Acts, and this total is £359,024 above that of a year ago. It is a reasonable inference, therefore, that Guest, Keen and Nettlefold's various works, which have become controlled establishments, did very well indeed last year. To the actual profit brought out £357,318 brought forward had to be added, so that altogether there is £781,799 available, or £126,958 more than a year ago, because the said addition was nearly £87,000 up. It should have been easy enough, then, to increase the dividend, but the directors, with great prudence, refrained, and instead placed £100,000 to the reserve fund, raising it to £1,550,000, and continue the dividend at 10 per cent., with the customary 5 per cent. bonus added, making 15 per cent. in all for the year, as before. Even then the balance of £377,029 remaining to be carried forward is £19,711 above last year's. Such figures as the balance-sheet disclose are all eloquent of wealth abounding, and the company's investments alone now amount to £2,851,527, an increase of £108,031 on the year. Its cash and bills at bankers and on hand are up £138,950 to £488,216, and the

stock of goods finished and unfinished and of raw materials as certified by Messrs. T. Bernard Hall and Jones, of Birmingham, is down only £6,680 to £701,518.

At first glance one might have jumped to the conclusion that the Workington Iron and Steel Co., Ltd., had revealed the amount it has laid by for extra profits and other taxes, but, unfortunately, the £220,000 set aside against these liabilities also includes a reserve for unexecuted pre-war contracts, so that we are as much unenlightened as before, and except on statistical grounds we can make no complaint. No doubt after a time the shareholders will know all about it, and meanwhile they have the satisfaction of beholding excellent profits, for the £485,419 brought out as nett for the past year is £301,501 more than the profit for the previous, the sixth, year of the company's life ended at like date. To this sum £22,644 has to be added, being the amount brought forward, making £508,063 in all available for division, and the directors are able to raise the dividend on the ordinary shares from 4 per cent. to 10 for the year by a final distribution of 7 per cent. They also again add £30,000 to the reserve and assign £65,000, compared with £50,000, to depreciation, besides holding back £220,000 for the various objects just mentioned. Even so £23,352 will remain to be carried forward, or £707 more than was brought in. The reserve will now amount to £120,000. During the year the £122,340 due on the shares in Harrington Coke Ovens, Ltd., bought by the company has been paid off, and the Ironriggs Iron Ore Shaft with an area of royalty has been acquired. The entire plant and productive capacity was placed at the disposal of the Government, which has practically taken the whole output. During the year the Derwent Mills were put in operation, and by arrangements made with the Government departments the production of the best quality of steel was largely increased. Still further important extensions of plant are being made at considerable outlay, and it is well to strengthen the reserve and to lay by lavishly. Additions last year cost £160,562, so that allowing for the depreciation then provided, the nett increase in the capital value of the entire business, with its freehold, copyhold, and other properties, blast furnaces, steel works, &c., &c., was £110,562, making it £1,851,185. No particular interest attaches to other changes in the accounts.

For the year to February 28 last the Argentine Iron and Steel Co., Ltd., made a profit on trading of £102,876, or £700 more than in the previous twelve months, which may be regarded as very satisfactory in view of the disturbance of business and restriction of enterprise caused by the war. Moreover, it was found possible to make a small saving in expenses, and the nett profit after making provision for depreciation, paying debenture interest, &c., comes out £2,650 better at £59,820. On this occasion £7,760, or £19,400 less, is placed to reserve for contingencies, leaving £52,063, of which £30,000 is absorbed in payment of the preference dividend, and the balance is handed to Don Pedro Vasena in repayment of the amount advanced for the preference dividend to February 28, 1914. During the year £11,300 debentures were drawn for redemption at par and creditors have been reduced by £126,000 to £21,740, while the depreciation fund was increased by £15,400 to £56,970. Stocks are £95,000 lower at £353,500 (still a very heavy amount), and debtors are up £30,000 at £224,630, but there is the substantial balance of £57,140 cash in hand. The company is getting into better shape, and shareholders ought to reap the benefit in the near future.

A knotty question is coming before the Courts at the instance of a group of financial trust companies. In 1913 the Union Pacific Railroad Co. gave its shareholders a double dividend, so to say—the ordinary dividend was 10 per cent. and another 10 per cent. paid out of profits and accumulations. As may be remembered, the Supreme Court of the Republic ordered the dissolu-

tion of the Union Pacific Railroad tyrannous "combine"—for it was that no matter how represented—and in the course of the distribution a large amount of Baltimore and Ohio Railroad stock owned by the Union Pacific had to be sold or distributed. One way or another much profit accrued to the Union Pacific stockholders. Part of the profit was handed in this Baltimore stock in payment of this extra dividend. Our Inland Revenue Office has demanded the payment of income-tax on this dividend, and certain of our Financial Trusts mean to test its right or power to levy the money. Their contention is that the bonus dividend which was handed round was capital and had been represented in the market price of the stock, so that it could not be regarded as current income liable to tax. The price of the stock, in fact, went down, not up, because of this dispersal of accumulated savings and profit on a financial transaction. It is not for us to decide the point, nor even to indicate with emphasis where our sympathies lie, but the case ought to be one of great importance and will therefore be well worth following.

A circular has been issued to the holders of the City of Bahia 5 per cent. Loan of 1912, by Messrs. Frederick J. Benson and Co., the agents, announcing that everything has been settled with the city authorities, and that under the arrangement suggested by the bondholders in October of last year and now accepted by the executive of Bahia City, the holders of the existing loan can exchange their £100 bonds for £120 in the funding bonds. The full three years' interest is to be funded, which means that the coupon payable on February 1, 1915, will be exchanged at the rate of £129 17s. in funding bonds for each £100 of coupons, and the subsequent coupons up to and including the coupons payable on August 1, 1917, at the rate of £127 4s. in Funding bonds for each £100 in coupons. Security for the interest on this new debt will be licence taxes, weights and measures taxes, an additional tax of 7 per cent. on all existing taxes except house tax, and the taxes on the municipal markets, also the existing charges in favour of the 1912 loan and the Bahia Light and Power Loan, as well as the taxes called "decimas" and "industrias profesioes." These all remain unavailable for this 5 per cent. Consolidation Gold Loan of 1916, as the new coupon funding issue is called, but we can hope that the revenues hypothecated will prove enough for the purpose. Bahia has passed through a very rough period, but is recovering itself. Provision for meeting the British income-tax at 5s. in the £ is also to be made through these bonds, which are to be redeemed at par by a cumulative sinking fund of 2 per cent. per annum.

Switzerland has not escaped from the sterilising influences flowing from this war, but the monthly review of the Swiss Bankverein for August rather leads us to infer that there are compensations. Naturally the hotel enterprises have suffered through the stoppage of tourist business, and some of the hotel companies may have to be reorganised after the war. In other directions, however, the country has shown a disposition to resist the depressing influences, and since the Bourses, some of which were reopened last year, have come into full activity again, there has been a large amount of business done, although prices are generally much lower. As an example, the quotation for 45 representative bonds was 81.56 per cent. in July last, and in June, 1914, it was 91.05 per cent., the highest price of all being at the end of December, 1910, when it was 95.31 per cent. A selection of representative shares whose average price aggregated 183.37 in June, 1914, was in July last 165.34 per cent. This is a considerable fall, but nothing alarming in the circumstances, and Switzerland is standing up well amid the whirlpool of destruction all around her. It is pointed out by the Bankverein that our Treasury has included the Swiss Federal Railways 3½ per cent. bonds (Series A—K) in the latest list of securities it is prepared to buy, or take over, and the Bankverein management announces that it will take charge, free of expense, of the deposit of

these bonds on behalf of clients who wish to respond to the British Government's invitation. Also it will carry through the necessary formalities in Switzerland in order to obtain the original bonds on behalf of holders of inscribed deposit certificates issued by the Swiss Federal Finance Department at Berne. There should in this way be a large response to the invitation of our Exchequer.

We see by the papers that a Mr. Cobb, who acts as "stage director and producer" to Mr. George Dance, has been given four months' exemption by the Westminster Tribunal on certain easy conditions, and from this we infer that in the eyes of our great men an "entertainers'" agent is of far more value to the community than an essential member of the staff of a grave financial newspaper.

The Waste of War and Sir John Jackson.

Ink, we believe, is still tolerably cheap else we might have been disposed to complain of waste in newspaper offices. Much ink has certainly been used up in recounting and commenting on the contents of the second report from the Committee on Public Accounts, which was issued last week. And there is enough material in it to make quite a gruesome story of money thrown away, permanent officials cheated by rogue contractors, and costly mistakes made in almost every direction. The result has been that the money voted has seldom or never been nearly enough, and on various accounts deficits are the most eloquent testimony our administrators can produce of the zeal displayed in prosecuting the war. On the ordnance factories appropriation, for example, the nett deficit last year was £675,540, and in other directions chasms are dimly visible. But it is impossible yet to tell where we stand. Accounts have not been rendered up to date either for the British Expeditionary Force in France, as it is called, or relative to the expenditure upon stores, and, above all, of the outlay on shipping, where the blundering of the unworldly and cultured official has almost touched the heroic.

There seems to have been considerable latitude for wasters in the Admiralty Department, and some costly mistakes were made in dealing with the shipping requisitioned or otherwise brought into the service of the Admiralty for war purposes. But everywhere incompetence and amateurishness ran free courses in chaining down posterity. And in regard to works and buildings, several new services were begun without Parliamentary approval, simply at the bidding of the Treasury. Several contracts in connection with war requirements were placed without competitive tender, some being given to contractors already on the spot, or engaged on other naval works, and in one particular case £200,000 was promised to tempt the contractor to go ahead more quickly than he otherwise might in a section of certain important works where progress was being retarded by circumstances arising out of the war. At first there was doubt amongst the minds of the officials whether this nice little bonus should be paid, but in the end it was thought of sufficient importance to be allowed. Stock-taking has been generally abandoned in the Ships, Naval Store, and Naval Ordnance Store accounts, and the Victualling Yard Manufacturing accounts have also been left unoverhauled. We could go on adding to this melancholy tale, but what would be the use? As Dr. Macnamara has sapiently warned us, "war is waste," and the waste in one form or another will go on to the end—and who cares whether posterity agrees to pay, endorses our bills or not?

All the same, we do not think that this report, or the facts as far as known, can be quite squarely, and at all points, utilised to anathematise the public services in an indiscriminate fashion. We are perfectly aware that, as now constituted, the Civil Service from end to end is in ordinary times a much over-staffed and underworked body, smothered in *paperasseries* and routine, and that

it is governed by a strict academic trades union hierarchy never in the slightest degree trained to practical business methods, and too often impervious to any consideration which has not been made familiar to it during its routine of intellectual drill in the lore of times dead and gone. All this is mournfully true, and yet there is a good deal of consolation for the despairing to be extracted by a study of this report, as of others of similar kind. It for one thing shows that efforts are being made to prevent the continuance of a too riotous waste, and with some measure of success. The very stress of war is forcing the officials to look life squarely in the face, and to devise methods by which senseless profusion may be checked and mistakes tending to promote speedy ruin avoided in the future.

But nothing that awakened officials usually concerned in ordering the expenditure of money could do in the way of stopping waste would have much influence but for the existence of the Exchequer and Audit Department, created in 1866, and gradually becoming wiser, more powerful and efficient ever since. The most valuable portion of this second report of the Committee on Public Accounts is really the memorandum relative to the history and functions of this Audit Department furnished to it by Sir H. J. Gibson, the present Auditor-General. Journalists and others engaged with serious intent in guiding the public mind ought to study that memorandum, because it will help them to a more just conception of the way the financial business of the nation is supervised—first muddled through and then straightened out. Thanks to this department the House of Commons has indirectly got back some of its ancient control over the expenditure of money, a control its own proceedings have for so many years tended completely to obliterate. As a rule, even to-day nothing is more depressing than a financial debate in the House of Commons. Speaking generally, nobody there seems able to, or to care to, get at the root of any financial question, to master the significance of any presentment of figures. Consequently criticism is usually either wide of the mark or without reference to the real subject supposed to be in hand. The Exchequer and Audit Department, however, saves the nation from the unwisdom of its law makers, and has brought the Treasury more under control. It is independent, and it overhauls each year's accounts—too late, no doubt, to prevent mischief done, but in time to instil a wholesome respect for what may be said next year if like errors are again visible.

In this last report on war spendings there are some rather sharp things said about Sir John Jackson's company's zeal in hut-providing. Sir John is head of one of the most eminent and honourable firms of contractors in the country. His name is not mentioned in the report, but he does not choose to rest under the shield of anonymity, and at once rebuts the charge of sharp practice in rapacity heaved at his firm. It relates to the hutting of troops. When Lord Kitchener first called for an additional 100,000 men on August 7, it was found that extra accommodation would have to be provided at once for from 20,000 to 30,000 of them. As the demands for men increased the hutting demands also grew, and when the Army swelled out to millions there was naturally tremendous pressure put upon all contractors in any degree capable of meeting the demand to do their utmost in hut building. Different designs for huts were immediately drawn up and work was begun, but the men came faster than the houses, and the cold and wet winter increased the misery and the urgency. At first the huts cost about £15 per man, but what they ultimately cost the Committee's report does not make clear. By July, 1915, however, hut accommodation had been provided in about 260 camps for 850,000 men and 150,000 horses at an expenditure of some £18,000,000, or say £20 per man. Considering the rise in the cost of materials which the sudden extra demand induced this may not be excessive, and had it not been for a charge of, let us call it unfair squeezing, made against one unnamed contractor, we should have concluded that there may have been waste, but that in view of the emergency it

was hardly worse than was to be expected. What, then, is the contractor, Sir John Jackson, charged with? Take the indictment in the words of the Committee:—"At the beginning of the war a large contractor came forward with an offer to erect huts for no payment beyond the bare cost, but subsequently when he was in possession of the work, and the orders given him were consequently increased, he represented to the War Office that he ought to be paid a commission, naming 5 per cent., with $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. added, to cover standing charges." This contractor is further declared by the Committee to have had £3,750,000 of money through his hands, of which only about £400,000 represented expenditure on huts paid for at cost price, and the Committee expresses its regret that no sliding scale of commission was fixed in relation to the value of the work to be executed, that at the time of fixing the commission no understanding was arrived at as to the items on which the commission should be payable, and that no power was taken under the agreement to refuse to pay exorbitant wages or prices for materials—all dicta of sense. The contractor in question, it is alleged, claimed that he should be paid on the cost of everything supplied to him by the Government, and it was finally agreed as a compromise that a commission should be paid upon the value of the timbers supplied, but not on any of the fittings for the huts, nor on certain ready-made huts which the War Office provided, surely a choice muddle up.

As it stands, here is an unpleasantly suggestive story, and had it been incapable of rebuttal it would have constituted a black mark against the firm impeached, but Sir John Jackson steps out into the open, refuses to be tarred and feathered anonymously, says that the truth is quite other. In his statement made to the *Evening Standard* he declares that when the war broke out he himself wrote directly to Lord Kitchener, and offered, without fee or reward, any assistance his staff could give, and that within ten days he was asked by the Army Council to relieve the Royal Engineers by taking a hand with full authority at the camps where help was most needed. The firm did this from patriotic motives, and asked nothing except out-of-pocket expenses. They did it without delay, and work costing about £500,000 passed through the firm's hands on these generous terms. "The celerity and excellence of the work received high praise from the War Office," says Sir John. But by the time this job was finished, or well on the way, the War Department, owing to the colossal undertaking of finding huts for so large a force as the new Army grew to be, was again in difficulties, and Sir John Jackson, Ltd., was asked to enter into the larger undertaking. This it would not do except on payment of some consideration for its trouble. "The War Office," says Sir John Jackson, "named 10 per cent." as the firm's commission. "There was no arguing about it. I said I would be satisfied with 5 per cent., and that was amicably agreed upon without any misunderstanding." Now, if this statement is correct, and we have no reason whatever to doubt Sir John, the Committee of Public Accounts has not only done his firm an injustice which must be repaid, but it has vividly illustrated the unbusinesslike behaviour of the Civil servants concerned. Why should anybody at the War Office have offered 10 per cent. for business of this kind—of any kind? Sir John Jackson says that he would have been content with 5 per cent., and there is not a syllable in his reply with reference to the extra $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. charge exacted to cover "standing charges." We think he would have cheerfully taken less than 5 per cent. if the business had been arranged between men of sense and experience. How would an ordinary house of business have proceeded in an emergency of this kind? It would have asked for tenders, and would have settled the commission to be paid on the lowest sliding scale obtainable. When such large masses of money were to be spent, and when there was nothing unforeseen, or of any particular difficulty to be encountered, probably 2, or at most $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., would have been cheerfully accepted as the remuneration by this firm of contractors. [It has since

been stated in the House of Commons that Sir John's commission has been fixed at 4 per cent., and it is very liberal at that on the capital turned over.] And both the price of the raw materials and the scale of remuneration to be paid ought to have been thoroughly settled before the start. They would have been by an ordinary business house no matter what the emergency was. In this inefficiency of the ignorant and in the irresponsibility of the men without a master, not in actual corruption, the appalling waste which has prevailed finds its explanation. Happily things are now, we believe, on the mend.

By-the-Way War Notes.

Probably our Minister of War was right in refusing to gratify the idle curiosity of an M.P. who wanted to know how many men had joined the colours under conscription. The time has not yet come to give that information to the enemy. His own ranks are not sufficiently denuded to put him in a position to appreciate the information. When the Prussian General Staff knows that its reserves are exhausted, when it has to wrestle with increased reluctance on the part of the non-Prussian Germany to go on being killed for the Junker bully's glory and aggrandisement, then the information that England had still an army of so many millions in readiness to support the millions already in the field might do something to abate the pretensions of the conceit-bloated aggressor and bring us within sight of his submission. Submit he must or we are undone, but he is some distance from being humbled yet, and Mr. George did well to remind us of what we have to face in his speech on the adjournment. Various criticisms, grumbles, and complaints had been trotted out in the debate, but the War Minister swept them all aside and again placed before the nation the nature of the task it has to accomplish before mankind can be delivered from a danger far more ominous than that arising from any previous outburst of brute savagery amongst mankind. In proportion to the degree of our civilisation is the risk we are running should the Prussian savage prevail.

In a way that the commonalty throughout the Empire, that the plain man in all the civilised world, will understand, Mr. George put the position before the country, and he did it so well that we might reprint his speech here and save labour. There are other subjects, however, which we must touch upon in our week's survey, so no more than a point or two in his speech can be given here. Just as we continually do, Mr. George warned the public against a craving for sudden and sensational *coups*. The masses, and those who are held—and often mistakenly held—to be wiser than the masses, display always a hankering after sensations. They want the daily victory, the daily capture of prisoners, of trenches, fortifications, guns, and the sequent march forward. But this war is not like old wars at all, is something more momentous than any war that ever went before it, and the surest victories may sometimes be won almost without movement of any kind. It has taken us more than six weeks to climb to the ridge beyond the Somme in Picardy, but all the time the enemy has been suffering defeat upon defeat, a wastage of "gun fodder" which is the deadliest of all defeats. Although his artillery may be as powerful as ever, the men who serve it are being thinned down in a manner which has only to be persevered in to make the ultimate victory not only more speedy, but more complete than it could be made by any other system of attack. We have to destroy the manhood of a nation gone insane.

Just look round the arena and try to realise what the Prussians have brought upon themselves and on the allies they have duped. They set out to conquer a Europe they took to be disunited. They failed because the nobler soul of Europe drew all the threatened peoples together and resisted. The original plan of the Prussian robber was to sweep all armed opposition aside, to wipe it out of existence, by the secretly made powerful artillery he brought into play, and in a few weeks dictate his own peace; a peace of desolation and

slavery. This done he would squat upon a subdued continent within a few weeks or months as victor unchallenged and unchallengeable. The battles of the Marne settled that ambition, we believe for ever, but it has taken the Allies nearly two years to reach a position of perfect co-ordination and of equipment sufficient to outgun the savage. We are in that position now, and therefore the Germans now find themselves confronted by enemies not only able to hold their own, but also to smash at any chosen point the defences elaborated by them with such antlike assiduity and cunning. Doubtless if we were ready to sacrifice many lives in the Prussian style we could break through the German lines at many points all the way from Nieuport to Peronne, and play the enemy's game by weakening our manhood reserve.

That is not our job, as Mr. Lloyd George clearly pointed out. What we have to do is to harass and consume the enemy by continually goading him to attack us in response to our night and day application of a teasing, demoralising gunnery offensive all along the entire Western front. In addition to that, when the time suits us, we beat him back systematically without pause, at the points selected by the higher command of the two armies in Picardy, and hold him there absolutely powerless to extricate himself from our clutches. Let us quote the War Minister's words:—

The enemy had two alternatives. He might have said: "All right, march on, capture trench after trench, we will give you one after the other of these trenched villages, we might throw in a few French towns. We will give you not merely kilometre after kilometre, we might even give you departments, but we will not let go Verdun, and we will throw our forces on to the Eastern front to prevent the break-up of Austria." He might, on the other hand, have said: "Oh, no; rather than let you break through here and drive us back, we will take guns and divisions from Verdun, and we will concentrate our troops in front of you rather than let you have this territory." He chose the latter. That suited us. It relieved the pressure on Verdun and prevented the enemy from withdrawing his forces to support the Austrians. I want those who are thinking of this offensive in terms of yards or kilometres to realise the full effect of this achievement. One of two things would be a success. Breaking through would be a success, but forcing the enemy to bring his armies there to prevent our breaking through would be an equally great success. The latter we have accomplished. In addition we have rescued a very considerable portion of French territory from the enemy's grip. But that is not the end of it. The enemy is still powerful, and no one pretends that he is yet at the end of his resources. At the present moment his armies are just as numerous as they ever were, his equipment is as formidable as it ever was. That is true of the Germans alone, but it is not true of their allies, not in the least. And if it is not true of their allies, it is because we have been able to concentrate such great forces that we have held the Germanic Power whilst the Russians were dealing with some of her Allies. That has been our contribution, a great contribution, and a costly contribution. Not as costly as the enemy makes it out to be. His accounts of our losses have been grossly, ludicrously exaggerated. . . . We are pressing the enemy back. Sir Douglas Haig's report to-night shows how we are gradually pressing him back here and there over ground every metre of which is important at the present moment because of its dominating position in that particular country. It does not seem to be a very big achievement, but it is all in one direction. We have secured the ascendancy, instead of being pushed back as we were before Verdun, yard by yard, until the Germans got nearer and nearer to the fortress itself. What is happening now? We are pushing the enemy on the Somme, and the French are doing the same. Near Verdun, instead of being driven back gradually day by day and week by week, the French are regaining ground that they had previously lost. All that is a change, but in order to convert that into a real victory, a victory which will enable us to impose the only terms that will make it worth our while for having entered into this war, it is necessary that we should get every possible support that this country or the Dominions can give us. It is upon that support and upon the equipment of Russia with heavy guns and heavy ammunition that victory depends. During the whole of these fateful months the enemy knows perfectly well that if Russia had been equipped with heavier artillery and ammunition her progress would have been much more rapid than it has been. It is upon considerations of that kind, which involve greater sacrifices, still greater drafts upon our tenacity and courage, that the one great question whether we shall see the end of this war in the coming year depends.

What is happening to-day in Picardy and on the Meuse is happening everywhere. The Italians have mastered the Austrians, and are grinding their armies to pulp among the southern buttresses of the Julian and Cadorean Alps. On the Russian Western front in

Poland, Galicia, and Volhynia the day is probably not distant when the Germans will be as powerless against the advancing hosts of the Tsar as the Austrians have already become. If sufficient heavy guns and ammunition can be furnished to General Brussiloff and his subordinates, the march westward of the Russian armies will become more overwhelming than they have ever been; and not a man can be spared by either the Austrian or German Empires from any other part of their much-too-distended fronts to assist Hindenburg and his subordinates in resisting the onset.

And now the Balkan offensive has begun. A most impressive offensive it is going to be. Both Russia and Italy have sent powerful contingents to assist the French and British troops in that most difficult field of war, and this is as it should be because all four Powers have, in varying degrees, interest in the just settlement of the Near-Eastern question, a question that has never yet been "settled" for long since first the barbarian hordes crossed the Danube and invaded Rome. But here, too, the advance may not be spectacular, a thing to put upon the screens of "cinema" shows. It will be methodical, sure, and skillfully conducted. This means that the Allies may not have liberated Serbia, or bottled up the Turks in Constantinople, or obliterated the mushroom State created by Ferdinand the Felon in Bulgaria before another winter; but that all this work will be accomplished before the war ends, before even peace can begin to be talked about amongst the democracies, may now be taken as certain. Our backs—nay, our souls—are in the work, and our resolve is the resolve of all the Allies that it shall be work accomplished in a manner ensuring peace to mankind for—may we not say ages to come?

Much chattering naturally still goes on about the plight of the Greeks, and there is pity for them or scorn expressed according to the observer's point of view. Also speculation revives every other week as to whether Rumania will join the Allies or not. These exercises of the mind we consider more or less wasted energy. It does not matter now what the Greek people may have dreamt of doing or being. Thanks to the dominance of the Hohenzollern influence Greece has lost her opportunity. And a Hohenzollern also has marred the future of Rumania probably quite as effectually as Constantine the Dane and his wife have obliterated Greece as a candidate for a great place in the comity of Eastern European peoples. The Allies have to go on with their work asking for no support first, paying no regard to the vacillations and duperies of the Government of either country. At the end, when the time comes to lay down our arms as victors, Greece and Rumania both must be deprived of the liberty to maintain standing armies. That will be one part of their punishment.

As for Bulgaria, it will not only be cut down in size, but deprived of its tinsel monarchy and whatever armaments defeat and the misery of the impecunious traitor may have left to it. New provinces will have to be carved out of what remains of Turkey in Europe and in Turkish Asia Minor, but what their boundaries may be and who their governors we cannot guess, and do not wish to speculate. Russia will be, we hope and believe, the beneficent overlord or foster-father of all that part of the world, and in Asia Minor, Russia and Italy, France and England must go hand in hand in the renewing of life and hope through all that great territory over which a darkness that might be felt has lain for a thousand years. And in Asia Minor, as in Egypt, the fate of the Turk is being settled. He fights well that unreclaimable barbarian, fights, all testimony asserts, far more honourably than the Prussian or Prussianised Teuton, but none the less has his hour struck; he has to be dispossessed, and power to oppress, to massacre and degrade is to be taken from him for ever.

When we think of Syria the mind naturally slips down to the desert of Suez and what has been happening there. Are we going to rest content with merely thrashing the Teuto-Turkish army that attempted to assail

the Suez Canal from Palestine? Are we not bound to press forward so as to be in a position to help the Shereef of Mecca and also to assist, by taking pressure off, our troops in Mesopotamia as well as to aid the Russians advancing through the mountains of Armenia towards Anatolia? Much may hang by our movements from and around Egypt; even the resettlement of the Mohammedan world may be facilitated by us, and with it the consolidation of Mohammedan allegiance to all the Powers of the *Entente*. For the question of the Caliphate lies behind that Arab revolt in Mecca. The Sultans of Constantinople have never been other than usurpers of that sacred and theoretically elective office. Should not the efforts of the Allies be directed to the selection of the Shereef of Mecca to this sacred office by making known their purpose to leave all Moslems free to choose as they deem fit?

Apparently there is some temporary hindrance placed in the way of a further rapid advance of the Russian armies that have pushed forward with such vigour and success through Bukovina into Galicia, and from the region of the Pripet marshes, in a great converging movement on Lvov or Lemberg, which has already forced the Austro-Germans to precipitate retreat, and raised the number of prisoners the Russians have captured in their new offensive to something approaching 500,000. Mr. Lloyd George hinted that the delay was due to shortage of big guns, and their munitions. If that is so we trust the deficiency may soon be replenished, because when it is there is no reason at all to doubt that Hindenburg, even like the commanders further south, will have to "shorten his front." That ruthless man of blood is said to have remonstrated with the Austrian Government, and warned it of what was coming, and to have followed up his disregarded counsel to the Austrians with recommendations to the Kaiser himself to draw back his armies and curtail his land-thieving ambitions. We hope the Kaiser will do no such thing, for the longer the front is that he has to defend, the more irretrievable is going to be his ruin.

Contemplating the position from the Kaiser's point of view one cannot help being struck by the heralds of judgment to come, so to say, already visibly overhanging him and his brutal absolutism, the actual position of his affairs forces us to note. Talk of our "mistakes," of what we have failed to do, or have done too late. Are they comparable to the blunders of the overweening Prussian, of the Kaiser and his self-sufficient military advisers? In no sense. A sensible people, even a governing caste with a properly developed instinct of self-preservation, would never have allowed a war initiated for the deliberate purpose of conquest and wholesale subjugation of neighbours to run the course it has. But having begun the Prussians dared not stop. They had boasted so much, miseducated the self-minded German people so vilely, and brought it into such a condition of crass ignorance and vain-glory that, once begun, they had to go on. And in going on they have made their destruction sure. That is how the course of the war always presents itself to us as we follow its incidents day by day. The doom of Prussian militarism, of the soul-poisoning autocracy of the Hohenzollern which has ever been a malign force in a world struggling towards freedom and light, is being pronounced at its own solicitation. And the more unblushingly it lies and commits crimes the more should the friends of human advancement be content. Towards the soul-blighting selfish tyranny of the Junker there must be no pity, no forgiveness, lest we come in the end to perishing in its brutal grip.

What precisely happened to our squadron in the North Sea last week is not yet fully known, and, as on the occasion of the Jutland battle, we had at first hardly any news except that about our own losses to mourn over. The latest information, however, is that the German ships, which probably came out to try to draw whatever portion of our fleet could be sighted into a mine field trap, have suffered considerably more damage than ours, a battleship having been torpedoed. We lost only two light cruisers, and most of

the crews were saved, but Germany, besides a battleship sent to the bottom by one of our alert submarine commanders, lost one or perhaps two submarines, and suffered other serious damage. The Germans, of course, claim great feats done by their fleet, and the usual defeat was naturally inflicted upon us, an ignominious defeat in fact, as the position within the empire renders necessary to Junker safety, but past experience enables us to bear the woe with our usual stoicism. The British assertion that a second German submarine was destroyed is not exactly denied by the German Admiralty, but placed in doubt. Contradictory statements are made by both Admiralties, and we naturally believe our own because it has never lied to us, whereas the German Admiralty cannot afford to tell the truth. But it must be admitted that on this occasion the German naval potentates have been less impudently mendacious than their military colleagues habitually are. A sign of grace? No.

Preliminary puffs of the long overdue German War Loan are being circulated, and one of the funniest we have seen is an extract from the *Rhenisch Westfälische Zeitung*, which tells us that Germany's financial policy is "absolutely clear, frank, simple, and devoid of subterfuge. It rests on the shoulders of the whole strong German nation, which is animated by a spirit of self-sacrifice and unswerving determination to conquer." In contrast to this glorious position the Allies are "on the verge of financial ruin," it seems, and it is to be inferred that the hunger-gnawed German citizen has only to take up another notch or two in his belt and remortgage his already twice or thrice mortgaged property in order to create an imaginary asset in paper supposed to represent wealth available for, and to be spent by, the Kaiser in his kill-and-conquer enterprise—and victory will forthwith fall to his withering armies. It is all very interesting, and, from the *Entente* point of view, not a little amusing. Sad is it, too, that there should be in the world at this time of day a nation calling itself civilised capable of being led by its basest instincts to such an extent as to be joyful over its own destruction. But Germany has invited its punishment, and must be allowed to take it to the uttermost.

Timely and wise observations are contained in the *Times'* military correspondent's article, published this Friday morning. We commend them to the lugubrious and despairing. He is dealing with the unity of fronts, and demonstrates, as he almost alone amongst our military writers can when he chooses, how perfect is the harmony in effort between the Allies to-day, and the natural inference is that in proportion to this harmony is the certainty of victory. There can be no doubt about it, and the news from all fronts this morning is the best we have had for some time, not so much because at every point it tells of German defeat, but because it reveals more clearly than usual the effects of unity of action. Obviously the Germans are at their wits' end to know how to maintain an attitude of the requisite bravado on all fronts. They brag, their politicians and military chiefs lie with a perfect freedom astonishing to see; their Press invents fictions of an originality in perversion never rivalled in any land, and in acting thus reveals the growing weakness. The Allies do not require to lie, but baffled bullies must. All these squirmings do not affect the facts in the slightest. On the Somme, in Volhynia and Galicia, in the Balkans, in Asia Minor, even in Persia, the Germans are being worn down, and it is no longer possible for them to strengthen one part of the threatened lines by rushing troops shuttlewise to the danger point. Look what the immediate consequence of sending Turkish troops to stiffen up the collapsing Austrian armies in Galicia has been. The Turks have not perceptibly stayed the Russian advance, but the Turkish army in Asia Minor has been so weakened as to facilitate the resumption of triumphant progress by the Russians there. On the Somme the great work of mowing the enemy down goes on apace, and week by week his power to hold his own, not to speak of driving us back, is waning. When will the day arrive when the German doer who comes to be

killed for a brutal master will begin to understand what is awaiting him? Who can say? The day may never come. He has proved such a gullible and greedy fool that obviously his masters feel at liberty to go on feeding him to our guns, and deceiving him without the slightest thought of danger from revolt.

What are the chief uses of the Zeppelin? So far as the Germans are concerned Zeppelin airships are the most valuable asset the Berlin lie factory at present possesses, and they do a little scouting, help also materially to increase the loathing in which everything and everybody German has come to be held here by doing a little haphazard murdering on the cheap. Ah, not so cheap either, for Mr. Pretymann tells us that some three dozen of the monsters have been lost or destroyed since the war began. Good investments, then? Yes, for the Allies. And what of submarines? Are they not more active than ever, sinking ships right and left? Yes and no, emphatically no; and it is a pity the Admiralty cannot see its way to publish a lump figure or two answering the questions how many German submarines are known to have been destroyed since the war began, and up to, say, June 30 last, and what is the probable additional number sunk, on a reasonable inference? Neither places nor dates need be given, and the news would not only dissipate vapours at home, but perhaps assist the Germans in "floating" their loan.

The London Rubber Market.

While the price of rubber has recently shown a rather harder tendency, it is probably near the truth to say that the market in the commodity is passing through the most anxious time in its history. That may seem a rather bold statement when it is recalled that only five or six years ago a few daring speculators, who had unlimited tracts of undeveloped land in the Middle East at their disposal, and great stacks of shares to get rid of, manipulated the price of the raw material to over 12s. per lb. That was quite a notable feat in its way, and, looking back, it seems almost incredible, but as a matter of fact, owing to a variety of circumstances, it was a great deal easier of accomplishment than it would be to raise standard crêpe to 3s. at the present moment. Of course, the market had some trying times to get over on the way down to 2s. 6d., or less, but all the same the situation that has now to be faced is extraordinarily difficult for those who have been preaching 3s. or even 4s. per lb. as the probable and reasonable value of rubber for the next few years, although the wildest enthusiast is forced to admit that 1s. 6d. or 1s. may have to be accepted as the selling basis in the future.

For some time past there has been an active agitation in Singapore, which may be regarded as the headquarters of the rubber industry in the East, to eliminate the London market as the central emporium of the commodity, and to sell the Straits, &c., output direct to the consumer—principally America. It looks extremely plausible, especially at this juncture, when war risks and other contingencies have to be considered. There are no "U" boats in the Pacific, and it seems quite a common-sense proposition to ship rubber direct from Singapore, or any other eastern port, to San Francisco, seeing that America is, and likely to continue, by far the largest individual consumer of the material. We have not a word to say against it; trade will, and ought to, find the most economical and natural channel, in spite of any artificial barriers that may be set up. It must be very disgusting to patriotic Anglo-Malayans to have to send their produce all round the troubled waters of the Mediterranean and Atlantic to London when they have a straight course across the Pacific to their best customer.

Why London should try, and manage, to control this trade need not concern us for the moment, but we remember many years ago when desperate efforts were made to dispossess London of its supremacy in the tea trade in favour of Liverpool, Glasgow, and Dublin. Not an argument that would hold water could be found in favour of the rascally London broker as against the

claims of the other distributing centres, and, to his credit, it must be admitted that he did not attempt to put any forward. He just went on doing the business, and probably the incident is entirely forgotten by all but a few old-stagers who took part in it. Anyhow, the scheme to set up provincial markets proved a lamentable fiasco. In the case of rubber the situation at present is complicated by the system of permits for re-exports which is not calculated to facilitate trade, and quite an appreciable amount is being sent direct from Singapore to America via San Francisco. It is significant, however, that contracts of this kind are only for the duration of the war, which seems to indicate that neither buyers nor sellers are very confident about the probable course of events afterwards. Of course, there have been howls from some of the Mincing Lane dealers, whose experience in many cases does not date much farther back than 1910, and the Rubber and Tin Exports Committee is bitterly assailed for helping to drive trade away from the London market. Naturally there is always a danger that business diverted from one channel to another may not be recovered, and the exceptional nature of existing conditions undoubtedly tends to foster changes. But if it is found to be in the interests of rubber planters to ship direct to America, it is certain that the discovery would have been made sooner or later, and nothing that Mincing Lane can do would stop it. It is not at all unlikely, however, that the London dealers are taking too pessimistic a view of the position, and that the bulk of the trade will again pass through their hands when normal conditions are restored. Meantime, the chief importance of the matter is that in comparing statistics of rubber imports and exports it is necessary to make allowance for direct shipments to America which are of comparatively recent date on any important scale. Most of the profit goes into British pockets, and the temporary loss to London for handling and commission is not serious enough to make a fuss about.

A point of much more importance is that the Americans are beginning to interest themselves to quite a considerable extent in rubber plantations. We hear that they have taken up, and are developing, large areas in the Middle East. There is, of course, plenty of room for everybody, and practically unlimited areas have been proved suitable for rubber cultivation. If the Yankees go into the business seriously they can get plenty of capital, and they would soon become an important factor as producers as well as consumers. For the present there is no danger of over-production, and ultimately rubber will be put to new uses which will absorb all that the world can grow, but not until the price is very much reduced. Tea planters even in these gorgeous days of inflated prices have to be content with a profit of 30 to 40 per cent. on the cost of production, and in most years very much less, while the profit on rubber ranges from 100 to 200 per cent. Estates favourably situated can produce rubber at 10d. to 1s. per lb., and in the long run it will probably have to be sold for 1s. to 1s. 3d. That will be good for the industry as a whole, but many of the fancifully capitalised companies which have made little provision for development and extension will not find the prospect so pleasing.

New Zealand's Gold Reserve.—The Australian Mints, which, up to a few months ago, supplied New Zealand and Australia with gold and silver coin, have announced that they no longer intend to make half-sovereigns, and the New Zealand banks, in common with banking institutions the world over, are conserving large supplies of gold and making practically all payments in silver and notes. The amount of gold coin held in reserve in New Zealand banks at the close of 1915 was approximately £6,000,000, as against £5,000,000 in 1913. There is no difficulty regarding the minting or supply of silver.

ROMANO'S, LTD.—This well-known restaurant so far recovered the ground lost in the first year of the war that it was able to show a profit of £5,030 for the twelve months ended June 30, compared with a loss of £60 for 1914-15, and a profit of £5,055 in the preceding year. The directors, however, evidently do not feel any too confident of the future, and after restoring to reserve the £1,000 withdrawn a year ago, they increase the balance carried forward by £4,030 to £18,129. Liabilities on loans show a decrease of £7,080 at £2,762, while, on the other hand, stocks have been reduced by £6,730 to £13,239, and cash has risen by £2,646 to £4,575.

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Incorporated A.D. 1720.

Governor: Vivian Hugh Smith, Esq.

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The Investors' Review.

Money and Credit Notes.

BANK RATE 6 PER CENT. (Increased from 5 per cent. on Thursday, July 13.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

Talk has again sprung up in the City pointing to the early issue of that big and ever-bigger War Loan which has been hanging over us for so many months. It is only talk, and we cannot find any evidence of a changed policy on the part of the Government. It would hardly have been possible for the Ministry to allow Parliament to take its holiday without indicating its designs had the consolidation loan been imminent. The talk might be Boche-prompted. Our opinion is that, having financed the war so long by various expedients—nearly all of them involving risk, but all ingenious, and up to now remarkably successful—it would be unwise to attempt to consolidate the floating debt at the present time. We must wait until the mass of the community begins to comprehend that the Allies are really destroying Prussian militarism, delivering mankind from the horror of a brutish tyranny comparable to nothing known to civilised man since the Turk overran the Danube lands to the gates of Vienna. As soon as this condition of mind is reached, it will be comparatively easy for the Government to float a loan of almost any imaginable magnitude, and to secure far better terms than would to-day be possible.

There is nothing to say about the Money market itself this week; the essential information is all in our tables. Necessarily the effect of excessive Government payments made floating balances abundant and cheapened rates, but only for short loans. Discount remains just where it was, only October Treasury bills have been in demand by the banks and the discount for them has fallen to 5 $\frac{1}{8}$.

Why the Bank return week by week shows such enormous increases in the "other" deposits we cannot guess, and it is useless to try to find out. The increase last week was £7,890,000, bringing the aggregate up to £101,752,000. On the other hand, the "public" or Government deposits went back £2,794,000 for

reasons explained in our Passing Events, and the £51,428,000 to which their total now amounts is no less than £82,625,000 smaller than at this date last year. All these movements find their explanation in the necessities of war finance. A trivial recoil has taken place in the reserve, but owing to the nett increase in the deposit liabilities, its proportion to liabilities has shrunk 1 per cent. to 26 $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. It is still 2 per cent. above the proportion 12 months ago.

SILVER.

A demand for silver on account of the Indian bazaars which sprang up in the beginning of the week has been the main support of the market. Supplies have been small, and as buyers have not succeeded in obtaining all they required the price has risen to 31 $\frac{1}{8}$ d. per oz.

Applications for the Rs. 30,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 2,13,30,000. Of these Rs. 98,000 were allotted in bills, Rs. 14,08,000 in deferred transfers, and Rs. 14,94,000 in immediate transfers, tenders for bills and deferred transfers at 1s. 4 3-32d. and for immediate transfers at 1s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. receiving about 42 per cent. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is again Rs. 30,00,000. Between April 1 and August 15 the total sales were Rs. 8,41,13,713, realising £5,640,739.

Mr. McKenna's official information given in the House of Commons on Wednesday afternoon about the new Morgan loan of \$250,000,000 raised in New York did not differ at all from what we stated a week ago. The Government pays 5 per cent. per annum on two-year notes sold at 99, minus 1 per cent. underwriting commission. The nett return to our Exchequer is therefore 98, and as repayment takes place at 1 per cent. premium, while the margin of securities to be deposited against the advance involves us in additional liabilities, we must repeat that it is very dear borrowing. The terms, in fact, are something to be remembered.

In further talk Mr. McKenna made it plain that those who do not deposit the securities named in the list published by us last week will be fined. The Government will impose a special income-tax on the interest from these Canadian and neutral securities if withheld. The tax, too, will strike all, even the smallest, holders, because, although the Government does not directly handle amounts of less than £1,000, or \$5,000, stock-brokers and bankers can collect the securities in fifties and hundreds of pounds, and make up the minimum acceptable to the National Debt Commissioners. A further question raised was whether the Government would sell the collateral securities deposited with it, and, if they did so, whether any profit accruing would go to the Government or to the depositor, and Mr. McKenna made it clear that all the advantage belonged to the depositor. He went on to point out that the British Government had no inducement whatever to sell. It would only do so "if unable to meet its liabilities," and, he added, "this may be regarded as an extremely remote contingency," which is surely the truth. We are having to mobilise our stored wealth, but it is done in open day, and so far to an extent insignificant compared to the aggregate of our resources.

We may note here that the head office of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia was opened with great ceremony on the 21st inst. by the Governor-General. The building is said to be a magnificent structure, costing £164,000, and Mr. Hughes, the Prime Minister, who attended, declared that "the bank housed in this palace is a pillar in the structure of national finance, and has rendered inestimable service since the war—is a symbol, in fact, of Australia's great wealth." We hope that this is true, and will remain true, although unlimited paper money does not usually, or necessarily, give countenance to this hope. However, the bank has undoubtedly been most liberal in the paper money help it has given, as also most prompt in deciding to give it. Here in London the great occasion was emphasised by a presentation to Mr. Andrew Fisher, the High Commissioner for Australia, of a duplicate gold key to the building that day opened in Sydney. Mr. Fisher was Prime Minister of the Commonwealth Government when the bank was called into being.

New Zealand is evidently determined to be no whit behind its neighbour, the Australian Commonwealth, in providing money for the war. Sir Thomas Mackenzie, the High Commissioner of the Dominion, announces receipt of a cable telling him that the amount of the internal War Loan subscribed has exceeded £9,250,000. That is the product of a ten days' effort. With such success before them, it is no wonder that the New Zealand Ministers have decided to keep the lists open to the end of this month, by which time it is anticipated that perhaps more than £9,500,000 will have been subscribed. We can only say "more power" to the thrifty in New Zealand.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, August 23, 1916.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued	£	Government Debt..	£
.. .. 73,704,220		.. .. 11,015,100	
		Other Securities 7,434,900	
		Gold Coin and Bullion .. 55,254,220	
		Silver Bullion —	
£73,704,220		£73,704,220	

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£	Government Securities ..	£
Rest 14,553,000		Other Securities 89,047,403	
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts) ..	51,428,269	Notes 38,167,825	
Other Deposits 101,751,917		Gold and Silver Coin .. 1,892,694	
Seven Day and other Bills .. 20,855			
£171,295,544		£171,295,544	

Dated Aug. 23, 1916.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year.

Last year, Aug. 25.	Aug. 16, 1916.	Aug. 23, 1916.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	£	£	£	£
3,638,767	Rest 3,493,678	3,541,483	47,805	—
34,054,324	Pub. Deposits .. 54,221,928	51,428,269	—	2,793,659
89,465,037	Other do. .. 93,862,127	101,751,917	7,889,790	—
29,031	7 Day Bills .. 26,862	20,855	—	6,007
45,655,382	Assets.		Decrease.	Increase.
442,137,266	Gov. Securities .. 42,188,270	42,187,602	—	668
53,947,511	Other do. .. 83,811,349	89,047,403	—	5,236,054
	Total Reserve .. 40,157,976	40,060,519	97,457	—
			8,035,720	8,035,720
			Increase.	Decrease.
39,186,123	Note Circulation .. 35,705,795	35,536,395	—	169,400
67,300,766	Coin and Bullion .. 57,413,771	57,146,914	—	266,857
24.1 p.c.	Proportion .. 27.1 p.c.	26.1 p.c.	—	1 p.c.
5	Bank Rate .. 6	6	—	—

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For 7 days ended Aug. 19.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
£	£
Customs 960,000	National Debt Service ..
Excise 3,067,000	Interest, &c., on War Debt .. 1,450,328
Estate, &c., Duties .. 485,000	Development & Road Impvt. Payments to Local Taxation .. 392,300
Stamps 62,000	Other Consolidated Fund ..
Land Tax and House Duty ..	Charges
Property and Income Tax .. 930,000	Supply Services 31,667,000
Excess Profits Tax 1,983,000	Bullion Advances 100,000
Land Values 10,000	For Advance for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 .. —
Post Office 1,300,000	For Treasury Bills (nettamt.) .. —
Crown Lands	For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan Redemption Act, 1910 .. —
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares .. 22,193	Issues under Section 1 of War Loan Act, 1915 .. —
Miscellaneous 155,493	Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 .. —
Bullion advances repaid .. 50,000	Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 .. —
For Treasury Bills (nett amt.) 31,473,000	Under Housing Act .. —
War Loan, 1925-8	Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8 .. —
War Loan, 1925-45	Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11 .. —
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919 .. 630,000	E. Africa Protectorate Loan .. —
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920 .. 550,000	Cunard Loan repayment issued to reduce debt under the Cunard Agreement .. —
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1921 .. 1,987,000	Deficiency advances repaid .. —
War Expenditure Certificates .. 541,800	China Indemnity issued to reduce debt under Finance Act, 1903 .. —
War Savings Certificates .. 2,250,000	Ways and Means Advances repaid 16,497,000
Other Debts created under War Loan Act, 1915 .. —	Increase in Exchequer balances
Telegraph Money Act, 1913 .. —	
Under Post Office Rly. Act, 1913 .. —	
Under Military Works Acts, 1897-1903 .. —	
Under Housing Act	
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920 .. —	
East Africa Protectorate Loan repayments .. —	
Suez Canal Drawn Shares .. —	
China Indemnity	
Ways and Means Advances .. —	
Decrease in Exchequer balances 3,650,142	
£50,106,628	£50,106,628

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1916.	1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
January	1,071,948,000	918,685,000	153,263,000	—
February	1,107,655,000	960,743,000	146,912,000	—
March	1,364,599,000	1,231,392,000	133,207,000	—
April	1,090,356,000	976,264,200	114,092,000	—
May	1,447,416,000	1,164,194,000	283,222,000	—
June	1,147,630,000	960,209,000	187,421,000	—
July	1,239,193,000	1,316,695,000	—	77,502,000
August 2	290,541,000	260,768,000	29,773,000	—
" 9	281,203,000	273,843,000	7,360,000	—
" 16	276,710,000	283,050,000	—	6,340,000
" 23	259,155,000	258,873,000	282,000	—
Total ..	9,576,406,000	8,604,716,000	971,690,000	—

CURRENCY NOTES.

Return of Currency Notes for the week ended August 23, 1916.

	Issued.	Cancelled.	Outstanding.
	£	£	£
£1 notes	2,718,066	3,074,596	90,870,165
10s. notes	964,390	1,061,880	28,394,216
Note certificates	100,000	150,000	10,180,000
Previous total	409,611,048	279,662,647	—
	413,393,504	283,949,123	129,444,381

Ratio of gold held against notes: this week, 23.90 p.c.; last week, 23.81 p.c.

SHORT TERM GOVERNMENT LOANS.

	Sales Last Week.	Sales This Week.	Total Outstanding.
	£	£	£
Treasury Bills	15,513,000	14,889,000	886,678,000
Exchequer Bonds, 1919 ..	673,000	630,000	31,172,000
Do. 1920	600,000	550,000	234,553,500
Do. 1921	2,131,000	1,987,000	52,555,000
War Expenditure Certificates ..	767,500	541,800	18,923,300
War Savings Certificates ..	2,250,000	2,250,000	19,350,000

FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	July 28, 1916.	July 21, 1916.	July 14, 1916.
	£	£	£
Gold coin and certificates ..	51,986,200	52,409,800	53,920,400
Gold Redemption Fund ..	383,600	386,200	394,000
Gold Settlement Fund ..	20,582,200	19,912,200	23,726,200
Legal tender notes, silver, &c.	3,317,800	2,760,400	2,055,800
Total reserves	76,269,800	75,468,600	80,096,400
5% redemption fund against F.R. bank notes	90,000	90,000	90,000
10-day bills and loans	3,461,600	3,432,600	2,122,600
30-day bills and loans	3,884,200	5,348,000	5,151,000
60-day bills and loans	8,003,800	7,260,400	7,088,200
90-day bills and loans	6,098,600	6,024,200	5,740,000
Maturities over 90 days ..	761,400	798,600	911,800
Total	22,209,600	22,863,800	21,019,600
Investments—			
U.S. Bonds	9,731,200	9,949,200	10,517,800
One year U.S. Treasury notes	1,585,000	1,438,000	909,200
Municipal Warrants	5,444,000	5,544,600	5,184,800
Federal Reserve notes—nett.	4,061,600	4,002,800	4,152,000
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—nett.	2,524,000	2,396,400	4,011,200
All other assets	1,102,800	951,200	1,648,800
Total assets	123,018,000	122,704,600	127,929,300
Paid-up capital	11,041,200	11,036,600	11,035,200
Government Deposits	11,308,400	10,855,400	19,495,200
Reserve deposits—nett.	98,253,200	98,400,000	94,988,400
Note circulation—nett.	2,024,400	2,024,000	2,019,600
Fed. Res. notes in circulation	338,400	338,400	344,000
All other liabilities	52,400	50,200	47,400
Total liabilities	123,018,000	122,704,600	127,929,800
Gold reserve against nett liabilities	66.9%	68.8%	69.4%
Cash reserve against nett liabilities	69.9%	69.3%	71.2%

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Aug. 24, 1916.	Aug. 17, 1916.	Aug. 10, 1916.	Aug. 26, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold in hand	192,322,320	192,085,640	191,933,840	170,652,760
Silver in hand	13,573,040	13,539,640	13,538,440	14,670,160
Bills discounted	16,993,520	17,605,040	17,128,360	11,008,800
Advances	47,223,080	47,332,360	47,471,240	23,491,360
Note circulation	655,042,640	652,656,840	653,196,920	528,011,160
Public deposits	6,340,600	5,672,280	5,500,160	2,762,720
Private deposits	89,612,520	85,188,720	85,173,200	98,939,680
Foreign Bills	8,520	74,880	65,680	49,680

Proportion between bullion and circulation 31.43 per cent., against 31.50 per cent. last week. Advances to the State £336,000,000, unchanged. The adjourned payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium, figures doubtful, and at the branches amounted to £30,976,840, decrease £74,440.

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	Aug. 19, 1916	Aug. 12, 1916	Aug. 5, 1916	Aug. 21, 1915
	£	£	£	£
Loans	648,010,000	646,588,000	643,452,000	526,962,000
Reserve held in own Vaults ..	81,172,000	86,402,000	85,206,000	94,936,000
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk.	32,100,000	32,472,000	33,098,000	26,770,000
Reserve held in Other Depos.	10,540,000	10,440,000	10,154,000	6,060,000
Nett Demand Deposits	629,440,000	624,512,000	618,352,000	523,128,000
Nett Time Deposits	43,408,000	45,844,000	47,074,000	28,654,000
Circulation	6,246,000	6,246,000	6,250,000	7,480,000
Excess Lawful Reserve	22,356,000	21,660,000	21,800,000	37,158,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits.

NEW YORK STATE BANKS & TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.).

	Aug. 19, 1916.	Aug. 12, 1916.	Aug. 5, 1916.	Aug. 21, 1915.
Loans	£142,430,000	£141,266,000	£141,876,000	£118,502,000
Specie	11,906,000	12,008,000	11,986,000	10,004,000
Deposits	159,522,000	149,200,000	149,792,000	122,460,000
Legal Tenders ..	1,730,000	1,742,000	1,752,000	1,710,000

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Aug. 15, 1916.	Aug. 7, 1916.	July 31, 1916.	Aug. 14, 1915.
Total Coin & Bullion	£124,865,150	£124,780,450	£124,852,200	£122,524,600
Treasury Notes	18,266,550	18,566,600	20,804,130	11,748,400
Bills discounted	335,869,000	326,168,300	327,100,050	236,422,100
Advances	607,450	607,750	636,550	642,100
Note circulation	346,337,000	343,427,300	351,228,200	269,438,650
Deposits	133,554,800	122,268,550	119,779,750	87,776,350

Clearing House returns during July, £273,378,015 against £257,755,660 in June.

IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Aug. 21, 1916.	Aug. 12, 1916.	Aug. 5, 1916.	July 29, 1916.
Notes in reserve ..	£10,280,000	£10,870,000	£7,710,000	£11,180,000
Gold	154,860,000	154,930,000	154,600,000	154,740,000
Gold in reserve abroad	205,703,000	196,230,000	186,763,000	186,800,000
Treasury Bonds ..	393,110,000	387,330,000	389,900,000	376,220,000
Circulation note issue	692,720,000	687,620,000	681,283,000	675,310,000
Treasury deposits ..	10,280,000	20,000,000	21,570,000	21,000,000

NETHERLANDS BANK (12 Florins to the £).

	Aug. 19, 1916	Aug. 12, 1916	Aug. 5, 1916.	Aug. 21, 1915
Gold and Silver ..	£49,664,250	£49,777,250	£49,825,166	£31,709,397
Bills and Advances ..	13,129,416	12,911,833	12,659,833	13,075,960
Note circulation ..	52,295,000	55,398,916	55,833,333	42,270,154
Deposits	10,971,000	10,184,666	9,593,166	3,362,710

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Aug. 12, 1916	Aug. 5, 1916	July 29, 1916	Aug. 14, 1915
Gold	£44,359,379	£43,858,317	£43,652,687	£28,285,978
Silver	30,248,719	30,253,941	30,612,301	29,531,372
Foreign Bills ..	3,870,248	3,793,227	3,836,301	4,831,184
Discounts and Short Bills	23,544,706	23,500,503	23,312,826	26,109,095
Treasury Account, &c.	30,492,040	30,408,461	30,291,188	31,059,353
Notes in Circulation ..	89,526,618	89,470,730	88,485,166	80,898,904
Current Accounts, Deposits	31,663,956	30,481,395	30,879,670	26,995,248
Dividends, Interests, &c.	1,386,983	1,644,549	1,852,460	1,686,371
Government Securities	1,016,108	1,035,867	912,084	2,207,995

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	July 20, 1916	July 10, 1916	June 30, 1916	June 20, 1916
Total cash	£44,065,240	£44,942,800	£45,005,320	£45,121,040
Italian Bills	19,317,520	18,567,320	17,937,920	17,910,880
Foreign Bills	832,840	832,760	833,720	821,360
Advances	7,740,320	7,815,960	8,421,880	8,289,720
Government securities	8,793,080	8,777,400	8,439,960	8,559,160
Circulation	134,594,280	135,856,800	135,162,600	130,097,160
Deposits at notice ..	13,555,960	14,091,120	17,933,640	14,207,720
Current accounts ..	15,236,500	15,068,720	15,386,800	16,096,480

SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	Aug. 15, 1916.	Aug. 7, 1916.	July 31, 1916	Aug. 14, 1915.
Gold and silver ..	£13,263,655	£13,269,908	£13,304,188	£11,940,988
Bills	7,510,168	6,817,848	6,147,092	5,969,828
Note circulation ..	16,328,496	16,667,376	17,022,928	15,734,608
Current and deposit accounts ..	6,692,000	5,421,452	4,522,408	4,120,904

BANK OF NORWAY.

	Aug. 15, 1916.	Aug. 7, 1916.	July 31, 1916.	Aug. 15, 1915.
Gold	£6,328,000	£6,326,000	£6,326,000	£3,434,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	6,471,000	6,467,000	6,461,000	3,627,000
Gov't Securities ..	768,000	767,000	767,000	637,000
Discounts & Loans ..	5,146,000	5,251,000	4,753,000	4,108,000
Notes in Circulation ..	12,012,000	11,814,000	11,864,000	7,856,000
Deposits at notice ..	4,161,000	4,481,000	4,051,000	1,354,000

BANK OF SWEDEN.

	Aug. 12, 1916.	Aug. 5, 1916.	July 29, 1916.	Aug. 14, 1915.
Gold	£9,213,000	£9,214,000	£9,217,000	£6,299,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	9,365,000	9,144,000	8,863,000	5,098,000
Swedish and Foreign Gov't Securities ..	3,803,000	3,823,000	3,837,000	2,757,000
Discounts and Loans ..	3,198,000	3,346,000	2,909,000	6,558,000
Notes in circulation ..	18,174,000	18,227,000	17,568,000	15,197,000
Deposits at notice ..	6,213,000	6,151,000	6,300,000	4,519,000

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.
Paris	chqs.	28.12 1/2	28.12	Antwerp	short	—	—
Brussels	chqs.	—	—	Italy	sight	30.87	30.86
Amsterdam ..	sight	11.54 1/2	11.54 1/2	Constantinople	3 mths	12 1/2 d.	12 1/2 d.
Stockholm ..	—	16.65	16.85	Rio de Janeiro.	90 dys	48 1/2 d.	48 1/2 d.
Copenhagen ..	—	17.15	17.20	Buenos Aires ..	90 dys	48 1/2 d.	48 1/2 d.
Petrograd ..	3 mths	155 1/2	154	Calcutta	T.T.	1/4 d.	1/4 d.
New York ..	cable	4.76 1/2	4.76 1/2	Bombay	T.T.	1/4 d.	1/4 d.
Lisbon	sight	35	35	Hong Kong ..	T.T.	2 1/2 d.	2 1/2 d.
Madrid	sight	23.56	23.62 1/2	Shanghai	T.T.	2 1/2 d.	2 1/2 d.
				Singapore	T.T.	2 1/4 d.	2 1/4 d.
				Yokohama	4 mths	2 1/2 d.	2 1/2 d.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Aug. 22, 1916.	Aug. 24, 1916.
		Sellers. Buyers.	Sellers. Buyers.
Amsterdam ..	Cable transfers ..	11.53	11.56
	Three months' bills ..	11.70	11.75
Paris	Cable transfers ..	28.10	28.14
	Three months' bills ..	28.50	28.55
Marseilles ..	Cable transfers ..	28.50	28.55
Switzerland ..	Cable transfers ..	25.18	25.25
	Three months' bills ..	25.55	25.65
Petrograd ..	Cable transfers ..	154 1/2	154
Genoa, &c. ..	Cable transfers ..	30.80	30.90
	Three months' bills ..	31.25	31.35
Spain	Cable transfers ..	23.55	23.65
	Three months' bills ..	48 1/2	48 1/2
Lisbon and Oporto	Cable transfers ..	34 1/2	35 1/2
	Three months' bills ..	Nom.	Nom.
Scandinavia ..	Cable transfers ..	16.80	16.90

TREASURY BILLS.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months ..	5 1/2	5 1/2
	(£98 12 3/4) .. (£98 12 3/4)	
Six months ..	5 1/2	5 1/2
	(£97 2 1/4) .. (£97 2 1/4)	
Nine months ..	6	6
Twelve months ..	6	6
	(£94 0 0) .. (£94 0 0)	

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted	5 1/2	5 1/2
Three months ..	5 1/2	5 1/2
Four months ..	5 1/2	5 1/2
Six months ..	5 1/2	5 1/2
Three months fine inland bills	6 1/2	6 1/2
Four months ..	6 1/2	6 1/2
Six months ..	6 1/2	6 1/2

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	6	6
short loan rates ..	6 1/2	6 1/2
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	4	4
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call) ..	4 1/2	4 1/2
7 and 14 days' notice ..	4 1/2	4 1/2
Current rates for 7 day loans ..	4 1/2	4 1/2
for call loans ..	4 1/2	4 1/2

The Week's Stock Markets.

It is a good indication of the condition of affairs in the Stock Exchange that the Committee have decided to close the House on three Saturdays in September without waiting for a petition to be presented on the subject. Some members object to these odd holidays, but so many firms are short-handed, and not a few find it impossible to take their customary vacation, that the opportunity of a prolonged week-end is undoubtedly welcomed by the majority. Business is quiet enough in nearly all directions to make the loss of a couple of hours' trading on a Saturday of little consequence, and with speculation eliminated the only difference is that the Monday session is a bit busier. Owing to the poor sales of Exchequer bonds in the past two or three weeks the question of a new War Loan has been freely discussed, and the general opinion is that a big issue in the autumn is by no means unlikely, especially if some decisive blow can be got home meantime. Forms are being got ready for small deposits under "Scheme B" for the regulation of foreign exchanges, as the Treasury does not accept any amount less than £1,000. A supplementary list of 47 additional securities has been issued; the process of conscription under the scheme has been accelerated by the very definite intimation of the Chancellor that holders who do not deposit the stocks required by the Government will be penalised by an extra income-tax. The American market has been upset to some extent by the delay in settling the railway dispute, as the men threaten to strike if terms

are not promptly arranged. After their sharp advance on the promise to restore the line to the company on September 1, Mexican Rails have reacted on profit-taking, but in view of the indications that affairs in the country are improving other Mexican securities have attracted the attention of bargain-hunters. It must be a long time before much progress can be made in re-establishing normal conditions, but there are several stocks that look cheap to those who can afford to wait. Another fall has occurred in the Brazilian exchange, and it begins to look very doubtful whether the Government will be able to fulfil its promise to resume cash payments on the external debt next year. We may hope for the best, but are not very confident.

No great increase has taken place in the volume of business this week, but if anything there has been rather more disposition to buy gilt-edged securities, so that the tone has remained firm. Consols reacted to 59½, and both War Loan stocks at first gave way, but have since recovered. In the Colonial Government section, Australian 5½ per cent. hardened to 100½, and New South Wales scrip to ½ discount, but the old 5 per cent. issue relapsed to 99, and Nigerian 5 per cent. (1920) also gave way. Amongst Foreign Government securities, Mexican bonds were active on the assumption that the coming restoration of the Mexican Railway to the company foreshadows the beginning of a general improvement. The Irrigation 4½ per cent. bonds were marked up to 40, and the 5 per cent. 1899 loan to 58. The French War Loan was easier at 85½ for the large bonds and 87½ for the small bonds. Japanese 4½ per cent. issues improved, but elsewhere there was very little doing.

Interest in the Home Railway market continues very small, and prices have again dwindled under the lead of North-Western, which has fallen to 102½. Great Northern preferred and deferred, Lancashire and Yorkshire, Midland deferred, Brighton deferred and South-Western ordinary were all lower, but Underground income bonds were exceptionally ½ better at 92. American Railroad shares rose sharply in response to the movement in New York, where Union Pacific were lifted on anticipations of an extra dividend being paid, and although a reaction followed, Atchison, Baltimore and New York Central, amongst others, show fair gains on balance. More interest, however, was provided by Industrial securities, and United States Steel has reached the record figure of 102. Canadian Pacific shares have been sluggish, and after touching 186½ and 187½, closed at the lowest. Grand Trunk stocks were hardly mentioned, but the guaranteed stock 4 per cent debenture and five-year notes were higher. The demand for Mexican Railway stocks was stimulated by the coming restoration of the line, and as there were no sellers, quotations were marked up sharply. The best figures were not held, but the ordinary is 1½ better at 20½, the first preference 6 up at 69, and the second preference 3½ up at 41. National of Mexico first and second preferred were lifted in sympathy. Argentine Rails have been dull, with small irregular movements. United of Havana hardened a little, but Havana Terminal debentures were marked down to 96.

Bank shares have been quiet and inclined to give way, and Capital and Counties, London and Provincial, National Provincial £12 paid and Parr's have all dropped ¼ to ½, while in the Foreign and Colonial group Hongkong and Shanghai and Chartered of India have dropped 1, and Bank of Australasia ½, while several South American things were ½ lower. Very little interest has been shown in Shipping shares, but the official announcement that the Furness, Withy had acquired a controlling interest in the Prince Line was followed by attempts to sell, and Furness, Withy relapsed to 49s. 10d.; but Prince Line, after touching 4½, rallied to 4½. Royal Mail fell 2½ to 125½, and P. and O. deferred 2 to 338. Mexican Industrials moved in sympathy with other things in that country, and Mexico Tramways were lifted to 30, while Mexican Light and Power ordinary and preference improved to 19 and 33 respectively. A fair business was done in Armaments, and a good many small gains were scattered throughout the list. Hudson's Bay shares hardened to 6½, but other Land shares were easier, Duff Development being rather offered on the report. A fair amount of support was again forthcoming for Brewery issues, and Bass preference and debentures rose to 84½ and 82½ respectively. British American Tobacco shares were in demand, and improved to 92s. 6d. Textiles generally were firm, with small gains in Coats, Calico Printers, and Bradford Dyers. Courtaulds were offered, and fell to 6½, but recovered to 6½.

Oil shares have been very quiet on the whole. North Caucasian were fairly active, but the price was unaltered, and Ural Caspian after being offered rallied. Burmah met with good support and improved to 4½, and a moderate business in Mexican Eagle ordinary and preference and Eagle Transport preference left them a shade up. Lobitos shares came in for a good deal of attention towards the end of the week, and improved to 40s. After a quiet opening, there was a marked expansion in business in the Rubber market, owing to the firmness in the price of the commodity. Vallambrosa, Linggi, Bukit Mertajam, and Johore Rubber Lands were amongst the principal favourites, but changes in price were small, as a rule. More attention was paid to Java descriptions, owing to the large profits being realised on coffee, in which most of them are interested. Kawie Java met with a good inquiry, and a fair business was also

done in Anglo-Java, Java Para, and Langen Java at advancing prices.

	Last Week	This Week		Last Week	This Week
Consols.....	59½	59½	N.S.W. 4½% 1922-7	95½	95
War Loan 3½%.....	96½	96½	" 5% 1921-3	99½	99
" 4½%.....	96½	96½	New Zealand 4%.....	88½	88½
India 3%.....	70½	70½	Queensland 4%.....	86	86
" 3½%.....	70½	70½	" 4½% new.....	90½	90½
Australian 5½%, 1920-22 ..	99½	100½	Union of S. Africa 4½% ..	94½	95
Canada 4%, 1920-60	95½	95½	" 1920-5	95½	95½
" 4½%, 1920-5	95½	95½	Victoria 4½%, 1920-5	95½	95½
N.S.W. 4%.....	97½	98	Westn. Aus. 4%.....	83½	83½
" 4½% 5 yr. bds.....	97½	98			
Belgian 3%.....	63	63½	French War Loan, 5% ..	86½x	85½
Brazil, 1913.....	68	67½	Japan 4½% (1st)	93½x	94½x
" New Funding.....	81	81	" (2nd)	93½x	94½x
Chinese 1896.....	93½	94	Russia 4%.....	71½x	71½x
" 1912.....	78½	78½	" 4½%	81	80½
Egypt Unified 4%.....	81	81	" 5%	90½	90
Brighton defd.....	65½	64½	London and S.-W. dfd. ..	26	25½
Caledonian defd.....	9½	9½	" Do. new pf.	98½	98½
Chatham ord.....	9½	9½	Metropolitan	24½	24½
Gt. Central pf.....	16½	15½	" Do. 5% New pf.	90	90
" dfd.....	8½	8½	Met. District	18½	18
Gt. Eastern.....	39½	38½	Midland dfd.....	61	60½
Gt. Northern dfd.....	39½	39½	Nth. British dfd.....	15½	15
Gt. Western.....	97½x	96½x	Nth.-Eastern	106½	105½
Lancs. and Yorks.....	73	72½	Nth.-Western	104½	102½x
			Sth.-Eastern dfd.....	29½	28½
Canadian Pacific	187½	186½	Chesapeake.....	65½	65
Do. 6% Notes	106	106	Erie.....	38½	39½
E. Indian Guar. 4½% debts.	92½	92½	Milwaukee	99½x	99½x
Grand Trunk ord.....	12	12	N. Y. Central.....	110	111½
" 3rd pf.	28	27½	Southern	25	25½
" 5½% 3-yr. Notes ..	96½	96½	Southern Pacific	103½	104
" Do. 5½% 5-yr.	96½	97	Union Pacific	147½	149
Atchison	108½	109½	U. S. Steel	93½	102
Baltimore.....	91½	92½			
Antofagasta dfd.....	129	129	Cent. Argentine ord.....	81½	81½
" 6% Notes	100	101	" Do. 5% Notes ..	97½	97
Brazil Common.....	7½	7½	" Do. 6%	101½	100½
B. A. & Pacific	47½	47½	Leopoldina	38½	38½
B. A. Gt. Southern	87½	87½	Mexican ord.....	18	20
B. A. Western	89½	89½	San Paulo (Brazilian)....	193	193
			United of Havana.....	84½	84½
Bank of Australasia.....	118	117½	London City & Midland..	8	7½
Barclay & Co. "A".....	74½	74	London County & West....	15½	15½
" "B".....	11½	11½	London Joint Stock.....	22	22
Capital & Counties	23	22½	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (10½ pd)	28	28
Chartered of India	60	59½	" Do. (£12 pd) ..	31	30½
Hongkong & Shanghai ..	78x	77x	Parr's	31	30½
Lloyds	24½	24½	Standard of S.A.	11	10½
London & Provincial ..	16½	16½	Union & Smiths.....	24½	24½
London & S.W.....	11½	11½			
Apollinaris ord.....	1½	1½	Forestal Fund.....	52½	52½
Armstrong, Whitworth ..	38½	38½	Furness, Withy.....	51½x	49½x
Associated Cement	3½	3½	Hudson's Bay	6½x	6½x
Birmingham Small Arms	45½	45½	Imperial Tobacco "B" pf.	23½	23½
Borax dfd.....	34½	34½	" " "C" pf.	37½	37½
Brazil Traction	62	61½	Kynochs	30½	30½
British Amer. Tobacco ..	88½	92½	Levers Bros. "C" pf.	21½	21½
Brown (John), & Co.	33½	33½	Lyons, J.....	4½	4½
Brunner, Mond	4½	4½	Marconi	3½	3½
Cammell-Laird	6½	6½	Maypole Dairy dfd.....	23½	23½
Castner-Kellner	3½	3½	Mond Nickel ord.....	38	38
Coats	6½	6½	National Steam Car.....	20½	18 9
Cunard	85½	84½	Pears, A. & F.	1½	1½
Dennis Bros.	33½	33½	P. & O. dfd.....	34½	33½
Dorman, Long	33½	33½	Royal Mail	128	128½
Eastmans	7½	8	South Durham Steel	32½	32½
English Sewing Cotton ..	44½	44½	Underground Inc. Bds. ..	91½	91½
Fine Cotton Spinners ..	30½	31½	Vickers	36½x	36½x
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	6½	6½	Mexican Eagle pf.....	1½	37½
Baku (ros.)	3½	3½	North Caucasian	25½	25½
Burmah.....	4½	4½	Roumanian Cons.....	14½	14 9
Lobitos	35½	40½	Royal Dutch (100 gulden)	45½	45½
Maikop Combine (ros.) ..	2½	2½	Shell	5½	5½
Maikop Pipeline	3½	3½	Spies (10/-)	13½	13 7
Mexican Eagle	1½	37½	Ural Caspian	33½	33½
Anglo-Java Rub. (2/-) ..	6½	6½	Merlimau 2/-	5½	5½
Anglo-Malay 2/-	11½	11½	Pataing 2/-	3½	3½
Ayer Kuning £1	36½x	36½x	Port Dickson 2/-	3½	3½
Bukit Mertajam 2/-	5½	5½	Rubber Trust £1	23½	23½
Bukit Sembawang 2/- ..	3½	3½	Sapumalkande £1	21½	21½
Carey United £1	34½	34½	Selangor United 2/- ..	21½	21½
Grand Central £1	25½	25½	Sialang £1	6½	6½
Gula Kalumpung £1.....	28½	28½	Singapore Para 2/- ..	31½	31½
Highlands £1	54½	53½	Singapore United 2/- ..	3½	3½
Java Para £1	32½	32½	Taipung 2/-	3½	3½
Johore Rubber Lands £1..	26½	27½	Tanjong £1	70½	70½
Langen Java £1	47½	50½	Tanjong Malim £1.....	25½	25½
Linggi 2/-	20½	20½	Tebrau £1	65½	66½
London Asiatic 2/-	7½	7½	United Serdan 2/-	12½	11½
Malacca £1	85½	85½	United Temiang 2/- ..	3½	3½
Malayalam £1	30½	30½	Vallambrosa 2/-	17½x	17½x
Abbotiakoon (10/-).....	6½	6½	De Beers dfd. (£2 ros.) ..	12	12½
Brakpan	48½	48½	East Rand	14½x	14½x
Broken Hill Prop. (8/-) ..	61½	60½	Gt. Boulder (2/-)	13½	13½
Cam & Motor	11½	11½	Meyer & Charlton	5½x	5½x
Central Mining (£12) ..	6½	6½	Modder "B"	6½x	6½x
Chartered	13½	13½	" Do. Deep	6½x	6½x
City Gold	4x	4x	New Modder (£4)	18½x	18½x
Cons. Gold Fields	1½	1½	Rand Mines (5/-)	3½x	3½x
Cons. Langlaagte	1½	1½	Rio Tinto (£5)	6½x	6½x
Crown Mines (10/-)	2½x	2½x	Van Ryn Deep	38½	38½

LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

SUGAR.—This market remained without new feature, no alteration being made in quotations, and supplies of grocery descriptions clear as soon as offered. Canadian and American granulated, spot, 41s. 7½d. Stocks in the three chief ports of the U.K. total 57,000 tons, against 67,000 same time last year.

COFFEE.—No material alteration occurred in prices during the week, but general course of trade proved very quiet. In auction, Costa Rica, bold brownish to good greenish, sold, 7½s. to 7½s. The terminal market, after ruling steady, assumed a quieter tone. September, sold, 46s. 9d. to 46s. 6d. and 46s. 9d.; December, 48s. 9d.; March, 49s. 9d. to 49s. 6d.

COCOA.—Actual transactions were of a retail character, but with no pressure to sell recent rates were maintained.

TEA.—As regards public sales of Indian, all the finer grades met a good demand at full recent rates, but common proved quiet and against sellers. Ceylon consignments aroused active support, and general quality showing an improvement led to firm values being obtained. During the week 35,000 packages Indian, 29,000 Ceylon, and 5,000 packages Java were offered.

SPICE.—Market disclosed a quiet state of affairs though rates were maintained, as sellers adopted certain reserve. Singapore black pepper, August-October steamer, sold, 7½d.; Muntok, August-October, 9½d. Fair Zanzibar cloves, spot, realised 7½d. Tapioca steady in value, but with little trade doing.

CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING AUGUST 25, 1916.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
Sugar —per cwt., duty 14½, 98% polarisation	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Wool —per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tate's Cubes No. 1	2 7 1½	2 7 1½	Australian		
Idito, H.T.S. ..	2 6 7½	2 6 7½	Scoured Merino	3-3 10½	1 3-3 10½
Fine granulated ..	nom.	nom.	Scoured Cr'ssbr'd	9½-3 2	1 9½-3 2
Lyle's granulated ..	41 7½-42 1½	41 7½-42 1½	Greasy Merino ..	0 10½-2 3	1 0½-2 3
Foreign granulated, first marks f.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred New Zealand	4-1 11	1 4-1 11
German Cubes f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	(scoured) Merino	3-2 3 10	2-3 10
French Cubes	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	1-2 1 10	1-2 1 10
Crystallised, West India ..	nom.	nom.	Cape snow white	2-10 3 2	2-10 3 2
Best, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	India Rubber p. lb.		
Tea —per lb., 1½ lb.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Plantation, Spot		
Indian Pekoe ..	0 8½-0 11½	0 8½-0 11½	Crepe ..	0 2 2½	0 2 3½
Broken ..	0 8½-0 10½	0 9-1 3½	Coal —per ton		
Orange ..	0 9-1 2½	0 9½-1 2	Durham, best ..	nom.	nom.
Broken ..	0 9½-1 4	0 9½-1 1½	Seconds ..	nom.	nom.
Pekoe Souchong ..	0 8½-10½	0 8-10 1½	East Hartlepool ..	nom.	nom.
Ceylon Pekoe ..	0 8½-11½	0 8½-11½	Seconds ..	nom.	nom.
Broken ..	0 9-0 11½	0 9½-0 11	Steamers, best ..	47½ 50½	40½ 45½
Orange ..	0 8½-0 11½	0 8½-0 11½	Seconds ..	40½	35½
Broken ..	0 9½-1 1	0 9½-1 1	Lead —per ton.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Pekoe Souchong	0 8-0 9½	0 8½-0 10	English Pig ..	31 0 0	32 0 0
Cocoa —per cwt., duty 6d. per lb.	s. s.	s. s.	Foreign soft ..	29 15 0	30 7 6
Trinidad—per cwt.	79 0-84 0	79 0-84 0	Quicksilver —per bottle firsthand	£ 17½-£ 17½	£ 17½-£ 17½
Grenada ..	73 0-82 0	73 0-82 0	Tin —per ton		
West Africa ..	nom.	nom.	English Ingots	£ 174-£ 175	£ 174-£ 175
Ceylon Plantation	76 0-90 0	72 0-91 0	Do, bars ..	£ 175-£ 176	£ 175-£ 176
Guayaquil Arriba ..	96 0-100 0	96 0-100 0	Standard cash ..	£ 169 5 0	£ 119 5 0
Coffee —per cwt., duty 4½ per cwt.			Tin Plates, per box	30½-30½	31½ upds.
East India ..	67 0-95 0	67 0-95 0	Copper —per ton.		
Jamaica ..	62 0-120 6	62 0-120 6	English, Tough	nom.	nom.
Costa Rica ..	62 0-84 0	62 0-84 0	per ton ..	£ 126-£ 122	£ 126-£ 122
Provisions —			Best Selected ..	£ 148	£ 148
Butter , per cwt.			Sheets ..	£ 112 0 0	£ 112 0 0
Australian finest	nom.	nom.	Jute —per ton.		
Irish Creameries	180½-184½	184½-190½	Native firsts for shipment Sept.	£ 31 15 0	£ 31 10 0
Dutch ditto ..	nom.	nom.	Oils —		
Russian finest ..	nom.	nom.	Linseed, per ton ..	£ 37½-£ 38½	£ 36½-£ 37½
Normandy baskets	nom.	nom.	Rape, ref. English, barrels ..	£ 48-£ 50	£ 46½-£ 48½
Danish finest ..	198½-200½	202½-204½	Brown English, naked ..	nom.	nom.
Brittany rolls ..	14½-17½	16½-19½	Cott'n Seed, crude	£ 38 15 0	£ 36 0 0
Bacon —per cwt.			Ditto, refined ..	£ 43-£ 52½	£ 42-£ 52
Irish ..	120 0-126 0	120 0-126 0	Petroleum Oil, per 8 lbs.	1½ 1½	1½ 1½
Continental ..	112 0-126 0	112 0-126 0	Water White ..	1½ 1½	1½ 1½
Canadian ..	114 0-116 0	114 0-116 0	Oil Seeds, Linseed	—	—
American ..	91 0-96 0	93 0-98 0	Calcutta—per 410 lbs., Aug.-Sep.	3 17 6	3 17 6
Hams —per cwt.			Rape, Toria ..	69½	69½
Irish ..	136½-150½	138½-148½	Iron —per ton		
Canadian ..	92 0-115 0	111½-116½	Cleveland Cash ..	nom.	nom.
American ..	69 0-108 0	69 0-108 0	Tobacco —duty, unmanufactured		
Cheese —per cwt.			5/6 to 6/2½ per lb.		
Edam ..	84 0-94 0	84 0-94 0	Maryland & Ohio	0 6-0 10	0 6-0 10
Canadian ..	100 0-104 0	100 0-104 0	per lb. bond	0 8-1 6	0 8-1 6
Gouda ..	nom.	nom.	Virginia leaf ..	0 6½-0 10	0 6½-0 10
English Cheddar	100 0-108 0	100 0-108 0	Kentucky leaf ..	1 0-3 0	1 0-3 0
Wilt's loaf ..	nom.	nom.	Latakia ..	1 0-0 0	1 0-0 0
New Zealand ..	100 0-104 0	100 0-104 0	Havana ..	0 6-2 0	0 6-2 0
Rice —per cwt.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Manila ..	0 6-2 0	0 6-2 0
Garden Siam	17 3-17 6	17 3-17 6	Cigars, duty 10/6 per lb.	7½ upds.	7½ upds.
spot ..	16 6	17 0	Timber —Wood.		
Rangoon 2 stars ..	16 6	17 0	Pitch Pine ..	250½-270½	250½-270½
Eggs —per 120.			Indian Teak ..	40½-600½	400½-600½
English ..	19 0-20 0	23 0-24 0	Turpetine —		
Irish ..	19½	21 0-23 0	American Spot ..	2 2 9	2 2 4½
Danish ..	18 6-21 6	21 6-23 6	Copra —		
Spelter —			Malabar, London		
G.O.B. as to position ..	£ 54-£ 48	£ 58-£ 45	Aug.-Sept.	32 10 0	32 10 0
Flour —per sack.			Ceylon ..	31 10 0	31 10 0
Town Households	55½	56½	South Sea ..	29 15 0	29 15 0
Official ..	51½ upds.	52½ upds.	F.M.S. ..	30 7 6	30 3 6
American First					
Patents ..					

RICE.—A good steady inquiry prevailed, and general firmness ensued. No. 1 garden Siam, spot, sold, 17s. 3d.; and near, at 17s. Rangoon bran, September-December, sold, 207s. 6d., ex ship Liverpool. Beans commanded good support at full rates.

FIBRES.—Jute continued very quiet, and actual quotations at times were nominal. Native first marks, August, Dundee, sold, £31 10s.; September, £31 5s. Hemp quietly steady. Coarse brown, June-August, sold, £47. New Zealand nominal.

SHELLAC unsettled and easier. T.N. fair, spot, sold, 126s.; October, 129s., 124s., 125s., and 126s.; December, 128s., 130s., 127s. 6d.

RUBBER.—Market steadier, as only comparatively small supplies come to hand, and a fair inquiry existed, both with regard to spot

and forward, but closed easier. Plantation, spot, crepe, sold, 2s. 3½d., 2s. 4½d., and 2s. 3½d.; October-December, 2s. 4½d., 2s. 5d., and 2s. 4½d. Ribbed smoked sheet, spot, 2s. 3½d., 2s. 4d., and 2s. 3½d. Fine hard Para, spot, done 3s.

COPRA.—Business was confined to a limited compass and rates for the chief part ruled nominal.

METALS.—Copper: The standard market has remained in an idle state since Monday last, while prices are rather lower but steady at a decline. Standard, on spot, by the middle of the week settled down at £110, and three months at £107 10s. At Thursday's session the tendency was rather easier, more so as to cash and early prompts. Standard cash closed officially at £109 to £110, and three months at £107 to £108. Electros, £130 to £128. Tin irregular, and on balance easier, dealings being on a moderate scale. By the middle of the week, standard cash left off at £169 10s., and three months at £170 10s., sellers. The tone was firmer at Thursday's session but unsettled, values of these dates being finally fixed at £170 and £171 respectively. English (official), £174 to £175. Spelter dearer. G.O.B., August, £57; November, £47. Lead firmer. Foreign, August to November, £30 7s. 6d. to £29 5s. Quicksilver remains unaltered—£17 12s. 6d. to £17 15s.

CORN (Mark Lane).—Although quiet, the market maintained a very steady tone since last Monday, wheat and flour being firmer. Wheat: English whites and reds, delivered up, range to 64s. per qr. 504 lbs. Imported grades, No. 1, Northern Manitoba, held for 73s. 3d., ex ship. Flour: American first spring patents, 52s. 6d. upwards, and Canadian patents, 51s. to 52s., both landed. Oats: La Plata, new landed, 31s. 3d. upwards. American white clipped, No. 2, on sample, 31s. to 31s. 6d., ex quay. Grinding barley: American (ordinary), 44s., ex ship, and 45s. landed. La Plata, 47s. 6d. to 45s. 6d., ex quay. Maize: New La Plata, 53s. 6d., ex quay.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—The prominent feature in the market during the past week has been the further advance in raw cotton rates. It is of interest to note that quotations in Liverpool are now on a higher level than for very many years back, and it is certainly an event of importance to state that we are now on the basis of gd. cotton. Business in yarn and cloth has been thoroughly paralysed, and in only occasional instances have buyers and sellers been able to arrange terms of fresh contracts. Our customers are not yet convinced that the rates are based on the facts of the situation, and there is a belief in many quarters that extreme difficulty will be experienced in maintaining current values. In a few days' time the American Government will issue a further report on the condition of the plant, and it is expected that the statistics will clear the air somewhat, and lead to a more settled state of affairs. A large inquiry has been reported in cloth for export, but most of the offers have been rendered futile by the higher quotations of manufacturers. Here and there transactions have been arranged where makers have been willing to take something less than top rates. It is evident dealers in India are getting rather concerned as to future supplies in piece goods, and much more inquiry is being experienced than a few weeks ago. Dhooties are wanted by Bombay and Calcutta, but buyers are not willing to pay current rates. Some fair orders have again been put through in bleaching cloths of various kinds for our Dependency. It is quite impossible to do business of any weight in grey shirtings, the offers being a long way out. For China shippers have not been stimulated to act with more freedom, and buying has been confined to miscellaneous lots, chiefly in white goods. With regard to Egypt it is difficult to establish the fresh basis of values, and for South America most of the bids have been impracticable. Manufacturers of miscellaneous cloths continue to do better than producers of standard makes. Merchants with stocks of goods are now able to clear at a substantial profit. American yarns for home use have been put up in quotation, but buyers are rather slow in following, and where business has been done producers have had to be satisfied with a rather narrower margin of profit than a little time ago. Spinners, however, have derived some strength from the fact that the Oldham "wakes" take place next week, and production in twist and weft will be much restricted. In export yarns most of the bids have been left high and dry, and there are few indications of terms of fresh contracts being arranged. Bolton spinnings have tended to harden in quotation, and buying has been rather restricted to the finer numbers.

European Oilfields Corporation.—Production for week ended 20th inst., 88,200 poods.

The offices of the Aerated Bread Co., Ltd., have been removed to 17, 19, and 21, Camden Road, N.W.

International Russian Oilfields.—Total production from the well on plot No. 107 during the four weeks ending August 19 amounted to 8,411 poods, or approximately 136 tons.

SEAHAM HARBOUR DOCK CO.—In the half-year ended June 30 the shipments of coal showed a further reduction of 103,600 tons at 681,600 tons, and the total revenue was consequently £943 down at £20,708. The net income was £901 smaller at £7,977, and with £7,689 brought in gave £15,666, or £1,724 less, available. Debenture interest and preferences dividend are met as usual, but the ordinary shares have again to go without a distribution, and the renewals reserve gets nothing compared with £500 a year ago, while £989 less at £6,705 is carried forward. The debit balance on capital account remains at £67,137, but the depreciation fund has been increased by £1,158 to £14,191. Current liabilities are £2,421 lower at £3,150, against a reduction of £2,847 to £5,136 in sundry debtors, and an increase of £418 to £6,307 in cash.

American Business Notes.

Only a languid interest seems to be taken in Mexican affairs at present, whether by Press or people in the United States. But as the heat of the Presidential election conflict rises we may be sure that the condition of Mexico will claim increasing attention from political orators, and we are all the more glad to note signs of improvement in the attitude of the Mexican Administration. Senor Carranza seems to be learning his business, and his decision to hand back the Mexican Railway to its owners on the 1st of next month is creating a favourable impression here. It, for one thing, stirs the expectation that other foreign-owned property in Mexico will be treated in a civilised fashion. The National Railway of Mexico, for example—a much larger property than the old Mexican Railway Co.—cannot be allowed to go to rack and ruin, to the detriment of the nation and the loss of those by whose money it has been created. Only by doing justly by all concerned can any ruler in Mexico hope to establish a firm and order-maintaining administration, and the present condition of the State-controlled railway property is so repellant as to frighten capitalists away altogether. No money market, no foreign capitalist, will risk a dollar in Mexico under the present confiscatory policy, and therefore the sooner it is abandoned the better.

To the patriotic Mexican idealist there are doubtless many anomalies and injustices visible in the claims of and bargains made with the foreign capitalist, and it may, therefore, seem commendable to such that financial over-reaching should be corrected by robbery. The ruler who tries to elevate his country by that path will soon discover his error. Recent actions by Carranza induce us to infer that he has already begun to learn in the school of experience, and we hope he will make rapid progress. For no surer method of ruining Mexico's independence could be fallen upon than default. Refusal to acknowledge debts, even Huerta debts if contracted in legal form, would lead to intervention, no matter what outcry "Latin America" might raise. And really the Acting President has no excuse for confiscating anything. His predecessor in authority, President Diaz, may often have bought dear, but in the main the benefits he sought to bestow on his country were priceless, the railways especially, and it could do with many more of like sort at even higher prices. Disputes with the United States over the Villa and other brigand depredations are to be arbitrated on by a Commission of representative men, and its meetings should not only help to educate Senor Carranza in statesmanship, but afford him an opportunity to define his own position towards civilisation.

Whether a temporary peace will be patched up between the railway workers and their capitalist masters in the United States, or whether war will break out is not officially settled when we write. Railway company reports, however, are beginning to appear for the year ended June 30 last, or at least preliminary summaries of their figures are appearing, and as far as they have gone they appear to strengthen the men's contention. Certainly there ought to be no difficulty in raising the scale of wages if we are to take these summaries of profits as evidence of prosperity. Here, for example, is the Union Pacific Railroad, whose gross receipts rose last fiscal year to \$104,717,000, which was about \$17,760,000 more than for the preceding year. Expenses no doubt went up also, the increase in maintenance of way and structure costs alone having risen almost \$3,000,000 to \$13,869,000, but notwithstanding the nett income of \$42,376,000 arrived at after paying everything, including taxes, which took over \$650,000 more at \$5,311,000, and after adding in the outside income was almost \$11,000,000 higher than in the previous year. Out of the surplus the company was easily able to meet all charges and to continue the dividend on the common stock at 8 per cent. and to apply \$3,500,000 to pay for additions and betterments. Even then there was a surplus of \$13,512,000 left to carry forward against one of \$5,544,000 at the end of the previous year when betterments got nothing.

It is the same with the Lehigh Valley Railroad Co., whose surplus, after paying the customary 10 per cent. dividend, was \$1,340,000 larger at \$1,606,000, gross earnings having risen by \$4,856,000 and nett by over \$2,300,000.

The Southern Railway Co., too, although still paying no dividend even on the preferred stock, did very well indeed last year, its nett revenue before deducting taxes being nearly \$8,000,000 larger at \$23,957,000. For 1913-14 the nett revenue was only \$16,000,000, or little more. The fixed charges were all met without difficulty, and the balance that remained, after adding in revenue from other sources than the company's business and deducting over \$15,000,000 for interest and other charges, was \$9,358,000, or \$7,700,000 more than a year ago—enough to give the preferred shares their 5 per cent. three times over had the directors so decided, and possibly enough they may decide to hand out something. The amount, however, set aside for additions and betterments is so minute as to call for a change of policy in this respect, unless the \$3,862,000 deducted from gross receipts before paying interest is in the nature of reparation for past dilapidations.

Identical testimony is provided by the Seaboard Air Line's preliminary statement. Gross earnings were \$2,714,000 up and nett \$1,660,000 larger. It followed that the line was able to pay the interest on its adjustment mortgage 5 per cent. bonds, although the funded debt standing ahead of this took \$313,000 more and the general interest charges \$90,000 additional. The surplus at the year's end was, in fact, \$960,000 after meeting all these charges, and compares with a deficit of upwards of \$300,000 for 1914-15. Should the exhibits to follow these early summaries bear out the inference they compel us to draw then those railroad magnates who rave in the Press and otherwise about the financial ruin looming ahead for the railroad business in the United States should the demands of the men be yielded to will begin to look not merely foolish but suggestively hypocritical.

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Some curious statistician has been calculating the profits earned by 200 American manufacturing concerns whose share capital amounts to £1,181,000,000, and finds that it came to £157,400,000, or 13 per cent., for the year closed June 30 last. This figure has been arrived at after providing for all interest charges, for depreciation and so forth. In the previous year the nett profit of the same selection was only £86,440,000, so that last year gave an increase of 82 per cent., and in greater detail it is shown that in ammunition manufacturing the profit rose from £13,304,000 to £15,711,000, and that the profits in copper which were £8,656,000 in 1914-15 were £16,530,000 in the past year. Electrical profits jumped from £1,326,000 to £5,676,000. These increases are out of proportion to the general run, but on leather the ratio was still higher, springing from £350,000 to £1,325,000, and rubber businesses yielded £4,840,000 compared with £1,405,000, while meat undertakings, packing houses we suppose, netted £6,822,000 as against £1,782,000. Petroleum profits, although £14,482,000, were hardly doubled, having been £7,651,000 in 1914-15, and steel and iron profits of £24,127,000 were compared with £17,536,000, which was an increase of barely 33 per cent. It is a fine exhibit though, and will no doubt please America very much.

Tea, Oil and Rubber.

Rubber managed to creep up to 2s. 4½d. for standard crêpe at one time, but the spurt was too much for a market which is rather overweighted with supplies, and the price has since slipped back. Up to date the amount of rubber landed in London this year has been 34,000 tons, while the deliveries have been 33,036 tons, but the corresponding figures last year were 42,635 tons and 43,327 tons respectively. The difference is fully accounted for by direct shipments to the United States to which reference is made on another page. Stocks now stand at 7,510 tons, against 4,910 tons at the corresponding date, and consumers do not show any anxiety to do more than fill their immediate requirements. Under the circumstances the share market has shown a wonderful degree of buoyancy, and dealings have been on a fair scale, with Java issues most in favour. Most of the Java estates have coffee interplanted as a catch crop, and with the price abnormally high they are making very handsome profits from this source. It is a most useful help while it lasts, but it cannot be depended on to continue very long. Other leading shares which are usually most prominent have been rather neglected.

Nothing encouraging can be extracted from the report of the Bibi Eibat Oil Co., Ltd. It embraces the results of the Russian company for the two years 1914 and 1915, but in the former period there was a loss of Rs. 115,825, and last year the loss was Rs. 136,140, so the English company has got no help from that quarter. Its income is entirely derived from interest and dividends, and these for the year to March 31 amounted to £16,110, a decrease of £10,500, whereas a year ago £15,830 was received from the Russian Company on account of 1913. A small saving was effected in expenses, and the nett profit comes out at £12,030, a reduction of £10,200. After providing for debenture interest and redemption there is a balance of £19,530 to be carried forward, or £4,500 more than was brought in. In 1913 the production of oil was 4,921,000 poods, but it fell to 3,384,000 poods in 1914 owing to the strike at Baku, and it only recovered to 3,447,000 poods last year. The average price realised, however, was 42.44 kops., against 35.73 kops. in 1914. Complaint is again made about the heavy royalty of 40 per cent. exacted by the Russian Government, although it is five or six years since a commission recommended that it should be reduced in order to encourage further boring. Certainly more favourable terms will have to be granted to attract additional capital. Last year royalties absorbed Rs. 372,330, an increase of Rs. 27,000 over the previous 12 months, and the company has not felt justified in proceeding with the two new wells pending a

settlement of the question. A contract for the sale of the company's output for the current year has been made at one-half kopeck above average market price, with a minimum of 35 kops. per pood. Advances to the Russian company have increased by £20,000, but loans against security have been reduced from £35,000 to £1,750. Cash and Treasury bills are up £18,000, £23,240.

We referred last month to the circumstances under which the Duff Development Co., Ltd., considers it desirable to cut down the capital, and a resolution will be proposed at the meeting next Thursday to reduce the £1 shares to 10s., making the issued capital £246,235, with £125,000 in debentures. Fixed assets are valued at £360,440 and nett liquid assets at £10,795. Last year's total income was £56,426, an increase of £12,500 over 1914, but the expenses, including depreciation, amounted to £59,282 (a decrease of £2,000), so that there was a loss on the year's working of £2,856, raising the debit balance to £42,864. Gold recovered amounted to £3,140, but it apparently cost £4,210 to win it. There was also a loss of £4,765 on the sawmill. Evidently the future of the company depends almost entirely on rubber, the output of which last year was 395,000 lbs. at an average nett price of 2s. 3.34d., while the f.o.b. cost was 1s. 6.62d. The area tapped was 1,490 acres, out of a total of 4,900 planted, and doubtless costs will be reduced when the whole area is in bearing, although the estate is not favourably situated for cheap working. Law costs in connection with the arbitration amounted to £7,310, and have been charged to concession account. It is rather a sad story, but perhaps things will look better when some of the water is squeezed out of the capital and the rubber estate becomes more productive.

For the year 1915, o/s, the Maikop Pipeline and Transport Co., Ltd., had a total revenue of £53,477, an increase of £3,600 over the previous 12 months, and as it was possible to save nearly £7,000 in expenses, the nett profit of £30,980 is £10,300 higher. As before, the whole of this amount is carried to depreciation fund, which now amounts to £78,650. Exchange has been calculated at 16 roubles per £1, and if the normal rate had been adopted the profit would have come out at £54,410. The quantity of oil pumped was 111,296 tons, an increase of 57,000 tons, and, thanks to the assistance of the Russian Government, it has been possible to retain sufficient men to carry out the most important operations on the field. There is nothing in the balance-sheet which calls for remark.

Statistics of the oil output of the United States are colossal. In the year 1915 the quantity of petroleum marketed was 281,104,000 barrels, an increase of about 6 per cent. over the previous year and easily a record in the history of the industry. The average price obtained was as high as 64 cents a barrel, and the total value was \$179,463,000. Of course, war requirements are almost insatiable, but figures like these from one field alone (certainly the most important) make one wonder how the enormous increase in price is justified and why there should be the shortage that is alleged when full allowance is made for war demands. Germany and Austria have been drawing their supplies from Galicia and Rumania, but Germany, at any rate, absorbed a good deal of the American output before the war, and there should consequently have been a much larger surplus for the use of the Allies.

Tables compiled by the *Chamber of Commerce Journal* show that the total imports of tea last year amounted to 431,220,000 lbs., of which 352,858,000 lbs. came from British Possessions, India contributing 227,106,000 lbs. and Ceylon 123,250,000 lbs. In 1914 the total imports were 371,933,000 lbs., India sending 203,243,000 and Ceylon 109,898,000 lbs. The total value was £19,580,000 last year, and £14,222,000 in 1914. Imports of coffee amounted to 1,464,340 cwts., valued at £4,933,000, against 1,037,000 cwts., valued at £3,546,000, in 1914. Cocoa imports amounted to 183,182,000 lbs., valued at £5,932,000, against 93,511,000 lbs., valued at £2,488,000, in 1914, so that

in all three articles our purchases last year were much in excess of those for the previous twelve months. Re-exports of tea amounted to 65,490,000 lbs., valued at £3,379,000, of coffee 621,630 cwts., valued at £1,950,000, and of cocoa 61,650,000 lbs., valued at £2,136,000.

Mr. George Seton's useful analysis of the working of 50 leading Indian tea companies has reached its twenty-fifth year of issue, and it is of exceptional interest on this occasion, owing to the larger output and increased profits. The companies dealt with have a total capital of £11,500,000, and are responsible for considerably more than half of the Indian crop. Most of the estates did remarkably well last year, and the total output was 172,000,000 lbs., against 143,000,000 lbs. in 1914 and 137,000,000 lbs. in 1913. Average selling price rose from 9.07d. in 1913 to 10.65d. last year, and the profit advanced from 2.61d. to 3.75d. per lb. Profit earned on total capital increased from 13.18 to 23.33 per cent., and the average return on capital was raised from 10.61 to 13.50 per cent., while at the same time more than a million was added to reserves, raising them to £2,806,000, but this is subject to excess profits duty. Anyhow, the industry is in an extremely flourishing condition, and in many cases the directors have appropriated large sums from revenue for the further development of the properties.

Insurance News.

The Pearl Assurance Co. has just brought out a new scheme for life assurance covering war risks without payment of extra premium. Experience of the present war has shown that some are unable or unwilling, owing to reduced income, to pay any additional premium to cover war risks, though it is certain that for many men joining the forces insurance was never more necessary than at the present time. To meet this position the directors of the Pearl are prepared until further notice to grant assurances under whole-life and endowment assurance tables, on eligible lives, at the ordinary rates of premium shown in their prospectus, but with the condition that the amount payable on death may be reduced if war risks are incurred. Thus upon the assured leaving the United Kingdom on any military, aviation or auxiliary service, or on going afloat on any naval service, the company's liability would be reduced, if the annual premium be 6 per cent. or more, to 15 per cent. of the maximum sum assured during the first year, to 30 per cent. in the second year, and to 45 per cent. in the third year, and so on, until the maximum is reached. If the annual premium is $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., or less than 6 per cent., the company's liability is reduced to 10 per cent. in the first year, 20 per cent. in the second, and 30 per cent. in the third. If the annual premium be less than $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. the liability will be reduced to 5 per cent. of the sum assured during the first year, to 10 per cent. in the second, and 15 per cent. in the third year. Before war risks are incurred the policy will be in force for the full amount.

United British Oilfields of Trinidad.—Production for week ended August 16, 628 tons.
New Schibaieff Petroleum. Production for July, 1916, o/s:—Gross, 8,273 tons; nett, 4,901 tons.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1916, and August 19, 1916:—

	Estimate for the Year 1916-1917. (See note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1916, to Aug. 19, 1916.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1915, to Aug. 21, 1915.
BALANCES IN EXCHEQUER ON APRIL 1—	£	£	£
Bank of England	—	25,111,065	81,898,728
Bank of Ireland	—	463,941	1,554,224
REVENUE.		25,575,006	83,450,952
Customs	71,000,000	24,514,000	14,959,000
Excise	65,000,000	19,665,000	22,120,000
Estate, &c., Duties	30,000,000	12,210,000	14,035,000
Stamps	7,000,000	2,760,000	2,343,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,650,000	310,000	339,000
Property and Income Tax and Super Tax	195,000,000	28,311,000	14,024,000
Excess Profits Duty	86,000,000	16,811,000	—
Land Value Duties	475,000	90,000	51,000
Post Office	36,100,000	12,900,000	11,200,000
Crown Lands	550,000	160,000	160,000
Receipts from Suez Canal ..	5,000,000	518,087	202,583
Shares and Sundry Loans ..	3,500,000	2,433,656	1,066,385
Miscellaneous	—	—	—
Revenue	502,275,000	120,682,743	80,486,968
Total, including Balance	—	146,257,749	163,937,920
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion	—	1,700,000	280,000
For Treasury Bills (net amount)	—	88,392,000	—
For War Loan, 1925-1928	—	—	35,300,000
For 3% Exchequer Bonds, 1920	—	—	242,345
For War Loan, 1925-1945	—	424	399,500,000
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919	—	31,172,000	—
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920	—	80,864,500	—
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1921	—	52,555,000	—
For War Expenditure Certificates	—	18,923,300	—
For War Savings Certificates	—	19,350,000	—
For other Debt created under the War Loan Act, 1915	—	10,000,000	—
Temporary Advances—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £345,000,000 in 1916-1917 and £218,795,000 in 1915-1916)	—	409,396,500	219,795,000
Total	—	858,611,473	819,055,265

	Estimate for the Year 1916-17. (See note.)	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1916, to Aug. 19, 1916.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1915, to Aug. 21, 1915.
EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.			
EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£
Permanent Charge of Debt ..	12,818,000	11,265,351	11,982,207
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	114,436,000	45,294,307	537,730
Road Improvement Fund	—	—	694,395
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c.	9,500,000	2,030,801	2,256,740
Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,700,000	680,701	774,078
Supply Services	1,687,529,000	624,488,280	454,253,793
Expenditure	1,825,583,000	683,759,440	470,498,943
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion	—	1,940,000	475,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	—	60,914	60,914
For Treasury Bills (net amount)	—	—	22,215,000
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan (Redemption) Act, 1910	—	—	16,395,500
For Repayments to the Bank of England ..	—	—	160,427,623
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913	150,000	150,000	980,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 ..	135,000	135,000	60,000
Under Housing Act, 1914	18,900	18,900	500,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8, issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1908	—	38,000	27,000
Old Sinking Fund—1910-1911: Issued under the Finance Act, 1911—	—	—	—
Section 16 (1) (b)	—	29,000	60,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1911-1912—Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Co. (Acquisition of Capital) Act, 1914	—	—	250,000
Temporary Advances repaid—Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £113,008,000 in 1916-17 and £38,501,000 in 1915-16)	—	143,904,500	38,501,000
BALANCES IN EXCHEQUER—	1916.	1915.	
Bank of England	Aug. 19.	Aug. 21.	
Bank of Ireland	£	£	
	27,122,254	107,415,666	
	1,462,465	1,188,619	
Total	28,584,719	108,604,285	
		858,611,473	819,055,265

MEMO.—Treasury Bills outstanding on August 19, 1916.... £886,678,000.

* Includes £326,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the Account.

NOTE.—Estimate as in House of Commons Paper No. 50 of 1916, and Supplementary Grants.

Treasury, August 21, 1916.

An extraordinary general meeting of D. Davis and Sons, Ltd., will be held on Monday, August 28, for the purpose of considering a resolution to divide the existing ordinary shares of £1 each into four fully-paid shares of 5s. each.

Consolidated Gas, Electric Light and Power Co. of Baltimore.—Nett earnings for June, \$283,179; increase, \$35,599. Aggregate nett earnings from July 1, 1915, \$3,544,862; increase, \$516,501.

AUSTRALIAN MUTUAL PROVIDENT

ESTD. SOCIETY. 1849.

The Largest Mutual Life Office in the Empire.

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Every Year a Bonus Year. Whole-life Policies, 20 years in force, show average increase of the sum assured by Bonus exceeding 50 per cent.

ENDOWMENT ASSURANCE RESULTS ALSO UNSURPASSED.

37, Threadneedle Street, London, E.C.

The Week in Mines.

The Mining markets have displayed a rather irregular tendency this week. South Africans, after showing a further advance on Cape buying, reacted on profit-taking sales, which were induced partly by the resumption of liquidation of enemy holdings by the trustees engaged in winding up the German banks in London. Diamond shares have been active and buoyant, and American copper descriptions have been strong on New York buying. Tin shares have declined, owing to the weaker tendency of the metal market and the comparatively slight improvement recorded by the Dolcoath mine in its report. The activity in Russians has subsided, and has been followed by a revival of interest in Mexican shares, which have been in moderate request, in sympathy with other Mexican securities, due to the news of the restoration of the Mexican Railway to the company.

SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

At the beginning of the week the demand for Far Eastern Rand shares was renewed both on local and Cape account, and prices advanced still further, Johnnies changing hands up to 20s., while Modder Leases rose 2s. to 46s., and Sub-Nigels $\frac{7}{8}$ to $1\frac{1}{8}$. But a reaction ensued on profit-taking and a recrudescence of liquidation of enemy holdings of Van Ryn Deeps and other shares. The undertone, however, remained firm, and on balance numerous rises remain to be recorded. Gedulds have risen 1s. to 44s. 6d., Modder Leases 1s. to 45s., Johnnies 6d. to 19s. $\frac{7}{8}$ d., Rand Mines $\frac{7}{8}$ to $3\frac{7}{8}$, South African Gold Trusts 1s. 3d. to 18s. 3d., Wolhuters 1s. to 11s. 3d., and Nigels 6d. to 6s. 6d. An inquiry sprang up for the last-named in connection with its acquisition last year of 300 deep-level claims adjacent to those just bought by the Sub-Nigel, on which encouraging reports have been made. Diamond shares have been in steady request, and De Beers deferreds, after touching 12 $\frac{3}{4}$, are $\frac{7}{8}$ higher on balance at 12 $\frac{3}{4}$. The principal movement in the Rhodesian department has been a rise of 2s. 6d. in Globes to 28s. 6d. Chartered have relapsed to 13s. 3d. West Africans have been firm, except Abossos, which are easier at 9s. 3d.

COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

In spite of a relapse of $\frac{1}{2}$ a ton in the price of copper, the shares have been very firm in tone. Following a rise in Paris, Rio Tintos have advanced $\frac{3}{4}$ to 62 $\frac{1}{2}$, while Anacondas have risen $\frac{1}{8}$ to 18 $\frac{1}{8}$, and Utahs $\frac{3}{8}$ to 17 $\frac{3}{8}$, thanks to bullish operations in Wall Street. Tin shares, however, have been dull with the metal. Dolcoaths were sold on the appearance of the report, which did not show the amount of improvement that had been hoped for, and the price fell 1s. 6d. to 10s. 6d. Rayfields (Nigeria) weakened to 6s., but Geevors improved 1s. to 7s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. The Broken Hill group has been very firm on the firmness of lead and a further rise in spelter. Sulphides are 6d. higher at 26s. 6d., and Zinc Corporations similarly better at 16s. Broken Hill Proprietary relapsed 1s. 3d. to 60s. 6d., but the 6 per cent. debentures advanced $\frac{1}{2}$ to 100 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Russian shares have had a tired appearance, natural after their recent activity. Kyshtims are exceptionally higher at 25 $\frac{1}{2}$, but other issues show small losses due to realisations. Some interest has been taken in Mexican shares, notably Esperanzas, which have risen 9d. to 12s., El Oros at 9s. 3d., and Mexico of El Oros at 35 $\frac{1}{2}$. Santa Gertrudis, however, have relapsed 1s. 3d. to 11s. 9d. Indian shares have been firm, with Nundydroogs supported at 26s. 9d. Burma Corporations have risen to 64s., but Waihis are easier at 42s. 9d. Great Boulders were steady at 13s. 3d. on the declaration of the usual interim dividend.

MINING NEWS.

RHODESIAN MINERAL OUTPUT.—The production of gold in Southern Rhodesia in July amounted to £322,365, a decrease of £14,200 on July, 1915. The following table shows the production since January, 1912:—

MONTH.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915	1916
January	£214,918	£220,776	£249,032	£293,133	£318,586
February	209,744	208,744	259,888	286,789	313,769
March	215,102	257,797	273,236	299,686	335,368
April	221,476	241,098	295,907	315,541	339,386
May	234,407	242,452	290,062	318,898	323,783
June	226,867	241,303	306,421	322,473	333,070
July	240,514	249,301	320,670	336,565	322,365
August	239,077	250,576	316,972	344,493	—
September	230,573	250,429	309,398	321,085	—
October	230,072	247,068	337,241	339,967	—
November	225,957	239,036	311,711	313,160	—
December	218,661	254,687	309,669	331,376	—
Totals..	2,707,368	2,903,267	3,580,207	3,823,166	2,286,327

The number of producers was 214 as against 244; and the output of other metals was 18,446 ounces of silver, 43,403 tons of coal, 347 tons of copper, 8,756 tons of chrome ore, 452 tons of asbestos, and 94 carats of diamonds.

DOLCOATH.—An appreciable recovery is reported by this famous Cornish concern in the first half of this year. A profit of £6,883 was made, as compared with a loss of £4,900 in the second half of 1915, which was the first debit to be realised by the company since it was converted into a limited liability undertaking. But the improvement is not sufficient to enable dividend payments to be resumed, for, after writing off £2,507

on account of depreciation, a balance of £8,355, including £3,979 brought in, remains, which the directors think it necessary to carry forward. The amount of ore crushed increased by 990 tons to 41,384 tons, while the sales of tin, 576 tons, show an increase of 68 tons in quantity, and of £16,691 in monetary value. Tin sold realised on an average £108 3s. 1d. per ton, an increase of £18 5s. 7d., but working costs rose by 1s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per ton to £1 7s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per ton of stuff treated. The yield of black tin per ton of stuff crushed rose by 3.03 lbs. to 31.20 lbs.

CARN BREA AND TINCROFT MINES.—The accounts for the half-year ended June 30 show a profit of £3,691, which is the most satisfactory result which has been reported for several years. This is accounted for by the increased price received for arsenic and wolfram. The tin produced shows a falling off, which is believed to be only temporary. The total receipts were £40,395; and after allowing £681 for depreciation on capital expenditure, the debit balance brought forward is reduced to £17,148. The directors hope shortly to be able to submit a scheme for the reduction of the capital, which amounts to £150,000, in 50,000 priority and 100,000 ordinary shares of £1 each, of which 38,607 priority and 96,953 ordinary are issued.

BROKEN HILL PROPRIETARY.—Fuller details are now available of the results of this important company for the half-year ended May 31. The nett profit rose from £242,969 to £243,559—that is after deducting £27,965 for depreciation, £17,036 for debenture interest, and £15,000 for sinking fund. Liquid assets, however, have declined from £884,335 to £629,293, exclusive of the company's interest of 200,000 shares in the Broken Hill Associated Smelters Proprietary, Ltd.; the profit and loss account shows a total credit balance of £1,313,136. The amount expended upon construction work at Newcastle was £369,325. Debentures outstanding have been reduced by a further £30,000 to £540,000 by the operation of the sinking fund. At Broken Hill the amount of ore raised was 66,425 tons, a decrease, due mainly to a strike for a 44-hour week. Production of zinc concentrates declined from 36,667 tons to 13,189 tons. At this plant work was suspended in April owing to the large stock which had accumulated and the few shipments which were being made. Pig-iron produced amounted to 53,974 tons; 49,089 tons of steel ingots were produced, and 36,862 tons of commercial steel rolled.

BROKEN HILL SOUTH SILVER.—In the six months ended June 30 the mill treated 91,530 tons of crude ore, which yielded 16,985 tons of lead concentrates, as compared with 164,210 and 30,658 tons respectively for the preceding half-year. This reduction was occasioned by the strike at Broken Hill. Working costs increased by 5s. 6d. to 26s. 3d. per ton, and the nett profit, owing to the higher price ruling for the metal, advanced from £156,969 to £185,698. Capital expenditure amounted to £15,052.

WAIHI GRAND JUNCTION.—This company had a relapse last year. The total revenue declined from £224,203 to £197,570, and the nett profit declined from £76,637 to £46,344. As a result nothing is placed to reserve, against £15,000 set aside last year, and the dividend is reduced from 15 per cent., tax free, to 10 per cent., tax free; the amount carried forward however, is raised from £7,750 to £8,657. Comparison with the preceding year shows that the tonnage treated was 10,080 tons larger at 125,800, but that the value of the ore declined by 7s. 3d. per ton to 36s. per ton. Working costs, excluding development redemption, were reduced 1s. 1d. per ton to 15s. 11d. per ton. Development redemption has been charged at 5s. per ton, an increase of 1s. on the former rate. Tailings values at 4s. 3d. per ton were the lowest on record. Ore reserves show a reduction of 36,600 tons at 136,400, due to delay in opening out No. 8 level. It is hoped this work will be well advanced before the end of the current year, and the reserve tonnage considerably increased thereby.

GOLDEN KOPJE PROPRIETARY.—The report for the year ended March 31 shows a marked decrease in the reserves of ore as the result of a recalculation, and also of the increased cost of working, which has rendered a certain amount of ore unpayable, due to the fact that the price of gold is fixed. The total is 157,675 tons, as against 200,194 tons at the end of March, 1915, while the value has decreased from 7.6 dwts. to 5.64 dwts. per ton. During the year 131,567 tons were treated, showing a nett recovery value of £121,078. Working expenses amounted to £124,867, the result being a loss of £3,789, as against a loss of £4,545 in the preceding year, which was the first period of crushing. It is hoped by the exercise of the strictest economy to continue crushing ore developed without incurring a loss.

Ural Caspian Oil.—Total production for week ending August 17, 159,859 poods (or 2,578 tons).

Monte Video Water Works.—Gross revenue for June amounted to £14,714; increase, £877. Aggregate from January 1 to June 30, £103,080; increase, £12,601.

BROOKS AND DOXEY, LTD.—The directors state that, in consequence of the works having been made a Government-controlled establishment in August last year, it is not practicable to issue a balance-sheet for the year ended June 30 until a settlement has been made with the Government Departments as to the company's share of the profit earned during the controlled period. In their opinion no decision is likely to be arrived at for some months.

What Balance Sheets Tell.

TYNE-TEES STEAM SHIPPING CO., LTD.

Although the results of this company for the year to June 30 are not so brilliant as some others we have had to deal with, the shareholders have no cause to grumble. Profits amounted to £56,143, an increase of £16,000, but about £1,000 less was brought in. The dividend is raised from 10 to 15 per cent., and in addition a bonus of 5 per cent. is paid, making in all 20 per cent. for the year. There then remains £14,960, or £1,000 more, to carry forward. Depreciation was allowed for practically at the same rate as last year, but the insurance and boiler fund got £800 more—not a very generous allowance when we note that the allocation for this purpose a year ago was cut down £4,400. However, these reserves are nearly equal to the company's capital, and goodwill has been entirely written off, so we have no criticism to offer. The s.s. *Sir Wm. Stephenson* struck a mine off Yarmouth last August, but it is hoped that she will be refloated. S.s. *Novocastrian* also struck a mine off Lowestoft and became a total wreck, being replaced by the s.s. *Wendy* at a cost of £35,000. Land, buildings, ships, &c., stand in the books at £318,750, a reduction of £14,000 as compared with last year. Debtors are £12,600 up at £53,880, and the company has been able to add £3,000 to cash in hand (£21,720), although £32,415 has been invested in Treasury bills and War stock.

WALTER SCOTT, LTD.

Having been made a "controlled establishment" in November last, as far as the steel works are concerned, the comparison of the year to June 30 is scarcely possible with the previous 12 months, as provision has to be made under the Munitions Act and for excess profits duty before striking the balance, and the relative figures are not disclosed. Nevertheless, the profits shown are £14,600 up at £96,450, and £4,100 more was brought forward. It is therefore possible to double the dividend at 15 per cent. and to raise the balance forward from £4,520 to £10,560. A year ago £6,780 had to be written off for depreciation of investments, but this has not to be repeated, and instead £10,130 is placed to general reserve, which now stands at £121,450, while the special reserve (under the articles of association) is £134,100. Creditors, including estimated liabilities to the Government, are £148,250 higher at £227,400, but loans have been reduced by £75,000. Debtors are up £46,000 at £170,280, and cash (including £60,000 Treasury bills) shows an increase of £75,700 at £76,430, having been a mere bagatelle last year. Owing to lack of labour, the output of the collieries and cement works has been considerably reduced, while the brick works have been entirely shut down, but the rest of the business has evidently been working at full pressure.

DAVY BROS., LTD.

War work kept the engineering and boiler departments fully occupied in the year to March 31, but the gross profit of £39,400 is a little less than for the previous 12 months, probably because provision has been made in respect of contracts held in abeyance to cover the increased cost of production which their completion will involve. On this occasion £15,000 is transferred to reserve against special appropriations, amounting to £24,000 last year, and the dividend is maintained at 10 per cent., leaving £12,660, or £9,800 more, to be carried forward. With the additional space obtained by closing the rolling mill, the output of the works has been greatly increased, and by co-ordinating with other engineering works the output has been more than five times greater than the pre-war average. That is a fine tribute to what can be done by proper organisation and absence of trade jealousies, and we hope the lesson will not be forgotten at the end of the war. Sundry creditors have nearly doubled at £202,460, and sundry debtors are £78,000 up at £175,470. Stocks and work in progress have increased £16,300 to £90,000. Capital expenditure amounted to £31,330, an increase of £25,500, and buildings, plant, &c., now stand at £126,100.

TOTAL BROADHURST LEE CO., LTD.

This well-known Manchester firm did remarkably well in the year to June 30, but the directors frankly admit that values and demand have been so materially affected by war conditions that the business was quite exceptional. Although trading profits advanced £19,700 to £132,755, they are content to raise the dividend from 7½ per cent. to 10 per cent., requiring somewhat less than £7,000 additional, and the balance is prudently used in strengthening the reserves. Last year £42,000 was allocated to a special reserve to meet contingent losses on debts owing in foreign countries affected by the war, and £21,000 is added to the fund on this occasion. General reserve gets £24,195, raising the fund to £200,000, and £10,000 is placed to a special income-tax reserve. The carry-forward at £70,220 is only £700 less than the amount brought in. Sundry creditors are up £85,500 at £418,660, and debtors, stocks, &c., £130,000 at £1,403,000. Only £535, against £26,680, was spent on buildings, plant, &c., and after writing off depreciation the item is £13,000 down at £348,160. Cash has increased nearly £40,000 at £123,500.

GLASGOW AMERICAN TRUST CO., LTD.

Beyond a statement that the investments are numerous and well distributed, amply secured, and not subject to fluctuation, the directors tell the shareholders nothing about the business done by this company, and their further remark that in view of existing circumstances, the result of the operations for the year ended June 30 is quite satisfactory must therefore be taken on

trust. The investments taken at cost were increased by £11,845 to £140,354, largely through the employment of funds in the hands of the American representatives, which have been reduced by £6,662 to £5,533. After providing for management expenses, &c., the nett profits were £697 up at £8,285, and as income-tax required £319 less at £1,319, while £733 was brought in, the disposable surplus was £1,749 larger at £7,699. The directors are consequently able to pay a dividend of 5 per cent., less tax, for the full year on both preference and ordinary shares, as against a distribution at that rate for the period from dates of calls in 1914-15, and after again writing £1,250 off preliminary expenses, reducing that item to £1,006, the balance carried forward is £224 smaller at £509.

PLANTERS' STORES AND AGENCY CO., LTD.

The prosperity of the plantation industry brought considerable grist to this company's mill in the half-year ended March 31, and although the difficulties in obtaining delivery of goods from the manufacturers were greater, the nett profits were more than doubled at £19,040. A substantially larger balance of £38,539 was brought in, giving £57,579, or £25,991 more, to be dealt with, but the directors, always careful, consider that the cash resources require the most cautious handling in view of the uncertainty of the general business outlook. They accordingly increase the amount carried forward by £19,390 to £45,603, but even this generous provision leaves sufficient to enable them to raise the dividend on the ordinary shares to the very handsome figure of 22½ per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, as against 15 per cent. per annum for the corresponding period of 1914-15. Block account has been reduced by £3,303 to £12,167, and investments are £16,642 down at £46,229. Stocks, too, are £9,273 smaller at £45,961, but trade outstandings have risen by £21,611 to £66,423, sundry debtors owe £41,056 more at £109,956, and cash is £28,179 up at £56,422. On the other hand, liabilities on deposits show a decrease of £6,875 at £58,637, while the amount due to sundry creditors and on bills payable is £47,587 larger at £167,681.

BULLOCH, LADE AND CO., LTD.

This Glasgow distillery was evidently able to pass on to its customers the whole of the extra cost of materials, &c., in the year ended July 31, and is consequently able to show very satisfactory results. The full measure of its prosperity is concealed by the adoption of the all-too-common device of giving the profits after allowance has been made for excess profits tax, so that the available total, including £10,066, or £1,948 more, brought in, shows a gain of only £2,631 at £55,306. A year ago £9,500 was written off distilleries, plant, &c., but on the present occasion the directors appropriate only £3,500 to that purpose, and set aside another £3,500 to create an insurance reserve. They then increase the dividend on the ordinary shares from 7½ per cent. to 10 per cent., which is the highest distribution since 1908-9, and carry forward £11,347, or £1,281 more. Liabilities for bank loans show a reduction of £20,000 at £30,000, and other loans are £8,453 down at £29,000, but the amount due to sundry creditors, including the provision for excess profits tax, has risen by £47,105 to £51,118. Against these stocks are £39,172 larger at £459,511, while debtors owe £4,090 less at £72,935, and cash and bills are £4,968 down at £8,109.

How to Claim Repayment of Income-Tax.—This useful little book, published by Fredc. C. Mathieson and Sons at 1s. nett, will be a boon to many people. When the income-tax stood at 1s. or less, very often the trouble of getting a refund of small amounts overpaid was not worth the bother, but with 5s. in the £ deducted at the source it is another story altogether, and this small volume gives very explicit directions how to present claims for repayment in such a way that overworked officials will not throw them out of court at the first cursory inspection. We feel quite sure that the Inland Revenue authorities do not want to cheat anybody, but taxpayers themselves must help if they want proper consideration, and they will find all the necessary information in this book. It also gives tables showing the actual rate in the £ on different incomes and the text of the Finance Acts relating to income-tax since the war began. There is a good index, and any point in doubt can be found at a moment's notice.

N. P. I.

WAR LEAFLETS.

1. Dividend Saving.
2. Farmers and the Budget.
3. Private Investment and Depreciation.

Copies of any of these leaflets will be sent post free to readers of the *INVESTORS' REVIEW* on application to the

NATIONAL PROVIDENT INSTITUTION,

48 GRACECHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

ARGENTINE IRON AND STEEL.

The fourth ordinary general meeting of the Argentine Iron and Steel Co. (Pedro Vasena & Hijos), Ltd., was held on Friday, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. Chas. Lock, vice-chairman of the company, presiding.

The Secretary, Mr. W. F. Yaxley, having read the notice calling the meeting, and the auditor's report,

The Chairman, in the course of moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: The building trade has practically stopped during the year. There have been no large buildings erected, and such small buildings, alterations, &c., as have been put in hand were only such as were absolutely necessary. Of the work of this nature which has been available, we believe we have had a very large share. Indeed, practically the only large building erected in Buenos Aires since the outbreak of the war was the Bolsa de Comercio, and thanks to the energy of the Local Board, our company secured the contract for the erection of the metallic framework. In this connection you may be interested to learn that the framework weighed 3,700 tons, and was delivered and erected by our company in the record time of 110 days. While there was a reduction in the actual volume or quantity of commodities sold by the company, yet, owing to the rise in market prices, we were able to reach a somewhat higher cash turnover than during the preceding year, and to meet you with a profit and loss account showing a trading profit of £102,875 19s. 6d., which, having regard to the very difficult conditions which prevailed, the directors can only regard as satisfactory. It is a few hundred pounds more than last year. I have already explained that there was a reduction in the weight of goods sold, and I may add that we have had to buy from time to time on rising markets. Fortunately, we have also had the advantage of the rising markets when we came to sell. The result is that the profit which we show has been obtained under conditions which, on the whole, although difficult, have been favourable to the seller. I was able last year to refer to extensive economies which had been put into force. They were considerable, and naturally cannot be repeated, at all events to the same extent. All the same, I can now call attention to some further moderate economies. For instance, the salaries of the managers in Buenos Aires show a reduction of £720. The interest on debentures is reduced owing to bonds having been previously redeemed. Office rent and other London expenses, &c., are down by about £600, while there has been a reduction of some £420 in the remuneration of the London and local boards. These economies, although small, are relatively considerable, and are naturally all to the good. We are thus left with a nett profit, after payment of all fixed charges and expenses, of £59,822 7s. 1d., or some £2,650 more than last year. Of this amount we apply the sum of £7,459 os. 1d. to the reserve for contingencies which we started last year, raising that fund to the substantial sum of £34,929 17s. 7d. From the balance of nett profit we recommend the payment to the preference shareholders of the fixed cumulative dividend of 6 per cent. for the year. This allocation will leave a balance of £22,063 7s., which, in the ordinary course would be available for dividend on the ordinary shares, but, as you will remember, for the year ending February 28, 1914, owing to circumstances dealt with in the report for that year, our chairman, Señor Don Pedro Vasena, very liberally advanced that amount for the payment of the preference dividend, without security and without interest, subject only to the stipulation that it should be repaid out of the first profits of future years available after paying preference dividends. We are glad to be in the happy position of being able to repay him out of this year's profits, and the accounts provide for this being done. We are not, however, in funds to repay him at the moment. We wish to pay the preference dividend in full, and, after the resolution, which I shall presently move, is duly passed, we propose to pay the preference dividend on the 4th proximo; but, as regards the amount of Señor Don Pedro Vasena's advance, it can and will only be liquidated as and when it is convenient to do so from the exchequer point of view. You will, perhaps, like to hear something of the prospects of the year now current. We commenced it with a reasonable stock in hand, valued, having regard to market conditions, at conservative prices, and consisting of well-selected and varied materials very suitable to our business; while the stock, as far as possible, has been purged of goods which were difficult and slow of sale. Our business depends, to a great extent, upon the general prosperity of Argentina, and conditions are still of such a nature as not to warrant any great optimism for the immediate future. However, as far as we are concerned, we have not fared badly, because our turnover for the first five months of the current financial year shows a substantial increase in value if not in weight, compared with the turnover for the corresponding period last year.

Baron Emile d'Eranger seconded the adoption of the report, and it was carried unanimously.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Gemsah production for the week. 12 tons; Hurgada production for the week, 551 tons.

Spies Petroleum Co.—Production, including 705 poods from ambars, for the week ending August 20 was 165,010 poods, or about 2,661 tons. Total production for year from January 14 to August 20 was 5,377,210 poods, or about 86,720 tons, compared with 8,748,460 poods, or about 141,104 tons last year.

Answers to Correspondents.

*. A Key to these Answers will be posted early each week for a subscription of ONE GUINEA per annum, 11s. for six months, or 5s. 9d. for three months.

Deposits against future queries may be lodged with the Publisher.

F. P. T.—Neither sell nor buy to average at present. The market has no "way" upon it, but the stock is bound to come right one day.

China.—The question is too hypothetical and vague to be susceptible of answer here. Undoubtedly there is danger always in that part of the world, but we do not think it more acute now than it has been any time these six or seven years past.

Jacob.—We say briefly, do nothing of the sort. Every share named is at a premium more or less excessive, and this is not the time to pay great premiums for anything outside tea, rubber, and perhaps oil.

Dicky.—Yes, not bad, if you can get any, which we doubt.

P. W. D.—They are very speculative, as the property is erratic in yield. You might buy a few.

Novice.—You must arrange the matter through your broker. The certificate you obtain in exchange will be marketable, so that you can realise at any time.

M. S. R.—Very little seems to be known here. Leave them severely alone.

B. W. W.—It does look a little brighter, and though there may still be alarms, it looks as if the worst were over. There was ample security for your bonds, and you might buy a few more to average.

T. I. R.—You should ascertain if the Treasury is willing to purchase or borrow your stock. If not, then you will not be liable for the extra tax.

F. P.—It is very difficult to find securities of the kind you want, and at present we can only give you two, but will make further inquiries. (1) Anglo-South American Real Property debentures. (2) Bahia Blanca and North Western Railway 4 per cent. first debentures.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

Anglo-Continental Supply.—On ordinary of 3 per cent., less tax., at 2s. 1½d. in the £, payable Aug. 25.

British American Tobacco.—Interim of 10 per cent. for the year ending Sept. 30 on ordinary, free of tax, which compares with an interim of 5 per cent. a year ago.

British and Benington's.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on ordinary, payable Sept. 14. A year ago the dividend was 3d. per share.

Cuban Telephone.—1½ per cent. on the preferred and 1½ per cent. on the common, payable Oct. 15.

Dalmellington Iron.—Final on the ordinary shares of 5 per cent., and bonus of 5s. per share, free of income-tax; last year the dividend was 5s. per share.

Great Boulder Proprietary Gold.—Interim of 9d. per share, less tax, payable Sept. 29; a year ago a similar distribution was made.

Isle of Wight Railway.—Interim for the first half of year:—Preferred ordinary at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, deferred at the rate of 1½ per cent. per annum, payable Aug. 23, same as last year.

J. and J. Cunningham.—17½ per cent. on ordinary, leaving £26,977 to be carried forward. Last year the dividend was 15 per cent.

J. and P. Coats.—Quarterly of 5 per cent. on preferred ordinary stock, and 1s. 6d. per share on ordinary shares, both less tax, the same as at the corresponding date of last year.

Jones and Higgins.—Interim on ordinary at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum for the six months ended Aug. 20, the same as a year ago.

London Guarantee and Accident.—Interim on ordinary of 5s. per share, less tax. Warrants will be posted Sept. 30.

MacLay and Co.—Final of 2 per cent. on ordinary, making 4 per cent. for the year. Last year the dividend was the same.

Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Sault Ste. Marie Railway.—Semi-annual on common stock of 3½ per cent. out of surplus earnings of the calendar year 1915, to be paid Oct. 16.

Oroville Dredging.—Interim of 6d. per share, payable, less income-tax at 5s. in the £, Sept. 29.

R. Thorne and Sons.—After payment of the preference share dividend for the two years ended January 31, 1913, and making provision for liability under the Finance Acts, £11,521 is carried forward. No distribution is made on the ordinary shares, and the auditors remark that no depreciation has been provided for on any of the company's heritable properties or plant. Last year 3 per cent. was paid on the preference shares and £2,428 carried forward.

Scottish Assets.—Final of 4 per cent., making 8 per cent. for the year, against 7 per cent. a year ago.

Strathmore Rubber.—Interim of 10 per cent., less tax. Last year the dividend was the same.

Summerlee Iron.—Final on ordinary of 15 per cent., free of tax, leaving £24,535 to be carried forward. Last year the dividend was 10 per cent., and £17,656 carried forward.

Swan, Hunter, Wigham, Richardson.—Interim of 2½ per cent. on both preference and ordinary.

Wigan Coal and Iron.—Interim at the rate of 4 per cent. for six months ended June 30, against 2½ per cent. a year ago.

IRISH RAILWAYS.

	Aug. 18	£	+	1,004	*	122,810	+	1,454
Belfast and County Down ..	" 18	4,936	+	1,004	*	122,810	+	1,454
Grand Canal ..	" 18	1,153	+	153	†	7,709	+	521
Bengal Nagpur ..	" 18	27,135	+	1,335	*	779,743	+	19,543
Great Northern ..	" 18	38,314	+	2,919	*	1,055,625	+	39,654
Gt. Southern and Western ..	" 18	15,351	+	835	*	411,316	+	6,444
Midland Great Western ..	" 18							

* From Jan. 1. † From July 1.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

		Rs.	+	Rs.	†	Rs.	+	Rs.
Assam Bengal ..	July 8	1,38,000	+	9,246	†	17,82,829	+	1,61,390
Bengal & N.-W. ..	July 1	3,97,570	+	39,401	†	59,00,465	+	6,10,699
Bengal Nagpur ..	July 15	9,50,000	+	1,11,000	†	1,47,99,335	+	25,44,277
Bombay, Baroda ..	Aug. 12	10,62,000	+	1,12,000	†	2,54,46,000	+	23,57,000
Burma ..	July 8	3,80,658	+	46,946	†	57,52,556	+	44,988
Delhi Umballa ..	July 29	59,200	+	1,611	†	11,82,598	+	77,549
East Indian ..	Aug. 19	20,67,000	+	3,23,000	†	4,38,05,000	+	14,56,000
Gt. Indian Penin. ..	July 12	16,97,400	+	4,91,600	†	3,80,04,967	+	74,79,826
Lucknow-Bareilly ..	July 1	43,682	+	1,360	†	6,47,961	+	86,551
Madras and S. ..	" 15	9,20,000	+	50,237	†	1,55,79,144	+	9,63,181
Mahratta ..	" 15	1,13,596	+	11,206	†	19,43,005	+	1,22,478
Nizam's Gd. (Broad) ..	" 15	68,344	+	2,723	†	11,58,477	+	40,275
Robilkund and ..	" 1	38,726	+	1,665	†	6,01,000	+	74,448
Kumaon ..	" 15	6,28,574	+	70,188	†	94,24,651	+	6,42,256
South Indian ..	" 15				†			

a 13 days. † April 1. ‡ October 1.

COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

		£	+	£	†	£	+	£
Beira ..	May *	33,808	+	2,094	†			
Canadian Northern ..	Aug. 14	841,500	+	413,900	†	5,543,700	+	2715,900
Canadian Pacific ..	July 7	2,985,000	+	119,000	†	14,780,000	+	5,098,000
Gr. Trk. Main Line ..	July 14	203,498	+	40,828	†	5,594,780	+	727,595
Gr. Trk. Western ..	July 14	37,192	+	6,884	†	1,193,143	+	279,020
Detroit G. H. & M. ..	July 14	13,486	+	78	†	420,825	+	97,380
Gr Trk Pac Prairie Sc ..	July 14	16,650	+	4,817	†	126,141	+	38,041
Mashonaland ..	June *	56,677	+	6,505	†	743,394	+	94,815
Mid. of Westn. Aus. ..	" *	4,854	+	59	†	88,012	+	10,691
New Cape Central ..	July 22	1,687	+	72	†	46,629	+	6,206
Rhodesia ..	June *	82,423	+	6,719	†	82,423	+	6,719

a 9 days. * Months. † July 1. ‡ Jan. 1. c From Oct. 1.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

		£	+	£	†	£	+	£
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	Aug. 7	835,000	+	66,000	†	4,705,000	+	295,000
Chicago G.W. ..	July 7	274,000	+	16,000	†	1,524,000	+	138,000
Colorado & South'n ..	July 21	287,000	+	39,000	†	825,000	+	101,000
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	Aug. 14	522,000	+	19,000	†	3,075,000	+	136,000
Louisv'le & Nashv' ..	July 7	1,222,000	+	188,000	†	6,346,000	+	826,000
Minn. S.P. (Soo) ..	July 21	701,000	+	185,000	†	2,042,000	+	520,000
Missouri Kansas ..	July 31a	1,028,000	+	154,000	†	3,056,000	+	539,000
Northern Pacific ..	July 21	1,693,000	+	392,000	†	4,621,000	+	1,056,000
Southern ..	Aug. 7	1,329,000	+	97,000	†	6,712,000	+	176,000

a 10 days. ‡ Includes Wisconsin Central. † From July 1.

MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

NAME.	Month.	NETT EARNINGS FOR MONTH.			No. of Mths.	NETT EARNINGS TO DATE.		
		Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year.	Dols.		Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year.	Dols.
Atchison T. & S. Fé ..	June	3,702,000	+	752,000	12	43,780,000	+	7,729,000
Atlantic Coast Line ..	"	776,000	+	364,000	12	9,855,000	+	2,811,000
Baltimore & Ohio ..	"	3,204,000	+	2,000	12	32,348,000	+	4,458,000
Canadian Northern ..	"	985,300	+	591,700	8	8,537,800	+	2,808,000
Canadian Pacific ..	"	3,690,000	+	1,012,000	12	49,226,000	+	15,651,000
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	"	2,583,000	+	444,000	12	16,450,000	+	4,542,000
Chicago & N.W. ..	"	2,786,000	+	534,000	12	24,607,000	+	4,723,000
Chicago Burl. & Q. ..	May	2,869,000	+	1,230,000	11	37,764,500	+	9,266,000
Chicago G.W. ..	"	246,000	+	38,000	11	3,831,000	+	746,000
Chicago Mil. & S.P. ..	June	1,894,000	+	928,000	12	31,260,000	+	6,545,000
Chicago, Rock I. & P. ..	"	1,473,000	+	419,000	12	16,811,000	+	2,771,000
Colorado & Southern ..	May	447,000	+	227,000	11	5,317,000	+	1,457,000
Cuba ..	"	681,003	+	140,126	11	6,211,534	+	1,462,441
Do. ..	"	261,131	+	482	11	2,314,953	+	626,709
Delaware & Hud. ..	"	794,000	+	93	5	3,486,000	+	564,000
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	"	798,000	+	206,000	11	8,304,000	+	2,440,000
Erie ..	June	1,727,000	+	182,000	6	8,611,000	+	2,321,000
Gr. Tr. Main Line ..	"	£277,450	+	£2,350	6	£1,103,650	+	£131,900
Grand Trunk Westn ..	"	£61,000	+	£34,300	6	£239,500	+	£219,800
Detroit G.H. & Mil. ..	"	£11,403	+	£15,100	6	£21,100	+	£41,200
Gt. Northern ..	May	2,505,000	+	899,000	11	34,457,000	+	6,214,000
Illinois Central ..	June	1,489,000	+	1,009,000	12	14,155,000	+	3,277,000
Kansas City Southn. ..	"	301,000	+	162,000	12	3,660,000	+	676,000
Lehigh Valley ..	June	1,150,000	+	278,000	12	12,575,000	+	1,703,000
Louisville & Nashv. ..	May	1,693,000	+	848,000	11	16,716,000	+	7,508,000
Minn. S.P. (Soo) ..	June	1,051,000	+	714,000	12	12,581,000	+	4,984,000
Miss. K. & Texas ..	"	334,000	+	25,000	12	5,041,000	+	3,562,000
Missouri Pacific ..	May	723,000	+	55,000	12	12,567,000	+	605,000
New York Cent. & H. ..	May	5,484,000	+	622,000	6	29,638,000	+	11,281,000
N.Y. N. Haven & H. ..	May	2,200,000	+	462,000	11	20,240,000	+	4,390,000
New York Ont. & W. ..	June	2,772,000	+	87,000	12	2,477,000	+	366,000
Norfolk & Western ..	"	2,001,000	+	442,000	12	23,232,000	+	9,787,000
Northern Pacific ..	"	2,592,000	+	430,000	12	31,032,000	+	9,482,000
Pennsylvania East ..	"							
and West Lines ..	"	10,211,000	+	1,761,000	6	50,768,000	+	21,959,000
St. Louis & San F. ..	May	1,201,000	+	310,000	11	12,343,000	+	1,747,000
Seaboard Air Line ..	"	575,000	+	108,000	11	6,244,000	+	1,515,000
Southern ..	"	2,022,000	+	684,000	11	19,337,000	+	7,077,000
Southern Pacific ..	June	4,821,000	+	1,223,000	12	48,191,000	+	12,501,000
Union Pacific ..	"	3,780,000	+	954,000	12	40,824,000	+	10,643,000
Wabash ..	"	967,000	+	755,000	11	10,955,000	+	5,051,000

‡ Includes Wisconsin Central. * Gross earnings. † Surplus.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—HOME.

		£	+	£	†	£	+	£
Bristol ..	Aug. 18	10,841	+	562	†	328,474	+	12,061
Dublin United ..	" 4	75,616	+	224	†	180,943	+	6,688
Hastings and Dist. ..	" 18	1,929	+	363	†	32,870	+	1,506
Isle of Thanet ..	" 19	1,002	+	77	†	15,667	+	2,868
Lancashire United ..	" 16	2,052	+	241	†	58,718	+	2,277
Provincial ..	" 19	2,989	+	221	†	104,595	+	5,680
Yorks. (Wst. Rdng.) ..	" 20	1,902	+	207	†	59,108	+	5,248

* From Oct. 1. † From Jan. 1.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.

		£	+	£	Ms.	£	+	£
Anglo-Argentine ..	Aug. 19	48,713	+	2,219	Ms.	1,675,343	+	9,464
Auckland Electric ..	July 28b	21,507	+	1,099	a	21,507	+	646
Brazilian Traction ..	May *	M4,043,000	+	M 51,020	5	M 18,774,000	+	M 727,350
Brisbane Elec. Inv. ..	Apl.	30,320	+	3,730	2	62,600	+	6,390
British Columbia ..	June *	56,399	+	52,621	10	853,782	+	458,569
B.A. Lacroze ..	"	36,212	+	4,205	12	490,818	+	15,324
Burmah Electric ..	July 29	Rs. 3,437	+	Rs. 289	—	—	+	Rs. 3,920
Calcutta ..	Aug. 19	Rs. 69,919	+	1,134	*	Rs. 21,98,019	+	103,358
Cordoba Light ..	"							
P. & T. ..	June	14,129	+	70	2	43,050	+	888
Hongkong ..	July 15	15,759	+	3,314	2	386,509	+	88,496
La Plata ..	June b	3,736	+	140	6	25,925	+	161
Lima ..	May *	15,693	+	69	4	78,913	+	1,440
Madras Electric ..	June 31c	Rs. 32,762	+	Rs. 2,272	*	Rs. 4,37,111	+	Rs. 31,700
Mexico ..	Nov. *	215,256	+	108,666	*	3,193,106	+	197,227
Puebla ..	Dec. *	40,000	+	25,600	*	669,500	+	44,500
Rangoon ..	July *	4,357	+	272	*	28,089	+	1,436
Singapore Electric ..	May 20	13,139	+	1,897	8	247,259	+	29,716
Toronto ..	"	438,997	+	65,935	3	1,693,799	+	198,311
United of Monte V. ..	July	25,220	+	59	9	266,288	+	14,455
Vera Cruz ..	Mar.	73,500	+	32,300	*	203,900	+	103,200
Winnipeg ..	June *	87,571	+	2,926	4	630,508	+	8,864

b 28 days. * From Jan. 1. ‡ Nett. a From July 1. c Two weeks.

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.		GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			W'ks.	GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
		Week ending	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.		Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	
Alcoy and Gandia ..	Aug. 5	Pa. 8,000	+	Ps. 300	†	Ps. 437,900	+	Ps. 33,700
Antofagasta (Chili) ..	Aug. 19	31,185	+	4,245	†	1,099,495	+	329,963
Arauco ..	July	8,100	+	1,350	†	152,233	+	17,066
Argentine N.E. ..	Aug. 19	6,500	+	1,129	†	46,402	+	1,751
Bilbao R. and Canta ..	June *	4,325	+	669	6	24,777	+	1,796
Bolivar ..	July *	7,000	+	143	9	116,372	+	22,946
Brazil ..	June *	M3,864,000	+	M32,770	†	M 263,800	+	M694,580
Brazil Gt. Southern ..	Apr. *	M18,32,750	+	M3,300	†	M 69,250	+	M4,200
B. Ayres & Pacific ..	Aug. 19	83,000	+	2,000	†	635,000	+	7,000
Do. Gt. South'n ..	" 20	94,000	+	11,000	†	639,254	+	90,346
Do. Western ..	" 20	51,000	+	8,000	†	343,000	+	17,00

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Passing Events.

Revenue fell off a little last week and amounted to no more than £5,140,000, which was about £716,000 less than that of the previous week. Expenditure also receded somewhat, so that the total of £31,461,000 was fully £290,000 a day less than that of the preceding week, that is to say it came to £4,494,000 per day as compared with £4,787,000. Among tax revenue sources the excess profits duty continues to show satisfactory results, the total received for the past week having been £1,730,000, which was only about £250,000 less than the income of the preceding week. Altogether, setting aside £12,382,000 of temporary advances repaid, of which £11,382,000 was in Treasury bills, the expenditure of the week had to be met by new borrowing, and the nett increase in the Treasury bill debt was £21,981,000, bringing up the total outstanding to £908,659,000. This nett addition to the bills was not enough, and consequently the Government had to utilise £2,000,000 received on Saving certificates, a decline of £250,000 from the totals of several previous weeks and £664,000 received from the sale of Expenditure certificates, which was £123,000 more than came in the week before. Also £2,862,000 was received for Exchequer bonds sold, which is again the smallest total of any one week since the issue of this form of debt began. As recently as the week ended August 5 the amount brought into the Exchequer by the sale of these bonds was £8,066,000, and now it has fallen to less than £3,000,000. The holiday season, however, is now wearing towards a close, and we may hope to see a revival of the demand for these bonds, especially for those of five years' currency which remain the favourites, £1,928,000 having been netted upon them last week as compared with £484,000 of three-year and £450,000 of four-year bonds disposed of. The total of this form of debt outstanding has now been raised to £167,454,000, and the total of floating debt in all forms is therefore now £1,078,577. Of the week's outgoings £29,763,000 was devoted to supply services, mostly for the Army and Navy, but interest on War debt took £1,198,000, and is a continually increasing item of outlay.

Almost before the news had become generally known that Rumania had declared war against the Austro-

Hungarian Empire, financial touts in Berlin—or was it in Frankfort, the semitically fatuous?—came out with the declaration that the new loan would be helped by this incident. "It will stir up anew the patriotism of the German nation and make the subscription a bumper one." That is a brilliant example of German methods of reasoning, but we doubt whether facts will support it any more than they have supported the flame-coloured romances about victories on sea and Zeppelin devastations on land. For where is the means to fill this German loan coming from? What have the people got to subscribe with? Broken limbs and burst guns, idle wharves, rotting ships, factories filled with rusting machinery, mines waterlogged, a great hive of industry all gone bankrupt. The banks can have no money, all their assets have already been pledged probably twice or thrice over, and a large slice of their assets has gone for ever. Where are the colonies they and the Government poured money into, where their investments in Turkey, in Italy, Russia, and the Far East? This dramatic action of Rumania will have given a considerable, probably an almost paralysing, blow to the Deutsche Bank, whose investments in that kingdom are heavy. Indeed, we should not be surprised if German banking and finance as a whole stood to lose for good and all £150,000,000 to £200,000,000 as a consequence of Rumania's adhesion to the league of liberators. That the German loan will come out, however, and be made to appear a success is inevitable, simply because the whole fabric of the Empire must go to pieces almost at once unless some façade representing a semblance of wealth can be erected in the eyes of the people, to cheat it a few weeks longer. But its emission will not help the German exchange, we may be sure, nor could any attraction be offered sufficient to entice foreign subscribers to hand over real money to the baffled Teuton now hastening to his ruin. There can be little or no savings bank money available, and we more and more doubt whether any unmortgaged gold now lies in the Reichsbank; feel certain that none can be in the Imperial Treasury. Unless, therefore, the Kaiser by a stroke of the pen confiscates private property of all sorts and surrenders his own immense wealth to the moloch of war, the attempt to issue the loan can only bring into higher relief than ever German denudation and approaching financial impotence. Supposing the

Kaiser subscribed all his Krupp shares, would that inspire the investing mob with an enthusiasm impelling them to pawn their last shirts in order that they also might subscribe 000's to bulge out the total of 000,000,000,000's to infinity? Not much. Krupp and all his works are destined soon to disappear.

In the last issue of the Russian supplement to the *Times*—a doubtless subsidised adjunct of that paper—which contains many interesting articles and is well worth filing, there are some particulars about the Russian debt. They are contained in the reprint of an English translation of the latest Russian Budget, which is running serially through this supplement and is of no small value. It was to be expected that the war would cause the obligations of the empire to expand at a speed far greater than the revenue could cope with and that much debt would have to be incurred in order to carry on the war to a successful issue. That has been the case, and since the beginning of 1914, when the debt stood in round figures at £885,000,000, within one year an increase of nearly £165,000,000 took place. That is to say on January 1, 1915, the debt had become £1,050,000,000. This presumably leaves on one side the note circulation. What the interest-bearing debt actually is at the present date is not yet made public, perhaps is not yet known, but it is interesting to see how the obligations forced upon the country by the war have been financed, and we note that the interest on the four new loans which have been estimated for this year is put at £10,240,000. The interest on securities issued in Russian money is partly paid on the maturity of the bonds and partly in advance, but interest on securities issued abroad is always paid in advance, and the amount of home securities issued in the first half of the current year is £150,000,000, the cost of which in interest is about £3,800,000. Probably we are not far out if we estimate the debt of Russia at the present time at something between £1,350,000,000 and £1,500,000,000, exclusive of paper money. Can Russia offer adequate security for this debt? Assuredly, the wealth-producing capacity of the empire could take care of twice as much, and is being continually augmented by the territories wrenched from the life-stifling grasp of the Turk, most hopeless of so-called "ruling races."

Some interesting information with regard to Italy's war finance has been circulated by the Press Bureau, and it shows clearly the heavy sacrifices our gallant Ally is making. For the financial year to June 30 the war expenditure, apart from the ordinary military and naval Budget, amounted to £312,000,000, or nearly £866,000 a day. That is a big burden for a comparatively poor country to carry, but it is faced manfully, and the prospect, in fact the certainty, that the figures mentioned will expand does not appal the people. Very prudently, a bold fiscal policy has been adopted, with the result that not only is the service of the existing debts provided for out of revenue, but there is an ample margin for interest on the billions of lire of new loans that may be required before the offending Hun is thoroughly scotched. There was an increase of some £21,000,000 in the revenue over the preceding fiscal year, and about 3½ millions more the expected in the current 12 months from the full operation of the taxes imposed. M. Carcano, the Italian Finance Minister, hopes that in the course of a few years Italy will again succeed in paying off entirely her foreign indebtedness, and we have every reason to believe that his faith on this point is well founded.

Optimism has always been the dominant note in Brazilian Government finance, and chronic deficits do not in the least disturb the self-satisfied equanimity of the powers that be. Mr. E. Hambloch, the British Commercial Attaché at Rio de Janeiro, sends a useful and interesting summary of the Budget for the financial year 1917, and this has been supplemented by the statement of M. Carlos Peixoto, reporter to the Budget

Commission. The estimated expenditure is put at 97,750,000 milreis gold and 406,390,000 milreis paper, while the estimated revenue is given at 100,587,000 gold and 321,380,000 paper. Taking the gold milreis at 2s. 3d. and the paper at 1s., there would be a deficit of 78,625,000 milreis paper. Increased taxation would reduce the deficit to 33,825,000 paper, which the Minister of Finance airily assumes is amply covered by the credit of 40,000,000 milreis held in London. Moreover, most of the deficit is attributed to the proposed resumption of specie in the second half of next year; but however good the intention may be at present, even Brazil's most enthusiastic friends are very doubtful whether it can be accomplished. Unfortunately, M. Peixoto suggests a good deal of scepticism with regard to the reliability of the revenue estimates and puts the anticipated deficit considerably higher. He considers that to secure equilibrium more reliance should be placed on economies than on increased taxation, and that is certainly sound advice, but where vested interests are touched it is often more difficult to practise the one than impose the other. Of course, the problem will have to be seriously tackled one day, but we are afraid the Brazilian bureaucrat is not yet tuned up to the proper pitch.

A comfortably flourishing exhibit is made by the Port of London Authority for its year closed March 31 last. Nett revenue from all sources amounted to £1,902,753, or £445,523 more than in the previous year, but of this increase £95,904 was contained in the balance brought forward, so that the actual income from the year's business was just £350,760 better, and of that increase £231,751 came from warehouses and £119,009 from docks and the river. Such figures do not indicate that the Port of London has been a sufferer from the insane ruthlessness of the sottish enemy. Interest charges absorbed £22,409 more at £979,174. There is also an increase of £115,496 in the burden of income-tax, but of that £143,936 was deducted from the interest paid to stockholders. This was £64,626 more than the similar offset of the previous year, and left the amount chargeable against the nett revenue at £78,758. Then £394,802 was set aside to meet expenditure on maintenance, dredging, &c., postponed in consequence of the war, and that compares with £145,434 set aside for special repairs in the preceding year. Provision for the reserve towards the Authority's contemplated pension scheme was, however, cut down by £35,482 to £39,518. But added to the previous year's assignment there is now £114,518 set aside as a foundation for the scheme. Also £100,000 was this time added to the reserve fund, to be invested, increasing it to £515,896, which is £114,272 up on the year because £14,272 came in as interest on investments held to the total of £386,763 on account of this fund, and was all added to the capital. Sinking funds have been augmented by £54,566 to £184,210, and in all respects the position seems to be satisfactory. After meeting all charges and providing for reserves, &c., there was £232,058 left to carry forward against £187,807 brought in, but this larger sum is liable to liability, if any, for excess profits duty. Capital expenditure of the year was £697,657, bringing the total up to £27,950,368.

No special interest attaches here to the International Mercantile Marine Corporation or "Morgan Shipping Combine," as we used to call it, a New Jersey company, which owns a number of steamers on the British Register—no interest except in just that fact. As an American company, the International Mercantile Marine can trade with neutrals, and we should like to know whether any ships belonging to it, be they of the wholly-owned White Star line or of the controlled Frederick Leyland and Co. line, have been or are being used to convey goods from America to Germany *via* Dutch, Danish, or Swedish ports. Complications might arise were this kind of business being carried on by the conglomerate foreign concern, and prove most difficult

for us to deal with in a way conducive to increased severity in our blockade. It is anomalous, in short, that foreign-owned ships should be on the British Register, and the sooner they cease to be the better. As for the complications of the company's finance, some old readers will doubtless remember the plain manner in which THE INVESTORS' REVIEW emphasised the grotesque rapidity of the over-capitalisation when the combination was formed. It was one of the most brazen assaults on public morals the Yankee-Berserker order of capitalist ever attempted, and naturally results proved to be, as we anticipated, correspondingly disastrous for shareholders and bondholders alike. So disastrous were they that just before the war broke out it was in contemplation to squeeze out a considerable portion of the plunder-capital, or to allow it to continue to smudge the balance-sheet, only on condition that shareholders paid a drastic assessment. But the war altered things, revenues went up, whether through contraband goods carriage or not we cannot say, so now a scheme has been put forth whereby a new 25-year first mortgage and collateral trust 6 per cent. sinking fund bond issue is to be made to the ultimate amount of \$50,000,000, to pay off existing debts and render aids from capital easy in the future. At present only \$40,000,000 of these bonds will be emitted to help in paying off the outstanding amount of the existing debt, which is \$70,225,000, plus \$7,827,000 of overdue interest. Cash in hand of sorts is to provide for the balance. That is to say, 57 per cent. of the old bonds and arrears of interest will be paid in the new paper, and the rest in cash out of the company's reserves. Of the old bonds, \$17,632,000 bear 5 per cent. and \$52,594,000 4½ per cent. interest. Should bondholders here accept the scheme? We see no reason why they should stand out. Under existing Yankee navigation laws, the company can only have ephemeral successes at best, but during one of these bursts it might be possible to sell out. We doubt, though, whether the monster monopoly-aiming structure can be put in a shape rendering it acceptable to comradeship with the mercantile navies of the Allies as arranged after the war.

The conditional agreement made on June 30 under which the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co. acquires control of the New Zealand Shipping Co., and its subsidiary the Federal Steam Navigation Co., is to be submitted to the stockholders of the P. and O. Co. at an extraordinary general meeting on the 7th inst. As already stated in our issue of July 8, the proposal is that each ordinary £10 share fully paid of the New Zealand Shipping Co. will be exchanged for £10 of fully-paid P. and O. deferred stock, and the amount required to carry out the agreement is £906,720. Treasury sanction has been obtained for the necessary increase in the capital, and a resolution will be proposed at the meeting for the creation of this amount of deferred stock, making, with the existing preferred stock, a total capital of £5,744,853. In an explanatory memorandum the directors state that for a number of years the British India Steam Navigation Co. has maintained a service between this country and Australia in alliance with the two undertakings now to be taken over, and the object of the proposed combination is to make a complete fusion between them, thus promoting economy, strengthening the position of all the companies, and generally increasing the efficiency of their joint work. The property of the New Zealand Shipping Co. includes its fleet, built or in course of building, of about 154,942 tons, and all the shares in the Federal Steam Navigation Co., which owns a fleet, built or in course of building, of about 169,590 tons. To speculate on the effect likely to be produced upon our mercantile marine and our control of Empire trade routes by such combinations is premature, but facts speak eloquently of increased concentration of power. To give pound for pound in P. and O. deferred stock for the New Zealand Co.'s share capital does not seem a liberal price until we remember that the current price of the P. and O. deferred stock is 336 to 337; consequently £10 of this stock is worth £33 to £34, and the £907,000 of the stock given for the New Zealand Co.'s shares comes

out at just upon £3,000,000, which looks not at all a bad bargain for the New Zealand Co. as bargains go in war time. Lord Inchcape, for long head of the British India Co., and Sir Thos. Sutherland's successor in the chairmanship of the P. and O., is to be president of the new combine.

We have been corrected regarding the causes of the increased cost of waggon and other repairs on the North British Railway. It is not due, we are assured by one who knows the facts well, to the making up for past neglect, but to actual necessities. The line is being worked very severely at present, and all its equipment has to be kept fit for use. This obligation is laid on the company at the same time that numbers of its men have been taken out of the workshops by the war, so that outside help has to be employed, and that means additional expense. Timber also is from three to six times dearer than it was before the war, chiefly owing to the high freights charged, wages are high, and the output low. Our mentor adds: "The Chancellor of the Exchequer admitted that his Budget was framed to please the trades unions, which does not make the British workmen any more amenable to discipline." That is altogether another question, but we are glad to have reliable assurance that the management of the North British Railway is now as straightforward and clean as it should be, and not at all as it once was. We can well remember the time when the property was as much stock-jobbed and as much under the influence of gamblers as the lines controlled by Sir Edward Watkin and James Staats Forbes used to be.

It would be useless to try to make comparisons between the report of the Canadian Northern Railway for its year closed June 30, 1915, and previous years, because under the scheme the conditions agreed upon between the company and the Canadian Government property to the granting of Government assistance the whole system is treated as one, and consequently the mileage dealt with has risen from 4,563 to 7,269. What requires emphasis, however, is the disastrous character of the traffic results for the year reviewed. Gross earnings were 17.6 per cent. under those of the previous year, and the nett income was \$1,640,283 below the amount necessary to cover fixed charges. That is to say, against \$6,623,292 of clear revenue there were interest charges of \$8,263,575 to be met. Accordingly, the Government of the Dominion had to step in and help the company along, but we may hope that the year 1914-15 saw the worst of the troubles, and although Government help may imply greater Government control than has hitherto been exercised over railways in Canada, that may in the end be bad neither for the company nor for the public. For the past year, moreover, whose accounts are not yet published, but which will contain traces of the effect produced by the opening of the company's line all the way from Quebec to Vancouver, gross receipts jumped by nearly \$10,000,000 from \$16,984,400 to \$27,722,700, notwithstanding the great increase in costs of working. That gross income ought to yield enough to cover all fixed charges with something over.

Everyone knows and expects that the business of a finance house like the British Empire Trust Co., Ltd., must be seriously affected by existing conditions, and we turned to the report with some trepidation. But the results for the year to April 29 are quite as good as could be hoped for. Revenue from trusteeships, &c., was a trifle higher at £9,813, but, as was inevitable, interest dividends, &c., produced £9,500 less at £44,396. About £700 was saved in general expenses, and the charge for income-tax was only £980, a decrease of £2,780. Following the only sound and prudent policy, the directors have written down investments to their market valuation, for which purpose £53,080 has been appropriated, but this is £42,700 less than the amount required last year, and the nett loss comes out at £7,530, a decrease of £39,730. A year ago £73,100 was taken from reserve, and a balance of £19,860 was carried forward. This is all

swallowed up after paying the dividend on the cumulative preference shares, and a small debit balance of £219 is carried forward. Naturally, no dividend can be paid on the preferred or deferred ordinary shares, but, with its investments drastically written down, the company will be in a position to take full advantage of any improvement that occurs when normal conditions are restored. The company acts as trustee for sums amounting to 64½ millions, and is registrar for securities representing a total nominal value of 11¼ millions. After allowing for depreciation, the investments stand at £533,600, or £65,740 less than a year ago, while advances have been reduced by £25,000 to £380,370. Loans from bankers have also been reduced £24,000 to £74,000, while cash in hand and at call is up £55,000 to £217,357. It is stated that 76 per cent. of the investments are in railways, light and power companies quoted on the Stock Exchange, and it is not reasonable to expect that such securities will remain indefinitely under the present cloud, although, perhaps, the recovery may be slower than some people anticipate.

For obvious reasons, great interest has been manifested in the progress of British dyes, Ltd., and it is a pity that the directors will not be in a position to submit the accounts for the year to April 30 until they have arrived at a settlement with the revenue authorities in regard to the duties payable under the Finance Act. However, they have issued a report on the operations of the company, which must do duty meantime for more complete information. Since the statutory meeting in July, 1915, the capital has been increased by £417,700, and it now consists of 864,179 £1 shares, with 10s. called up, and a loan of £1,064,179 from the Government. In spite of the restriction caused by the shortage of certain materials, the supply of dyes has been greatly increased. New plant has been erected, and is in course of erection, but these extensions have been greatly retarded by the scarcity of labour and materials, and by the difficulty of obtaining deliveries of plant from the makers. Nevertheless, substantial progress has been made, the new buildings erected covering an area of about 27 acres. A committee appointed by the Board of Trade has made an exhaustive inquiry into the colour requirements of the country, and proposals have been submitted by Mr. Turner, manager of British Dyes, for the prevention of overlapping in manufacture and for utilising existing resources to the fullest advantage. After conferring with the leading users of dyes, the directors decided to provide, in the first place, mainly for manufacturing on a large scale, raw materials and intermediate products which are essential to the successful establishment of the industry in this country. As a result, the company has been able to send considerable quantities of these materials to Swiss manufacturers, who would not otherwise have been able to continue their supplies to the British markets. An agreement has been entered into with the French Government company for a complete exchange of knowledge and processes and for the formation of an inter-Allied company, to establish co-operation between the two companies in regard to the production of intermediates and dyes. This is a practical step in the right direction, which we most heartily welcome, and we are glad to learn also that adequate attention is being paid to scientific research. Although we had considerable misgivings about the formation of British Dyes, and especially the methods of its flotation, we hope it will fully justify its existence in the long run.

Prices for sugar must have been very good indeed in Argentina last year for Leach's Argentine Estates, Ltd., increased its nett profits by £93,706 to £203,904, notwithstanding the fact that the crop was 6,895 tons down at 19,566 tons compared with the yield of the preceding year. True the weight was 1,445 tons bigger than that for 1913, but for all that the market must have been in a fine resilient condition. Expenses were less, principally because general loan and interest charges were £14,671 down at £14,128. Against that

depreciation was increased by £2,227 to £28,518, and interest on debentures, London charges, directors' fees, &c., took £2,195 more at £50,829. Still the entire deduction was £10,250 less at £99,470, and consequently the final nett profit of £104,428 showed an increase of £103,956. This handsome revenue has enabled the directors to clear off some excrescences, such as £4,109, cost of the transfer and mortgage of properties, and £11,750, discount and stamp duty on debentures and brokerage on shares issued during the year. Also £12,819 has been carried to the reserve, raising it to £35,609, and the nett available balance then remaining is in these ways brought down to £75,750, out of which 6 per cent. is paid both on the cumulative preference shares and on the ordinary, including the payment from date of sale on the additions. During the year the vendors subscribed for £50,000 5½ per cent. first mortgage debentures at 95, also for 150,000 preference shares and 50,000 ordinary shares at par, less 5 per cent. brokerage, which brokerage is accordingly charged off against the year's revenue. In consequence of the addition made the outstanding debenture debt was actually increased by £21,500 last year to £909,900, after allowing for £28,500 drawn for redemption. Also the preference share capital was increased by £150,000 to £500,000, and the ordinary capital by £25,000 to £500,000, the ordinary shares being 10s. shares and the preference £1 shares. During the year £20,133 was spent on additions to the property, bringing its cost up to £1,797,490, exclusive of goodwill, £132,700, which remains unaltered. Stocks of materials and sugar together show a reduction of £167,976 at £131,613, of which £55,404 is sugar, alcohol, and coffee, the sugar having been sold since the date of the balance-sheet, December 31 last. Debtors and debtor balances, including expenditure on account of the 1916 crop, is an entry showing a reduction of £12,448 at £231,134, and cash is £1,529 down at £65,816, notwithstanding the large addition to the capital resources of the company, but creditors and credit balances have been reduced by no less than £271,363 to £236,077, and bills payable, which a year ago were nearly £178,000, have been brought down to £793. Already £90,155 has been applied in redemption of debentures, and although the reserve fund is yet small, the appearance of the balance-sheet is distinctly more robust.

During the 12 months ended July 31 the directors of F. Steiner and Co., the well-known Turkey red dyers, evidently worked to some purpose, and were able not only to recover the ground lost in the previous year, but also to increase the profits in a very substantial fashion. A year ago there was a decrease of £6,654 in the nett profits, and in order to meet the preference dividend with a fairly substantial margin over £20,000 was withdrawn from reserve. For the period now under review, however, the nett surplus, after writing off £33,987 for repairs and depreciation, compared with £30,445 for that purpose and £5,640 for depreciation of investments, amounted to £137,874, or an increase of no less than £113,112. Even this splendid result does not reveal the whole story, as provision was made for excess profits tax before arriving at the total given. Adding £15,542 brought in, the available surplus was £153,416, out of which £40,000 is transferred to reserve, making that fund £170,000, and the ordinary shares return to the dividend-paying list with a distribution of 7 per cent. as against 5 per cent. paid for 1912-13. The balance left to carry forward is still £24,125 larger at £39,666. Stocks show a moderate increase of £7,681 at £641,352, but debtors owe £30,538 more at £135,030, against £50,188 more at £111,591 due to creditors, while the small bank overdraft of £5,549 in the previous balance-sheet has given place to a credit of £80,515, and cash in hand is £2,352 up at £3,848, so that the financial position has been considerably strengthened. Property and goodwill account is £8,996 down at £811,117, but investments have risen by £29,947 to £97,645.

A provisional scheme for the sale of the Chillagoe Railway and Mines, Ltd., to the Queensland Govern-

ment was sanctioned at a general meeting of the debenture holders this week. The purchase price is £450,000 in cash for the secured properties, which it is believed will enable a return of capital to be made to the debenture holders of about £80 per £100 debenture, with no consideration for the interest which has been in default since October, 1914. The amount of debentures affected is £562,000, carrying 5 per cent. interest, to which it was reduced at the time of the reconstruction in 1905. In the latter part of 1914 mining operations were suspended owing to lack of funds, and the last accounts showed a debit of £60,270. The company has had a very chequered career, and we think that the debenture holders are wise to agree to accept the offer, since the only alternative would be a further reconstruction.

Mexican Outlook.

With the undertaking of the *de facto* (if it is so) Carranza Government of Mexico to restore the Mexican Railway (Vera Cruz) to its proprietors on the 1st instant an important advance has been made towards the restoration of civilised conditions in this unhappy country which has for years been the tool or shuttlecock of get-rich-quick Yankee speculators. Unfortunately the serious crisis came at a time when the head of the United States was an invertebrate idealist, meaning well—the best—no doubt, but as far removed from actualities and a reasonable appreciation of world affairs as the most be-spectacled German professor who mouths about Hate and Deutschland über Alles in the same breath. What the outcome of it all will be we are not prepared even to guess, but it is perhaps just as well for the ultimate solution that the United States Government has its hands full for the time being with the threatened railway strike. If that really develops—and we have no means of judging accurately how much is mere bluff on either side—the Mexicans may have a chance of settling their affairs in their own way without outside interference, and that would be

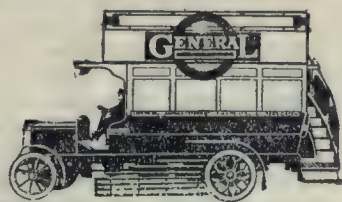
and many millions have been sunk in railways, lighting and power schemes, tramways, mines and oil wells, besides many other commercial enterprises. It cannot be said that these investments have turned out very profitably, although before the recent troubles began Mexican credit stood fairly high, and many of the ventures which British capital created prospered greatly. How long it may be till similar conditions are restored it is impossible to foreshadow, and we are not certain even yet that the Yankees will keep their hands off after the Presidential Election is out of the way. But we shall try to hope for the best, and the Mexicans, if left to themselves, will probably discover that they have by now had enough of cutting each other's throats. It may be interesting therefore to show how some of the leading securities stand, and the annexed table gives the prices of 20 prominent stocks over the past three years.

It will be seen that in 1913, before the domestic troubles became acute, and before the world-war broke out, the best-class Mexican securities were practically on a 5 per cent. basis. Towards the end of that year, however, there was a heavy drop in prices owing to the revolution, but there was a substantial recovery in the first half of 1914, and the outlook seemed more hopeful up to the time that the Huns plunged Europe into war. Whether this calamity reacted unfavourably on Mexico it is impossible to say, but at any rate since then things have gone from bad to worse, and although there has been a slight improvement in the last week or two present prices show a terrible loss as compared with the level on July 28, 1914. Holders of these and other Mexican stocks, however, may now be more confidently recommended to hang on. We cannot promise any rapid recovery, but we are inclined to think that the worst is over, and that conditions will gradually become better. Much of the loss may never be made good, but at any rate there is every prospect of a steady improvement, and it would be a pity to sacrifice any more on the altar of Yankee speculation.

	1913.		1914.		July 28, 1914.	Present Price.
	Hgst.	Lwst.	Hgst.	Lwst.		
Mexican Silver 5%	48	35	36½	30½	35½	19
Do. 1899 5%	100½	85	89	74	84	59
Do. 4%	87½	72	73½	64	68½	39
Do. Treasury 6% ..	96½	94	94	87	86½	63½
Do. City 5%	101½	83	88	70	81	47½
Nat. Rail. of Mexico						
4% Pref.	67½	26½	36½	26½	28	21
Do. 5% Pref.	29½	9	14½	9½	9½	7½
Mexican Central Sec.						
"A" Deb.	89½	61½	68½	60	61½	43½
Mexican Railway Ord.	59½	30½	39½	25½	31½	20
Do. 1st Pref.	141½	108½	121½	89½	103	69
Do. 2nd Pref.	97½	60½	75½	55	63	41
Do. 6% Deb.	134	119	124	106½	118	89½
Mex. Southern Rly. ..	107½	84	94	72	76½	32
Do. 1st Deb.	93½	76½	78½	64½	72½	37
Mex. N.W. 1st Mort.						
Bonds	64	26½	36	22½	28	20
Mex. Light and Power	87½	44	53½	34	45½	19
Do. 1st Mort. Bonds	98½	70½	88½	68	81½	43
Mexico Trams	115	64½	79	59	65	30
Do. 5% Bonds	99½	75	88	70	84	43
Do. 6% Bonds	102½	76	89½	65½	76	35

the best thing that could happen. In almost every respect the country is extraordinarily backward, and the condition of the "common people" is not very far removed from sheer savagery, in spite of the glimmering dawn of better things which they are beginning to see but cannot yet grasp. On the other hand, the country is extraordinarily rich in natural resources, both minerally and agriculturally, and it only requires more enlightened government to become one of the earth's richest treasures. After the past few years of brutality and chaos, murder and devastation, it will take a long time to recover and make a fresh start on the path of peaceful development, but the "goods are there," and sooner or later they will be used to greater advantage than they have been hitherto.

British capital is very heavily interested in the proper development of the country. Especially under the Diaz régime we made large advances to the Government,



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Monopolies and Public Revenue.

In the *Daily Mail* recently Sir Leo Chiozza Money, M.P., was good enough to tell us how to pay for the war "at a stroke." His idea is quite brilliant, and although its realisation might still leave our war debt much where it will stand when the war ends, the conversion of the stored heat in our coal into electric current generated at or near the pits is an old project worth keeping in mind, at any rate as a supplement to that other threadbare suggestion so frequently made in these columns, to wit, that our waste water should be caught and stored for the double purpose of furthering profitable agriculture and generating electricity to drive our machinery and serve us in all ways. Unfortunately, no scheme for human elevation of this or any other kind can be carried out without money. Sir Leo's project only demands a trifle of £500,000,000, and sums of that or of any magnitude are not likely to be knocking about the Money markets of the world for a good many years to come—would not be even were the war to end before Christmas. So we shall have to find another way to pay our debt—the old way of hard work and thrift, perhaps.

On all sides people are waking up more or less confusedly to the possibility that a new order of life is what the war is clearing the ground for. Already we have committees in bewildering variety and of many qualities set up by the Government to study this and that in the reforming and improving lines, to suggest plans for ruling shipping freights, for controlling the price of articles of consumption, keeping down cost of production, regulating the steel and iron trades, dealing with the "troubles" and claims of labour, &c., &c. They will report, these committees, or some of them may do so, and probably add to the confusion, already becoming distressing enough—so many expectations stirred, nothing practical done. Looked at, indeed, from the side of the nation's peril and requirements, the efforts of the Government present an appearance of helpless bewilderment, an absence of guiding principle or definite policy on any subject depressing to dwell upon. We, however, are disposed and mean to forgive it for much, and ask it for little in domestic affairs at present, so that it may concentrate all its energies upon the successful waging of this war of life and death. But though the Government is helpless, or fumbling or jostling around amongst problems it has no time to study, and is not able to understand, still less to solve, that is no reason why the public should bleat and baa now up this alley, now down that slope, like shepherdless sheep, and we are persuaded that the nation only wants a lead to take the right course on many things. In vital matters of trade, though, it is not getting that lead from our Protectionists, either domestic or colonial, nor from any of the taxation nostrum-mongers among journals who daily and week by week instruct us how to levy taxes, warranted to get paid as unconsciously as money is lost through the help of a pickpocket, and leave us all happy. In reality it is not a question of taxation that we have to deal with at present, nor yet one of tax adjustment, so much as the root problem—how to raise the greatest amount of revenue at the least possible expense to those who find it. All Protectionist systems of taxation are, both directly and indirectly, enormously costly. The Exchequer, that is to say, usually gets but a more or less small portion of what the real taxpayer has to find.

Look at the example—and we make no complaint at all about it, but simply cite it as apposite—given by our tobacco monopolist companies. The profits they are able to distil in buying, manufacturing, and selling their tobaccos is a profit over and above the tax paid into the Exchequer, and runs into many millions a year. The smoker pays it, and does not grumble, because he does not know. That is an easily understood instance of the effect of indirect taxation as imposed through Customs tariffs or excess duties. It may, indeed, be said that these forms of impost contribute to increase the profits of intermediaries in proportion to their magnitude, and are, therefore, oppressive to the ultimate buyer, a source of diminished rather than increased

wealth to the nation. But would we be better off were the manufacture and sale of all tobacco made a State monopoly, as in France? It is doubtful, and, at any rate, neither tobacco nor alcohol is a commodity on which severe duties imply injury to the people. With nearly everything else, every article of use in industry or essential to existence, it is quite otherwise.

Our endeavours should, therefore, be to fall upon some method of finding revenue on a scale commensurate with our necessities, which will produce nett results to the Treasury very little below the gross amount paid by those on whom the tax is laid. There are at least two main sources from which revenue of this description can be drawn; one is direct taxation, such as income-tax, Excise licences, and local rates and taxes. Taxation of that description involves no intermediary profit. No monopolist can shelter himself behind them and lift to the consumer the price of the commodity taxed, so that he may make a solid profit to himself. The only deduction from direct taxes is the small commission paid to the collector, and even that might be reduced without really injuring the collector were a common-sense method devised, in virtue of which all direct taxes and rates could be collected through the same agency. What, for example, is to hinder the income-tax collector in every district from acting also as the collector of local rates? In London, the borough rates and the water rate at least might be paid to the same official as the income-tax and other direct assessments. This, however, is an aside; at present our subject is the taxes that are most productive at least cost to those who pay them, and direct taxes should always be that save when farmed out.

In another category are monopolies such as match manufacture in France, and we have the sentiment that after the war it may be necessary to look in the direction of monopolies for an increasing proportion of our revenue. To make these monopolies fertile, however, and also free of injury to the nation in its purse or in its independence of spirit and life, they must be constructed upon lines very different from those that have attended the creation of most such indirect kinds of taxation. If not, they may prove more revenue-sterilising and brutally oppressive than even the most millionaire-breeding Custom tariff the defrauded people of the United States have ever tried to prosper under.

In the modern world there are at least three methods by which exclusive dealing for profit can be established. There is the system of the American Trust as illustrated by the United States Steel Corporation, the Standard Oil agglomeration of interests, the Beef Trust, the sugar-refining industry, and others. These have all been organised by individuals or knots of conspirators for personal profit, entirely without regard to the interests of any but themselves. That form of monopoly is of use to a State only as a warning. It may be that in some of their details hints useful in other and advantageous directions can be found, but the spirit in which they have been formed is entirely selfish, and their power over the minds, habits, and purses of the United States people is altogether debasing and vicious. Witness the success with which the monopolists can misrepresent and present the false as true in order to reconcile the citizens to a continuance of that infamous Customs tariff, without which millionaire-breeding monopolies could neither come into existence nor, if attempted, stay alive.

Another type of Trusts aiming at monopoly is found in Germany, and amongst them and their practices it is probable that suggestions may be found valuable to the Allies when they come to organise and perfect their sources of public revenue. A detailed account of German Trusts, or *cartels*, combinations of particular industries to control production, to distribute among the combined quotas of production, to regulate sales and prices, to facilitate exportation, and otherwise assist the development of industry, is quite impossible here. The point to be noted is that most of these combinations have done wonders for the trades they have taken in hand. The several *cartels* governing the iron and steel trades, for instance, were amongst the most

powerful in the world, and the most tyrannous; and we believe that up to the outbreak of war Düsseldorf was the centre of an oligarchy governing the prices, and often the production, of certain commodities in steel pretty well all over the world. Their success tended to their ultimate ruin, but in some of these combinations—indeed, in all the more prominent ones—the Prussian Government itself had a more or less dominant influence, which helped to avert the catastrophe by expedients subversive of all fair play. It was leagued through its railways in cultivating the export trade as closely, and often as viciously, as the Pennsylvania Railroad was with the Rockefellers in the early days of the Standard Oil Trust.

There is still a third kind of combination, of which the best example, or at least handiest for our purpose, is the well-known *Comptoir de Longwy*—a combination of most of the producers of pig-iron in French Lorraine, in the departments of the Meurthe-et-Moselle and the Meuse, that is in no sense a tyranny. What it does is to act as selling agent for all its members to the great economising of many expenses. It does not control prices by any artificial means, nor attempt to restrict production; its life has therefore been long, and its prosperity almost unbroken. Now it would seem that between modifications of the German *cartel* and the purely voluntary adhesion of the French pig-iron producers in French Lorraine, it ought to be possible to construct some method by which the industries of every country could be grouped and guided in their operations, without tyranny, without injuriously controlling prices against the consumer, and without hostility to, but, on the contrary, in harmony with, rivals in other countries, after a fashion which ought to do far more towards replenishing the exhausted treasure of the nation than amount of excess profits tax. For the State, the community, will have to share largely in the profits of all industry henceforth. We, therefore, cannot see what is to hinder, goodwill assumed, the metallurgists in France, Belgium, and the United Kingdom from uniting to supply the world market on terms beneficial to all, hurtful to none. Only by unity of policy and action can the steel works in Germany be controlled in the interests and for the profit of the Allies.

Until Russia has her own iron and steel works there should be an enormous scope for the wisely combined energies of the Powers in that vast Empire for many years to come. Through combination alone can all the iron and steel industries of Germany be brought into effectual and profit-giving subjection, not tyrannised subjection, but such dependence as will prevent them from ever again diverting their resources and energies to the manufacture of warlike appliances. And while securing adequate remuneration for their workers, the terms accorded to the Krupps, Thyroeus, and other iron monsters of the Rhine or elsewhere in Germany, ought to provide for the repayment to the Allies of war devastations. A large proportion of the gains must be made to flow into the Treasuries of the Allies to help to pay off the war debts the treacherous aggression of Prussia has compelled them all to incur. That is one example, and in a manner the lines upon which a universal monopoly might be established in the iron trade have already been laid down by the ingenious, if over-sanguine and ambitious, iron masters of Germany. Over all the State has been dominant partner, and, in the last resort, tyrant. It will be the easier for the well-drilled sub-captains of industry to fall into line and obey their new and, we hope, inexorably just masters. But "go-as-you-like-and-be-d-d-to-you" methods of "organising" our industries must henceforth vanish.

Mississippi River Power.—Nett operating results for July, \$114,665; increase, \$3,555.

Lord Shaughnessy, president of the Canadian Pacific Railway Co., has accepted the position of a trustee of the Mackay Companies.

The nett earnings of the Victoria Falls and Transvaal Power Co., Ltd., including those of the Rand Mines Power Supply Co., for quarter ended June 30, 1916, amounted to £205,612.

The Canadian Pacific Railway Report.

At the beginning of our observations on the business of this overshadowing enterprise it is right to emphasise the fact that its management have not been making any profit out of the Government—that is to say, the shops of the company occupied with producing munitions of war at the Government request have contributed nothing to the company's revenue; all the profit made has been applied as a set-off against the company's contributions to patriotic and relief funds and against other expenditures directly due to the war, and not properly chargeable to working expenses. This last phrase opens rather wide contingencies, but we take it that in the main, if not entirely, the money made by producing munitions has been handed back to the community, and we must commend the board for acting thus. It sets an example which should be imitated everywhere, and which has, we believe, already been adopted in Canada after a fashion not yet by any means too conspicuous here. But then we have our excess profits levy!

As for the company itself, it is not merely a great railway carrier, but a powerful steamship owner and a supporter with capital of industrial enterprises of various kinds. No fewer than 39 small railway undertakings are dependent upon it, feeders to it, its creations or necessary links in its system. They are either leased to it or otherwise under its control by means of overruling investments. It is also possessed of a "controlling interest" in such enterprises as the Duluth, South Shore and Atlantic, and the Minneapolis, St. Paul and Sault Ste. Marie Railways. In railway mileage alone it possesses or controls 18,233 miles of track. It also owns the Dominion Express Co., the famous Chateau Frontenac Hotel in Quebec, and has a dominant hold over the Allan Steamship Co., presently to be merged in its great consolidating ocean-going steamship corporation. Besides these side-shows, as they may be called, it is a great land owner, possessor still of 7,870,056 acres of land of an estimated value of \$127,129,136, or £25,426,000. It is not without interest in some important mining concerns, and must be ground landlord of much town property, all of which might have been national. Altogether the capital involved in this mighty enterprise has now risen to \$960,217,000, or about £192,000,000, and it has all been piled up within a period of 35 years.

Unquestionably the enterprise is one of the most wonderful, and, take it all in all, has been one of the most successful, in the history of any British Dominion. But every advantage has been given to it, and for most of the time it has held the Governments of Canada, Federal and Provincial, at its call, securing for its proprietors much that might have been kept for the community. Again and again revolts have risen against it, unorganised, crude manifestations of hatred, and more than once concessions have had to be made to pacify the people. In the grain-carrying business, for example, the Dominion or the Province has been compelled to step in and provide storage outside the control of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Thus there is a dark side to the story as well as a bright one, but we need not dwell on either to-day. As a vehicle for conveying the produce of the Western prairies to the markets at home the railway is the greatest aid to our feeding of any single property of the kind in the world. We must not forget, however, that the Canadian Pacific legally remains a United States company, and we have a curious instance of the intimate connection subsisting between it and neighbouring roads in the agreement mentioned relative to the Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo Railway Co. According to the directors' report, the New York Central, Michigan Central, and Canada Southern Railway Cos. have joined the Canadian Pacific Railway Co. itself in guaranteeing an issue of first mortgage consolidated bonds, not exceeding \$10,000,000 in amount or bearing a higher rate of interest than 5 per cent., for the use of this Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo line. The bonds are not to be issued without the consent of these Vanderbilt United States railroads, and all these companies unite in un-

conditionally guaranteeing principal and interest of the bonds as and when issued.

In connection with the carriage of grain it has to be noted that the receipts per "ton-mile" from the carriage of goods dropped last year from .76 cents to .64 cents, mainly because of the abnormal increase in the tonnage of grain handled at the very low rates now leviable upon that commodity, thanks partly to competition, partly to legislative interference. Indeed, all tariff rates in Canada are being pressed down by popular clamour, and shareholders of even a privileged corporation like the Canadian Pacific must be prepared to see them go lower. There should be ample margin, however, after reductions, for the profits of the company have been splendid. Last year ended June 30, for instance, as we stated a week or so ago, the gross earnings came to \$129,482,000, or £26,000,000, while working expenses were \$80,256,000, leaving nett earnings of \$49,226,000, or round about £10,000,000 sterling, more than the revenue of many a pretentious State. All this great revenue, moreover, would appear to be independent of the income from land and from other possessions. The Ocean Steamships Co., for instance, yielded \$3,583,000, and the coal mine properties invested in by the company gave \$558,000. There was also \$216,000 of extraneous mail earnings and \$1,923,000 came from the Pacific Coast steamships, commercial telegraph, and news departments. Altogether the outside income amounted to \$16,207,000, the whole of which, however, appears to be wrapped up in the summary of receipts just mentioned. Nett charges took away only \$10,306,000 of the nett income, and the pension fund duly got its £25,000, or \$125,000, which was \$72,000 less than the pension payments of the year. How many employees do these few dollars come in to help to keep alive in their old age or broken later life?

Capital expenditure was small last year, although the company has ample funds to draw upon. Cash in hand, for instance, was upwards of £8,000,000 at the date of the balance-sheet, or \$41,582,000, and apart from that there was a "special investment fund" represented by deferred payments on lands and town sites amounting to \$39,044,000, besides \$10,089,000 of Government securities, and \$7,136,000 in the hands of trustees, all held as cover for the \$52,000,000 of 6 per cent. note certificates the company suddenly flung upon the market not long after the war broke out. Still, the outlay of new money seems to have been kept well in check, and the directors were surely wise in avoiding lavishness of any kind.

No 4 per cent. consolidated debenture stock or preference or other securities were sold during the year, but the sales of agricultural land came to 390,715 acres of a value of \$6,126,000, or \$15.68 per acre. In that average value, however, there is included 8,046 acres of irrigated land sold at an average of \$54.67 per acre, so that the average price secured by the remainder, that is the great portion of the land sold, was \$14.86 an acre, not so high perhaps as it might have been in peace times, but a very good support to the revenue. Sales were good, too, being 159,418 acres in excess of the previous year's, and the money yield \$2,383,993 more at \$6,126,108, notwithstanding the fact that the over-all price per acre was \$0.49 less, or eliminating the irrigated land, \$0.18 less. We gather that the nett land revenue was \$3,106,000, and the entire balances in hand on account of the land and town sites disposed of was at June 30 last \$68,572,000. This is exclusive of \$24,802,000 representing various reserves and appropriations, of which \$14,103,179 is reserve for contingencies and for contingent war taxes. A new marine insurance fund of \$336,000 has also been formed, but what the total unannexed surplus from all sources is the balance-sheet does not allow us to state. The aggregate, however, should be very large, and its magnitude has often made us disposed to wonder why the company should every now and again suddenly require important "refreshers" of new capital. Last year's capital expenditure, to come back to where we started, seems

to have been \$2,779,000 on the company's direct properties, plus \$204,329 on subsidiaries.

By-the-Way War Notes.

Last week incidental reference was made to the attitude of Rumania and Greece towards the Allies, and we deprecated too much courting of States that were either in hostile hands or in appearance coy. The number could hardly have reached its more distant readers before the news came that Rumania had at last decided to come into the war on our side. That was very welcome news for various reasons, and most of all, perhaps, because, occurring at this critical moment, the decision of Rumania is likely enough to determine that of Greece. It will be impossible for Constantine the Dane to hold out against the dominant sentiments of the Greek people much longer, and Mr. Venizelos's strong language on Sunday last appeared to us to indicate without any circumlocution that he feels he has the King and his Teutonic backers in the hollow of his hand. He probably has the people in Greece behind him with a unanimity of resolution impossible even yet in Rumania, although it appears that the leading men of that kingdom have been preparing this long while back for the step now taken. They did not need to "fool" the Teuton about it, he fooled himself. On the whole, therefore, the news and prospects are alike excellent, and self-interest alone would insure a loyal adhesion by both new Allies to the cause for which we must all fight or perish. Rumania wants, and justifiably wants, to absorb all those portions of the Austro-Hungarian Empire contiguous to her present frontiers because they are inhabited by people of kindred blood, and doubtless she has been promised them. It is a legitimate aspiration, and as Austria has ever been the enemy of freedom, not only at home but outside her limits, as the Magyar is the Turk of Hungary, fully as much a tyrant as the Prussian, though possessed of more intelligence, there can be no objection whatever to conceding the demand. Greece, again, wants at least Greek Macedonia and contiguous territory—which she, too, will probably get if her action is prompt—but even all she can reasonably claim in Macedonia may not be handed over if there is much further shilly-shallying. The aim, however, of the Allies must be to satisfy as far as practicable every racial longing with a view to fixing secure the basis of a permanent peace. And, guaranteed against aggression, the protected States can have no valid pretext for remaining armed.

What is the financial position of the two States, Rumania and Greece? That of Rumania is fairly strong, and the present debt should still be well under £100,000,000, notwithstanding the two years of preparing for war expenditure. So there can be no insuperable difficulty in the way of financing Rumania's portion of the war. Assume that she puts and keeps an army of 800,000 in the field, well equipped with the machinery of destruction necessary for success in a modern war, her expenditure ought not to amount to more than a third of that of Italy, say at the outside to £500,000 a day, or, to be still more liberal, £3,750,000 a week. That would mean a debt—for there is at present no surplus or reserve out of which this expenditure could be met—say, of £190,000,000 to £200,000,000 additional at the end of the first year of war, which should not be at all an unmanageable increase, especially if the borders of the kingdom are extended in the direction just indicated, and if, at the same time, the frontier on the Bulgarian side is suitably rounded off to prevent all danger of renewed annoyance from that direction. Is it useless, however, to speculate upon these possibilities; they are only valuable as reminders that Bulgaria will have to be cut down and circumscribed in area for the sake of the future peace in Balkania. As arranged after the war of 1913, a large portion of Macedonia was taken away from Turkey, refused to Greece, and given to Bulgaria, claimed by Ferdinand the Felon on false grounds. That territory Bulgaria must lose, and Serbia ought to fall heir to some portion of it as to all non-Greek Albania, except what Montenegro can reasonably claim. The port on

the Aegean which Bulgaria got as reward for her criminal aggression should go to Serbia, and every scrap of territory race or religious brotherhood may entitle her to. These observations point ahead, and the war has still to be won we will be told, which is true enough. At the same time, it is well to keep in mind the immediate and more material objects for which the belligerents are fighting.

That Greece however, must have some extension of territory is rendered an imperative necessity by her financial position. For more than two years now the country has borne the strain of an armed peace, and its finances were in a precarious, or at least a difficult, position before the war began. The country had been exhausted by the two Balkan wars, and at the present time the old and the new debts contracted must have placed the finances of the Government in a well-nigh hopeless situation. To force the people living within the present limits of the Greek frontiers and Greek-governed islands to saddle themselves with responsibility for the whole of this debt would not only be extremely cruel, but an economic mistake of a most ghastly description. If, however, the borders of Greece are extended, and if those of the islands which demand to be united to Greece are given to her—and there seems to be no valid motive for withholding them, provided that armaments are abandoned—then within a few years at least, when the country had settled down and commerce had revived, there ought to be means enough available to provide something towards liquidating the public debt. All this, however, implies that, should the Greek people under the leadership of their patriots throw off the yoke of the King and his Teutonic masters, an additional burden will be thrown upon the finances of the Great Powers, because they must equip and maintain the Greek Army to the end of the war. Rumania should be able to provide for herself, even should the war last another two years; Greece, on the other hand, is wholly unable to do so. But have the Greeks a good stock of German slaughter-apparatus in hand as well as the Rumanians?

Rumania's declaration of war against the Austro-Hungarian Empire—not against Germany, be it noted—made far more sensation in Berlin than Italy's declaration of war against Germany the day before, and that is not to be wondered at. Italy has been practically at war with Germany since she entered the lists against her old enemy, Austria, and the declaration of war has merely regularised a position which had its inconveniences and anomalies. It was the last step required to dissipate all doubts of Italy's loyalty among the masses of the Allied peoples. All the more noticeable is it that the population of Italy itself received the news with the greatest enthusiasm. "Now we stand unassailable before all the world," their joy seemed to proclaim.

In Berlin the effect of the Rumanian declaration seems to have been at first stupefying, it was so completely unexpected, and then an incitement to frothy splutterings of rage. Whether the Prussian diplomat in Bukarest was as gullibly self-satisfied as his colleagues in other instances, or whether he warned his Government unheeded—it being itself in ecstasy always over its own superlative wisdom—we do not know, but Berlin officials seem to have been completely taken in. To the very last they remained confident in the power of Prussia's charmers and in the Hohenzollern kinship to keep the country at least benevolently neutral. All the greater must now be the chagrin, for not only is a new army in the field against the Prussian would-be world ruler, but all sorts of interests of material value to the German people are now either swept aside or in peril. Germans were everywhere, in everything Rumanian, as in Italy and Russia, and it would be interesting to have the real opinion of the Deutsche Bank on the subject. We see how the land lies, though, when we read a new boast about the German harvest. It is so super-excellent, the Press liars allege, as to make the loss of supplies from Rumania of no consequence. We know the figures quoted cannot be accurate, because the harvest in Germany is not yet half-gathered, and because the weather there

has been no more propitious than here; but the mere assertion serves to indicate the extent of the dismay, and it must also be a bitter thought to German industrials, as to their Kaiser, when they remember that much of the artillery and ammunition now being used by the Rumanian Army against the Austro-Hungarian troops in the Transylvanian passes were manufactured in Germany. Soon German shells may be slaying German troops. How the devil must laugh at his dupes!

Could one put aside the bloodshed, forget the impish, nay, fiendishly ingenious, cruelties perpetrated by our enemies in this war, and survey the scene with the partiality of, say, the man from Mars, many episodes in current history would afford endless motives for amusement. Everything the Germans have done in war or in diplomacy since this war began has been tinged with the hobgoblin grotesque. Their very onslaughts at the outset had something weirdly insane about them because the purpose in hand, bragged about, was never carried out. Rabelais' Picrochole himself never conceived a more fantastic scheme of universal domination than the Kaiser and his sword rattlers, and nothing of all they planned has ever been attained. It is unnecessary to give a new catalogue of German failures here, the time for it has not yet come, because the war has not yet ended; but actualities surely set in high light the utter failure of all the schemes of the "would-be's." And the failure is heightened by the childish clumsy devices fallen upon by those raw-baked Prussian intellects to disguise the truth to their victims. Witness this furore of delight over the successful out-and-in voyage of the submarine merchantman *Deutschland*. No sane people could chatter about that incident as the Germans are doing. They make us suspect that our fleet just let the boat go through for the fun of the thing. We never yet have knowingly sent unarmed people to their death. Behold, again, the yells demanding more "frightfulness" and savagery of every description in carrying on the sea warfare of the baffled, a warfare which can only be represented by submarines carrying guns and torpedoes. The very fervency with which von Tirpitz and others of his class and caste shriek for more submarines, more slaughter of non-combatants, more inhumanity to wounded and prisoners, tells us that the supply of such and of crews to man U boats must be getting low, and also that the courage of the wild beasts of Prussia must be on the ebb. We may be sure that if the men and the boats and the guns were available no shouting would be necessary, because the Prussians must have begun to realise that they are fighting for existence, and they are not the beings to stick at anything if they can escape the doom impending. But they are a failure; their overwhelming artillery, their millions of armed "gunfeed," their airships, their Zeppelins, aeroplanes and seaplanes, all have failed to bring them the victory.

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possessing many distinct advantages—is afforded by a Scottish Widows Fund Endowment Assurance. Besides providing for old age, and for dependants in the event of earlier death, a further advantage is secured in the rebate on Income Tax (with a maximum rate of 3/- in the £) which is allowed up to one-sixth of income in most cases. It should be remembered also that the full amount of the Policy is at all times ready to meet Death Duties. This is of great importance at the present time, seeing that Income Tax and Death Duties are certain to continue very high owing to the war.

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upon them has been accomplished by the aeroplanes, although by accident a bomb from one of them might have done us infinite damage; but the furious aggressors are bunglers in everything, as is usual with the overweening boasters, and beginning to be afraid. They dare not inspect the land they try to spy over too closely with their "Zepps," because they know they would probably never get home again; they find their monster guns more useful to the enemy than to themselves now that our airmen have established their mastery, and their submarine "frightfulness" can only be exercised on the unarmed, and less and less immunes even there. Only upon the helpless and the wounded, or the infirm and the unprotected, can they display their savagery with success. Such success is itself, apart from its repulsive inhumanity, a proof of the incurable stupidity of the Prussian. He thinks to tire us in thus behaving into giving way to his covetousness and patching up a peace in some sort to his liking, and he but steels the resolution of the Allies to persevere until his power to do evil is ended for ever.

And in diplomacy, has there ever in the whole history of nations been a more complete and comic-opera series of blunders, self-deceptions, and failures than have to be put to the credit of the German Foreign Office? Everywhere throughout the pre-war negotiations the German diplomatist has taken himself in. It did not require any superior artfulness in Machiavellian astuteness to cheat a German minister; he did all the humbugging himself, and whether it was Bernstorff in Washington, von Bulow in Rome, or Lichnowsky in London, ay, or even that repulsive would-be deceiver, Herr von Shoen in Paris, they misled the officials in Berlin as systematically as if they had been a band of traitors. See you not the approach of the Avenger?

And now the disintegration of the German fighting machine itself would seem to have begun. This last success of the Prussian Junker diplomat in cheating his Government about the real designs of Rumania has apparently put the Kaiser beside himself with impotent fury, and the first consequence has been the sudden transference of the one and only Field-Marshal, commander of all the armies on the Russian frontier, old von Hindenburg, a stolid Hanoverian of no particular ability, to the headship of the General Staff. Von Falkenhayn, the Kaiser's familiar friend and inspirer, the man who supplanted von Moltke the younger, has been ignominiously dismissed to give way to this resuscitated septuagenarian, who, except in the marshes of East Prussia, has never won a real victory, and who won there in the Tannenberg fight because he knew the country, and had had time to prepare traps, into which the Russians fell. His new appointment will not bring victory round to the Kaiser's side. The blight of judgement delivered lies over him and his house. Too long have he and his oppressing caste of soldier landlords stood in the way of progress, kept the people in thralldom of body and soul. The crime they brooded over and prepared for with the cunning of the savage for so many years has been committed, and has called down on its perpetrators the vengeance of heaven. Lie as they may, boast as they may, intrigue and suborn as they may, nothing the criminals can now do will avert their punishment. Are they not carrying out the sentence on themselves now by persisting in a war that is devouring the race and its substance?

When we turn from contemplation of German words and deeds, from recording their crimes and noting the swelling whine in their threats, and behold the deeds and attitude of the Allies, we pass from darkness to light. Nothing in the universe ever stands still. In all his life a man is either pressing forward, upward, or drifting backward, and as with a man, so with nations. While the Prussian and his associates have been sinking deeper and deeper in the noisome ooze of their own brutality, growing ever more savagely ruthless, ever more eager to gloat over the perpetration of crimes that shock mankind, the Allies of the Entente have been soaring to higher ideals, and lifting their aspirations towards a nobler life for all, high and low, rich and poor, who are to live in the after-time. No

matter what the ambitions may have been, what the covetousness that drew this or the other nation to our side, to the side of righteousness and liberty, the lower motive has tended to become increasingly subservient to the higher. Could any utterance by any statesman have been suffused with ideals more noble and humane than Mr. Take Jonescu's speech on the eve of his country's declaration of war against the Austrians? Assuredly, no French, British, Russian, or Italian statesman could have set forth in worthier language, with greater precision of phrase, than Mr. Jonescu the aspiration of long-suffering humanity after freedom and true peace, the ideal for which the Allied civilised nations fight. And the inspiring fact is that everywhere the people's hearts expand in welcome to these great ideals, for therein we have, as it were, a taking cognisance of a pledge-giver whose fulfilment may not be evaded after the war is over. There is hope for us all in that fact, and likewise warning to be ever vigilant lest the enemy steals an advantage from us, and by guile secures a peace which would rank but as one more betrayal.

But for the dramatic appearance of Rumania in the war on the side of the Allies the week would have been in a manner a dull one. On the West the weather has interfered much with anything like sensational progress, with determined assaults on a large scale, and even with bombardments at long range, destructive of the enemy's gun positions. Progress, however, continued to be made, even on the Western front, where the enemy has lost many men and gained nothing. The Russians in Galicia and in the Caucasus continue to forge ahead, and are opening the way to more rapid progress soon. Italy also steadily wears down the Austrian armies ranged against her, so that no help can be given to dismayed Magyar or hard-pressed German or Turk. Away South, in the Balkans, British, French, Russian and Italian troops have been busy with preparations to sweep the Bulgars out of Serbia, and the Turk out of Constantinople. Oh, assuredly all goes well, excellent well. Beside the dramatic appearance of Rumania, however, the incidents of the war this week have come to look in a manner insignificant, for Rumania has attracted every eye. Her army has already begun a vigorous, and so far successful, campaign for possession of the passes running northward into Transylvania, and in all probability a Russian army is already in the Dobrudja, whence an advance on Sofia should not be so very difficult.

It is the beginning of the penultimate act in the war drama, in short, this appearance of Rumania by our side with a splendid army fully ready, and not improbably one of the consequences will be such a transfer of troops from the West to the East by the Kaiser to meet this new danger as will either compel the Germans to contract their lines in the West voluntarily, or render it easy for the French, Belgians and ourselves to push them back much further than they would voluntarily desire to go. That old Marshal von Hindenburg resented the withdrawal of so many of his divisions for destruction before Verdun is probably true, and his advance to the position of Chief of the General Staff will put it in his power to try conclusions with the enemies in the East in his own way—without the lost legions, though! But we must not despise him, for his Tannenberg exploit revealed him as an old fox of no small cunning—and it looks like impudence to attempt to speak of caution to the commanders of the armies he will have to assail or whose progress he must try to arrest. They are ready for him, on all fronts, we may be confident, and should the armies now gathering around Bulgaria and threatening to cut the Turk off from Europe act with the expected vigour and cohesion, events of far-reaching, probably of highly dramatic, import should crowd upon each other in the coming autumn weeks. High though our hopes are, unshakeable as is our confidence, we all long more and more earnestly for the dawning of the day when we can say to the enemy: "Lay down your arms, make restitution and submit."

REGULATION OF FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Loan of Securities to the Treasury—SCHEME B.

FIRST SUPPLEMENTARY LIST

of Securities that will be accepted on Loan by the Treasury under the terms of Scheme B. Further Supplementary Lists of Securities may be issued from time to time.

The prices set against the respective securities are the "deposit values" of such securities as defined in Paragraph (6) of the Scheme.

Description.	Deposit Value.	Description.	Deposit Value.
Amsterdam City 4 per cent. Bonds	908	Chilian Government 4½ per cent. Bonds (1893)	77½
Argentine Government 3½ per cent. External Bonds (1889)	84	" " 4½ per cent. Bonds (1895)	81½
" " 4 per cent. Loan (1893)	72½	" " 4½ per cent. Coquimbo Railway Bonds	74½
" " 4 per cent. Bonds (1899)	72½	" " 4½ per cent. Bonds (Law of 9th September, 1910)	75½
" " 4 per cent. Bonds (1900), Laws 3378 and 3783	72½	" " 5 per cent. Loan (1892)	80½
" " 4 per cent. Bonds (1900), Laws 3378 and 3885	72½	" " 5 per cent. Loan (1903)	83½
" " 4 per cent. Bonds (1908)	71½	" " 5 per cent. Annuities, Series A	84½
" " 4 per cent. Loan (1910)	71½	" " 5 per cent. Annuities, Series B	82½
" " 5 per cent. Loan (1884)	94½	" " 5 per cent. Annuities, Series C	81½
" " 5 per cent. Treasury Conversion Bonds (1887)	89½	Chilian Northern Railway Company 5 per cent. 1st Mortgage Debentures (Guaranteed by Chilian Government)	82½
" " Port of Buenos Ayres 5 per cent. Debentures	89½	Christiania City 4 per cent. Loan (1900)	85½
" " 5 per cent. Internal Gold Loan (1900)	89½	" " 4 per cent. Loan (1912)	86½
" " 5 per cent. Internal Gold Loan (1910)	86½	" " 4½ per cent. Loan (1914)	90½
" " Port of the Capital (Buenos Ayres) 5 per cent. Bonds	85½	Copenhagen City 3½ per cent. Loan (1887)	83½
" " 5 per cent. Irrigation Bonds (1st Series)	84½	" " 3½ per cent. Loan (1898)	76½
Atlantic and North-West Railway Company (Leased to Canadian Pacific Railway Company) 5 per cent. Guaranteed 1st Mortgage Bonds, 1937	98½	" " 4 per cent. Loan (1901)	90½
Calgary and Edmonton Railway Company, 4 per cent. Consolidated Debenture Stock (Guaranteed by Canadian Pacific Railway Company)	80½	Danish Government 3 per cent. Gold Loan (1894)	63½
Canadian Northern Alberta Railway Company, 3½ per cent. Debenture Stock (Guaranteed by Dominion Government), 1906	71½	Dominion Atlantic Railway Company (Leased to Canadian Pacific Railway Co.) 4 per cent. 1st Debenture Stock, 1944	78½
Canadian Northern Railway Company 1st Mortgage 3 per cent. Debenture Stock (Guaranteed by Dominion Government), 1953	63	Dominion Atlantic Railway Company (Leased to Canadian Pacific Railway Co.) 4 per cent. and Debenture Stock, 1956	78½
Canadian Northern Railway Company 3½ per cent. Debenture Stock (Guaranteed by Dominion Government), 1958	72½	Norwegian Government 3 per cent. Conversion Loan (1886)	68½
Chilian Government 4½ per cent. Loan (1885)	84½	" " 3½ per cent. Conversion Loan (1894)	70½
" " 4½ per cent. Loan (1887)	81½	Ontario and Quebec Railway Company (Leased to Canadian Pacific Railway Co.) 5 per cent. Permanent Debenture Stock	99½
" " 4½ per cent. Gold Loan (1880)	80½	Stockholm City 4½ per cent. Loan (1913), London Issue	96½
		Swedish Government 3 per cent. Loan (1888)	65½
		" " 3 per cent. Conversion Loan (1894)	64½
		National Debt Office, 10, Old Jewry, E.C.	24th August, 1916.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1916, and August 26, 1916:—

	Estimate for the Year 1916-1917. (See note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1916, to Aug. 26, 1916.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1915, to Aug. 28, 1915.
Balances in Exchequer on April 1—	£	£	£
Bank of England	—	25,111,065	81,898,728
Bank of Ireland	—	463,941	1,552,224
REVENUE.		25,575,006	83,450,952
Customs	71,000,000	26,663,000	15,798,000
Excise	65,000,000	20,160,000	22,565,000
Estate, &c., Duties	30,000,000	12,761,000	14,518,000
Stamps	7,000,000	2,890,000	2,403,000
Land Tax and House Duty	2,650,000	310,000	330,000
Property and Income Tax and Super Tax	195,000,000	29,166,000	14,574,000
Excess Profits Duty	86,000,000	18,541,000	—
Land Value Duties	475,000	90,000	51,000
Post Office	36,100,000	13,000,000	11,300,000
Crown Lands	550,000	220,000	200,000
Receipts from Suez Canal Shares and Sundry Loans	5,000,000	518,087	202,581
Miscellaneous	3,500,000	2,503,658	1,116,656
Revenue	502,275,000	125,822,745	83,058,239
Total, including Balance		151,397,751	166,509,191
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion		1,780,000	330,000
For Treasury Bills (net amount)		121,533,000	—
For War Loan, 1925-1928		—	35,798,408
For 3½ Exchequer Bonds, 1920		—	242,345
For War Loan, 1925-1945		424	404,500,000
For 5½ Exchequer Bonds, 1919		31,656,000	—
For 5½ Exchequer Bonds, 1920		81,314,500	—
For 5½ Exchequer Bonds, 1921		54,483,000	—
For War Expenditure Certificates		19,587,400	—
For War Savings Certificates		21,350,000	—
For other Debt created under the War Loan Act, 1915		10,000,000	—
Temporary Advances—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £345,000,000 in 1916-1917 and £226,963,000 in 1915-1916)		409,396,500	227,963,000
Total		902,498,575	835,342,944

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Estimate for the Year 1916-17. (See note.)	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1916, to Aug. 26, 1916.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1915, to Aug. 28, 1915.
EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£
Permanent Charge of Debt ..	12,818,000	11,265,351	12,054,811
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	114,436,000	46,492,090	1,041,677
Road Improvement Fund	—	—	694,395
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c.	9,500,000	2,530,801	2,806,740
Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,700,000	680,701	774,078
Supply Services	1,687,529,000	654,251,280	480,833,394
Expenditure	1,825,983,000	715,220,223	498,205,095
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion		2,040,000	475,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		60,914	60,914
For Treasury Bills (net amount)		—	30,061,000
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan (Redemption) Act, 1910		—	16,395,500
For Repayments to the Bank of England ..		—	160,427,623
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913		150,000	980,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913		135,000	60,000
Under Housing Act, 1914		18,900	500,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8, issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1903		38,000	27,000
Old Sinking Fund—1910-1911: Issued under the Finance Act, 1911—Section 16 (1) (b)		23,160	60,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1911-1912—Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Co. (Acquisition of Capital) Act, 1914		—	250,000
Temporary Advances repaid—Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £124,390,000 in 1916-17 and £41,271,000 in 1915-16)		156,286,500	41,271,000
Balances in Exchequer—	1916. Aug. 26.	1915. Aug. 28.	
Bank of England	27,367,413	85,791,190	
Bank of Ireland	1,158,405	778,622	
Total		902,498,575	835,342,941

MEMO.—Treasury Bills outstanding on August 26, 1916 * £908,659,000.

* Includes £548,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the Account.

NOTE.—Estimate as in House of Commons Paper No. 50 of 1916, and Supplementary Grants.

Treasury, August 28, 1916.

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The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 6 PER CENT. (Increased from 5 per cent. on Thursday, July 13.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

Things do happen in the Money market, but so far as visible consequences go, they might just as well not. Thursday brought a call of £1,600,000 on the Commonwealth of Australia loan, and credit was so abundant that it was met without disturbing short money rates at all. The principal excitement of the week has been in the Russian exchange, which went down with a bewildering suddenness in the middle of the week; it has been fluttering all the time, in fact. At the end of last week it was quoted at 150 to 152½ roubles for the £10 sterling. In the middle of this week it dropped to 146, then to 132, rallying then to 136-7, only to close yesterday at 142-144. What does it all mean? We cannot tell, and it would be foolish to conjecture; all we may be sure of is that money rates in the City continue comparatively easy, and that the only appreciable fluctuation in discount rates is on Treasury bills. Even these, however, move only by pence, and all to-day's quotations will be found in our table.

Gold has again left the Bank in considerable amounts, the decrease on the week being £949,416. At the same time, the note circulation has expanded £615,540, and consequently the reserve is £1,564,956 lower at £38,495,563, bringing down the proportion to liabilities by 1½ per cent. to 24½ per cent., which is still ¾ per cent. higher than at this date a year ago. As might be expected, the liabilities of the Bank continue to be swollen by the increase in other securities, which was £2,894,000 last week. Of this increase £933,000 went on to the "public" and £389,000 to the "other" deposits, the balance being a consequence of the drain of gold and increase in the note circulation. Other deposits now stand at the formidable total of £102,141,000, which is £14,219,000 above the figure of a year ago. It may be interesting to note that although the decrease in the Clearing House overturn for the week ended August 30 was £18,812,000, making the total £257,173,000, for the year to date the increase is £952,878,000, bringing the aggregate up to £9,833,579,000.

We may note also that the gold in the Bank of France rose £187,000 this week to £192,509,000. The note circulation also increased £1,943,000 to £656,986,000, and such figures look large alongside the German Reichsbank exhibit, where the note circulation, according to the last return, was entered at little more than £343,000,000. But we do not believe the Reichsbank figures, and, moreover, the bulk of the paper money in Germany is not created by the Reichsbank, but by expedients eloquent of the bankrupt state of the country.

Attention may be suitably drawn here to the issue of a short supplementary list of securities which the

Treasury desires to acquire control over under scheme "B." We do this in order to explain that although the National Debt Commissioners, who have the handling of this business, do not accept direct deposit of amounts less than £1,000, the Treasury regulations now made will permit the splitting of the minimum amount to any sum required by the depositor. Under the Treasury regulations, certificates of deposit for small amounts will be issued in the name of the bank or agent, either for the total amount of each description of security deposited or for the amount in such security deposited by each depositor, and the best course the small investor can follow is to arrange to have the special or individual certificate supplied to him. There will be no practical difficulty, in short, and by surrendering his £100 or £200 in the securities specified, the investor will not in the least lose his control over the property. He can sell it or otherwise transfer it through his broker as easily as he can transfer 5s. in Consols.

A new French loan has been talked about in the market all the week, but we have been unable to obtain any particulars, and need not pause to do more than mention the fact. It is said to be coming out in a fortnight's time, and when it does come, it may be sure of a hearty welcome here. The London Money market will not demand a deposit of marketable securities with 10 or 20 per cent. margin before subscribing.

It looks a bold step on the part of the London City and Midland Bank to be getting ready to open a branch in Belfast. Looking at the number of purely Irish banks whose headquarters are in that go-ahead city, one might say the place is overbanked already, but the Ulster banks, although excellent and rich beyond most, are strictly local in their range, not to say exclusive, and it will be like a breath of fresh air to have a powerful English bank bidding for what may be called an inter-insular business. Hitherto English banks have been kept out of Ireland, just as out of Scotland, by the note-issuing privileges enjoyed by the native Irish banks. That enables them to create credit for their customers with a facility and at a cost which defies competition. An immense proportion of the business done everywhere, and not least in the north of Ireland, is, however, nowadays independent of the cheap credit influence of note circulation. The linen trade of Belfast, for example, has intimate relations with Russia, Belgium, and Switzerland, had also certain connections with Germany before the war, and a great English bank should be in a position to handle a good share of that business on terms probably on the average more advantageous than local banks might be able to grant. At any rate, the experiment is to be tried, and now we wonder whether any one of our other great banks will have the courage to open a branch in Dublin.

We are glad to see that the Anglo-South American Bank is going to Barcelona. An English bank in Spain has long been wanted, and Barcelona is probably the best place at which one could begin business. The example ought to be followed by other banks in other parts of Spain and in Portugal. Some time ago it was stated that the ever-progressive London City and Midland Bank was organising a Spanish deputy or representative, so to say, but we have heard nothing about that for a long time. No doubt, however, the example set by the Anglo-South American Bank will soon find imitators.

It should, perhaps, be explained that the Bank of Rumania, Ltd., has been an English bank since 1903. It is really a much older bank, however, having been founded originally in 1866, when everything was in a more or less raw and chaotic state in the principalities which became the independent kingdom of Rumania only in 1881. The adhesion of Rumania to the League of the Entente will turn the public sentiment in favour of the country, and ought to be a valuable stimulus to the expansion of this bank's business. After the war all things are possible to it.

Applications for the Rs. 30,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 2,30,40,000. There were allotted

immediate telegraphic transfers Rs. 28,00,000 on Calcutta, and Rs. 2,00,000 on Madras, tenders for immediate telegraphic transfers at 1s. 4½d. receiving about 28 per cent. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is again Rs. 30,00,000. Between April 1 and August 22 the total sales were Rs. 8,71,77,713, realising £5,846,405.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, August 30, 1916.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued	£ 72,854,995	Government Debt ..	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities ..	£ 7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	£ 54,404,995
		Silver Bullion ..	—

£72,854,995

£72,854,995

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 42,188,314
Res ..	£ 3,548,698	Other Securities ..	£ 91,941,125
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts) ..	£ 52,361,446	Notes ..	£ 36,703,060
Other Deposits ..	£ 102,140,601	Gold and Silver Coin ..	£ 1,792,593
Seven Day and other Bills ..	£ 21,257		

£172,625,002

£172,625,002

Dated Aug. 30, 1916.

E. M. HARVEY, Deputy Chief Cashier.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year.

Last year. Sept. 1.		Aug. 23, 1916.	Aug. 30, 1916.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,637,107	Rest ..	3,541,483	3,548,698	7,215	—
137,935,493	Pub. Deposits ..	51,428,269	52,361,446	933,177	—
87,921,638	Other do. ..	101,751,917	102,140,601	388,684	—
35,056	7 Day Bills ..	20,855	21,257	402	—
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
44,418,359	G.v. Securities.	42,187,602	42,188,314	—	712
145,105,473	Other do. ..	89,047,403	91,941,125	1,564,956	2,893,722
54,558,458	Total Reserve ..	40,060,519	38,495,593	2,894,434	2,894,434
				Increase.	Decrease.
£	Note Circulation	£	£	£	£
41,497,223	Coin and Bullion	35,536,395	38,167,825	—	464,765
68,433,258	Proportion ..	57,146,914	57,146,914	—	949,416
24.2 p.c.	Bank Rate ..	26.1 p.c.	24.9 p.c.	—	1.2 p.c.
5 "		6 "	6 "	—	—

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For 7 days ended Aug. 26.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE
£	£
Customs	National Debt Service ..
Excise	Interest, &c., on War Debt ..
Estate, &c., Duties ..	Development & Road Impvt.
Stamps	Payments to Local Taxation ..
Land Tax and House Duty ..	Other Consolidated Fund ..
Property and Income Tax ..	Charges
Excess Profits Tax ..	Supply Services
Land Values	Bullion Advances
Post Office	For Advance for Interest ..
Crown Lands	on Exchequer Bonds under ..
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares ..	Capital Expenditure ..
Miscellaneous	(Money) Act, 1904
Bullion advances repaid ..	For Treasury Bills (net amt.) ..
For Treasury Bills (net amt.) ..	For Exchequer Bonds issued ..
War Loan, 1925-8	under the War Loan Re-
War Loan, 1925-45	demption Act, 1910
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919 ..	Issues under Section 1 of ..
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920 ..	War Loan Act, 1915
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1921 ..	Under Telegraph (Money) ..
War Expenditure Certificates ..	Act, 1913
War Savings Certificates ..	Under Post Office (Lon-
Other Debts created under ..	don) Railway Act, 1913 ..
War Loan Act, 1915	Under Housing Act
Telegraph Money Act, 1913 ..	Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8 ..
Under Post Office Rly. Act, ..	Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11 ..
1913	E. Africa Protectorate Loan ..
Under Military Works Acts, ..	Cunard Loan repayment is-
1897-1903	ued to reduce debt under ..
Under Housing Act	the Cunard Agreement
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920 ..	Deficiency advances repaid ..
East Africa Protectorate ..	China Indemnity issued to ..
Loan repayments	reduce debt under Finance ..
Cunard Loan—repayment on ..	Act, 1903
account of principal	Ways and Means Advances ..
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	repaid
China Indemnity .. ..	.. ..
Ways and Means Advances ..	Increase in Exchequer ..
Decrease in Exchequer ..	balances
balances	

£43,945,943

£43,945,943

SHORT TERM GOVERNMENT LOANS.

	Sales Last Week.	Sales This Week.	Total Outstanding.
£	£	£	£
Treasury Bills	14,889,000	21,981,000	908,000,000
Exchequer Bonds, 1919 ..	630,000	484,000	31,656,000
Do. 1920	550,000	450,000	235,003,500
Do. 1921	1,987,000	1,928,000	54,483,000
War Expenditure Certificates ..	541,800	664,100	19,587,400
War Savings Certificates ..	2,250,000	2,000,000	21,350,000

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1916.	1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
January	1,071,948,000	918,685,000	153,263,000	—
February	1,107,655,000	960,743,000	146,912,000	—
March	1,364,599,000	1,231,392,000	133,207,000	—
April	1,090,356,000	976,264,000	114,092,000	—
May	1,447,416,000	1,164,194,000	283,222,000	—
June	1,147,630,000	960,209,000	187,421,000	—
July	1,239,193,000	1,316,665,000	—	77,502,000
August 2	200,541,000	260,768,000	29,773,000	—
" 9	281,203,000	273,843,000	7,360,000	—
" 16	276,710,000	283,050,000	—	6,340,000
" 23	259,155,000	258,873,000	282,000	—
" 30	257,173,000	275,985,000	—	18,812,000
Total	9,833,579,000	8,880,701,000	952,878,000	—

CURRENCY NOTES.

Return of Currency Notes for the week ended August 30, 1916.

	Issued.	Cancelled.	Outstanding.
	£	£	£
£1 notes	3,175,622	2,895,457	91,150,330
10s. notes	1,036,831	1,052,453	28,378,594
Note certificates	—	50,000	10,150,000
Previous total	413,393,504	283,949,123	—
	417,605,957	287,947,033	129,656,924

Ratio of gold held against notes: this week, 22.14 p.c.; last week, 23.90 p.c.

FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	Aug. 11, 1916.	Aug. 4, 1916.	July 28, 1916.
	£	£	£
Gold coin and certificates ..	1,790,400	51,287,400	51,986,200
Gold Redemption Fund ..	370,470	383,000	383,600
Gold Settlement Fund ..	21,224,200	21,362,200	20,582,200
Legal tender notes, silver, &c.	2,225,400	2,430,800	3,117,800
Total reserves	75,610,400	75,372,400	76,269,800
5% redemption fund against ..			
F.R. bank notes	100,000	90,000	90,000
10-day bills and loans	2,485,000	3,054,200	3,461,600
30-day bills and loans	5,262,000	4,772,600	3,884,200
60-day bills and loans	8,379,600	8,573,200	8,003,800
90-day bills and loans	5,077,600	5,045,600	6,098,800
Maturities over 90 days ..	590,000	601,200	761,400
Total	21,794,200	21,986,800	22,209,600
Investments—			
U.S. Bonds	9,340,600	9,607,400	9,731,200
One year U.S. Treasury ..			
notes	1,670,200	1,585,000	1,585,000
Municipal Warrants	5,595,000	5,475,000	5,444,000
Federal Reserve notes—nett.	4,013,800	4,085,200	4,061,600
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.— ..			
nett.	3,289,400	3,989,400	2,524,000
All other assets	746,200	882,200	1,102,800
Total assets	122,159,800	123,073,400	123,018,800
Paid-up capital	11,026,000	11,029,600	11,041,200
Government Deposits	10,651,800	11,321,400	11,308,400
Reserve deposits—nett. ..	97,843,800	98,125,000	98,253,200
Note circulation—nett. ..	2,242,400	2,205,800	2,024,400
Fed. Res. notes in circulation	338,200	338,400	338,400
All other liabilities	57,600	53,200	52,400
Total liabilities	122,159,800	123,073,400	123,018,800
Gold reserve against nett ..			
liabilities	68.3%	67.7%	66.9%
Cash reserve against nett ..			
liabilities	70.4%	70.0%	69.9%

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	Aug. 26, 1916	Aug. 19, 1916	Aug. 12, 1916	Aug. 28, 1915
	£	£	£	£
Loans	648,808,000	618,010,000	646,588,000	529,620,000
Reserve held in own Vaults ..	89,740,000	81,172,000	86,402,000	95,968,000
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk.	34,250,000	32,100,000	32,472,000	27,856,000
Reserve held in Other Depos.	10,734,000	10,540,000	10,410,000	6,676,000
Net Demand Deposits	636,048,000	629,440,000	624,512,000	529,332,000
Net Time Deposits	39,430,000	43,408,000	45,844,000	28,406,000
Circulation	6,226,000	6,246,000	6,246,000	7,408,000
Excess Lawful Reserve	25,182,000	22,356,000	21,660,000	35,530,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits.

NEW YORK STATE BANKS & TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.).

	Aug. 26, 1916.	Aug. 19, 1916.	Aug. 12, 1916.	Aug. 28, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Loans	142,778,000	142,436,000	141,266,000	118,192,000
Specie	11,902,000	11,906,000	12,008,000	9,996,000
Deposits	150,466,000	150,522,000	149,200,000	122,044,000
Legal Tenders	1,744,000	1,730,000	1,742,000	1,694,000

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Aug. 31, 1916.	Aug. 24, 1916.	Aug. 17, 1916.	Sept. 2, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold in hand	192,509,280	192,322,320	192,085,640	173,954,160
Silver in hand	13,544,400	13,573,040	13,539,640	14,668,649
Bills discounted	17,932,760	16,993,520	17,605,040	14,350,400
Advances	46,993,400	47,223,080	47,332,360	23,491,400
Note circulation	656,985,880	655,042,640	652,656,840	522,400,400
Public deposits	3,206,520	6,340,600	5,672,280	1,231,520
Private deposits	88,546,360	89,612,520	85,188,720	99,963,160
Foreign Bills	60,000	8,520	74,880	57,320

Proportion between bullion and circulation 31.36 per cent., against 31.43 per cent last week. Advances to the State £336,000,000, unchanged. The adjourned payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium, figures doubtful, and at the branches amounted to £30,745,560, decrease £231,280.

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Aug. 23, 1916.	Aug. 15, 1916	Aug. 7, 1916.	Aug. 23, 1915.
Total Coin & Bullion	£124,797,250	£124,805,150	£124,780,450	£124,644,500
Treasury Notes	17,048,950	18,266,550	18,566,600	11,800,250
Bills discounted	332,929,150	335,869,000	326,168,300	237,227,650
Advances	514,150	607,450	607,750	638,500
Note circulation	343,157,700	346,337,000	343,427,300	265,860,900
Deposits	134,557,250	133,554,800	122,268,550	90,852,050

Clearing House returns during July, £273,378,015 against £257,755,660 in June.

IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Aug. 29, 1916.	Aug. 21, 1916.	Aug. 12, 1916.	Aug. 5, 1916.
Notes in reserve	£9,400,000	£10,280,000	£10,870,000	£7,710,000
Gold	155,090,000	154,860,000	154,930,000	154,600,000
Gold in reserve abroad		205,700,000	196,230,000	186,760,000
Treasury Bonds	205,700,000	393,110,000	387,330,000	389,900,000
Circulation note issue	389,460,000	694,720,000	687,620,000	681,280,000
Treasury deposits	696,090,000	10,280,000	20,000,000	21,570,000

NETHERLANDS BANK (12 Florins to the £).

	Aug. 26, 1916	Aug. 19, 1916	Aug. 12, 1916	Aug. 28, 1915
Gold and Silver	£49,593,585	£49,664,250	£49,777,250	£31,729,965
Bills and Advances	13,623,166	13,129,416	12,911,833	12,869,533
Note circulation	54,898,833	52,295,000	55,398,916	42,868,858
Deposits	11,566,416	10,971,000	10,184,666	1,764,815

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Aug. 19, 1916	Aug. 12, 1916	Aug. 5, 1916	Aug. 21, 1915
Gold	£45,155,571	£44,359,379	£43,858,317	£28,618,927
Silver	30,325,143	30,248,719	30,253,941	29,641,864
Foreign Bills	3,920,423	3,870,248	3,703,227	4,540,218
Discounts and Short Bills	23,659,669	23,544,706	23,500,503	26,291,795
Treasury Account, &c.	30,600,696	30,492,040	30,408,461	29,739,049
Notes in Circulation	89,082,620	89,526,618	89,470,730	80,400,054
Current Accounts, Deposits	31,877,738	31,663,956	30,481,396	26,068,869
Dividends, Interests, &c.	1,698,071	1,386,983	1,644,549	1,636,732
Government Securities	1,759,546	1,016,108	1,035,867	1,983,631

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	July 20, 1916	July 10, 1916	June 30, 1916	June 20, 1916
Cash	£44,965,240	£44,942,800	£45,005,320	£45,121,040
Gold and Bills	19,317,520	18,567,320	17,957,920	17,310,880
Foreign Bills	832,840	832,760	833,720	841,360
Advances	7,740,320	7,815,960	8,421,880	8,289,720
Government securities	8,793,080	8,777,400	8,439,960	8,559,160
Circulation	134,594,280	135,856,800	135,162,600	130,097,160
Deposits at notice	13,555,960	14,091,120	17,933,640	14,207,720
Current accounts	15,236,800	15,068,720	15,386,800	16,096,480

SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	Aug. 23, 1916.	Aug. 15, 1916.	Aug. 7, 1916.	Aug. 21, 1915.
Gold and silver	£13,257,475	£13,263,655	£13,269,908	£11,976,032
Bills	7,239,140	7,510,168	6,817,848	5,250,435
Note circulation	16,178,596	16,328,496	16,667,376	15,549,796
Current and deposit accounts	6,349,404	6,692,000	5,421,452	3,966,771

BANK OF NORWAY.

	Aug. 22, 1916.	Aug. 15, 1916.	Aug. 7, 1916.	Aug. 23, 1915.
Gold	£6,328,000	£6,328,000	£6,326,000	£3,462,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills	6,250,000	6,471,000	6,467,000	3,703,000
Gov't Securities	767,000	768,000	767,000	802,000
Discounts & Loans	5,354,000	5,146,000	5,251,000	4,091,000
Notes in Circulation	12,126,000	12,012,000	11,854,000	7,762,000
Deposits at notice	4,079,000	4,161,000	4,481,000	1,770,000

BANK OF SWEDEN.

	Aug. 12, 1916.	Aug. 5, 1916.	July 29, 1916.	Aug. 14, 1915.
Gold	£9,213,000	£9,214,000	£9,217,000	£6,299,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills	9,365,000	9,144,000	8,863,000	5,098,000
Swedish and Foreign Gov't Securities	3,803,000	3,823,000	3,837,000	2,757,000
Discounts and Loans	3,198,000	3,346,000	2,909,000	6,558,000
Notes in circulation	18,174,000	18,227,000	17,568,000	15,197,000
Deposits at notice	6,213,000	6,151,000	6,300,000	4,519,000

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.
Paris	chqs.	28.12	28.12	Antwerp	short	—	—
Brussels	chqs.	—	—	Italy	sight	30.87	30.86
Amsterdam	sight	11.54 1/2	11.54 1/2	Constantinople	3 mths	—	—
Christiania	—	16.65	16.85	Rio de Janeiro	90 dys	12 1/2 d.	12 1/2 d.
Stockholm	—	16.58	16.65	Buenos Aires	90 dys	48 1/2 d.	48 1/2 d.
Copenhagen	—	17.15	17.20	Calcutta	T.T.	1/4 d.	1/4 d.
Petrograd	3 mths	155 1/2	154	Bombay	T.T.	1/4 d.	1/4 d.
New York	cable	4.76 1/2	4.76 1/2	Hong Kong	T.T.	2 1/2 d.	2 1/2 d.
Lisbon	sight	35	35	Shanghai	T.T.	2 1/2 d.	2 1/2 d.
Madrid	sight	23.56	23.62 1/2	Singapore	T.T.	2 1/2 d.	2 1/2 d.
				Yokohama	4 mths	2 1/2 d.	2 1/2 d.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Aug. 29, 1916.		Aug. 31, 1916.	
		Sellers.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Buyers.
Amsterdam	Cable transfers	11.56	11.59	11.60	11.63
	Three months' bills	11.72	11.77	11.75	11.80
Paris	Cable transfers	28.02 1/2	28.07 1/2	28.01	28.06
	Three months' bills	28.42	28.47	28.40	28.45
Marseilles	Cable transfers	25.40	25.47	25.40	25.45
Switzerland	Cable transfers	25.55	25.65	25.55	25.65
	Three months' bills	25.55	25.65	25.55	25.65
Petrograd	Cable transfers	147 1/2	149 1/2	138	143
Genoa, &c.	Cable transfers	30.82	30.92	30.80	30.90
	Three months' bills	31.25	31.35	31.25	31.35
Spain	Cable transfers	23.58	23.68	23.58	23.68
	Three months' bills	48 1/2	49 1/2	48 1/2	49 1/2
Lisbon and Oporto	Cable transfers	34 1/2	35 1/2	34 1/2	35 1/2
	Three months' bills	Nom.	Nom.	Nom.	Nom.
Scandinavia	Cable transfers	16.90	17.00	16.90	17.00

TREASURY BILLS.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months	5 1/2	5 1/2
	(£98 12 3/4)	(£98 12 3/4)
Six months	5 1/2	5 1/2
	(£97 1/4)	(£97 1/4)
Nine months	6	6
Twelve months	6 1/2	6 1/2
	(£94 0 0)	(£94 0 0)

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted	5 1/2	5 1/2
Three months	5 1/2	5 1/2
Four months	5 1/2	5 1/2
Six months	5 1/2	5 1/2
Three months fine inland bills	6 1/2	6 1/2
Four months	6 1/2	6 1/2
Six months	6 1/2	6 1/2

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	6	6
short loan rates	6 1/2	6 1/2
Bankers' rate on deposits	4	4
Bankers' deposit rate (call)	4 1/2	4 1/2
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	4 1/2	4 1/2
7 and 14 days' notice	4 1/2	4 1/2
Current rates for 7 day loans	4 1/2	4 1/2
for call loans	4 1/2	4 1/2

The Week's Stock Markets.

Roumania's entry into the great war did not produce the effect that might have been expected on the Stock markets, possibly because the news arrived just before the close of business, and as the report came from Berlin, it was at first received with some scepticism. Subsequently the smart advance in the value of the rouble created only a languid interest, except in a few Russian mining and Roumanian oil shares. There is little driving force behind markets in any direction, partly owing to the holidays and partly because some people are still talking about the imminence of another big war loan. It is understood that France will issue a new loan shortly, and it is expected that, as on the last occasion, a portion of it will be reserved for subscription in this country. As the "Victory" Loan has always been maintained at a substantial premium, the next issue is certain to be very popular, but that naturally tends to check current investment business. A feeble rally in Home Railways did not make much progress, the bugbear of labour difficulties effectually restraining any symptom of enthusiasm that may be whipped up from time to time. Developments in the United States in connection with the threatened railway strike are watched with close interest, but it is useless attempting to forecast the result, as neither side is likely to make concessions till the strike notices expire on Monday. America is better served than most countries by its railway system, and any prolonged stoppage would create widespread confusion and incalculable loss. Fortunately, we are not so dependent on the States for munitions and other supplies as we were a few months ago, but we cannot be entirely indifferent to the course of events, and must hope that some solution of the difficulty will be found. Latest advices from Washington are very contradictory about the prospects of a settlement, but it seems probable that Congress will immediately pass the eight-hour law. Meantime, however, the pressure to postpone the strike has been somewhat frigidly received by the men's leaders. With this cloud out of the way and the holiday season coming to an end, markets might begin to look more cheerful, for in every other respect the outlook for the Allies has never been so promising.

Markings of business on the Stock Exchange have kept well over the 3,000 level this week, but dealings have been of a very patchy character, and members generally complain of the stagnant conditions, although nothing much better is to be expected in the holiday season. Even the entry of Rumania into the world conflict failed to stimulate any enthusiasm, and only a few special groups benefited at all. Prices, as a rule, have been firm, but for the most part movements were of a trifling

rush at the National Debt Office next week, when it is promised that the requisite forms will be ready. Russian stocks improved on the sharp fall in the exchange following the Rumanian announcement, but they afterwards reacted a little. The French loan gave way in anticipation of the forthcoming issue in which London will be invited to take a hand. Japanese improved and Brazilians also showed strength, while Cuban Ports put on a point.

Home Railways made a better show than for a long time past, and quite a substantial amount of business was transacted in them. Some of the lower-priced stocks, like Brighton deferred, were most favoured, and the heavies were rather neglected, but North-Eastern gained a point and many others rose $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1. American Railroads have been unsettled by the labour trouble, and falls of 2 to 3 dollars are general throughout the list. International Mercantile Marine common, however, has put on 5 and the preferred $\frac{3}{4}$ in connection with the new reorganisation scheme, which is much fairer to the junior securities than the previous abortive plan. Steel common has lost $\frac{1}{4}$. Canadian Pacific fell a fraction in spite of the fine July statement showing a net increase of \$1,217,000. Grand Trunks have scarcely moved, and the permission to Canadian railways to raise their rates has passed almost unnoticed. Mexican Rails have been neglected, and the only movement has been the decline of a point in the second preferences. Argentine Rails have been irregular, and they got little support on the satisfactory traffics.

Bank shares have been very quiet with a dull tone, almost the only exceptions being fractional gains in Canadian Bank of Commerce and English, Scottish, and Australian. Hongkong and Shanghai were particularly weak with a drop of one point. Capital and Counties, Lloyds, London and River Plate National Provincial ($\frac{1}{2}$ paid), and Parr's each fell $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$. Breweries were scarcely mentioned, but Guinness preference gained a point and Watney Combe preferred ordinary 2. On the other hand, Meux debentures fell a point. Among Gas and Electric shares Imperial Continental, which stood at 162 $\frac{1}{2}$ before the war, dropped 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 87 $\frac{1}{2}$ on the threat of reprisals by the Berlin Government. In the Iron and Engineering section the tone was good, and several shares put on 6d. or 1s., but the leading issues were left unchanged. Shipping shares were quiet, but showed a fair amount of strength. P. and O. is a point down on balance after having been lower, Union of New Zealand shares have lost 1s. 6d. and Court Lines 9d., but Furness Withy, Prince Line, and Royal Mails have improved. Marconis were offered and lost $\frac{1}{8}$. Among Textiles Coats gained $\frac{1}{4}$, and several other shares in this section put on a small fraction. Brazilian Tractions advanced, and there was a fair amount of support for Motor shares. In the Miscellaneous group Salt Unions and British American Tobacco displayed prominent strength, but the list generally was as stagnant as ditch water.

Oil shares rather languished until Rumania declared herself, when there was a smart rally in the shares more directly affected. Roumanian Consolidated benefited most, advancing 4s. 6d. to 19s. 6d., while Trian (Roumania) doubled the price at 6s. Ural Caspian gained 4s., North Caucasian 3s. 6d., and Chelekens 1s. 6d., while many other Russian shares rose a fraction, mainly on the hope that before long they will be able to market their stocks to greater advantage. On the other hand, Burmahs, Shells and Lobitos were weak. Rubber shares showed a fine disregard for the fall in the commodity, being helped by several good interim dividends. Consequently, prices, where they moved at all, hardened a little in most cases, the chief exception being Rubber Plantation Trusts, which fell on what was regarded as a disappointing dividend. Business was on a moderate scale, but there is still a scarcity of stock, and in many shares brokers declare that it is easier to sell than to buy, which is one of the advantages of the absence of speculation.

LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

SUGAR.—No change was made in quotations during the week, and supplies of all grocery descriptions pass readily into consumption. Low kinds, however, fail to command much support. Stocks in the three chief ports of the U.K. amount to 60,300 tons, against 54,700 same time last year.

COFFEE.—Business was again of a retail character, home requirements showing no signs of expansion, though quotations remain about unchanged. The terminal market, after ruling firm and dearer on stimulating accounts from the Brazils, assumed a quiet and easier tone. September delivery sold, 47s. 6d., 47s. 10d., 47s. 6d., and 47s. 9d.; December, 49s. 6d., 49s. 9d.; March, 50s. 9d., 51s.

COCOA.—In auction a total of 12,019 bags offered, of which 9,689 bags comprised Colonial imports. British West India descriptions evidenced a fair inquiry at firm to rather dearer rates, Ceylon being firm and foreign kinds dull. Fine Trinidad reached 84s.; Grenada, 82s. 6d., with one parcel 83s.; Demarara, 82s.; fine Mauritius, 93s. 6d. 679 bags British West African sold, 70s. to 74s. Of Guayaquil, duty paid Ariba sold, 130s. London stock, 239,000 bags, against 110,200 last year.

TEA.—Active and well distributed competition predominated this week, especially for parcels possessing character, and full to dearer rates were secured. 35,800 packages Indian, 25,400 packages Ceylon, and 5,000 packages Java were catalogued.

SPICE dull and featureless, only retail transactions being effected in pepper, both spot and forward. Black Singapore, September-November, sold, 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.; white, 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. Fair Zanzibar cloves, spot, sold, 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. Tapioca steadily held, though quiet.

RICE firm, and there was a fair general demand. No. 2 cleaned Rangoon, spot, sold, 16s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; and ditto, afloat, 16s. 6d. Bran

	Last Week	This Week		Last Week	This Week
Consols.....	59 $\frac{1}{2}$	59 $\frac{1}{2}$	N.S.W. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1922-7	95	95
War Loan 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ %.....	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	" 5% 1921-3	99	99
India 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ %.....	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	New Zealand 4%	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$
" 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %.....	60 $\frac{1}{2}$	61	Queensland 4%	86	86
" 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ %.....	70 $\frac{1}{2}$	71	" 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % new.....	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$
Australian 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1920-22	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Union of S. Africa 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	95	94 $\frac{1}{2}$
Canada 4%, 1940-60	87	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	" 5% 1920-5	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$
" 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1920-5	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	96	Victoria 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1920-5	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$
N.S.W. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %.....	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	Westn. Aus. 4%	83 $\frac{1}{2}$	83 $\frac{1}{2}$
" 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 5-yr. bds.....	98	97 $\frac{1}{2}$			
Belgian 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ %.....	63 $\frac{1}{2}$	63 $\frac{1}{2}$	French War Loan, 5% ..	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	85
Brazil, 1913.....	67 $\frac{1}{2}$	68	Japan 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % (1st)	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	94 $\frac{1}{2}$
" New Funding.....	81	81 $\frac{1}{2}$	" (2nd)	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	94 $\frac{1}{2}$
Chinese 1896	94	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	Russia 4%	71 $\frac{1}{2}$	70 $\frac{1}{2}$
" 1912	78 $\frac{1}{2}$	78 $\frac{1}{2}$	" 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	81 $\frac{1}{2}$
Egypt Unified 4%.....	81	81	" 5%	90	90
Brighton defd.....	64 $\frac{1}{2}$	67	London and S.-W. dfd. ..	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$
Caledonian defd.....	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	" Do. new pf.....	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	98
Chatham ord.....	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	10	Metropolitan	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$
Gt. Central pfd.....	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	" Do. 5% New pf.....	90	90
" dfd.....	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	Met. District	18	18
Gt. Eastern	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	39	Midland dfd.....	60 $\frac{1}{2}$	62
Gt. Northern dfd.....	39 $\frac{1}{2}$	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	Nth. British dfd.....	15	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
Gt. Western	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	Nth.-Eastern	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lanes. and Yorks.	72 $\frac{1}{2}$	72 $\frac{1}{2}$	Nth.-Western	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	103
			Stb.-Eastern dfd.....	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	29 $\frac{1}{2}$
Canadian Pacific	186 $\frac{1}{2}$	183 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chesapeake	65	62 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do. 6% Notes	106	106	Erie	39 $\frac{1}{2}$	38 $\frac{1}{2}$
E. Indian Guar. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % debts.	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	Milwaukee	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	97
Grand Trunk ord.....	12	12	N. Y. Central	111 $\frac{1}{2}$	109 $\frac{1}{2}$
" 3rd pf.....	27 $\frac{1}{2}$	27 $\frac{1}{2}$	Southern	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$
" 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 3-yr. Notes ..	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	Southern Pacific	104	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
" 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 5-yr.	97	97	Union Pacific	149	144 $\frac{1}{2}$
Atchison	109 $\frac{1}{2}$	109 $\frac{1}{2}$	U. S. Steel	102	98 $\frac{1}{2}$
Baltimore.....	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$			
Autofagasta dfd.....	129	129	Cent. Argentine ord.....	81 $\frac{1}{2}$	81
" 6% Notes ..	101	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	" Do. 5% Notes ..	97	97
Brazil Common	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	" Do. 6% ..	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
B. A. & Pacific	47 $\frac{1}{2}$	47 $\frac{1}{2}$	Leopoldina	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	38 $\frac{1}{2}$
B. A. Gt. Southern	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	87	Mexican ord.....	20	20
B. A. Western	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	San Paulo (Brazilian) ..	193	193
			United of Havana	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bank of Australasia.....	117 $\frac{1}{2}$	117 $\frac{1}{2}$	London City & Midland ..	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Barclay & Co. "A"	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	London County & West.....	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
" "B"	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	London Joint Stock	22	22
Capital & Counties	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (£10 $\frac{1}{2}$ pd)	28	28
Chartered of India	59 $\frac{1}{2}$	59 $\frac{1}{2}$	" Do. (£12 pd) ..	30 $\frac{1}{2}$	30
Hongkong & Shanghai ..	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	Parr's	30 $\frac{1}{2}$	30 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lloyds	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	24	Standard of S.A.	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
London & Provincial ..	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	Union & Smiths.....	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$
London & S.W.	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$			
Apollinaris ord.....	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Forestral Land.....	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	52 $\frac{1}{2}$
Armstrong, Whitworth ..	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	Furness, Withy	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$
Associated Cement	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	Hudson's Bay	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	7
Birmingham Small Arms	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	Imperial Tobacco "B" pf.	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$
Borax dfd.....	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	" Do. "C" pf.....	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	36 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bovril	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	Kynochs	30 $\frac{1}{2}$	30 $\frac{1}{2}$
Brazil Tractor	61 $\frac{1}{2}$	62	Lever Bros. "C" pf.....	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	21 $\frac{1}{2}$
British Amer. Tobacco ..	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	Lyons, J.	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Brown (John), & Co.	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	Marconi	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Brunner, Mond	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	Maypole Dairy dfd.....	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	23 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cammell-Laird	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mond Nickel ord.....	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Caster-Kelner	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	National Steam Car	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	19
Coats	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	Pears, A. & F.	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cunard	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	83 $\frac{1}{2}$	P. & O. dfd.....	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	33 $\frac{1}{2}$
Dennis Bros.	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	Royal Mail	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Dorman, Long	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	South Durham Steel ..	32 $\frac{1}{2}$	33 $\frac{1}{2}$
Eastmans	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	Underground Inc. Bds.	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
English Sewing Cotton ..	44 $\frac{1}{2}$	45 $\frac{1}{2}$	Vickers	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	36 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fine Cotton Spinners ..	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	30 $\frac{1}{2}$			
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mexican Eagle pf.....	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$
Baku (ros.)	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	North Caucasian	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	29 $\frac{1}{2}$
Burmah	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	Roumanian Cons.....	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	19 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lobitos	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	39 $\frac{1}{2}$	Royal Dutch (100 gulden)	45 $\frac{1}{2}$	45 $\frac{1}{2}$
Maikop Combine (ros.) ..	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	Shell	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Maikop Pipeline	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	Spies (10/-)	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	16 $\frac{1}{2}$
Mexican Eagle	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	Ural Caspian	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$
Anglo-Java Rub. (2/-) ..	61 $\frac{1}{2}$	64 $\frac{1}{2}$	Merlimau 2/-	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Anglo-Malay 2/-	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	Pataling 2/-	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	34 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ayer Kuning £1	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	Port Dickson 2/-	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bukit Mertajam 2/-	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	Rubber Trust £1	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bukit Sembawang 2/- ..	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	Sapumalkande £1	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$
Carey United £1	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	Selangor United 2/-	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Grand Central £1	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	Sialang £1	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	66 $\frac{1}{2}$
Gula Kalumpung £1	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	Singapore Para 2/-	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Highlands £1	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	Singapore United 2/- ..	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Java Para £1	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	Taipung 2/-	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Johore Rubber Lands £1 ..	27 $\frac{1}{2}$	29 $\frac{1}{2}$	Tanjong £1	78 $\frac{1}{2}$	78 $\frac{1}{2}$
Langen Java £1	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	Tanjong Malim £1	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$
Linggi 2/-	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	21	Tebrau £1	66 $\frac{1}{2}$	67 $\frac{1}{2}$
London Asiatic 2/-	71 $\frac{1}{2}$	71 $\frac{1}{2}$	United Serdan 2/-	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Malacca £1	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	United Temiang 2/-	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Malayalam £1	30 $\frac{1}{2}$	32 $\frac{1}{2}$	Vallambrosa 2/-	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	17 $\frac{1}{2}$
Abbottakoon (10/-)	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	De Beers dfd. (£2 10s.) ..	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Brakpan	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	East Rand	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
Broken Hill Prop. (8/-) ..	60 $\frac{1}{2}$	60 $\frac{1}{2}$	G. Boulder (2/-)	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cam & Motor	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	Meyer & Charlton	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Central Mining (£12)	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	Modder "B"	61 $\frac{1}{2}$	61 $\frac{1}{2}$
Chartered	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Deep	61 $\frac{1}{2}$	61 $\frac{1}{2}$
City Deep	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	New Modder (£4)	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	17 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cons. Gold Fields	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Rand Mines (5/-)	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	38 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cons. Langlaagte	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Rio Tinto (£5)	62 $\frac{1}{2}$	61 $\frac{1}{2}$
Crown Mines (10/-)	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Van Ryn Deep	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$

character, and no decided tendency developed in either direction. Consols and the War Loans fluctuated within very narrow limits, and leave off practically unchanged. The Colonial section has been almost a blank, but Australian Commonwealth $\frac{1}{2}$ per cents. and Canadian $\frac{1}{2}$ per cents. put on a small fraction. In the Foreign market there is a good deal of grumbling about the delay in issuing the forms for small deposits under "Scheme B," and brokers have already a big accumulation of securities awaiting to be handed over, so that there is likely to be a great

keeps firm, with sales of Rangoon, afloat, at 215s., ex ship terms Liverpool. Beans, September-October, also October-November, sold, £21, c.f. and i. terms, London.

FIBRES sparingly offered and firm, though business was again kept down. Of Manila hemp, fair October-December, also November-December, sold, £50 10s.; coarse, September-November, £47 15s., £48; ditto, January-March, £46 10s. There was a steady inquiry for New Zealand, and dealer rates were secured. Jute is firm, with sales in native first marks assortment, September, Dundee, at £3 15s.; October, £31 10s.

CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 1, 1916.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
Sugar —per cwt., duty 14/1, 98% polarisation	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Wool —per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tate's Cubes No. 1	2 7 1½	2 7 1½	Australian	1 3-3 10½	1 3-3 10½
Ditto, H.T.S.	2 6 7½	2 6 7½	Scoured Merino	1 9½-3 2	1 9½-3 2
Fine granulated...	nom.	nom.	Scoured Cr'ssbr'd	1 9½-3 2	1 9½-3 2
Lyle's granulated...	41 7½-42 1½	41 7½-42 1½	Greasy Merino	1 10½-2 3	1 10½-2 3
Foreign granulated, first marks f.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	1 4-1 11	1 4-1 11
German Cubes f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	New Zealand (scoured) Merino	3 2-3 10	3 2-3 10
French Cubes prompt	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	1 2-1 10	1 2-1 10
Crystallised, West India	nom.	nom.	Cape snow white	2 10-3 2	2 10-3 2
Beet, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Indiarubber p. lb.		
Tea —per lb., duty 1/1	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Plantation, Spot		
Indian Pekoe	0 8½-1 0½	0 9-1 1	Crope	0 2 3½	0 2 3
Broken	0 9-1 3½	0 9-2 0½	Coal —per ton		
Orange	0 9½-1 2	0 9½-1 6½	Durham, best	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 9½-1 1½	0 10-2 0½	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Pekoe Souchong	0 8-1 1½	0 8½-1 1½	East Hartlepool	nom.	nom.
Ceylon Pekoe	0 8½-1 1½	0 8½-1 1½	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 9½-1 1½	0 9½-1 1½	Steamers, best	40/ 45/	40/
Orange	0 8½-1 1½	0 8½-1 0½	Seconds	35/	35/
Broken	0 9½-1 1	0 10-1 1	Lead —per ton.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Pekoe Souchong	0 8½-1 0	0 8½-1 0	English Pig	32 0 0	32 10 0
Cocoa —per cwt., duty 6d. per lb.	s. s.	s. s.	Foreign soft	30 7 6	31 0 0
Trinidad—per cwt.	79 0-84 0	83 0-85 0	Quicksilver —per bottle firsthand	£17½-£17½	£17½
Grenada	73 0-82 6	74 0-83 0	Tin —per ton		
West Africa	70 0-74 0	70 0-74 0	English Ingots	£174-£175	£174-£175
Ceylon Plantation	72 0-91 0	73 0-91 0	Do. bars	£175-£176	£175-£176
Guayaquil Arriba	96 0-100 0	96 0-100 0	Standard cash	£179 5 0	£179 5 0
Coffee —per cwt., duty 4½ per cwt.			Tin Plates, per box	31/ upds.	32/ upds.
East India	67 0-95 0	67 0-95 0	Copper —per ton.		
Jamaica	62 0-120 6	62 0-120 6	English, Tough	nom.	nom.
Costa Rica	62 0-84 0	62 0-84 0	per ton	nom.	nom.
Provisions —			Best Selected	£125-£122	£127-£125
Butter, per cwt.			Sheets	£148	£150
Australian finest	nom.	nom.	Standard	£112 0 0	£110 0 0
Irish Creameries	184/-190/	180/-188/	Jute —per ton.		
Dutch ditto	nom.	nom.	Native firsts for shipment Oct.	£31 10 0	£32 10 0
Russian finest	nom.	nom.	Oils —		
Normandy baskets	nom.	nom.	Linseed, per ton	£36½-£37½	£36½-£37½
Danish finest	202/-204/	196/-198/	Rape, ref. English, barrels	£46½-£48½	£46½-£48½
Brittany rolls—doz. lb.	16/6-19/6	16/6-19/6	Brown English, naked	nom.	nom.
Bacon —per cwt.			Cott'n Seed, crude	£36 0 0	£34 10 0
Irish	120 0-126 0	120 0-125 0	Ditto, refined	£42-£52	£41-£51½
Continental	112 0-126 0	112 0-126 0	Petroleum Oil, per 8 lbs.	1/1½	1/1½
Canadian	114 0-116 0	100 0-116 0	Water White	1/2½	—
American	93 0-98 0	97 0-103 0	Oil Seeds, Linseed	—	—
Hams —per cwt.			Calcutta—per 410 lbs., Sep.-Oct.	3 17 6	3 16 9
Irish	138/-148/	138/-148/	Rape, Toria	69/	69/
Canadian	111/-116/	0 0-0 0	Iron —per ton		
American	69 0-108 0	70 0-110 0	Cleveland Cash	nom.	nom.
Cheese —per cwt.			Tobacco —duty, unmanufactured 5/6 to 6½ per lb.		
Edam	84 0-94 0	0 0-0 0	Maryland & Ohio		
Canadian	100 0-104 0	102 0-105 0	per lb. bond	0 6-0 10	0 6-0 10
Gouda	nom.	nom.	Virginia leaf	0 8-1 6	0 8-1 6
English Cheddar	100 3-108 0	104 0-116 0	Kentucky leaf	0 6½-0 10	0 6½-0 10
Willis loaf	nom.	nom.	Latakia	1 0-3 0	1 0-3 0
New Zealand	100 0-104 0	102 0-104 0	Havana	1 0-0 0	1 0-0 0
Rice —per cwt.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Manilla	0 6-2 0	0 6-2 0
Garden Siam	17 3-17 6	17 3-17 6	Cigars, duty 10/6 per lb.	2/ upds.	2/ upds.
Rangoon 2 stars	17 0	17 0	Timber —Wood.		
Eggs —per 120.			Pitch Pine	250/-270/	250/-270/
English	23 0-24 0	24 0-25 0	Indian Teak	400/-600/	400/-600/
Irish	21 0-23 0	23 0-24 0	Turpentine —		
Danish	21 6-23 0	23 0-25 0	American Spot	2 2 4½	2 2 9
Spelter —			Copra —		
G.O.B. as to position	£58-£45	£49-£42	Malabar, London		
Flour —per sack.			Sept.-Oct.	32 10 0	32 10 0
Town Households			Ceylon, London	31 10 0	31 12 6
Official	56/	55/	South Sea	29 15 0	28 15 0
American First			F.M.S.	30 2 6	29 15 0
Patents	52/6 upds.	52/6 upds.			

SHELLAC.—Though unsettled ruled dealer with good inquiries for both spot and forward. Fair second orange, on spot, sold, 128s., 129s.; free A.C. garnet, 20s. Futures, October, sold, 128s., 130s.; December, 131s., 133s.

RUBBER.—A moderate trade resulted at generally weaker rates. Crepe, spot, sold, 2s. 3½d., 2s. 3d.; October-December, 2s. 4½d., 2s. 4½d., and 2s. 4d.; ribbed smoked sheet, spot, done 2s. 3½d., 2s. 2½d. Fine hard Para, spot, sellers, 3s. 2d.

COPRA.—London market dull, unaltered, but more trade passed to Marseilles and prices hardened slightly.

CORN (Mark Lane).—There has not been much business passing in any direction this week, while a steady tone was continued in general. English wheat, firmer. Of imported, Canadian declined. Flour supported. Grinding barley remains very scarce, with a firmer tendency. Oats fairly maintained. Maize rather dearer. Wheat: English whites and reds, delivered up, range to 66s. per

qr. 504 lbs. Of imported grades, No. 1 Northern Manitoba, 71s. 6d., ex ship. Flour: American first spring patents, 52s. 6d. upwards, and Canadian patents, 51s. 6d. to 52s. 6d., both landed. Oats: La Plata, new, 31s. 3d. to 32s. 3d., landed, according to quality. Grinding barley: American (F.A.Q.), 45s., and La Plata nominal at about 46s. upward, both ex quay. Maize: New La Plata (sound), 54s. 6d., and old ditto, 53s. 6d., both landed.

METALS.—Copper: The standard market has been in a lifeless state since Monday last, and prices gradually fell away, cash delivery by the middle of the week settling down at £110 and three months at £108 10s. At Thursday's session rates further declined, chiefly respecting forward dates, cash closing at £109 10s. and three months at £106 10s. Tin: After a rising tendency until Tuesday, when standard cash reached £173 and three months £174, rates fell back under realisations of early prompts and forward offerings, while these dates receded by the middle of the week to £171 and £171 15s. respectively. At Thursday's session no material change occurred, cash closing at £171 and three months £171 10s. English officially quoted at £174 to £175. Lead firmer, and holders offered with reserve. English £32 10s. and foreign, September, buyers, £31. Spelter moved downwards. G.O.B. quoted £52 to £43, according to position. Quicksilver, £17 15s.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—We have had a rather exciting week in the market, the further advance and violent fluctuations in raw cotton rates being features of considerable interest. Trade in yarn and cloth has been generally disorganised, but some buyers have been afraid to defer operations any longer, and where producers have been willing to accept a little less than top rates some very fair sales have been put through. Much uncertainty still exists with regard to the raw cotton situation, but the opinion is gaining ground that we cannot anticipate much lower values in the near future. The entry of Rumania on the side of the Allies has had some effect upon the situation, as it is believed that the length of the war by this development will be somewhat shortened. The hardening tendency in cloth prices has brought out a large inquiry from our markets abroad, but our customers have not been willing to pay the necessary advances, and in many instances negotiations have failed to mature. Here and there rather more activity has prevailed for India, especially in light goods such as mulls and jaconets. The bids in shirtings, however, especially for Calcutta, are still altogether too low. For China more tentative offers have been put forward, but in very few instances have buyers and sellers been able to come to terms. A rather broadening demand has been experienced for Egypt, with a fair offtake in certain special makes. There is a good deal of irregularity in the engagements of manufacturers. American yarns for home use have been put up in quotation, but some spinners have refused to quote, there being a disposition to wait for more settled conditions. Most of the buying has been in medium numbers in both twist and weft. It is rather difficult for producers to maintain their margin of profit at a time like the moment, but engagements are generally healthy. Only odd lots have been put through in shipping yarns. Bolton spinnings are decidedly dearer on the week, and most counts and qualities are very stiff, the lessened output being well cleared.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

Banco Español Del Rio de la Plata.—Final of 2½ per cent. for half-year ended June 30, making 5 per cent. for year. Coupon No. 18 now payable at London office at the rate of \$2.50 legal currency (equal to 4s. 4½d.) per share, less tax, against 2 per cent., making 4 per cent.

British Bank of South America.—5 per cent. (10s. per share), less tax, payable Sept. 29.

British Gas Light.—At the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, with a bonus of 2s. 6d. per share, for half-year ended June 30, both less tax, payable Oct., same as a year ago.

Broken Hill Prop. Block 10.—1s. per share, less tax, payable Sept. 29.

Broken Hill South Silver Mining.—6s., payable Sept. 22.

Broken Proprietary Block 14.—6d. per share on the ordinary, less tax, payable Sept. 29.

Consolidated Gas, Electric Light and Power of Baltimore.—Regular quarterly on the common of 1½ per cent. for quarter ending Sept. 30, and the regular semi-annual on the preferred of 3 per cent. for six months ending the same date, payable Oct. 1.

Eastman Kodak of New Jersey.—Usual quarterly of 2½ per cent. (being at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum) on the outstanding common, payable Oct. 2, same as a year ago, with an extra of 2½ per cent.

Edinburgh Mortgage.—5 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary, same as last year.

Equitable Loan of Scotland.—Final of 10s. per share, making 18s. for year, against 16s. per share.

Industrial Bank of Japan.—A slight error crept into our notice of this bank's dividend announcement in our issue of Aug. 12 last. The rate paid for the half-year ended June, 1915, was 6½ per cent., and not 5 per cent., as stated.

Kapar Para Rubber.—Interim 15 per cent., less tax, payable Sept. 15 in respect of current year, same as a year ago.

Kelani Valley Tea.—Interim on account of current year 10 per cent., less tax, payable Sept. 6, same as a year ago.

Louth (Lincolnshire) Water.—5 per cent. per annum for past year on the ordinary, with £914 forward.

Mount Morgan.—At the rate of 1s. per share, payable Sept. 30, same as a year ago.

Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Supply.—Interim of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the ordinary, payable 29th prox., less tax, same as last year.

Smith, Garrett and Co.—At the rate of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for year ended June 30, placing £2,000 to reserve, £2,000 to loan properties reserve, and £375 to suspense account, carrying forward £7,824.

Southern Punjab Railway.—Interim on the ordinary for year ended Sept. 30 of £5 per cent., or at the rate of £10 per cent. per annum, payable Sept. 13, same as a year ago.

Standard Bank of South Africa.—Interim for half-year ended June 30 last at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, subject to tax, payable Oct. 20; the bank's investments have been written down to their lowest ascertainable value as at June 30, and all other usual and necessary provisions have been made; a year ago a similar distribution was announced.

State Assurance.—Interim for half-year at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, less tax, payable Oct. 2, same as a year ago.

Sungei Way (Selangor) Rubber.—Interim of 4s. per share, less tax, against 3s.

Utah Apex Mining.—25c., payable Sept. 30.

Ulu Rantau Rubber.—Interim of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., less tax, payable Sept. 15, in respect of current year, same as a year ago.

Answers to Correspondents.

*** * A Key to these Answers will be posted early each week for a subscription of ONE GUINEA per annum, 11s. for six months, or 5s. 9d. for three months.**

Deposits against future queries may be lodged with the Publisher.

Scotia.—The only book of the kind now published, and it is a very good one, is the "Mining Manual and Mining Year Book," edited by Mr. Walter R. Skinner, who publishes it at 12, Clement's Lane, price 15s. nett.

J. F. K.—(1) This is a very good company, and at present doing an excellent business. We do not think the shares should be sold now; the market for these is narrow, but they might go up a little. (2) This is a much more powerful concern, and the shares should be kept, both preference and ordinary. (3) This also is a very good security, although there is a liability of £40 per share, and apart altogether from questions of stability it is well to sell such, when small estates are in question, on a favourable opportunity. That does not mean you should sell just now.

F. P.—(1) Do not average these at present. (2) We think you might buy a few more of these under 7, for even although the directors may pay no dividend the future looks attractive. (3) This is superficially doing wonderfully well, but we fear the instability of the exchange, and think you should let it alone at present. (4) If you can get this in the neighbourhood of 85 you might buy a little more. (5) This must be cheap now, but you do not say whether it bears 4 or $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., or is simply ordinary stock. In any case prices are low, and, as we indicated last week, likely to improve. (6) Should be worth buying to a small extent as the price is now not much more than par. Some day a rise is bound to come. (7) There is not much chance of this stock going up, although it is good enough, but people do not go by nett yield, and the rate looks small. (8) A very fine company indeed, but there is no prospect of an early rise in the shares that we can see; they are, in fact, quite high enough. We agree with your general proposition on the whole.

Phil.—(1) We do not like this thing much; its capital is too large and the people connected with it are not very trustworthy. Perhaps the best way to get out without loss is to buy a few more when the price is flat. (2) This is what is called a "holding" company, and we do not know much about it, but the properties are held on lease. There seems to be plenty of metal, however, and were it not for the heavy debenture debt ahead of the shares, and were the price not so high, the investment might tempt. We think you should be in no hurry to buy.

W. G.—(1) We think you should stick to these for the present, especially as there is not much prospect of a decent rise in the other shares mentioned. (2 and 3) Of the two Russian companies the second named is probably the best, because it is not in debit on revenue account and has a considerable reserve, but there is no hurry to put any money into either so far as we can see. This answer still leaves 2s. 6d. at the credit of your query account.

Edina.—The ordinary are 5s. shares, and consequently stand now at a considerable premium. They might go a little higher, but we think you had better wait a little, because although the last dividend was 10 per cent., the reserve is very small and you might pick them up at par or less by and by.

W. G. H.—Your position will remain the same. Any claim you are entitled to make will be allowed.

N. A. E.—Yes, they are protected by a clause in the Act of Parliament.

S. C. D.—Company has a fair amount of cash in hand, which is useful. Shares have already risen, and may go higher, but they are purely speculative.

Leigh.—Why not Exchequer bonds? The others are quite good, and will, of course, pay a little more.

The War Use of Shipping.

War is waste, said Dr. Macnamara recently in the House of Commons in defending the policy of the Admiralty in regard to the use to which certain merchant ships had been put. A formula of this kind may easily be used to cover up a multitude of extravagances and lapses, and the time is coming when, if Parliament is to fulfil its duty, a platitude of this sort will not be accepted as a gloss over transactions which show a reckless disregard for the economic or efficient use of tonnage. Of course, war canons of economy and peace canons are entirely different. If naval or military operations require the abundant use of merchant ships, then the supreme needs of the war justify that use. That is not the sort of thing which we are condemning. What we have in mind is the haphazard, unthinking, irrational diversion of ships to purposes for which they are unfitted or to services which might be performed quite as efficiently by less expensive methods. Definite instances of this kind of wasteful extravagance during some of the stages of the war have been revealed in the last few months. There was the use of ships for the internment of alien enemies during eight or nine months. That cost the country £450,000. There was the conversion of the ten tank steamers into troopships. They were reconverted to their original use, but nine of them were not put into the service of transporting troops. That transaction has been officially defended as an experiment in an endeavour to obtain a greater degree of buoyancy in the case of torpedo attacks. It was abandoned, but it has excited the strong condemnation of shipowners. Another glaring case was that of the passenger ship which lay for 11 months in the Mediterranean as a sort of club for officers. There are other instances where vessels have been fitted for one service, and then dismantled and refitted, and of them we may hear a good deal more in the future.

Lack of provision in such matters means extravagance not only in money, but in the employment of skilled labour. It betokens unsettled purpose. It fritters away the national resources at the very moment when the closest vigilance should be displayed over them. We do not know whether waste of the kind to which we have been referring is still being perpetrated. When the departmental mind is thinking in millions, such proceedings are always possible, especially when the salutary Treasury and parliamentary checks are in virtual abeyance. In this case it is not only the Exchequer that is affected. The scarcity of shipping has become one of the most crying economic problems of the time. Food prices have risen enormously, and people in their blind resentment are demanding the control of freights by the Government. That remedy would be quite unavailing for two reasons. In the first place, freights do not account for the far largest portion of the rise in the price of foodstuffs, and in the second place the British Government cannot control the freights of neutral ships. We are dependent on the services of neutrals for a large part of the sea carriage of our supplies from abroad. What would most tend to bring down prices here would be increased supplies. The more vessels we can employ the more will the supply tend to meet the demand. Efforts are being made to accelerate the construction of merchant ships in this country, and we observe that some of the trade union leaders are pressing the necessity of this course as a means towards the importation of more ample quantities of foodstuffs. Merchant vessels should not be diverted from such work now unless there exist pressing and paramount military or naval reasons. To retain ships in Government service on inadequate or frivolous grounds is one of the most reprehensible mistakes that can be made. If there is a repetition of the earlier examples of the misuse of shipping, we trust that the persons responsible will be held to strict accountability.

Mr. Henry Brown, J.P., general manager of the Century Insurance Co., has, on the invitation of the directors, accepted a seat on the board.

An office of the Anglo-South American Bank, Ltd., will be opened in Barcelona as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made.

Another "Jew-Baiting" Attack on Holland.

Another "blockade" sensation is being worked up, and may prove troublesome just at the moment when there is least warrant for outcry. Last week we quoted a few Dutch official figures of exports to Germany and the United Kingdom which went to show that Holland was "betraying humanity" by giving the Germans the preference. There was nothing improbable in that. Whatever the Dutch soul at its highest may represent, the average Dutch trader is no more susceptible to heroics in business than the average "Britisher" or Yankee. He sells his wares to those who are prepared to pay him the highest price. Against the attractiveness of German offers for what Holland may be able to supply in the way of food the Netherlands Overseas Trust may be almost powerless, and we regard it as probable enough that the commoner grade of Dutch merchants continue to make money out of the Germans to the limit of their opportunity. Only we should like to know what relation that betrayal of the Dutch Government by its own people has to the blockade. Did the Netherlands Overseas Trust ever undertake to stop domestic interchange with Germany? We believe it never did, and the neutrality of Holland itself forbids that any attempt should be made by us to force the Dutch to take our side. To stop exports of domestic produce from Holland to Germany would be to depart from the position of a neutral and to force Holland to become a partisan of the enemies of Germany. But to the journals that live by sensationalism that matters not at all. Nor does the effect of abuse of the Dutch on the influence of our Government with Holland count in the least—except that the scare sheets which live by and upon this kind of sensationalism would count it a "victory" for their management, and a stimulus to their circulation if they, by their indiscriminate mud-slinging, drove the Ministry into a corner and forced it out of office.

And always this type of journalism uses the same pattern of sling. The ignorant crowd catered for is incapable of comprehending reasoning. Something personal, individual—an individual to tar and feather—must be imparted into the controversy to give it a relish agreeable to the spirit of the multitude. Figures would mean but little to it. "Find a man to throw filth at and go ahead" is always the order. The difficulty of finding a man at home is, however, on the increase, especially for the editors who fulfil the behests of the Harmsworth family. Alternately they have abused and besmeared with adulation almost every prominent politician we possess, and some of the men now at the head of affairs are rather too formidable to be lightly handled by the journalistic "bruiser." Discretion, therefore, counselled fixing the imputation "traitor" on somebody outside the country in handling this latest discovery of "scandal" in our treatment of Dutch traders. Lord Robert Cecil can hit back, is hitting back all the time; and besides mere abuse of the responsible Minister might not have the effect of embroiling us with the Government of the Netherlands. It was much better, therefore, and safer, to attack Sir Francis Oppenheimer. The sbirri of Carmelite House do not go so far as to insinuate that this eminent public man is sharing in the profits of the trade with Germany, but they entitle their screeds "The Oppenheimer Blockade," and boldly allege that the whole Netherlands Overseas Trust arrangement was of his negotiating, and that he did the work with the tongue in his cheek. "Here is a German, a German Jew, a traitor therefore, whom a dubiously patriotic Ministry, always ready to favour Germans, has placed in the position of Commercial Attaché at The Hague, and who has used his position to help the Germans and cheat the country he professes to serve." That is bluntly the charge wrapped up and penny-a-lined, and there is no denying the droll Teutonic cunning of the thing—or its blackguardliness. We hold no brief for Sir Francis Oppenheimer, know nothing whatever about him in fact, except through his official actions.

For many years we have been accustomed to read his annual and special reports as British Consul-General in Frankfort on the trade of Germany, and in doing that acquired an esteem for the man, an admiration for his painstaking ability and fairmindedness, and a belief in his integrity, all which we refuse to surrender at the summons of a troop of journalistic *Apaches*. Even against the Dutch trader we refuse to enter judgment at the bidding of such, and feel sure that there must be an explanation of the statistics made public last week differing much from the mischief-making one certain help-the-enemy-when-chance-offers journals have been busy putting forward to promote discord.

Not content with throwing their muck at a public official who cannot defend himself, in the expectation that the filth which is ostensibly destined for him will splash all around and disturb harmony between the British and Dutch Governments, they are "having another go" at the fleet. Shipments from New York to Scandinavian countries and Holland are larger now than they were; therefore Germany is getting fed in spite of our Navy. Could any argument be more preposterous? How much of the stuff entered as to be forwarded to Sweden, Denmark, and Holland ever gets there? Do the decriers of the Navy really believe that it keeps idle in port while these laden merchantmen steam comfortably past? It is a way of slandering our seamen that we should have thought beyond even the most malignant political rancour, but it serves to foment the outcry against the Government because food, and many things besides food, are dearer than before the war. To raise a noise and frighten the Government into taking rash measures against shipping, against importers and distributors, that is the object of all this parade of failure, and if in the bygoing a few men can be ruined, if as a consequence the Government can be driven to assume additional responsibilities and obligations well calculated to increase its difficulties when peace returns, why, what does that signify? Our "nett" circulations have increased by so much, and all must be well with our bank balances, come of nation, Empire, and civilisation what may.

What is the truth about our blockade? It is a pity the Government cannot publish the facts, but probably the Germans are best left in ignorance, for "business" reasons, as well as we. We do, however, know in a general way that our vigilance at sea has become so effective that probably not five per cent. of the vessels going to these Scandinavian countries escape overhaul. And if they are found to have on board goods we have proclaimed contraband, such goods are withheld from their ostensible destination. That this must be so we know from the statements made by Mr. Balfour and by Lord Robert Cecil; above all, we know it by the test of the increasing scarcity of food and metals, of clothing and leather, in Germany. What is the meaning of the furore of jubilation in Germany over the alleged return of the submarine "liner," *Deutschland*? Do the ravings of the German Press really give the key to the nation's feelings? Probably they do, but not in the obvious sense. The joy and brag are the German way of whipping up courage. "These fiends the English are going to starve us all to death, are they? Behold, then, their defeat; our undersea cargo boats will open a way of deliverance." "No way is open to us on the surface of the ocean," they thus clumsily proclaim; and we have it on German authority now that there is not. Cannot our cheap-jack alarmists see the force of that logic? Why should they if there is no money in seeing?

Lord Robert Cecil has been treating of the subject since the above was written, and might have written what we have said. But he went into the difficulties we have to contend with in trying to control the trade of neutrals, difficulties our irresponsible Press never stop to notice. The only effective method by which trade can be diverted from our enemies is to outbid them in the market or anticipate them by buying first. And we cannot do that always, least of all with farm, garden, or orchard produce. It is not improbable,

however, that if we succeed in stopping the supplies of Norwegian copper to Germany—which has been absorbing all the output—it will be simply by paying a higher price for it. And something of the same kind may be required to check or reduce the Dutch leakage. We can outbid, we may persuade, we cannot coerce any neutral. At the same time, we are sure that the Netherlands Overseas Trust is acting honourably by us, and believe that it is succeeding in helping us to an extent it has never been given credit for. Will those who would sow bad blood between us and the small neutral nations hitherto overshadowed by Germany be good enough to supplement the statistics of United States' exports to Holland with the figures recording the exports also to Great Britain, France, and Russia? Can they further explain how the stoppage of supplies from Russia, Italy, France, and Balkania, as well as from territories once German colonies and from Asia Minor, can have been made good—if made good—from other sources without raising the figures relating to those other sources?

American Business Notes.

At the moment it looks as if the most dangerous labour crisis the United States railroads have ever had to encounter was about to break out. After strenuous and unremitting efforts to bring about an agreement, President Wilson has been rebuffed by the railroad magnates, who too frequently are the Government's master. Hitherto what the railroad plutocrats have demanded Washington functionaries and political figureheads have been more or less obliged to concede. The power of these magnates has, however, been diminishing in recent years, and we hope they will be beaten in this fight; at any rate, President Wilson is standing up manfully for what he considers popular rights, and when he found that the men were to get no concessions worth having from the railroad despots he called a joint session of Congress, and laid before it a proposal for legislation which, should he be powerful enough to carry into law, will go a long way towards putting the railroads and all that concerns them under popular control through the Executive at Washington. In his speech the President told the Senators and Deputies present that the representatives of the railroads had declined the plan, agreed to by the men, although he regarded it as certain that they would ultimately be obliged to accept an eight-hours day, because labour is powerfully organised and backed by public opinion.

In order to put the Government in a position to deal with a crisis of this kind, the President gave the outline of a measure that would enlarge the membership of the Inter-State Commerce Commission, expand its powers, fix eight hours as the legal working day for all train men, and, most ominous of all, bestow upon the President power to work the railways "in case of military necessity." This last provision, if made law, would do more in strong hands to destroy monopolist tyranny in the United States than any other single measure we can conceive. There are other provisions embodied in the proposals, but they concern its details, and need not be dwelt upon here. We may, however, mention that the President proposes the amendment of the mediation law with a view to prevent strikes and lock-outs during the investigation of industrial disputes. Will this measure be accepted by the law-makers of the Republic? Probably it will, with some modifications, because this is Presidential election year; in other words, the year of a roundabout appeal to the democracy for pardon and rehabilitation, and it will be dangerous for any Deputy to take up a strong attitude against the labour vote. But Congress will have to act quickly if a disastrous strike is to be averted, for the leaders of the railwaymen have sent out a notice ordering a strike to begin at 7 o'clock on the morning of September 4 if the ameliorations for which the President has been wrestling are not meanwhile conceded.

Most years bring a certain activity to the grain "pits" of New York and Chicago. This year the un-

favourable news about crops would seem to have made them boil over altogether, and the "bull" of the market has once more been having the time of his life. The latest report about the grain crops was that of the Agricultural Department for July, dated August 1. It showed that in most of the States considerable deterioration had taken place during the month. In maize, for example, the average decline was put at 6.7 per cent., bringing it down to 75.3 per cent., which compares with a 10 years' average of 79.7 per cent. In wheat the decline was even more disagreeably emphatic. The yield per acre has been brought down, so far as spring wheat is concerned, to 25.6 bushels per acre, compared with 28.2 bushels in the previous year.* This means a crop of, roughly, 2,777,000,000 bushels, or 278,000,000 bushels less than the crop of 1915. About winter wheat the report was worse still, the yield being reduced to 13.8 bushels per acre, or one bushel less than the month before. Upon this basis the gamblers in wheat have laid their plans for a great haul, and those of them who are of the quick-in-and-out brigade have no doubt made a considerable pile of dollars, but there is increased probability now that the great quantities of grain stored in Russia and, to some extent, in Rumania may be available for meeting European necessities before half the American harvest of 1916 can be all brought to market.

All crops would seem to be poor in North America this year, and we hope that the reports about cereals coming over from Canada and published by the Canadian High Commissioner will continue good. Thus far the news has been satisfactory, but there is a considerable portion of the crop yet to be gathered. Still, the early frosts would seem to have kept off, and as the area sown was somewhat larger, there ought to be partial compensation in the Canadian supply for the estimated shortage in the States. Official crop reports from Washington are, however, not always to be confidently trusted; they vary of necessity, and sometimes may do so of design.

It is just as bad with cotton, and speculation has been driving up the price of this staple to a height hardly seen since the time of the American Civil War, when cotton reached famine prices in Lancashire. The price in Manchester early this week was, in fact, the highest for half-a-century, but the market is feverish, and rather a dangerous one to play in. It is said that the basis of this jump and restlessness is the disastrous weather in the cotton areas, coupled with exceptional ravages by insects. Owing to these adverse forces a decrease of 2,000,000 bales in the yield is now estimated, bringing it down to 12,000,000 bales. This small crop, coming upon a market which has wonderfully little of the old crop left over, would seem to warrant the speculator in hoisting prices. But the dearth should stir all cotton-using States in Europe to increase the production of their colonies, or, in the case of Russia, in Asia.

Dazzling have been the traffic receipts of United States railroads in the first half of this year. The *New York Commercial Chronicle* compiles a table illustrating their performances. For the first six months of this year it covers the operations of 492 railroads with a length of 249,444 miles, being almost the entire railroad mileage of the Republic. Up to June 30 this year these railroads earned \$1,705,541,433, or £341,110,000. This is £65,000,000, or \$324,219,000, more than their earnings in the corresponding half of 1915, and a greater increase than any ever before shown within the same space of time. To be sure, the years immediately preceding were not conspicuously prosperous, and although the first half of 1915 showed a gradual slow recovery in business, there was an actual decrease of \$41,423,000 in the railroad earnings, or about £8,300,000, and in the first six months, 1914, the decline in earnings was almost £17,000,000, or \$84,601,000. No doubt these decreases compare against the fine year 1913, the first half of which gave an increase of £27,220,000, or \$136,097,000, over 1912; but, all allowance made, the past six months shows that railroad business in the

United States has been more voluminous, and has brought in much more money than in any previous similar period in their history. Expenses have gone up likewise, but we shall not know what inroads they have made on the profits until the year is completed.

We now have, however, the full report of the Lehigh Valley Railroad Co. and its dependent coal company for the year closed June 30 last, and both show that expenses have been going up, not at the same ratio as receipts, but still in a manner which should check the disposition to too great "bullishness." In the railroad's receipts from coal freight, for instance, there was actually a decrease of \$384,656, although the gross receipts of the company from all sources showed an increase of \$4,856,607. The loss fell principally on the coal branch of the business, and was more than made up by an increase in the money received for carrying general merchandise. On the whole, that is in accordance with what we should expect for the enormous demand for weapons of destruction and for shot and shell from the Allies of the *Entente* have caused the general merchandise traffic of all railroads in the United States running to the Atlantic to bulge enormously, but it by no means follows that this state of things will continue after the demand for these productions has ended.

In regard to the Lehigh Valley Coal Co. there is little to be said, the nett income of \$1,095,000 being just about \$72,000 above that of the preceding year, but it is worth noting that the company, which is entirely a creature of the railroad company, after a dispute with the miners, shared in with the other coal-producing companies, which lasted for about six weeks, although work was not stopped for anything like that time, ended in an agreement giving the men an eight-hours working day and a substantial increase in wages. The agreement is to run for a period of four years from April 1 last. We should like to know whether this eight-hours day contract implies that the men shall work six days a week.

According to the financial statement of the Washington Treasury for the fiscal year ended June 30 last, the nett public debt of the Republic was then \$1,006,281,572, or £201,260,000. The year before it was apparently about \$83,500,000 larger, but there has been some change in the method of making up the accounts, so that this does not represent the true decline, which is, in fact, much larger than the excess of receipts over expenditure. Very poor results so far, it may be noted in this connection, have come from the Panama Canal, which may be regarded as an asset of the Federal Government. What the interest payments may be due annually on the debt raised to meet in part the cost of construction we do not know, but the Washington Treasury was responsible last year for payments on Canal account to a total of \$18,629,571, or £3,726,000, whereas the tolls, &c., received amounted to no more than \$2,554,576, or £511,000. There was thus a deficit of more than \$16,000,000, which had to be met out of the general revenue, reducing the surplus on the budget as a whole to about \$45,000,000, or £9,000,000. In the previous fiscal year the Panama Canal tolls yielded \$4,119,407, but the expenditures on this account then reached \$25,821,654, so that the deficiency was actually \$21,702,274 for that year. Unless the cost of dredging and other works of repair which the latest land-slides rendered imperative have been charged in great measure to the past fiscal year, the exhibit for the current year may be very little better so far as expenditure is concerned, but now that the fair way is again in full working order the revenue ought to show decided improvement.

Yesterday was the last day for depositing shares in the Montreal Light, Heat and Power Co. and in the Cedars Rapids Manufacturing and Power Co. under the scheme for combining these ventures under the aegis of the Civic Investment and Industrial Co. As previously announced, Montreal Light holders will get three Civic shares for one, and the Cedars Rapids will be exchanged share for share. There seems little doubt that the scheme will go through as it is powerfully backed. The new company will have an authorised capital of \$75,000,000, and there are no bonds.

Insurance News.

The Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society of Australia reports an appreciable decrease in new business in the past year, which must be attributed to the effects of the war. The number of proposals received in the ordinary department for life assurance, endowments and annuities declined from 8,829 to 7,315, the sum involved being £1,556,174 against £2,047,859. Of these proposals, 6,392 were completed, assuring £1,300,248 and £1,503 per annum against £1,646,248 and £1,659 per annum. The annual income arising from policies issued during the year amounts to £55,680 against £66,965. The addition to the life assurance fund (ordinary department) during the year, however, increased from £164,899 to £194,228. The rate of interest yielded by the assurance fund was £4 14s. 9d. against £4 12s. per cent.; but, as income-tax paid on interest has for the first time in the society's accounts been deducted from the amount of interest appearing in the revenue account, the nett rate has been £4 12s. per cent. In the industrial branch 23,738 policies were issued, assuring £539,238 against £565,693, the annual income being £46,193. In the accident department there have been issued 726 combined life, accident and sickness policies assuring the sum of £85,950 should death take place as the result of accident, with corresponding other benefits in the event of disablement or sickness, as against £103,400 so assured in 1914. In addition, 542 pure accident and sickness policies assuring £167,518 against £197,275 were issued. After providing during the year for the distribution of a bonus the accumulated profit in this section now amounts to £12,907, against £12,879. The society now holds Government, municipal and other debentures amounting to £1,093,697 being an increase of over £219,000. The actuarial investigation of liabilities disclosed a surplus of £176,406 in the ordinary department against £147,756. This enables the board to pay a bonus at the rate of £1 10s. per £100 assured against £1 per cent. last year, and £41,588 is carried forward. In the industrial branch the profits for the year were applied mainly to write down the "extension of organisation account," £7,494 being applied in that way. In the accident department the bonus is again at the rate of £2 per cent., £10,436 being carried forward as a general reserve fund.

Tea, Oil and Rubber.

Last week 1,069 tons of rubber were landed, while only 564 tons were delivered, and consequently the market for the commodity has had a drooping tendency, standard crêpe falling back to 2s. 2½d. In the share market, however, there has been a moderate amount of business, and prices have been well maintained, the market being stimulated by a batch of favourable interim dividends. Interest has been mainly confined to the lower-priced shares, and those of companies which are just entering the producing stage, but some disappointment was caused by the small dividend declared by the Rubber Plantations Trust, although the company made very gratifying progress last year, and the prospects for the current 12 months are encouraging.

In view of the intervention of Rumania on the side of the Allies, the directors of the Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields, Ltd., have issued a circular to the shareholders emphasising the commercial importance of the step. Communications between this country and Rumania available during the first year of the war, via Salonika and Nish, were entirely cut off when Bulgaria threw in her lot with the Huns. All transport of machinery and supplies became impossible, and even letters and cables had to pass through Russia and Scandinavia. Operations on the oilfields were unavoidably restricted, but nevertheless this company secured an output of 60,700 tons in the year to June 30 last. At the end of 1915 there were 975 producing wells in Rumania, and 365 were in course of drilling.

The largest individual group is the Romano-Americana, with an output of 376,000 tons, and, as its name implies, it is under American control. Next in order comes the Steaua Romana, under German control, with an output of 377,000 tons, while the Astra Romana, a subsidiary of the Royal Dutch-Shell group, has a production of 342,000 tons. The only other important British company is the Roumanian Consolidated, which in 1915 had a production of 92,580 tons, although its actual capacity is considerably greater.

Although the report of the Rubber Plantations Investment Trust, Ltd., for the year to March 31 shows a very substantial improvement over the results of the previous 12 months, it has been rather frigidly received on the Stock Exchange, where the dividend of only 3 per cent. was regarded as distinctly disappointing. And certainly for a £1 share that was recently quoted over 25s. the return is not generous. In normal times the poor yield would not matter; holders would be perfectly content to await the natural development of the properties to reap their reward, but with plenty of investments just below the gilt-edged class yielding 6 per cent. the lock-up of money for a problematic large return in the future is not so attractive as when the standard valuation of capital hovered around a 3 per cent. basis. Under these circumstances, the fact that "Rubber Trusts" have only dropped a fraction, and are still substantially over par, is splendid testimony to the faith the majority of holders have in the future of the company, and in the ability of the directors who manage its affairs. For the year under review dividends, interest, &c., amounted to £56,613, an increase of £28,700, and the working of the Trust's own estates resulted in a profit of £15,140, against a loss of £3,400. Altogether the revenue was £44,000 higher at £72,440, and the nett profit comes out at £65,495, an increase of £47,500. After paying interest on loans (£17,540) and the dividend of 3 per cent. already mentioned (£32,755), as well as 10 per cent. of the dividend (£3,275) to the directors, there remains £121,230, or £12,000 more, to be carried forward. Last year there was no dividend, the operations having resulted in a loss of £400, but for 1913-14 the distribution was 5 per cent., and for the two previous years it was 10 per cent. For 1909-10 the dividend was 20 per cent. and for 1910-11 it was 15 per cent., these latter results reflecting the halcyon days of the rubber boom. During the year the balance of the £1 shares, previously 12s. 6d. paid, was called up, but the final call was due only on March 31, and consequently £96,200 appears as calls in arrear, but no doubt the bulk of the money came in within the next few days. Assuming that to be the case, the paid-up capital is now £1,401,538, out of two millions authorised, an increase of £415,000. Premium account has been increased by £12,980 to £395,355 by money received in respect of extension of options, and loans have been reduced £267,000 to £150,000, but sundry creditors have just doubled at £18,210. Shares and debentures are £92,000 lower at £823,217, although liability for calls has been reduced by £30,000 to £24,630. A list of investments (but not of individual amounts) is given, from which it appears that the holdings in Mahagama, Seaport, and Yatiyantota have been sold, while Kasintoe and Tebolang are new arrivals. Properties, principally in Sumatra, stand at £958,074, an increase of £203,000, debtors are £22,720, against a trifling amount last year, loans to subsidiaries are £43,000 higher at £167,810, and cash has increased £38,500 to £60,440. It will be seen that the value of properties is now considerably in excess of investments, whereas last year it was £160,000 less. Both together represent a valuation which is not expected to exceed £65 per planted acre when the estates are in full bearing, but two years ago the figure was put at £60 per acre. With regard to the investments, the book value is £134,440 below the market value on March 31, while last year there was a depreciation of £193,300, so that during the 12 months they appreciated no less than £327,740, and there has been no important decline since. The

properties have a total area of 54,577 acres, of which 12,137 acres are planted. Nearly 11,000 acres of the latter are in Sumatra, and indeed most of the company's interests are in this island. Tea claims 7,940 acres, from which the crop was 1,312,000 lbs., an increase of 800,000 lbs., and a larger amount could have been gathered but for unavoidable delay in completing the necessary factory accommodation. For the current year the crop is estimated at 3,000,000 lbs. The gross price realised was 11.20d., an increase of 2.17d., while the "all-in" cost was reduced 1.38d. to 9.28d. per lb. This is still a high figure, being about 2½d. above the Indian average, but it is mainly accounted for by extensive areas coming newly into bearing during the year, by high freights and increased cost of estate supplies owing to the war. Rubber yielded 111,870 lbs., an increase of 85,000 lbs. This was obtained from 609 acres tapped out of a total planted area of 3,013 acres, and the average yield was 183 lbs. per acre, which ought to be comfortably doubled in the near future. "All-in" costs were as high as 1s. 7.02d., but the gross price realised was 2s. 8.02d., an increase of 6.18d., so that the profit was exactly 1s. 1d. per lb. It is rather disappointing to find that the estimated output for the current year is no more than 217,000 lbs., as this will not allow of a very material reduction in costs, which are high as judged by Malay and Ceylon standards, and they will have to come down a lot if the company is to justify the high expectations which have been formed about it. In South India the planted area is 1,184 acres, which are not yet productive, and the estimated tea crop for the current year is only 105,000 lbs., so it is unnecessary to go into details for the present. The outlook depends to a considerable extent on the ability to reduce costs both of tea and rubber, but the company has still a huge area to develop, with plenty of capital at command, and it ought to be able to give a very good account of itself before long.

MAPALAGAMA RUBBER.—In the year ended December 31 the directors seem to have had reason for dissatisfaction with the management, and employed an expert to examine the estate, who reported that it was suffering from excessive tapping. The output fell considerably short of the estimate, and was only 9,742 lbs. larger than the previous year's crop at 75,282 lbs., while the "all-in" cost rose by 3.67d. to 1s. 5.24d. An improvement of 7.36d. to 2s. 9.59d. in the price left the nett profits £1,675 up at £5,128, and with £1,457 brought in the divisible total was £6,586, or £2,847 more. On the advice of the visiting agent the tapping system has been modified, and other improvements are being carried out which not only necessitate the expenditure of a large sum, but have the immediate effect of reducing the output. The shareholders have therefore to be content with the interim dividend of 1d. per share paid in December, which compares with 1½d. for 1914, and the balance carried forward is increased by £3,706 to £5,336. For the current year the crop is estimated at only 55,000 lbs., but the work now being done should prove beneficial in later years.

TIJWANGIE TEA.—Including 146,242 lbs. more from bought leaf, the output of tea for the year ended March 31 was 246,771 lbs. larger at 960,239 lbs., and was sold under forward contracts at a price equivalent to 9d. per lb. f.o.b. The crop of cinchona bark was 91,834 lbs. smaller at 101,200 lbs., harvesting having been purposely restricted, as the amount obtained, together with the stocks in hand, were ample for all deliveries possible under the contracts. Nett profits, with £1,209 brought in, were £4,603 up at £5,651, and the directors pay a dividend of 5 per cent., less tax, but instead of setting anything aside, compared with £1,000 written off underwriting commission last year, they carry forward £1,651 more at £2,860. Crops for the current season are estimated at 1,190,200 lbs. tea, including 385,000 lbs. from bought leaf, and 200,000 lbs. cinchona.

MERGUI CROWN RUBBER.—The crop for the 12 months ended March 31 was well up to expectations, and exceeded the previous year's output by 25,261 lbs. at 409,668 lbs., while the gross price rose by 3.28d. to 2s. 5.15d. Expenses in Rangoon worked out rather below the estimate at 10.27d., and the all-in cost was reduced by .93d. to 1s. 2.92d., but this was exclusive of interest and war risk insurance, which took .60d. more at 1.90d., leaving the nett profit 3.61d. better at 1s. 0.33d. After providing for depreciation and interest on the balance payable to the Indian Government, the nett profit was £7,120 up at £21,049, but £2,443 was brought in, against nothing last time, and the provision of £2,000 for purchase of lease, and £1,237 for writing off preliminary expenses need not be repeated. The directors are therefore able to double the dividend at 20 per cent., and still leave £6,992, or £4,549 more, to be carried forward, subject to payments on account of premium on lease and excess profits duty. The balance-sheet shows the balance due in respect of premium on lease as £63,000, which carries interest at 4 per cent. per annum, and is repayable yearly instalments, the amount

of which varies with the average selling price of rubber. For the current year a crop of 465,000 lbs. is expected at a cost in Rangoon of 9.95d., exclusive of depreciation, and of this 137,330 lbs. was obtained in the first four months as compared with 118,557 lbs. in the corresponding period last year.

AMSTERDAM RUBBER.—We do not know that our market has much interest in this Dutch company, but it is a big undertaking, owning 15,515 acres in Sumatra and 3,800 acres in Java under rubber, of which 4,861 acres and 2,027 acres respectively are producing. In the year ended December 31 the output from the Sumatra estates was 1,523,527 lbs., and from the Java 413,404 lbs., or 1,936,931 lbs. in all, of which 1,667,961 lbs. were sold at 2s. 5½d. or 1½d. more than in 1914, and the balance was taken into the accounts at 1s. 10¾d. The f.o.b. cost in Sumatra was reduced by 2d. to 9 1-sd., but in Java it rose by 3-sd. to 9½d. per half kilo, and the profit from this source amounted to 1,651,161 fl. In addition the company is at present a large producer of coffee, and obtained 16,187 piculs, most of which was sold at 51.66 fl. per picul, as against 34¾ fl., and yielded a profit of 557,185 fl. With miscellaneous receipts the total profits were 2,261,370 fl., but there was a small loss on the tobacco crop, and after providing for bonus to the European staff in India, &c., the nett balance was 1,923,046 fl. Of this 125,000 fl. is transferred to reserve, 401,617 fl. is written off for depreciation, and 200,000 fl. is set aside for taxes, &c., after which the shareholders get a dividend of 14 per cent. Property account stands in the books at 7,282,045 fl., which is practically all in rubber, buildings, &c., as the coffee plantations, tools, and a number of small assets have all been written down to the nominal figure of 1 fl. each. The rubber crops for the current year are estimated at 2,450,000 lbs. from Sumatra and 550,000 lbs. from Java, and the coffee crops at 16,500 piculs.

The Week in Mines.

The Mining markets have generally been in a cheerful mood this week, with business moderately active. Russian shares were bought on the improvement in the value of the rouble, for most of the companies have considerable funds locked up in Russia, which they have been unable to remit owing to the low rate of exchange. In spite of further selling of enemy holdings through the German banks, South Africans have generally shown a rising tendency, and certain Tin shares have improved. The only notable exception to the general firmness has been the weakness of West Australian shares owing to the closing down of several properties due to a strike of workmen who refuse to work with alleged enemy subjects.

SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

In the South African market, Bantjes, Modder Deeps, New Kleinfonteins and Sub-Nigels have shown marked strength, mainly on Cape buying. New Kleinfonteins have been bought in anticipation of the results to be obtained from the working of the new reduction plant on the Apex-Benoni section, which began operations in July, and show a rise of 4s. 6d. to 32s. Bantjes have risen 2s. to 16s. 6d., and Modder Deeps have advanced 7½ to the new high level of 7½. Sub-Nigels, after changing hands at over 30s., are ½ higher at 17½. South-West Africa shares have been supported and are ½ higher at 19-32. City Deeps have spurted 1½ to 4½, but Crown Mines at 2½, East Rand Mining Estates at 14s. 6d., New Modders at 17½, Modder B's at 6½, New Gochs at 10s., Coal Trusts at 3½, and Springs at 2½ are all lower on the week, partly on profit-taking. Apart from a further slight rise in Globes to 29s., Rhodesian shares show little change, and except for a rise of 1s. to 20s. in Taquahs, the same remark applies to West Africans. Among Diamond shares, De Beers deferreds have continued to meet with support, and are 7½ up at 12¾. Figures, just available, show that the imports of precious stones into New York in July were 49 per cent. larger than in the same month of 1915, and 28 per cent. larger than in July, 1914.

COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Copper shares have weakened, in spite of the firmness of the market for the metal, owing to sales in New York, where the railway dispute has depressed sentiment. Rio Tintos have relapsed ¼ to 62, Anacondas ⅞ to 17½, and Utahs ½ to 17½. Chillagoe 10s. shares are quoted at 3d. apiece. Tin has risen another 35s. a ton, and the shares are firm in consequence, particularly East Pools and Siamese Syndicates, which have risen 7½ to 14½ and 2½ respectively. Dolcoaths, however, have fallen 1s. further to 9s. 6d. on the report. Broken Hills have been supported owing to the higher price of lead and silver, but quotations show little change. Mexican Mines have weakened on a poor quarterly report by the Santa Gertrudis Co. Esperanzas have relapsed to 11s. 3d.

The rise in the value of the rouble is of immediate benefit to those who have yet to cash their Lena and Orsk dividends payable in roubles, and also brings nearer the prospect of dividends by those companies which have retained large sums in Russia pending a rise in exchange. Kyshtims have risen 5-32 to 2 25-32, Orsk Priorities 3-32 to 1 9-32, Russo-Asiatics 7½ to 6½, and Tanalyks ½ to 2 25-32. Russian Mining Corporation declined 7½ to 1½ on the issue of the report. Waihis have reacted to 42s.

West Australian shares have weakened on receipt of a telegram from the Golden Horseshoe Mine, stating this and other mines have been closed down owing to men refusing to work with Slavs who hold provisional naturalisation papers issued by the Russian Consul. Ivanhoes at 2½ and Horseshoes at 1½ are ½ lower.

MINING NEWS.

WEST AFRICAN GOLD OUTPUT.—The production of gold in July amounted to £128,574, a decrease of £11,716 as compared with July last year. The following table shows the monthly production since January, 1912:—

MONTH.	1916.	1915.	1914.	1913.	1912.
Jan. ..	£140,579	£143,649	£123,862	£144,262	£107,262
Feb. ..	137,730	144,034	123,169	137,038	102,270
Mar. ..	150,987	153,770	131,392	150,660	111,376
April ..	135,976	149,978	131,697	146,220	114,796
May ..	132,976	142,123	145,227	142,677	115,698
June ..	127,107	135,289	147,269	125,764	114,697
July ..	128,574	140,290	151,923	132,916	127,860
Aug. ..	—	139,364	150,386	126,699	136,407
Sept. ..	—	135,744	154,316	132,391	142,397
Oct. ..	—	141,771	159,410	137,133	142,414
Nov. ..	—	122,138	154,674	132,694	137,700
Dec. ..	—	158,323	147,699	127,472	144,382
Totals	953,938	1,766,473	1,727,044	1,634,700	1,497,179

RUSSIAN MINING CORPORATION.—The report for the 15 months to March 31 states that investments at £9,802, of which £7,120 is represented by quoted securities at market value, show a reduction of £21,505 since the date of the last balance-sheet. Part of the proceeds of the realisation of these investments has been reinvested in Russian and English Treasury bills of an aggregate nominal value of £17,197. The item of £13,714, loans on security, shows a reduction of £20,331, while the item of £67,142, expenditure and advances in connection with pending business, shows a small increase. War conditions has hindered work on the mining properties, but an additional £40,000 has been expended on the Altai Concessions, making a total of £89,526. As the flotation of the company to work this property cannot be undertaken at present, the corporation has approached a financial institution largely interested in Russia with a view to co-operation. The revenue has been more than sufficient to cover administration expenses in Russia and London, and a credit balance of £2,099 is carried to the balance-sheet, reducing the debit balance in profit and loss to £28,431.

BROKEN HILL PROPRIETARY.—At the half-yearly meeting of this company at Melbourne the chairman made some interesting remarks regarding the extension of the company's iron and steel works. Over 100,000 tons of steel rails were manufactured and sold in the first eight months of output last year. During the period from November, 1914, to May, 1916, the company has provided £61,192 for interest apart from £57,500 sinking fund, and in addition £35,000 commission, &c., on the £600,000 debenture issue, all out of profits. Capital expended on the steel plant now amounts to £1,814,617. Apart from £442,000 raised on new shares and £600,000 on debentures, over £772,000 of this total has been contributed out of profits, a fact which should help the company greatly to meet the depression which will probably ensue after the conclusion of the war.

NORTH BROKEN HILL.—The nett profit for the first six months of this year was £131,552 as against £133,625 in the second half of 1915. Of this sum £121,331 is placed to equalisation reserve account, and £10,000 is transferred to depreciation and general reserve. The nett balance at profit and loss is £16,289 against £132,734, so that the two dividends of 2s. each were apparently paid out of accumulated profits. Surplus liquid assets have increased from £321,443 to £378,464. During the six months the mill treated 70,200 tons of ore, which produced 13,910 tons of concentrates against 28,370 tons. The cost of working rose from 18s. 2½d. per ton of crude ore to 22s. 7d.

SNOWDON COLLIERY.—The report for the year to March 31 shows a profit of £8,998, but this is only on working account. That means that interest on debentures and prior lien bonds has to be provided, and after making such provision a loss of £7,516 is shown. Production increased slightly, but there was a scarcity of labour which hindered expansion of operations. The period for the redemption of the 10 per cent. debentures expired on July 1, but the time has been extended to six months after the war.

What Balance Sheets Tell.

LEYLAND AND BIRMINGHAM RUBBER CO., LTD.

War conditions suit this business, and for the second year in succession very handsome results have been obtained. In the 12 months to June 30, 1915, the trading profit increased £20,000, and now there is a further gain of £3,200, bringing the total up to £67,240. Nearly £3,000 more was brought forward, but depreciation and other allowances required £1,200 more, and the available balance is £4,800 up at £77,558. Out of this it is proposed to pay a dividend of 15 per cent. for the year, against 12½ per cent. £10,000 is again placed to reserve (raising it to £65,000), and the balance forward is only reduced £2,000 to £25,430. It would seem that the profits were considerably larger than stated as the item "sundry outstandings" now includes "provision for excess profits tax," and has jumped from £2,200 to £35,480. Creditors are £16,000 higher at £92,400, and debtors have risen £48,000 to £158,420. Double the amount at £26,220 was spent on buildings plant, &c., and after allowing for depreciation this item is £21,000 up at £274,300. Altogether £65,415 has been written off for depreciation. Stocks have increased £35,000 to £118,965, and investments are up £5,000 at £8,785. A bank overdraft of £20,000 has

had to be arranged, but that is natural in view of the expansion of business.

GEORGE NEWNES, LTD.

Although the sales of this company's publications were well maintained in the year to June 30, and the advertising revenue showed a gratifying advance, the net profits are again down. Last year there was a drop of £31,000, and this is followed by a further loss of £10,000, bringing the total down to £40,193. This unfortunate result is entirely due to the high cost of paper and materials, but that is more satisfactory to the shareholders than if there were any waning in the popularity of the company's papers and magazines. Including £5,000 more brought forward, the available balance is £57,328, or £5,000 less, and the ordinary dividend is cut in half at 5 per cent., which allows the carry forward to be increased by £5,000 to £22,328. Dividend equalisation account remains at £40,000, and investment depreciation account at £10,000. Sundry creditors are £8,000 lower at £56,175, while debtors are up £10,000 at £77,135, and stocks are £14,000 higher at £66,750. On the other hand, investments are down £2,000 at £53,000, and cash has been reduced by £20,000 to £40,880. We hope conditions will be more favourable by next year.

MANILA ELECTRIC RAILROAD AND LIGHTING CORPORATION.

For the year 1915 the gross earnings amounted to \$1,494,788, a decrease of \$107,000, or 6.7 per cent., while operating expenses, &c., were \$762,960, a decrease of \$55,455, or 6.8 per cent., and nett earnings totalled \$731,830, a decrease of \$51,760 or 6.6 per cent. Interest charges were \$13,000 less at \$264,975, but \$13,250 more is placed to sinking fund. The dividend is cut down from 7 per cent. to 6 per cent., and therefore the surplus for the year is only \$2,300 less at \$45,354. After adjustments the total surplus is raised by \$38,000 to \$1,367,650. Earnings in the railway department fell \$107,800, while expenses increased \$5,045, but there was an increase of \$22,138 in the electric revenue, and a decrease of \$42,570 in expenses. Business in the island has been hampered by the uncertainty of the political outlook, but the situation has now been cleared up to a considerable extent.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

CANADIAN NORTHERN RAILWAY SYSTEM.

The following statement is included in the reports by Sir William Mackenzie, president of the Canadian Northern Railway System, for the year ended June 30, 1915, which have just come to hand :—

Your directors in submitting the first report of the Canadian Northern Railway System (and what otherwise would have been the thirteenth annual report of the Canadian Northern Railway) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1915, regret exceedingly having to do so at such a late date. There were, however, various reasons for the delay. A large number of head office and other employees have from time to time joined the Canadian Expeditionary Forces doing service for the Empire, and a great deal of the detail work incidental to the consolidation of the accounts of the various parts of the system had to be done by a limited staff. At the present time over 1,700 of your employees are attached to the service, and unhappily a number have already fallen on the several fields of battle.

Another reason is that in carrying into effect the statute under which the consolidation of the companies forming part of the Canadian Northern Railway System was provided, reference to which was made in the previous annual report, an immense amount of preliminary work was necessary to co-ordinate the services and accounts of the different companies so that the best results might be attained.

The results of the operations of the system for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1915, are as follows :—

Gross earnings—	
From passenger traffic	\$5,411,224.37
From freight traffic	18,207,800.52
From express, mail, telegraph, interest and profits from elevators and other subsidiary companies, investments, &c.	2,293,081.41
	\$25,912,106.30
Working expenses (including taxes, &c.)	19,288,814.42
Nett earnings	\$6,623,291.88
Deduct :—	
Fixed charges (per statement, pages 16 and 17) ..	8,263,574.99
Nett loss or deficit	\$1,640,283.11

As indicated in the report for the previous year Canada had commenced to feel the effect of a contraction in business. Real estate values and the building trades were, as usual, the first to suffer, and carried in their wake subsidiary and dependent industries. In the throes of the trade depression came the war,

the immediate effects of which were disastrous to the industrial life of the country. For weeks after the declaration of war business was practically at a standstill, and the uncertainty of the future threatened to bring about a collapse of credit conditions. Faith in British power, supported by timely and generous encouragement from financial circles in London, averted disaster, and restored the country to a more normal condition, in which it regained confidence in its own inherent resources. To these troubles had been added a limited grain crop in the Western Provinces, and the Canadian Northern, with a large proportion of its mileage in the grain-growing districts, suffered accordingly in the loss of such traffic.

It is a matter for sincere regret that notwithstanding the most rigid economy exercised in the operation of the companies' lines the nett earnings for the past year were insufficient to meet the fixed charges for the same period. It is perhaps unnecessary to say that this is the first occasion of its kind.

Prior to the opening of the Transcontinental line for public service it was felt by your directors that the time was opportune to extend an invitation to the Members of Senate and House of Commons of the Dominion and representatives of the leading newspapers of Eastern Canada, Chicago and New York to be the company's guests on a trip across the continent. Seventy-eight Members of the Senate and House of Commons and 34 journalists accepted the invitation. The trip occupied ten days, and both from Members of Parliament and journalists the company received congratulations. The members presented to the executive officials an address; from which is submitted the following extract :—

"We had not conceived it possible that a railway, possessing the standard of alignment and gradient of your road, could have been constructed across Canada within so short a period. The evenness of the roadbed and the facility with which one locomotive has hauled across the continent a train nearly one-quarter of a mile in length (consisting of fifteen heavy coaches) fully demonstrates the high standard of construction obtaining throughout the line of travel."

The main line traverses the Continent from tidewater on the Atlantic at Quebec, through the Provinces of Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, to tidewater on the Pacific at Vancouver and Victoria, by car ferry, with branches gridironing the grain-growing prairie Provinces of the West, and with trunk lines and branches serving the main industrial centres of the East. We have the advantage of access to ocean ports on the Atlantic and Pacific, as well as to the principal ports of the Great Lakes. Our future prosperity should be assured in proportion to the prosperity of the country. We will not realise our full earning power this year, or next year, but with continued improvement in the agrarian and industrial movements of the country, we should continue to show steady increases in the traffic carried and revenues earned.

There has in the past been a real need for the company's lines in the economic development of Canada. There will be the same need in the future. These lines have been located with careful regard to the development of the maximum amount of traffic. With an efficient modern equipment and a roadbed of the highest physical standard, it would appear that the success of the Canadian Northern Railway as a Canadian Transcontinental system is assured.

Since the close of the fiscal year business conditions have substantially improved. The placing of large orders for munitions in Canada served to revive the industrial centres of Eastern Canada, and the rising prices of cereals, beef, pork products and cheese—Canada's principal export commodities—materially increased the purchasing powers of the farming communities of the nine Provinces of the Dominion. The grain crop, too, of 1915, was the best in the history of the country, the value of farm products of all Canada exceeding that of any previous year by at least three hundred million dollars.

With the completion of our Transcontinental line from Quebec to Vancouver towards the end of 1915, a service was established which now gives to your company the advantage of the long haul on all traffic which had heretofore been enjoyed by other intermediate carriers. As indicating the cumulative effect of better trade conditions and the operations of your company's Transcontinental service, the following comparative traffic figures for the last few months will perhaps more effectively show the situation :—

	1916.	1915.	Increase.	Per Cent. of increase
March	\$2,607,000	\$1,898,500	\$708,500	38 %
April	2,824,300	1,948,900	875,400	44 %
May	3,088,900	1,721,400	1,367,500	79 %
June	3,377,200	1,779,600	1,599,600	90 %

WORKINGTON IRON AND STEEL CO., LTD.

The annual meeting of the Workington Iron and Steel Co., Ltd., was held on Friday at the company's offices at the Moss Bay Iron and Steel Works, Workington, Sir John Scurrah Randles, M.P. for North-West Manchester, chairman of directors, presided, and there was a large gathering of shareholders.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and statement of accounts, said: The company's plant, property, brain and muscle available had all been placed at disposal of the Government, not under compulsion, but freely, gladly, and voluntarily, so that all their resources should be placed at the service of the country with a view to the destruction of a foe menacing lives and liberties throughout the world. He could say without any presumption at all that their efforts had been fully appreciated by the Government, and one of the results of their placing their resources at the disposal of the Government was that the prices of raw materials were fixed to a very large extent, and prices of the finished commodity were also determined, so that all they had to do was to make a profit between the price at which they obtained the raw material and the price which the Government gave them for their manufactures.

You will notice that the reserve fund has gone up by £30,000, which, as he told the shareholders last year, the directors had been used for acquiring shares in Harrington Coke Ovens, Ltd. During the past year, however, they found it possible without any inconvenience at all to pay off the entire balance they owed on that account twelve months ago. Their idea in a general way was that the reserve fund should be invested in the shares of Harrington Ovens.

The debts owing to the company had gone up to £615,713, as against £200,530 last year. The Government owed them practically all that money, which they paid to the company in large lump sums, and it was an accident of the moment as to whether there was a large sum owing to them or not. Since the balance-sheet was issued this money had been largely paid over to them by the Government.

Capital expenditure was a large figure. It was £160,562. That was almost entirely owing to exigencies of their requirements for Government purposes. When the war was over, and expenditure was completed on these works which were needed by the Government for special purposes, they would find that they had a plant second to none of its own class in the United Kingdom.

It has been matter for criticism that they were steel manufacturers dependent entirely on the acid Bessemer process, and people who did not know much about it sometimes indicated that the acid Bessemer process had done splendidly during this crisis, and the work from acid Bessemer plant had been a surprise to people who were in the habit of thinking steel would not be equal to the very best requirements of the most skilled artificers in steel. (Cheers.) He had no more to say than that the acid Bessemer process had been a great success during the period of the war. A very excellent acid open hearth, Siemens-Martin, plant which had been put down, and was still being added to, enabled, and would enable, them to give whatever might be required by the market in the days after the war, so that they should have no limitation in respect of any varieties of steel needed. With regard to this item of capital expenditure, it might interest them to know that their expenditure by arrangement, and upon agreed terms with the Government, would be subject to special depreciation and writing off, so that when the final settlement with the Government came they would be able to put aside proper depreciation according to the circumstances of the time on all expenditure of that description.

Concerning their investments, the comment in the balance-sheet was that they were remunerative. They were not only remunerative, but exceedingly helpful. It was part of their policy to secure as much of the raw material of the district as they possibly could. That policy was developed in the acquirement of the Harrington Coke Ovens, and in taking up shares in the Beckermat Company. These companies were very helpful apart from the actual return, which was indeed a good one to the parent company.

As to the disposal of the money made under the head of profits, which gave them £508,063, they were in the happy position of being able to propose a dividend on the scale which they should always like to have done. The dividend was 10 per cent., and they contended that this ought to be a 10 per cent. concern. (Cheers.) He hoped that now they had reached this level they would be able to continue it. Besides paying the 10 per cent. dividend, they had allowed £65,000 for depreciation, written off property account, instead of the £50,000 they had usually written off. That had no relation to the special depreciation arranged with the Government to be written off at the end of the war expenditure. They proposed

to put the usual £30,000 to reserve, and then they came to the item which required a little explanation. He referred to the £220,000 reserve for taxes, excess profits, and unexecuted pre-war contracts. The difficulty of making up these accounts would be understood when they reflected that part of their works—their blast furnaces and steel works—were controlled, and that part of the concern, their colliery, iron ore mines, limestone quarries, and the Mysore Indian department, were not controlled. The riddling out of the account was no small task. Whether in one case they should be allowed to keep 20 per cent. of excess profits or in another case 10 per cent. had yet to be dealt with. They thought in view of the fact that there certainly would be excess profits to pay, they should make suitable provision that would amply cover what they might have to pay. Then there was the question of unexecuted pre-war contracts. He could not say what would happen. Some of them, perhaps, might never be executed; some might be allowed to lapse; upon some of them they might have to deliver. What the state of markets might be, or what the cost of manufacture would be at the end of the war they could not determine. They thought that allowance for a loss on these contracts should be made out of the year's profits.

It might interest them to know that to-day they were holders of cash resources so ample that they had been able to invest £220,000 in Treasury bills. (Cheers.) If there was a surplus left from this fund it would, of course, come into the pot once more, and be available at the discretion of the shareholders. They carried forward a balance which was slightly in excess of that last year. It was £23,351.

He should be glad to answer any question relative to the balance-sheet. He thought their proposals were conservative. In respect of the disposal of the balance he believed they were doing the fair thing all round in what they proposed to the best of their judgment. Somebody might ask about the future. He could not profess to be a prophet, but he was quite sure of this that the iron and steel industry must be regarded not as the interest of a few individuals, not as the mere property of certain persons who took an interest in a particular manufacture, but as part of their national assets, as part of their national industry, and that it should have something of the care and consideration which an industry that controlled the destinies to a large extent of their nation deserved. But for that the overwhelming superiority in the manufacture of iron and steel which was attained by the Germans prior to the war Germany would never have been able to wage war against the other Powers of Europe. They had not only taken their place as the largest manufacturers of iron and steel in Europe, but they had developed their manufactures under Government auspices to such an extent that their total production was greater than the whole of the Allied production put together. In that position they were able to challenge the rest of Europe. He did not think the country would allow that position to recur, and therefore he was of opinion that the policy indicated at the Paris Conference, and specifically approved by the Prime Minister in the House of Commons, should be adopted and carried out, as the Government had given emphatic pledges that it should be.

If carried out he did not believe they could put any limit as to the possibilities of the iron and steel industry in this country in future. Germany made much of Krupps for many years before the war. No effort that the Government of Germany could put forth to enable Krupps to secure markets to produce under the most advantageous conditions and to distribute under the most advantageous conditions was omitted. Krupps were pampered and petted in every way that was possible, not because of Messrs. Krupps, but because of the national interest that was at stake and issue, as Germany conceived, behind it. Their Government here would appreciate in future that the interests of the iron and steel industry throughout the length and breadth of this country were so regarded, and should be so ensured that labour should find its full reward, that capital should find its reward, but that, above all, the works should be secondary to the great national interest, which he suggested lay at the base of the future of any country that aspired to hold its own position in the civilised world in the days to come. They had men in the iron and steel industry with as good brains, as good ability and competence to defeat Germany in the field of manufacture, as their soldiers and sailors are certainly defeating them on the field of battle and on the high seas. (Cheers.)

Mr. Joseph Ellis seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

A dividend of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares was then declared.

Messrs. Wilfrid Ellis, Richard Critchley, and George Geddes Glen were re-elected directors, and Messrs. W. B. Peat and Co. and Alfred Tongue and Co. were reappointed auditors.

A vote of thanks to the chairman, directors, and staff terminated the proceedings.

IRISH RAILWAYS.

		£	+	£	*	£	+	£
Belfast and County Down ..	Aug. 25	4,588	+	979	†	127,398	+	2,433
Grand Canal ..	" 25	1,059	—	145	†	8,768	—	666
Great Northern ..	" 25	27,185	+	1,885	†	806,928	+	21,428
Gt. Southern and Western ..	" 25	37,357	+	2,731	†	1,092,982	—	36,923
Midland Great Western ..	" 25	14,849	+	2,127	†	426,165	—	4,317

* From Jan. 1. † From July 1.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

		Rs.	+	Rs.	†	Rs.	+	Rs.
Assam Bengal ..	July 11	1,38,000	—	9,246	†	17,82,629	—	1,61,390
Bengal & N.-W. ..	July 15	3,63,110	+	33,913	†	68,01,473	+	8,36,360
Bombay Nagpur ..	" 22	9,01,000	+	84,000	†	1,57,92,905	+	27,20,910
Bombay, Baroda ..	Aug. 19	10,39,000	+	81,000	†	2,64,85,000	+	24,46,000
Burma ..	July 15	3,09,591	—	26,047	†	61,16,770	—	16,322
Delhi Umballa ..	July 29	59,200	+	1,611	†	11,82,598	+	77,549
East Indian ..	Aug. 26	20,87,000	+	3,45,000	†	4,58,92,000	+	18,02,000
Gt. Indian Penin. ..	" 26	17,16,400	+	2,60,200	†	4,12,63,267	+	79,17,426
Lucknow-Bareilly ..	July 15	32,977	—	19	†	7,07,391	—	76,224
Madras and S. ..	" 22	9,00,000	+	66,539	†	1,64,79,145	+	10,29,722
Mahratta ..	" 15	1,13,596	+	11,206	†	19,43,005	+	1,22,478
Nizam's Gd. (Bras) ..	" 15	68,344	+	2,723	†	11,58,477	—	40,275
Robilkund and ..	" 15	32,935	—	1,275	†	6,88,156	+	91,760
Kumaon ..	" 22	5,66,939	+	36,218	†	99,91,590	+	6,78,474
South Indian ..	" 22				†			

a 13 days. † April 1. ‡ October 1.

COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

		£	+	£	†	£	+	£
Beira ..	May *	33,808	+	2,094	—			
Canadian Northern ..	Aug. 21	\$845,300	+	\$380,900	†	\$6,390,000	+	\$309,6,800
Canadian Pacific ..	" 21	\$2,860,000	+	\$904,000	†	\$20,583,000	+	\$7130,000
Gr. Trk. Main Line ..	" 14	203,198	+	40,828	†	5,594,780	+	727,595
Gr. Trk. Western ..	" 14	37,192	+	6,884	†	1,193,143	+	287,020
Detroit G. H. & M. ..	" 21	13,486	+	78	†	420,825	+	97,380
Gr Tk Pac Prairie Sc ..	" 14	15,897	+	4,408	†	123,038	+	42,449
Mashonaland ..	June *	56,677	+	6,505	†	743,394	—	94,815
Mid. of Westn. Aus. ..	" *	4,854	—	59	†	88,012	—	10,691
New Cape Central ..	July 22	1,687	—	72	†	46,629	—	6,206
Rhodesia ..	June *	82,423	+	6,719	†	82,423	+	6,719

a 9 days. * Months. † July 1. ‡ Jan. 1. c From Oct. 1.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

		\$	+	\$	†	\$	+	\$
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	Aug. 14	884,000	+	5,000	†	5,589,000	+	300,000
Chicago G.W. ..	Aug. 14	360,000	+	70,000	†	1,884,000	+	208,000
Colorado & South'n ..	July 31	497,000	+	23,000	†	1,232,000	+	124,000
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	Aug. 21	537,000	+	30,000	†	3,612,000	+	166,000
Louisv'e & Nashv'e ..	Aug. 14	1,277,000	+	216,000	†	7,623,000	+	1,042,000
Minn. S.P. (Soo) ..	July 31	933,000	+	106,000	†	2,995,000	+	716,000
Missouri Kansas ..	Aug. 14	1,633,000	+	89,000	†	4,409,000	+	684,000
Northern Pacific ..	" 7	1,483,000	+	127,000	†	8,122,000	+	1,396,000
Southern ..	" 14	1,410,000	+	184,000	†	8,122,000	+	360,000

a 10 days. ‡ Includes Wisconsin Central. † From July 1.

MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

NAME.	NETT EARNINGS FOR MONTH.			NETT EARNINGS TO DATE.		
	Month.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year	No. of Mths.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year
		Dols.	Dols.		Dols.	Dols.
Atchison T. & S. Fé ..	June	3,702,000	+ 752,000	12	43,780,000	+ 7,729,000
Atlantic Coast Line ..	"	776,000	+ 364,000	12	9,855,000	+ 2,811,000
Baltimore & Ohio ..	"	3,204,000	+ 2,000	12	32,348,000	+ 4,458,000
Canadian Northern ..	July	1,197,400	+ 711,000	9	9,735,200	+ 3,519,000
Canadian Pacific ..	"	4,017,000	+1,217,000	9	4,017,000	+1,217,000
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	June	2,583,000	+ 444,000	12	16,540,000	+ 4,542,000
Chicago & N.W. ..	"	2,786,000	+ 534,000	12	24,607,000	+ 4,723,000
Chicago Burl. & Q. ..	May	2,869,000	+1,230,000	11	37,764,500	+ 9,266,000
Chicago G.W. ..	"	246,000	+ 38,000	11	3,831,000	+ 746,000
Chicago Mil. & S.P. ..	June	1,894,000	— 928,000	12	31,260,000	+ 6,545,000
Chicago, Rock I. & P. ..	"	1,473,000	+ 419,000	12	16,811,000	+ 2,771,000
Colorado & Southern ..	May	447,000	+ 227,000	11	5,317,000	+ 1,457,000
Cuba ..	"	681,003	+ 140,126	11	6,211,534	+ 1,462,441
Do. ..	"	261,131	— 482	11	2,134,953	+ 626,709
Delaware & Hud. ..	"	794,000	+ 93	5	3,486,000	+ 564,000
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	"	798,000	+ 206,000	11	8,304,000	+ 2,440,000
Erie ..	June	1,727,000	+ 182,000	6	8,641,000	+ 2,321,000
Gr. Tr. Main Line ..	July	£262,200	+ £35,100	7	£1,425,850	+ £167,000
Grand Trunk Westn ..	"	£49,400	+ £24,000	7	£288,800	+ £233,800
Detroit G.H. & Mil. ..	"	£11,152	— £1,350	7	£32,250	+ £39,850
Gt. Northern ..	May	2,506,000	+ 899,000	11	34,457,000	+ 6,214,000
Illinois Central ..	June	1,489,000	+ 1,009,000	12	14,155,000	+ 3,277,000
Kansas City Southn. ..	"	501,000	+ 162,000	12	3,660,000	+ 676,000
Lehigh Valley ..	June	1,150,000	+ 178,000	12	12,575,000	+ 1,703,000
Louisville & Nashvl. ..	May	1,098,000	+ 848,000	11	16,716,000	+ 7,508,000
Minn. S.P. (Soo) ..	"	1,051,000	+ 714,000	11	12,581,000	+ 4,984,000
Miss. K. & Texas ..	June	334,000	— 25,000	12	5,041,000	— 3,562,000
Missouri Pacific ..	May	723,000	— 55,000	12	12,567,000	+ 605,000
New York Cent. & H. ..	June	5,484,000	+ 622,000	6	29,638,000	+ 1,128,000
N.Y. N. Haven & H. ..	May	2,200,000	+ 462,000	11	20,240,000	+ 4,390,000
New York Ont. & W. ..	June	272,000	+ 87,000	12	2,477,000	+ 366,000
Norfolk & Western ..	"	2,001,000	+ 442,000	12	23,232,000	+ 9,787,000
Northern Pacific ..	"	2,592,000	+ 430,000	12	31,032,000	+ 9,482,000
Pennsylvania East ..	"					
and West Lines ..	"	10,221,000	+1,761,000	6	50,768,000	+ 2,059,000
St. Louis & San F. ..	May	1,201,000	+ 310,000	11	12,343,000	+ 1,747,000
Seaboard Air Line ..	"	575,000	+ 108,000	11	6,524,000	+ 1,515,000
Southern ..	"	2,022,000	+ 684,000	11	19,337,000	+ 7,077,000
Southern Pacific ..	June	4,321,000	+1,223,000	12	48,191,000	+12,501,000
Union Pacific ..	"	3,780,000	+ 954,000	12	40,824,000	+10,643,000
Wabash ..	"	967,000	+ 755,000	12	10,955,000	+ 5,051,000

‡ Includes Wisconsin Central. * Gross earnings. † Surplus.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—HOME.

		£	+	£	†	£	+	£
Bristol ..	Aug. 25	11,085	+	863	†	339,560	—	13,824
Dublin United ..	" 25	7,073	+	522	†	202,854	—	3,846
Hastings and Dist. ..	" 25	1,908	—	264	†	34,785	—	1,771
Isle of Thanet ..	" 26	981	—	76	†	16,654	—	2,944
Lancashire United ..	" 25	2,036	+	93	†	60,754	—	2,382
Provincial ..	" 26	3,012	+	93	†	107,607	—	5,801
Yorks. (West. Rdng.) ..	" 27	1,983	+	247	†	61,091	—	5,495

* From Oct. 1. † From Jan. 1.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.

		£	+	£	Ms.	£	+	£
Anglo-Argentine ..	Aug. 26	48,713	—	172	†	1,724,056	—	9,636
Auckland Electric ..	July 28b	21,507	+	1,099	a	21,507	+	646
Brazilian Traction ..	July 3	M4,058,000	+	M150,000	b	M26,688,000	+	M 844,580
Brisbane Elec. Inv. ..	Apr.	30,320	+	3,730	2	62,600	—	6,390
British Columbia ..	June 1	56,399	+	150,000	10	853,782	—	458,569
B. A. Lacroze ..	"	36,212	—	4,208	12	490,818	—	15,324
Burmah Electric ..	July 29	Rs. 3,437	—	Rs. 289	—	—	—	Rs. 3,920
Calcutta ..	Aug. 19	Rs. 69,919	+	1,134	*	Rs. 21,98,019	+	103,358
Cordoba Light ..	"							
P. & T. ..	June	14,129	+	70	2	43,050	+	888
Hongkong ..	July 29	£17,172	—	£5,234	*	£480,128	—	£91,730
La Plata ..	June b	3,736	—	140	6	25,925	—	161
Lima ..	May	15,693	—	69	4	78,913	—	1,440
Madras Electric ..	June 31c	Rs. 34,762	+	Rs. 2,272	†	Rs. 4,37,111	+	Rs. 31,700
Mexico ..	Nov. 3	£215,256	—	£108,666	†	£3,193,106	—	£197,227
Puebla ..	Dec. 1	£40,000	—	£25,600	†	£669,500	—	£44,500
Rangoon ..	July	4,357	—	272	—	28,089	—	1,436
Singapore Electric ..	May 20	£13,139	+	£1,897	8	£247,259	+	£29,716
Toronto ..	"	£438,997	+	£65,935	†	£1,693,709	+	£198,311
United of Monte V. ..	July	£34,500	+	£9	9	266,288	—	14,435
Vera Cruz ..	Apr.	£83,500	+	£39,600	†	£287,400	—	£12,400
Winnipeg ..	June 3	£87,571	—	£2,926	4	£630,508	—	£8,864

b 28 days. * From Jan. 1. ‡ Net. a From July 1. c Two weeks.

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.				
	Week ending	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	Wks	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.		
		£	£		£	£		
Alcoy and Gandia ..	Aug. 26	Ps. 7,000	—	Ps. 2,500	†	Ps. 462,900	+	Ps. 38,200
Antofagasta (Chili) ..	" 27	38,420	+	9,390	†	1,137,915	+	339,350
Arauco ..	July	8,100	+	1,350	†	152,238	—	17,666
Argentine N.E. ..	Aug. 26	7,600	+	540	†	54,000	—	611
Bilbao R. and Canta ..	June *	4,325	+	669	6	24,777	—	1,796
Bolivar ..	July *	7,000	—	143	9	116,372	—	22,946
Brazil ..	June *	M3,864,000	+	M32,770	†	M 2263,8000	+	M694,580
Brazil Gt. Southern ..	Apr. *	Mis. 32,750	—	M3,300	†	M 69,250	—	M4,200
B. Ayres & Pacific ..	Aug. 26	83,000	—	—	†	688,000	—	7,000
Do. Gt. South'n ..	" 27	92,000	+	8,000	†	781,254	+	98,346
Do. Western ..	" 27	53,000	+	8,000	†	396,000	+	25,000
Central Argentine ..	" 26	120,000	+	15,000	†	918,900	—	38,300
C. Ur'g'ay of Mts V. ..	" 26	10,552	—	2,162	†	87,546	—	2,349
Do. East'n Ex. ..	" 26	3,396	—	246	†	29,668	—	789
Do. North'n Ex. ..	" 26	1,758	—	414	†	14,383	—	1,363
Do. West'n Ex. ..	" 26 *	1,735	—	401	†	12,476	—	65
Colombian National ..	June	11,840	—	946	6	65,500	+	7,188
Cordoba Central ..	Aug. 26	33,000	—	475	†	296,500	—	9,540
Costa Rica ..	June 10	5,458	+	484	†	267,378	—	48,548
Cuban Central ..	Aug. 26	8,784	+	756	†	74,773	—	10,402
Dorada Extension ..	July *	9,600	+	1,100	†	54,500	—	1,000
Egyptian Delta ..	" 31a	4,982	+	685	3	58,156	—	10,627
Entre Rios ..	Aug. 26	11,700	+	1,600	†	96,400	—	20,100
French Sante Fé ..	May	94,572	+	4,915	†	544,607	—	71,319
Gt. South. of Spain ..	Aug. 13	Ps. 73,377	+	Ps. 12,104	†	Ps. 2314,993	+	Ps. 370,863
Gt. West. of Brazil ..	" 19	7,900	+	600	†	302,500	—	33,600
Havana Central ..	July 29	5,560	+	509	†	23,590	—	942
Inter. of C. Amer. ..	May *	37,800	+	16,495	†	180,392	—	71,430
La Guazara and Car. ..	Aug. 26	15,250	+	2,000	†	49,250	—	7,700
Leopoldina ..	Aug. 26	33,770	+	4,801	†	758,746	—	217,805
Manila (Nr. & Sth.) ..	" 12	7,254	+	131	7	313,415	—	2,795
Midland Uruguay ..	June	11,796	+	2,346	†	124,302	—	11,993
Mogvaya ..	May *	M1,492,000	+	M277,000	5	M 6,639,000	—	M125,900
N.W. of Uruguay ..	June *	25,500	+	3,086	9	268,127	—	34,844
Nitrate ..	Aug. 15	31,694	+	15,479	†	653,628	—	223,777
Paraguay Central ..	" 26	2,820	+	240	†	23,640	—	1,670
Paulista ..	May *	M1,500,000	+	M126,000	5	M 9,400,000	—	M100,000
Peruvian Corp'n ..	July	\$855,430	+	\$110,592	10	\$10,798,927	—	\$1,513,84
Salvador ..	Aug. 26	20,500	+	3,550	†	\$77,255	—	\$5,253
S. Paulo (Brazilian) ..	" 20	33,088	—	532	5	849,014	—	79,720
Sorocabana ..	May *	M1,269,000	+	M23,000	5	M 6,960,000	—	M292,000
Taltal ..	June *	21,143	+	10,643	12	225,909	—	93,023
United of Havana ..	Aug. 26	29,279	+	5,264	†	243,468	—	38,640
West'n of Havana ..	" 26	6,104	+	997	†	48,586	—	5,260
Zafra and Huélv'a ..	May *	11,359	+	3,806	†	57,758	—	21,571

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The Investors' Review

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NEW SERIES.

[Registered as a
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[Price 6d.]

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Subscribed Capital	Yen 48,000,000
Capital Paid Up	Yen 30,000,000
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	£1,010,000		
Uncalled Capital	125,000		
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	625,000		
	£1,760,000		

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BILLS on Australasia purchased or collected.

DRAFTS issued and REMITTANCES cabled.

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Head Office—71 Old Broad Street, E.C.

Subscribed Capital	£1,278,747	10	0
Paid up Capital	669,665	0	0
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits	354,791	5	3
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	606,962	10	0

REMITTANCES made by CABLE.

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INCORPORATED 1880.

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Reserve Liability of Proprietors	4,000,000
Total Capital and Reserves	£7,960,000

HEAD OFFICE 71, CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.

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Reserve Fund .. £680,000 0 0 Reserve Profits .. £24,087 0 0

Reserved Liability of Shareholders £250,000.

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BANKS.

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Last week our national expenditure rose to £39,171,525, or £5,596,000 per day, and the increase is chiefly in the supply services' demands—i.e., in war outgoings. But even these took only £36,255,000, or barely £5,180,000 a day, and debt interest figured for another £2,796,000. Ordinary revenue, the total of which for the week was £7,446,000, went but a short way to meet the needs, and the financing of Treasury bills had to proceed at an increased speed, because the amounts of them falling due for renewal are necessarily always increasing. So last week £26,815,000 of these bills fell due, besides £2,000,000 of floating debt in other forms. All this had to be added to the week's uncovered requirements, amounting to £31,726,000. Towards this formidable sum Exchequer bonds contributed £3,242,000—of which only £350,000 was in four-year bonds—war expenditure certificates yielded £561,600 and war savings certificates £1,500,000, which was £5,304,000 in all from these three minor sources. The rest came from Treasury bills, the nett increase of which on the week was accordingly £26,374,000, raising the total outstanding to £935,933,000, and the aggregate of the floating debt in all forms to about £1,100,000,000. But even that big figure does not include the short-term loans raised in the United States. In regard to revenue, it is worth noting that excess profits tax alone brought in £3,102,000 last week, making the sum produced up to date by that new impost £21,643,000.

Contrast our position for a moment with that of Germany, who cannot borrow abroad anywhere, and is now engaged in an effort to raise a fifth loan of £500,000,000 or more. The only available means by which the financiers of the Empire can hope to manufacture a show of success for their loan lies in the fact that its assumed proceeds have already been all spent, and more than spent. For it has not been make-believe with the munitioners nor with the allies of the Kaiser. The Bulgar has had to be clothed, armed, and probably fed in great part, at the expense of Germany. Assistance in men and material has had to be given to Austria-Hungary to enable their armies to continue fighting; Greece has had to be corrupted to play

traitor to its own best interests, and as for the Turk, his maintenance as a "Power" capable of sustaining large armies in the field and of making them fight must have been an ever-increasing source of expense to the German Treasury. And in meeting all the expenditure there has been no help to be obtained from anywhere in the world outside an exhausted Fatherland. What securities could the Germans offer on foreign markets beyond a few millions' worth of North American railroad bonds or shares, parted with long ago? The colonies the Kaiser gloated over have all been taken from them—and must never be given back again—and they had no valuables to sell even if they had remained; their Bagdad Railway and other enterprises in Asia Minor, their investments in Turkey in Europe, in Russia, in Bulgaria, in Hungary and Austria, and now also in Rumania, have either lost their value or been already pawned and re-pawned, or confiscated. The new loan is to be a 4½ per cent. one at 98, report goes—proof in Teuton eyes of Germany's "impregnable financial strength"—and, as we have said before, it might just as well have been offered at 3 or 3½ per cent. at par so far as any genuine subscriptions worth counting can be procured. The creditors of the Government can convert their unpaid and unpayable debts into the stock, and the banks can shuffle around their hollow credits, but the "stockings" are empty, and there are no industries left—except the industries of death and devastation—making money to be saved. Living is dear, and becoming impossible for the millions of those who bear the burden of Junker cruelty, inhumanity, and oppression, and the Junker landlord, who may be getting rich still on the nation's agony, knows better than to bestow his wealth in propping up a Government which he believes to be bankrupt. And all the time the demands of the 2,000-mile siege increase. In guns and ammunition alone the expenditure must become greater, more urgent, every week, for on all the long front assailed by Russ and Roman, by Serb and Arab, by France, Italy, Great Britain and Belgium, the strife grows hotter and more costly in materials, and also in men. And the guns and shells the Hell-driven German steel masters forge and turn do not now even all remain with those for whom they are made. They are, by a happy inspiration, now being turned against them by the Allies when captured, as they every day now are. Such are the

conditions, such is the security, under which the Prussian barbarian now comes forward to borrow, and there is not a Jew in all the two doomed impostures of Empire who is not aware that the real security behind all this borrowing is not now worth the value of the paper the scrip is printed on. Well may the Allies of the Entente press forward in grim resolve and constancy towards the now not distant goal. And they will make no provision for the Imperial debts of the criminal Powers in the terms of their peace.

So complete is the answer of the War Trade Statistical Department to the disgraceful accusations made chiefly in the Carmelite Street journals last week that they have almost been shamed into silence. Into an apology or an amendment of their ways they can never be persuaded. After pointing out that the figures on which the latest frenzied accusation of our failure to set up an effective blockade was based were those of one week's exports from the port of New York only, the writer of the answer proceeds to show from Washington official statistics covering the entire export trade of the Republic for the first five months of this year and last that the reduction of supplies forwarded to the four countries, Holland, Denmark, Sweden and Norway, has been nearly 50 per cent. in 1916 upon 1915, has been in other words from £41,123,000 last year to £22,134,000 this. In the first five months of 1915 Holland alone took about £18,000,000 worth of goods from the States, and in the same portion of the current year only £8,800,000 worth, but Norway has taken £5,141,000 worth this year compared with £4,500,000 worth last. How is that? The explanation is simple, and as the whole subject is one upon which many people have too hazy notions, seeing its importance, it seems best to reprint the bulk of the official explanation here without paraphrase. To master it, is to be satisfied that our Navy is doing its duty in making our blockade effective now, and that it is growing in its rigidity and thoroughness with every week that passes. Germans and "neutrals" coming from Germany may asseverate and misrepresent and gloze over facts as they please; the truth remains that Germany is hungry, and the day is not far off when the hunger will become an agony of want. There is not nearly enough food in the country now to go round, and the harvest cannot long make the deficiency look unimportant. Let us press on, then, with the great siege, so that in all ways the end of the war may be hastened. Another lesson may be learnt from the following note. It is that the Dutch are not an inhuman horde of greedy traders, and only that. They are a people of character and probity, acting in the mass loyally and honourably amid conditions the most difficult perhaps in which any small neutral country can stand, or ever had to deal with in time of war, when placed next door to a powerful, unscrupulous neighbour, only too ready to play the bully.

It may be pointed out that an increase in American exports to neutral countries contiguous to Germany would not, in itself, necessarily imply that the imports of those countries, from all sources, have increased, since many commodities which were formerly obtained from the belligerent countries have now to be procured from America. Thus it will be noticed in the above table that the exports from the United States to Norway have slightly increased this year as compared with last year. This increase is, however, more than accounted for by the fact that, whereas until the latter part of 1915 Norway continued to obtain sugar from Germany, she can no longer get it from that source, since—owing to the operation of the blockade—Germany is so hard pressed for fodder that she is now forced to use her surplus supplies of sugar for feeding cattle. In consequence of the inability of Germany to continue the export of sugar, Norway has had to look to America for supplies since the early part of 1916, and the value of the United States exports of sugar to Norway during the period January to May, 1916, was some \$5,000,000 (£1,000,000). In this case, therefore, the increase in the amount of exports, far from demonstrating the inefficacy of the blockade, is direct testimony to its efficiency.

The commodities which are mentioned in certain sections of the Press as having been exported in large quantities from Holland to Germany are as follows:—Butter, cheese, eggs, meat, potato flour, fish, tea, coffee, and cocoa. With the exception of

the three last-named commodities, all the articles in question are of Dutch production, and no imports of these commodities into Holland are allowed unless there are special circumstances (as indicated below) warranting a departure from the general rule. One organ of the Press lays great stress on the fact that, notwithstanding the great exports from Holland to Germany, the United Kingdom continues to supply meat, butter, and lard to Holland. As regards Dutch imports of meat from England, it may be pointed out that all supplies for the Commission for the Relief of Belgium are consigned to Holland for distribution, and that, with the exception of one ton, the whole of the 3,038 tons of meat imported into Holland from England during the first seven months of the present year was destined for the relief of Belgium and Northern France.

As regards butter and lard, it is true that large supplies continue to be sent from England to Holland. These exports have all been allowed, however, for one of two purposes—viz., either they are going to Holland for the relief of Belgium (as in the case of meat), or they are to be utilised in the manufacture of margarine and butter mixtures for England. In this connection it may not be out of place to quote the following figures from the Dutch official returns showing the exports of margarine from Holland:—

	To Germany,	To England
	Tons.	Tons.
January-July, 1916	1,510	83,562
January-July, 1914	1,116	37,686
Increase	394	45,876

Whilst, then, 394 tons more of margarine have been supplied to Germany in the first seven months of this year as compared with the corresponding period of 1914, no less than 45,876 tons more have been supplied to England.

It may occasion surprise that, while supplies of Dutch butter have undoubtedly been diverted from England to Germany, the same process has not been followed in the case of margarine. The reason is, however, not far to seek. The butter is manufactured in Holland from materials which are produced within the country and not from imported materials. The margarine, on the other hand, is manufactured almost entirely from imported raw materials.

It follows that, whilst it is in the power of the British Government to impose conditions regarding the importation of materials for the manufacture of margarine, no such power comes into play in connection with butter, since no import of raw materials for its manufacture takes place. The natural consequence of these Dutch native products, such as butter, meat, eggs, and potato flour, being free from British control, is that the producers sell them in the highest market, and as, owing to the operation of the blockade, Germany cannot obtain supplies which have to cross the seas, the shortage from which she is suffering is such that she is glad to pay higher prices than obtain in England.

Although these Dutch produced goods do not come within the scope of the blockade, in the ordinary sense of the term, certain measures of a somewhat different character have been taken with a view to increasing the supplies to England and diminishing those to Germany, and Lord Robert Cecil was able to announce in Parliament recently that these measures have already effected a decided improvement in the position, and that a still further improvement is to be expected in the near future.

The question of tea, coffee and cocoa is on a different footing, since these articles are necessarily imported from overseas, and any export from Holland to Germany consists, therefore, of goods which have passed through the British lines on importation into Holland. It may be stated that special difficulties have been experienced in connection with the imports of these commodities into Holland, by reason of the fact that they consist largely of goods produced in Dutch colonies. A satisfactory arrangement has, however, recently been brought about, and if the Dutch figures for the early months of this year are separated from those for the later months the improvement which has already been effected by this arrangement is clearly manifested.

These figures show that of the 2,007 tons of tea exported from Holland to Germany during January to July, 1,927 tons went forward in the first three months of the year and only 80 tons in the succeeding four months; that during January and February the average monthly export of coffee to Germany amounted to 17,328 tons, as against a monthly average of 3,253 tons from March to July, and that the whole of the cocoa exports took place in the first four months of the year, since when no exports whatever have been made to Germany.

An analysis of the increase in the price of foodstuffs shows that freights do not account for the major portion of the rise. Take the 4-lb. loaf for instance. Before the war it was sold at 5½d.; now the cost is 9½d. The rates of freight on grain from American and Canadian ports to this country stand at a figure varying from 11s. 6d. to 12s. a quarter. Take the pre-war figure at 2s. 6d. or 3s. That gives an increase of 9s. a quarter, but it is calculated that a rise of 10s. in the price of wheat is accurately represented by a penny on the 4-lb. loaf. Thus something less

than a-fourth of the rise in the price of bread is to be attributed to the increase of freights. This extra penny is not wholly appropriated by the British ship-owner. His costs of running are greatly enhanced, and three-quarters of his war excess profits go to the Exchequer. There are big interests in America and elsewhere which are taking their toll on necessities of life here. What about the farmer and the grower of food in this country? Sea freights do not enter into the cost of growing wheat and vegetables in England. But these classes are benefiting to the full from the great rise in the world's price of food. Special consideration has been properly given to agriculture in relation to its labour supplies. It is in the national interest that our fields should yield bountiful crops. Yet if those crops are to bring excessive gains to the pockets of the farmers, there is no reason why the Chancellor of the Exchequer should not seek authorisation from Parliament for an extension of the excess profits duty to agriculture. At present it is specifically excepted. What would have a healthier influence on the price of wheat and bread than anything else that occurs to us would be the reopening of the Russian sources of supply. We hope that before many months have passed this may become accomplished fact.

The estimated expenditure of the Argentine Government for 1917 shows a reduction of \$197,000,000 paper compared with 1913, says the latest circular of the British Bank of South America. Each intervening year has registered lower estimates, but we cannot be sure that estimates have ever corresponded with realisations. Prosperity, however, continues in a moderate degree to attend Argentine affairs. Railway receipts keep just about level, the increase in the gross receipts of the eight principal railways being about 3.8 per cent. up for the first six months of this year as compared with last, but a large quantity of grain, roughly half the crop, remains to be carried, and should improve the revenues of the companies later on. Drought, a long, unbroken spell of dry weather, and severe frosts have reduced pasture "to a condition almost calling for apprehension," but the land had been prepared, and much of the sowing done before the drought began, and "grain prospects are fairly good." Cattle are in good demand. From Brazil the news is particoloured, too, but not too bad at all. The trade out and in was larger than a year ago, judging by the figures for May, and Custom House receipts in Rio were 548:499\$ gold and 276:698\$ paper larger for June this year than last. Rubber exports this year to May were down 159 tons in weight, but up £848,000 in money, and the coming crop of sugar is estimated at 1,250,000 bags, of which about 200,000 bags have been sold to the River Plate. The coffee trade is in control, and entries outward at Santos were cut down to 80,000 bags a day since August 1st. Provided the demand does not fall off, it looks as if supplies during the current crop will be short to between one and two million bags. Exchange has been kept up with fair success, the sterling value of the milreis having fluctuated between 12½d. and 12 13-32d. during June, closing at 12 18-16d.

While the combined earnings of the various undertakings controlled by the Brazilian Traction, Light and Power Co., Ltd., were considerably greater in 1915 than in either of the two previous years, the nett results are not so satisfactory when converted into Canadian currency, owing to the sharp fall that occurred in the rate of exchange. For some years prior to the outbreak of the war the value of the milreis for sight bills on London was approximately 16d., but in 1915 the average was no better than 12½d., and this made a difference of some \$3,000,000 in the nett revenue of the company. It also suffered in other ways. Although it is stated that rigid economies were effected, the costs of operation and maintenance were adversely influenced by the rise in the price of materials and by the enor-

mous advance in ocean freights. This advance particularly affected the earnings of the gas business, owing to their regular coal steamers being requisitioned by the British Government and other steamers having to be chartered at rates much above those payable under normal conditions. Under these adverse conditions, the results of the year are considered very satisfactory, and as the position in Brazil generally is showing distinct signs of improvement, it is hoped that before long the revenue will yield a substantial and steady increase.

It is, perhaps, hardly necessary to recall that the Traction Co. represents an amalgamation, under Canadian auspices, of the Rio de Janeiro Tramway, Light and Power Co., the Sao Paulo Tramway, Light and Power Co., and the Sao Paulo Electric Co., and it is also largely interested in gas and telephone undertakings. During the year further shares were acquired in the Companhia Telephonica do Estado de Sao Paulo, and in the Companhia Rede Telephonica Bragantina, and the Traction Co. now owns 95 per cent. of the share capital of each of these rival ventures. In the Rio de Janeiro division, tramway receipts fell 250,000 milreis to 24,608,000 milreis, but light and power earnings were nearly two millions higher at 16,685,000 milreis. Telephones and gas also showed increases, with the result that the total receipts were three millions up at 53,548,000 milreis. In the Sao Paulo division also there was a falling off in tramway receipts, but this was more than compensated for by increased earnings from light and power, the gross revenue being one million higher at 23,570,000 milreis. Converted into Canadian currency, however, the nett revenue is \$2,446,000 lower at \$5,613,000, but there was a saving of \$174,000 in general expenses and charges, leaving the surplus \$2,272,000 lower at \$5,395,000. It was, therefore, necessary to cut down the dividend from 6 per cent. to 4 per cent., and the balance forward is \$264,000 smaller at \$545,420. The report states that the coffee purchased for exchange purposes during 1914 and at the beginning of 1915 has been disposed of at better prices than would have been received if the usual method of making remittances had been followed, but the practice has apparently, and doubtless prudently, been dropped, and the item, which a year ago stood at \$2,810,000, has disappeared. Cost of shares and controlling rights in other companies (the telephone ventures already alluded to, presumably) amounted to \$946,500, and \$1,370,000 was paid to subsidiary companies under management agreements, but advances to subsidiary companies are \$2,070,000 lower. Shares and controlling rights now stand in the balance-sheet at practically \$110,000,000, but bank loans, &c., have been reduced by \$3,014,000 to \$1,804,000. During the year the capital expenditure amounted to \$456,000 on the Rio de Janeiro Tramways, &c., to \$587,000 on the Sao Paulo Tramways, &c., and to \$158,000 on the Sao Paulo Electric Co. The last-mentioned has increased its loan account by \$474,000, but it had \$200,000 more cash in hand. On the other hand, the Rio de Janeiro Tramways paid off the loan of \$1,418,000 from the Traction Co., but got \$1,973,000 from its bankers, while it increased its sinking fund investments by \$326,000, and advanced \$572,000 to subsidiaries, and finished with \$330,000 more cash in hand. The Sao Paulo Tramway Co. reduced its debts by \$557,000, and its liquid assets by \$530,000. On the whole, progress has been in the right direction, and capital expenditure has evidently been cut down to the lowest practicable limits. At all events, the report, including details of the working of the various undertakings, and the accounts are commendably full and frank, and although we have been rather uneasy about the amount of water in the capital, we are hopeful that the company will win through.

It is interesting to learn that the Consolidated Gas, Electric Light and Power Co. of Baltimore has just completed a century of existence, having been the first gas company established in America, and the report for the

year to June 30 shows that it is still very much alive. Gross income amounted to \$7,431,800, an increase of \$642,400, or 9½ per cent. Electric light and power naturally claimed the lion's share of the increase, receipts being up \$580,000, or 17½ per cent., while consumption rose 44½ per cent. Sales of gas produced \$85,000, or 2½ per cent. more, but the quantity sold increased 7½ per cent. Alongside the rapid development of electricity the progress of the gas undertaking is rather surprising, but it is perhaps largely due to the substitution of the single heating value standard for the antiquated candle power standard, which is of no practical value when incandescent mantles are almost universal for lighting purposes, and all the rest of the gas is used for heating. Operating expenses and taxes amounted to \$3,848,000, an increase of \$271,500, but fixed charges were \$60,300 less, and the nett income is \$431,200 higher at \$2,013,600. Dividends require \$67,200 more at \$1,132,000, reserve for depreciation gets \$90,000 more at \$550,000, and other appropriations absorb \$224,500, against \$47,800, leaving a nett surplus of \$97,300, against nil last year. On a strictly comparative basis operating expenses would be \$125,000 less, and the surplus an equal amount more, as a similar sum last year was charged to a special reserve for new business expenses. During the year \$2,500,000 5 per cent. gold notes, due March, 1917, were exchanged for \$2,174,000 common stock, and \$900,000 debenture stock was converted into common stock. As a result of these conversions fixed charges have been reduced by \$170,000. The plan inaugurated last year to mutualise the interests of the company and its consumers is making satisfactory progress, and on June 30 last 1,257 consumers were purchasing 6,363 shares at a cost of \$687,000 on a system of deferred payments. From every point of view the company appears to be liberal in its policy and progressive in its enterprise, and it may be justly proud of its record that there has never been an interruption in the supply of gas during its hundred years' history.

Considering the magnitude of the business transacted by the Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney, Ltd., one of the best managed and strongest in Australasia, the figures for the first half of the year show only relatively unimportant changes as compared with the corresponding six months. Including £5,000 more brought in the balance of profits is £11,800 higher at £209,538, only about half of which (£100,000) is used in paying the usual dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum. On this occasion £75,000 against £30,000 is placed to reserve, which will then stand at £1,875,000, or only £25,000 less than the total paid-up capital, and therefore the carry forward has to be reduced by £33,200 to £39,538. Notes in circulation have further shrunk £2,000, and now amount to a trifle of £15,000, but there is an increase of £108,000 at £773,540 in bills. Deposits and other liabilities have been reduced by £787,000 to £24,284,840, which seems to indicate that enterprise has not been particularly vigorous in the bank's territory. On the credit side of the balance-sheet we find coin and bullion £567,480 down at £4,043,950, but this is almost offset by an increase of £493,000 at £773,000 in money at short call in London. Cash at other banks is down £212,000 to £88,750, and Australian Commonwealth notes show a reduction of £2,005,000 at £2,805,000. Government securities are up £263,000 at £3,624,500, and bills receivable, &c., are £425,000 higher at £1,920,000. A new item is £673,000 due for advances under the Government wheat scheme designed to help farmers during the shortage of tonnage. Bills discounted and debts due to the bank are only £228,000 higher at £14,465,000, and the balance-sheet totals at £29,087,848. All things considered it is a very fine showing, and it will be still better when we get back to ordinary working conditions.

Quite a welcome recovery is shown in the report of the Commercial Bank of Australia for the half-year to June 30 last. Gross profits amounted to £167,930, an

increase of £32,000, and the nett profit comes out at £68,370, or £24,000 more, which follows a decrease of £20,000 last year. About £4,000 more was brought forward, so that the total available is £28,000 higher at £79,755. The directors appropriate £20,000 to reinstatement of capital, £5,000 to reduction of premises, and £3,000 to officers' provident fund, and after paying the usual dividend of 4 per cent. per annum on the preference shares there remains £9,408 to be carried forward, or practically the same as last time. In the balance-sheet there is plenty of evidence of increased business activity. The estimated deficiency in connection with the Special Assets Trust Co. has been reduced by £35,000 to £725,660. Notes in circulation have increased £13,200 to £52,380, bills in circulation are £324,000 up at £747,645, and deposits are £48,000 higher at £7,140,000. Bullion, notes, &c., are £750,000 lower at £1,543,350, while money at call and short notice in London has been reduced by £222,000 to £466,000. On the other hand, bills discounted are up £730,000 at £5,809,000, investments are just doubled at £240,210, and notes, bills, &c., of other banks have risen from £10,000 to £465,450. Most of these changes are of a healthy character, but, oh! that deficiency takes an awful long time to come down to manageable proportions.

Further splendid progress was made by the Victoria Falls and Transvaal Power Co., Ltd., in the year 1915. The second large turbo-generator at Brakpan has been brought into commission, and the whole of the plant for all the power stations of the combined undertakings is now installed, so that the period of heavy capital expenditure ought now to have come to an end. Revenue, less cost of production, for the year amounted to £757,315, an increase of £184,000, but administration expenses were slightly larger, and the nett revenue is £174,000 higher at £729,660. Debenture interest absorbs a trifle less at £232,557, but £114,000 more at £274,025 has been appropriated for depreciation, income-tax, and excess profits duty, leaving a balance of £223,080, or £62,000 more. Two dividends, covering 10 months each, have been paid on the 6 per cent. preference shares, absorbing £177,500, and leaving £161,568, or £55,000 more, to be carried forward. Interest on the preference shares has now been paid up to December 31 last, and there seems small risk of its ever again falling into arrears. In these circumstances, the £1,000,000 shares (issued to the promoters for rights and concessions) might look forward to entering the dividend list at an early date, but redemption of the £3,000,000 first mortgage debentures in 20 equal instalments begins next year, requiring £165,000 per annum; but, of course, the interest charge will be gradually reduced. There are also £1,465,000 second debentures outstanding, £78,300 having been redeemed last year. Other creditors show an increase of £166,000 at £588,850. During the year capital expenditure amounted to only £73,400, a decrease of £405,000, and the nett expenditure now stands at £1,526,300 for concessions, &c., and £2,130,000 for power stations, while £3,415,895 (a decrease of £77,000) has been advanced to the Rand Mines Power Supply Co., Ltd. The balance of preliminary expenses, £44,000, has been written off, stores are £65,000 higher at £123,610, and cash, Treasury bills, &c., have increased by £275,000 to £1,075,000. It will be seen that the company has gradually attained a very strong position, and as it has practically a monopoly of power supply on the Rand, its future ought to be assured for many years to come.

Another very prosperous year has been enjoyed by R. and W. Hawthorn Leslie and Co. To June 30 the nett profits were £170,353, an increase of nearly £21,000, which follows a gain of £69,000 in the previous 12 months, and as £9,900 more was brought forward, the total of £200,285 available shows an increase of £30,500. A year ago the dividend was raised from 7½ to 10 per cent., and now a bonus of 2½ is added, making the total distribution 12½ per cent. The bonus

requires only £11,943, and is well justified as everything else is well looked after. Both the final dividend ($7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.) and bonus are paid free of income-tax instead of less tax, as formerly. Last year the allowance for depreciation was more than doubled, and although it is £3,000 less this time, it is still £42,180. Reserve gets £80,000, against £50,000, raising it to £316,000, and the sum set aside for extensions and improvements is again brought up to £60,000 by the addition of £23,100, which, however, is £25,000 less than last year. Finally, £8,000 more at £37,720 is carried forward. It is stated that the plant has continued running without intermission on Admiralty and other Government work, hence the large appropriation for depreciation to cover the excessive wear and tear of machinery due to continuous working. Changes in the balance-sheet are just what might be expected, and scarcely call for comment, but stocks are up £76,000 at £419,780, and cash in hand has increased £28,000 to the noble sum of £244,500. In all respects the business is wonderfully flourishing, the just reward of good management.

The sixth series of wool sales has been held this week and aroused an exceptional amount of interest, partly owing to the Government having commandeered the English wool clip, and partly because shipments to America, usually a large purchaser, are prohibited. On the other hand, Russian and French interests were prominently represented, the former especially being keen buyers with the object of shipping as much as possible to Archangel before navigation closes for the season. Moreover, English buyers were stimulated by the Russian orders for over 19,000,000 yards of khaki, for which low crossbreds are particularly suitable. All the same, doubts were expressed whether the home trade could shoulder the bulk of the 103,000 bales offered, and it was generally believed that prices would have to give way for some of the second-rate descriptions. There was a good demand for fine grades, and coarse grades advanced $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to 1d., but there was a marked fall in mediums. Of course, the shortage of tonnage for the new clip is having some effect, and the market, on the whole, looks fairly strong, but there is a rather general feeling that prices have passed the top.

Labour's Parliament.

In several respects this year's Trade Union Congress, which has been holding its meetings in Birmingham during the present week, is of far more than ordinary importance. These conferences of organised labour are nearly always worth closer attention than they usually receive either from the public at large or the bureaucrats in office, but even the most callous must feel on this occasion that we are at the parting of the ways, and that the very gravest consequences depend on which road we choose to follow. The Congress was attended by nearly 700 delegates, representing not far short of three million Trade Unionists, so that the weight of the opinions registered, however much we might be inclined to differ from them, is not to be disputed. Naturally in an assemblage of this kind there must always be a considerable proportion of froth and mere verbosity, but not more than you will find in any other similar gathering, and least of all in the House of Commons. Fortunately, at the very outset there were two speeches calculated to startle the larger audience of the country out of the usual commonplaces, and to emphasise the gravity of some of the problems with which we are faced.

Mr. Neville Chamberlain, the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, in welcoming the delegates, departed from the time-honoured and meaningless formulæ common on such occasions, and delivered a speech full of pregnant suggestion, outlining a mutually advantageous policy for Capital and Labour after the war. Mr. Chamberlain, we believe, is a large employer of labour himself, and very properly pays due regard to the capitalist standpoint, but he summed-up the position very fairly, and with admirable conciseness. In pass-

ing we may mention that this important speech was considered worth only three lines in the *Times'* report, perhaps because, unfortunately, in the same issue Lord Northcliffe had to air his views about nothing in particular to the extent of over a column and a-half. To resume: Mr. Chamberlain summarised the wants of Labour as (1) a greater share in the distribution of the wealth it helps to produce; (2) greater regularity of employment; and (3) improved conditions of life in the factory and the home. On the other hand, the wants of Capital, he said, are:—(1) That labour should put forth its utmost effort in production; (2) that there should be reasonable notice of any change in wages; and (3) that labour should not be unreasonably withdrawn. If we dared assume that the majority of employers frankly admitted the reasonableness of the three Labour claims set forth, we do not think there should be serious difficulty in getting the demands of Capital equally recognised, but we are afraid that both sides are at present too suspicious of each other to arrive at an easy understanding. That aspect came out in a subsequent meeting of the Congress, when a vehement demand was made that all Trade Union rules and regulations should be automatically reinstated after the war, and there was no reference to the olive branch held out by Capital. It rests with Capital, however, to make the first move, and if the employers proceed on the lines indicated by Mr. Chamberlain, the task will not be so formidable as it would seem in the light of the past history of disputes between them and the employed. At any rate, a considerable service has been done to both sides in offering a bridge on which they can meet.

Mr. Harry Gosling, President of the Congress, also spoke well, and, on the whole, sensibly. They had not to consider, he said, whether the old order is to change, as it is changing faster than many could realise, but they had to determine that all changes are in keeping with the interests of the workers. After alluding to

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the splendid patriotism of Labour, which had given millions of its best voluntarily for the defence of the country, he made pungent, but perhaps excusable, reference to the shipowners, food exploiters, war contractors, and other profiteers who thought of nothing save their own enrichment. He demanded the creation of a Ministry of Labour, not merely a Labour Ministry, and called for the State to take over mines, railways, shipping services, and storage warehouses, in order to put an end to those speculative interests which, he believes, have done so much to enhance prices. But the vital question is: What is going to happen after the war, when the Government suddenly reduce their gigantic pay-roll—the biggest the world has ever seen—and stop their colossal orders for every conceivable commodity, when millions of soldiers are disbanded at approximately the same time that two or three million munition workers are discharged? The key to the after-war position is the prevention of unemployment, and in Mr. Gosling's opinion it will be necessary for the Government to organise extensive public works of all kinds to relieve the situation. That would be a temporary palliative, no doubt, but as we have frequently pointed out in discussing this subject, reforms must go much deeper if serious social disasters are to be avoided.

Many other topics of practical interest have been before the Congress, such as the position of women workers in the industrial scheme, tariffs in general, and against foreign sweated goods in particular, education reform, railway nationalisation, and other matters more or less directly affecting the efficiency of labour, but space does not permit us to follow the discussions in detail. On the whole, the impression left is somewhat disappointing, but Labour in the mass is rather inarticulate, and we need not be discouraged. It has ideals, and is groping after them, sometimes blindly, but it has fairly shrewd notions of what is wanted, and means to get it. Only one other incident need be referred to. Mr. Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labour, wants to have a "Labour World Peace Congress," at which all countries would be represented, to take place at the same time and place as the conference to determine the terms of peace, and the Parliamentary Committee recommended that the Trade Union Congress should co-operate. Here was a clear-cut issue, which all could understand, and the answer was entirely satisfactory. One member asked: "Will the German Socialists at the Peace Conference be the same as the Kaiser sent after the massacre of Louvain to prove to the Belgain people that Germany was their big brother and generous friend? Will the French delegates be chosen from among those Frenchmen who have found their wives and daughters exported to Germany by those nice, pleasant soldiers who have brought shame to thousands of homes? If they are, I can see the elements of a very pleasant and harmonious gathering." These are burning words, and we wish the German Socialists could see them, even if they did not help to remove the scales from their eyes.

By-the-Way War Notes.

To have brought down a German airship as it hovered, bewildered, like a great carrion monster of the air, over a country district near London was a most notable feat, and Lieut. Robinson, its destroyer, has heroically won his Victoria Cross. We trust his good fortune will prove to be the forerunner of many a similar performance, for we may count on it that, as the agony of their desperation increases, German wantonness in crime will also increase. The race is in the full fury of its despair.

That being the probability, was it well that the War Office should have ordered the corpses found where the airship fell to be buried with "military honours"? They were not soldiers, the crew of that ship, nor were they engaged in any soldierly enterprise. In this country we only know crews of German airships as in-

discriminate murderers of the unarmed, careless slayers and maimers of women and children, of the aged and helpless, and there can be no doubt at all that the suggested parade of a soldier's burial for the crew of the burned monster of infamy shocked most acutely the moral sense of the community. "There is, apparently, no moral sensitiveness or sensibility about our War Office authorities even now—any more than about the German," the harsher critics declare. We cannot go so far as that, but that heedlessness too often characterises War Office orders and policy towards the nation is a lamentable fact. Obliviousness or indifference to ordinary human sentiments, and still more, perhaps, to the future consequences of red-tape tyranny and financial profusion, not only in flinging money—borrowed money—away, but in heaping new obligations on the wealth producer, confronts the observer on all sides.

In the administration of the compulsory military service law, for example, the subservience, ominously Teutonic in spirit, of the civil delegates of judicial power to the behests of the military is filling the land with a bitterness ominous likewise of future affliction, and in regard to finance the law appears to be administered as if its main purpose were to augment the Army costs to an unbearable degree. And posterity is not here to object. We speak from rather bitter, yet in some of its aspects grotesquely amusing, experience—but more of that anon, as the scribblers of the eighteenth century used to say.

How easy it is to lead our people in the right way is impressively brought home to us by the success of Mr. Balfour's visit to Glasgow. We have always maintained that with all their failings the workmen on the Clyde are neither "slackers" nor unpatriotic. Their response to the plain, man-to-man reasoning of the First Lord of the Admiralty proves that we were right while the rankling of the wounds, inflicted probably without thought, with no intention, we may feel sure, to do harm, but the reverse, by Mr. George, made itself only too emphatically visible at the Trades Union Congress meeting in Birmingham this week, and in Glasgow. That the workmen have stuck to their work, and responded to the call of humanity with the vigour they have, in great majority, all along displayed, in spite of the vicious scoldings so liberally bestowed upon them from the hierarchic regions of authority, is the greatest proof of genuine, enlightened patriotism they could have given.

But there will be no bitter fruit to spring from Mr. Balfour's visit to the Clyde. He talked as a man to his fellow men with the workmen's delegates who met him in Glasgow. What they had done and helped to do in the way of increasing the power and numbers of our fighting Navy he described and praised as it deserved to be praised. "It is splendid," he declared, "it is magnificent, but I am here to tell you that, splendid and magnificent though it be, we at the Admiralty call yet for more." And he went on to explain how the enemy, "by actions appropriate to a weaker party which were completely unscrupulous, had adopted methods of submarine warfare, by which they hoped to establish between their fleet and ours something in the nature of equality." That had involved changes in the composition of our fleet, and these changes increased in various ways, and not least in the repairing work to be done, the strain thrown on the men in our shipyards. And the demands of our mercantile marine, already as large as the marines of all the rest of the world put together, were just as great and as urgent. More ships, more ships of all kinds, that was what Mr. Balfour asked the men for in a speech of wonderful cogency and appositeness, the concluding sentences of which we must make room for here:—

"Men are necessary, shells and guns are necessary, but the fundamental necessity underlying all these, and without which the most ample supply of all the other necessities would be absolutely empty and useless, is the necessity to maintain that practical command of the seas, which the British fighting ships and the British mercantile marine, acting in collaboration and

co-operation for so many glorious generations of our history, have been able to maintain. That is the fundamental thing. It would be utterly vain for our Allies to show the heroic bravery they have shown on the plains of Galicia, in Italy, and in France if there were not in the background sea power and the capacity for using it, upon which the whole fabric of the Allied cause ultimately depends. You, gentlemen, every man, can probably do as much to secure the final triumph of world liberties and British freedom as any other class of the community. It is a privilege, and you will forgive me adding that it is also a great responsibility. I am quite confident that the leaders of opinion to whom I speak at this moment will not prove themselves unworthy of that responsibility, and will rise to the height of the great occasion presented to them. I am firmly convinced of it. All I have seen and have heard on the Clyde convinces me that it is so, and it is in that faith and that firm belief that I commend to your favourable consideration the vital necessity from every national point of view, but most of all from the point of view of the High Seas Fleet, of not wasting labour, not recklessly squandering time, but of using your best efforts to further the cause which I know all of you have at heart. If you bear that in mind, and look at it in all its aspects, if you see how your daily work touches the Allied success in every part of the world, you will feel that you have an opportunity not given to all our countrymen, one of which you may be proud, an opportunity of which I am sure you will take the fullest advantage. If you do you may rest positively assured you have done the greatest service both to Britain and to Britain's Allies which it is in the power of men to confer."

And what response did the representatives of the men make to this noble appeal? It was as cordial and whole-hearted as the most ardent "friend of man" could desire. The spokesman was Mr. Sharpe, delegate of the Boiler-Makers' Society, and chairman of the Clyde Labour Advisory Board, and among other things he said this:—

"If the addresses on other occasions had been on similar lines to those to which they had just listened there would not have been so much unrest on the Clyde. The appeal of the First Lord would not fall on deaf ears. The Clyde workmen realised the gravity of the whole situation, and were prepared not to relax but to double their efforts in the future if possible. The military authorities were trying at the present time to take away from them all the men they could get. He sincerely trusted that those at the Admiralty would not relax their efforts to see that these military activities would meet with failure. He also directed Mr. Balfour's attention to the deportation of several Clyde workmen, and asked the First Lord to use his influence in the direction of getting these men sent back. The right hon. gentleman would thus be responsible for the creation of good feeling throughout the Clyde."

In giving the pledge expected of them, and that we at least never doubted they would give, the Clyde men also, through their spokesman, made a complaint and an appeal. The military authorities are acting as they tend always to act, in a spirit of jealous contempt for the requirements of the Navy, "trying to take away from us all the men they can get," asserted Mr. Sharpe, and Mr. Balfour admitted that he recognised the strength of the feeling behind that statement, while disclaiming personal knowledge or ability to interfere. The nation, though, must interfere and prevent the wrecking of the hopes of the Allies, perhaps at the very hour when they are about to be realised. What must be insisted upon is that the same co-ordination of effort which has at length been attained between the Allies of the *Entente* in the field should be enforced between the naval and military authorities at home. And first of all that means a root and branch change in the management of the Compulsory Military Service Law, which as now carried out is loading the country with "allowances" running into millions a week.

Events of great moment crowd in upon us from the seats of war. We could fill this whole issue with a narrative of the week's progress on all battle fronts. But that is not our business. In a general way it is not possible for us to do more than note how satisfactory the progress is. Everywhere the Allies are pressing in upon the foe, and the adhesion of Roumania at the chosen moment should hasten the finale most effectively. The Kaiser is stated to have issued a manifesto to his troops in which he pledges himself that they will not be called on to endure another winter campaign. He has done the like before and been a false prophet. This time he may be right, but in that case he had better make haste and call his *fantassins* home, for we shall not pause now until they are either driven home or consumed.

Greece remains the one nuisance, but it is an affliction to be endured. However impatient we may be over the foolish Germanism of King Constantine, over his defiance of the Powers to whom he owes his throne, and over his betrayal of the nation whose will it is his duty to obey, we must abstain from exacting vengeance on the people for one man's betrayal. Greece can be done without now in this war, and we have no doubt that General Sarraïl is keeping back his armies because he acts in harmony with the Italian troops in Albania and the Roumanian and Russian armies on the Danube and in the Dobrudja.

We must have patience, then, for all goes well, and it is becoming evident even to the most fatuous of Teuton dunderheads that the game is about up. That egggregious Sir Oracle "Maximilian Harden" blurts the truth out in turgid jets now and then, and seems to have perpetrated the following a week or so ago:—"Germans, Austrians, Hungarians, Bulgarians, Turks, it is your existence which is at stake. The play will finish in tragedy. If the enemy imposes his will upon you, Bulgaria will be crushed, Greece drawn into the whirlpool, Turkey hemmed in, Hungary dismembered, and Germany hunted down like a wild beast."

This is the misbegotten cad who before the war did the utmost in him to provoke it. All his fame and strength as a gutter journalist lies in his lackey-like subservience to the junker ideal as embodied in the ruthless Bismarck, and now he screams like the flunkey he is when the retribution he never reckoned on becomes visible to the most whey-brained dupe of junkerism that ever occupied hireling pulpit or professional chair. But in 1913 this Harden was all truculence and menace. To M. Georges Bourdon, of the *Figaro*, he held forth in the style of an arbitrator of France's destiny. "Choose ye," he said, in substance, in his voice "most pleasant and caressing." "We were on the point of coming to an agreement with England, and where would France have been then?" "The Anglo-French entente," he told M. Bourdon—and these are his exact phrases—"is, I may say at once, a quite artificial combination, for there is no point of contact between the two peoples, and of all peoples on earth you French comprehend the English least." That is a fair sample of this Polish Jew's political insight, and we feel once more disposed to protest against the prominence given to his splutterings in the British Press. In Germany he is not a leader of men, never was. He is only but an echo, a fairly expert dresser-up of the flotsam and jetsam of life that he picks up as the stream flows past. In 1913 he was all for peace—of course, of course, everybody is in the abstract all for peace—but you Frenchmen must take care, you know. And the fellow put forward the idea of a Franco-German understanding—"more durable, perhaps, than an Anglo-German one"—as the true way to ensure peace and "Empire." To such an understanding no German voice will refuse approbation. Then "what France was in her most glorious days she will become again, and her free development will proceed without hindrance, for from the East will come only amicable collaboration." And the price? Forget the past, resolve firmly never more to associate yourselves "with those who pursue

Germany with hostile thoughts"—sweet, peace-loving, unambitious, unarmed Germany—"and who in a mistake, for them dangerous, judge her poorer, feebler, and less resolute than she really is. Surely this is not to buy too dearly security, peace, the future. Perhaps the hour is decisive. Reflect—but not too long." Such was the truculent insolence of the third-rate stage player turned political shaper of destinies, who now yells in coward fear, "The sword of Damocles is about to fall."

We find more to admire and to base hope for mankind's emancipation from tyranny upon in an extract from the Hungarian newspaper *Nepszava*, given by the Buda-Pest correspondent of the *Morning Post*. It is worth preserving:—

Our born army leaders have not won the right to carry their Marshal's batons in their haversacks, but were born with them, because they were members of a family who are designated by tradition to become Field-Marschals whether they have any aptitude for the profession or not. They have to lead armies although their talents would designate them for bootmakers or professors of mathematics in some out-of-the-way school. Those families do not care much if millions of men are sacrificed or the whole State be imperilled; the only thing they care for is that their sons and heirs should lead the armies, even if to destruction.

In proportion as views like these prevail among the suppressed commonalty does the probability increase that the curse of hereditary super-manism, the fraud of a holy-faith-cloaked imposture by which the few have hitherto kept themselves masters of the many, and held them in thralldom for war or in peace, will be ended for ever by the coming peace. Liberated peoples can afford to pay a very high price indeed to be delivered from the oppression of those families of the great ones on earth by whom they have been harried and driven with the callousness which is inherent in impostures, and whose real brutality has blazed out before the eyes of all the world in the crimes of this Kaiser-ordered conflict.

Owing to a shortness of assistance, partly in consequence of the serious illness of the younger Editor, but more as result of War Office recklessness in the administration of the law and tribunal subserviency, of which we may have more to tell presently, the foregoing notes had to be posted to the printer before we got the *Star* of Wednesday evening. The letters it contained abundantly support all that is said above, and the offence is not lessened by the final decision of the military authorities to tone down the funeral proceedings and cancel the parade. The offence against national sentiment consists in holding a "military funeral" in any form, and the painful feeling the notion excited remains. But the public indignation manifested should at least serve to inform the War Office that, resolute although the country may be and is to carry on this war to a liberty-ensuring conclusion, it has not yet consented to become Prussianised, and has no intention whatever of allowing itself to be so. Our Army is a disciplined body, organised for a definite purpose, which it is heroically determined to accomplish; but when the war is over it will put an end to militarism, as such, of that the War Office serenities may be sure.

With exasperating frequency the suggestion is put forward in some of our newspapers which should know better that this or the other enemy country is, or will soon be, "ready to sue for peace." "Bulgaria is about to be forced to throw up the sponge"; "Hungary is getting eager to conclude a separate peace"; and as for Austria, if its crime-encrusted oppressors could find a way to "escape from the clutches of the ruthless Prussian, they would fling down their arms to-morrow," we are assured. And always the hidden suggestion is that, by making peace step by step, as it were, we may bring the war to a close much sooner than by pursuing our stern course until all our foes lie buried in the same pit, or cooped up in the same pen.

Well, we are persuaded that nothing could be calculated to please the Kaiser better than the adoption of such a policy. His subjects, miserable wretches, long for peace as much as any Bulgar or Magyar or

Turk of them all, but they are not yet sufficiently purged of their savage lusts to be ready to abandon all their plunder, and still less are they endowed with manliness enough to turn upon their whip-wielders and deprive them of all power to do further harm. Apparently they will give themselves to the guns, if not as cheaply, then doggedly as any untamed savage would, for another winter, should food and murder tools last out. It would consequently be a distinct gain to Prussia's masters if the Allies were to relieve the German Empire of the burden of financing and "stiffening" with German fighters the Turk, the Bulgar, the Hungarian, the Austrian, and, possibly enough, wisps of the Greeks. A peace with Bulgaria at the present time, for instance, would go far to destroy for Rumania all her well-timed offensive now puts her well in the way to secure. So of Hungary, of Turkey, of Austria; release any of these vassals of the Prussian autocracy and its power to augment its resistance to us on vital points around its own Empire's borders is at once enlarged to our hurt, and a prolongation of the strife.

Is it not possible to pound it into the head of the write - first - and - think - afterwards - if - you - have - time journalist that in lending himself to the idea of a separate peace for any of our enemies he may be doing his best to betray his country? In the very nature, as in the origin, of the war it is inherently impossible that the dupes or willing tools of the Kaiser could be dealt with apart. The war of aggression and world-domination started by Germany is one war, not two or three or four, and its only safe end is the surrender at discretion of all the nationalities or Governments engaged. Should Bulgaria be soon driven to the ropes, as looks probable, hostilities can only cease against her when her troops lay down their arms and her Government divests itself of its attributes. The country must then remain in military occupation by the Allies until all their other enemies have surrendered at discretion. Our watchword, then, must ever be: "No separate peace, no bargaining with any of the Governments that have taken up arms against us, least of all with that of Germany itself." The lot and the punishment of the beaten enemies must be left for decision by the Tribunal the Allies of the Entente will establish to deal with the criminals. Nothing less will reconcile the free democracies to the appalling sacrifice this war has imposed upon them. Nothing less can offer to the slave democracies driven against us by their masters a chance of deliverance from oppression.

Letters to the Editor.

COMMERCIAL BANK OF AUSTRALIA.

SIR,—Six months ago, when reviewing the balance-sheet of the Commercial Bank of Australia, Ltd., your contributor was at a loss to account for an increase in the notes in circulation as compared with the previous half-year. He pointed out that in view of the gradual supersession of bank-notes in Australia by the issue of Commonwealth Government notes this item in the balance-sheet should be a constantly decreasing one.

The explanation is that the bank, having recently opened branches in New Zealand, is now issuing notes in the Dominion, thus accounting for the increase, and as further expansion may be looked for during the half-year just ended, above information is given in the hope that it may be of service to your journal.

I am, Sir,

ONE OF YOUR SUBSCRIBERS.

Melbourne, Victoria, July 18, 1916.

Dominion Bank (Toronto).—The following cable has been received at the London branch from the general manager regarding the crop conditions in Western Canada:—"Considerable damage has been done to the crop in Western Canada through heat and rust, particularly in Southern Manitoba and Southern Saskatchewan. Crop prospects in Alberta are generally favourable. The estimates to date are that the total wheat yield in the prairie provinces will reach 150 to 175 million bushels. A bountiful yield of oats and flax is assured, though the acreage is not large."

IRISH RAILWAYS.

	Sept. 1	£	+	£	+	£	+	£
Belfast and County Down ..	Sept. 1	4,566	+	758	+	131,064	+	3,192
Grand Canal ..	" 1	1,145	—	101	+	9,913	+	767
Great Northern ..	" 1	30,040	+	3,040	+	836,968	+	24,408
Gt. Southern and Western ..	" 1	40,182	+	1,557	+	1,133,164	—	35,366
Midland Great Western ..	Aug. 25	16,679	+	1,763	+	442,544	—	2,554

* From Jan. 1. † From July 1.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
Assam Bengal ..	July 29	1,14,000	—	6,961	†	21,51,506	—	1,65,309
Bengal & N.-W. ..	" 29	3,53,959	+	59,415	†	74,88,913	+	9,21,321
Bengal Nagpur ..	Aug. 5	7,97,000	+	1,38,000	†	1,73,77,905	+	29,31,642
Bombay, Baroda ..	" 26	9,21,000	—	30,000	†	2,78,19,000	+	37,80,000
Burma ..	July 29	3,70,794	—	88,052	†	68,12,159	—	58,867
Delhi Umballa ..	Aug. 26	67,800	—	8,648	†	14,30,978	—	96,755
East Indian ..	Sept. 2	20,95,000	+	3,58,000	†	4,79,87,000	+	21,60,000
Gt. Indian Penin. ..	Aug. 26	17,16,400	+	2,60,200	†	4,12,63,267	+	79,17,426
Lucknow-Bareilly ..	July 29	37,904	+	9,966	†	7,75,874	—	79,319
Madras and S. ..								
Mahratta ..	Aug. 5	7,97,000	+	49,063	†	1,81,44,144	+	11,45,006
Nizam's Gd. (Broad) ..	July 29	1,07,770	—	5,781	†	22,00,929	—	1,40,099
" (Metre) ..	" 29	61,266	+	2,679	†	12,87,191	—	34,714
Rohilkund and ..								
Kumaon ..	" 29	32,111	—	5,023	†	7,51,697	—	98,251
South Indian ..	Aug. 5	5,30,826	+	3,170	†	1,12,07,222	+	8,14,598

a 13 days. † April 1. ‡ October 1.

COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

		£		£		£		£
Beira ..	May *	33,808	+	2,094	—	7,51,910	+	357,380
Canadian Northern ..	Aug. 31	1,129,100	+	477,000	+	3,25,127,000	+	84,30,000
Canadian Pacific ..	" 31	4,092,000	+	1,235,000	+	6,136,746	+	844,879
Gr. Trk. Main Line ..	" 21	325,942	+	74,116	+	1,287,288	+	304,051
Gr. Trk. Western ..	" 21	55,720	—	9,736	+	453,952	+	100,594
Detroit G. H. & M. ..	" 21	19,467	—	1,822	+	142,455	+	43,669
Gr Trk Pac Prairie Sc ..	" 31	20,417	—	1,220	+	743,394	—	94,815
Mashonaland ..	June *	56,677	—	6,565	2	88,012	—	10,691
Mid. of Westn. Aus. ..	" *	4,854	—	59	10	49,178	—	6,780
New Cape Central ..	Aug. 5	1,263	—	200	+	82,423	+	6,719
Rhodesia ..	June *	82,423	+	6,719	1		+	

a 9 days. * Months. † July 1. ‡ Jan. 1. c From Oct. 1.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

			£	£	£	£		
Chesapeake & Ohio	Aug. 21	947,000	+	26,000	†	6,536,000	+	326,000
Chicago G. W.	" 14	360,000	+	70,000	†	1,884,000	+	208,000
Colorado & South'n	Aug. 7	288,000	+	17,000	†	1,520,000	+	141,000
Denver & Rio Gran.	" 21	537,000	+	30,000	†	3,612,000	+	166,000
Louisv'e & Nashv'e	" 21	1,250,000	+	212,000	†	8,873,000	+	1,254,000
Minn. S. P. (Soo) ..	" 7	707,000	+	188,000	†	3,702,000	+	904,000
Missouri Kansas	" 21	706,000	+	101,000	†	5,109,000	+	785,000
Northern Pacific	" 21	1,643,000	+	287,000	†	9,745,000	+	1,683,000
Southern	" 21	1,473,000	+	268,000	†	9,693,000	+	731,000

a 10 days. § Includes Wisconsin Central. † From July 1.

MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

NAME.	NETT EARNINGS FOR MONTH.			NETT EARNINGS TO DATE.		
	Month.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year	No. of Mths.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year
		Dols.	Dols.		Dols.	Dols.
Aitchison T. & S. Fé ..	June	3,702,000	+ 752,000	12	43,780,000	+ 7,729,000
Atlantic Coast Line ..	"	776,000	+ 364,000	12	9,855,000	+ 2,811,000
Baltimore & Ohio ..	"	3,204,000	+ 2,000	12	32,348,000	+ 4,453,000
Canadian Northern ..	July	1,197,400	+ 711,000	9	9,735,200	+ 3,519,000
Canadian Pacific ..	"	4,017,000	+1,217,000	11	4,017,000	+ 1,217,000
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	June	2,583,000	+ 444,000	12	16,450,000	+ 4,542,000
Chicago & N.W. ..	"	2,786,000	+ 534,000	12	24,607,000	+ 4,723,000
Chicago Burl. & Q. ..	May	2,869,000	+1,230,000	11	37,764,500	+ 9,266,000
Chicago G.W. ..	"	246,000	+ 38,000	11	3,831,000	+ 746,000
Chicago Mil. & S.P. ..	June	1,894,000	— 928,000	12	31,260,000	+ 6,545,000
Chicago, Rock I. & P. ..	"	1,473,000	+ 419,000	12	16,811,000	+ 2,771,000
Colorado & Southern ..	May	447,000	+ 227,000	11	5,317,000	+ 1,457,000
Cuba ..	"	681,003	+ 140,126	11	6,211,534	+ 1,462,441
Do. ..	"	261,131	— 482	11	2,314,953	— 626,709
Delaware & Hud. ..	"	794,000	+ 93	5	3,486,000	+ 564,000
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	"	798,000	+ 206,000	11	8,304,000	+ 2,440,000
Erie ..	June	1,727,000	+ 182,000	6	8,611,000	+ 2,321,000
Gr. Tr. Main Line ..	July	2,623,200	+ 435,100	7	1,425,850	+ 1,677,000
Grand Trunk Westn ..	"	49,400	— 24,000	7	2,888,000	— 243,800
Detroit G. H. & Mil. ..	"	1,115,150	— 61,350	7	3,322,500	— 339,850
Gt. Northern ..	May	2,506,000	+ 899,000	11	34,457,000	+ 6,214,000
Illinois Central ..	June	1,489,000	+1,009,000	12	14,155,000	+ 3,277,000
Kansas City Southn. ..	"	301,000	+ 162,000	12	3,600,000	+ 676,000
Lehigh Valley ..	June	1,150,000	+ 178,000	12	12,575,000	+ 1,703,000
Louisville & Nashvl. ..	May	1,698,000	+ 848,000	11	16,716,000	+ 7,508,000
Minn. S.P. (Soo) ..	"	1,051,000	+ 714,000	11	12,581,000	+ 4,984,000
Miss. K. & Texas ..	June	334,000	— 25,000	12	5,041,000	— 3,562,000
Missouri Pacific ..	May	723,000	— 57,000	12	12,567,000	— 605,000
New York Cent. & H. ..	June	5,484,000	+ 622,000	6	29,638,000	+11,281,000
N.Y. N. Haven & H. ..	May	2,200,000	+ 462,000	11	20,240,000	+ 4,399,000
New York Ont. & W. ..	June	272,000	+ 87,000	12	3,477,000	+ 366,000
Norfolk & Western ..	"	2,001,000	+ 442,000	12	23,232,000	+ 9,787,000
Northern Pacific ..	"	2,592,000	+ 430,000	12	31,032,000	+ 9,482,000
Pennsylvania East ..	"					
and West Lines ..	"	10,211,000	+1,761,000	6	50,769,000	+21,959,000
St. Louis & San F. ..	May	1,201,000	+ 310,000	11	12,343,000	+ 1,747,000
Seaboard Air Line ..	"	575,000	+ 108,000	11	6,524,000	+ 1,515,000
Southern ..	"	2,022,000	+ 684,000	11	19,337,000	+ 7,077,000
Southern Pacific ..	June	4,821,000	+1,223,000	12	48,191,000	+12,501,000
Union Pacific ..	"	3,780,000	+ 954,000	12	40,824,000	+10,643,000
Wabash ..	"	967,000	+ 755,000	12	10,955,000	+ 5,051,000

Includes Wisconsin Central. * Gross earnings. † Surplus.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—HOME.

		£	£	£	£			
Bristol	Sept. 1	11,224	+	859	+	350,784	+	14,681
Dublin United ..	" 1	6,831	—	574	+	209,635	—	3,317
Hastings and Dist. ..	Aug. 25	1,908	—	264	+	34,785	—	1,771
Isle of Thanet ..	Sept. 2	797	—	41	+	17,451	—	2,903
Lancashire United ..	Aug. 30	2,014	—	157	+	62,736	—	2,500
Provincial ..	Sept. 2	2,885	—	377	+	110,592	—	6,152
Yorks. (Wst. Rng.) ..	" 3	1,898	—	241	+	62,989	—	5,736

* From Oct. 1.

† From Jan. 1.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.

		£	—	£	Ms.	£	—	£
Anglo-Argentine ..	Sept. 2	47,933	—	1,847	—	1,771,989	—	11,483
Auckland Electric ..	July 28	21,507	—	1,099	a	21,507	—	646
Brazilian Traction ..	"	M4,050,000	+	M150,000	6	M26,688,000	+	M844,580
Brisbane Elec. Inv. ..	Apr. 1	30,320	—	3,730	2	62,600	—	6,390
British Columbia ..	June 1	56,399	—	150,000	10	853,782	—	458,569
B.A. Lacroze ..	"	36,212	—	4,208	12	490,818	—	15,324
Burmah Electric ..	July 29	Rs. 3,437	—	Rs. 289	—	—	—	Rs. 3,920
Calcutta ..	Sept. 2	Rs. 66,822	—	3,251	+	Rs. 22,64,841	—	104,849
Cordoba Light ..	"							
P. & T. ..	July	14,263	—	112	3	57,313	—	776
Hongkong ..	" 29	17,172	—	5,234	6	420,128	—	91,730
La Plata ..	June 1	3,736	—	140	6	25,925	—	161
Lima ..	May 1	15,693	—	69	4	73,913	—	1,440
Madras Electric ..	June 31	Rs. 32,762	—	Rs. 2,272	+	Rs. 43,71,111	—	Rs. 41,700
Mexico ..	Nov. 1	215,256	—	108,669	+	3,193,106	—	819,227
Puebla ..	Dec. 1	40,000	—	25,600	+	669,500	—	44,500
Rangoon ..	Aug. 1	4,253	—	257	+	32,342	—	1,693
Singapore Electric ..	May 20	13,139	—	1,897	8	247,259	—	29,716
Toronto ..	"	438,997	—	65,953	+	1,693,709	—	198,311
United of Monte V. ..	"	20,044	—	449	10	292,332	—	13,986
Vera Cruz ..	Apr. 1	83,500	—	39,600	+	287,400	—	142,000
Winnipeg ..	July 1	74,587	—	4,956	5	705,095	—	3,898

b 28 days. * From Jan. 1. † Net. a From July 1. c Two weeks.

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.				
	Week ending	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	Wk. ending	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.		
Alcoy and Gandia ..	Sept. 2	Ps. 6,700	—	Ps. 300	+	Ps. 469,600	+	Ps. 37,900
Antofagasta (Chili) ..	" 3	37,260	+	7,920	+	1,175,175	+	347,270
Arauco ..	July	8,100	—	1,350	+	152,238	+	17,666
Argentine N.E. ..	Sept. 2	7,800	—	352	+	61,802	—	903
Bilbao R. and Canta ..	June *	4,325	—	669	6	24,777	+	1,796
Bolivar ..	Aug. *	8,500	—	1,111	2	15,500	—	958
Brazil ..	June *	M3,864,000	—	M32,770	+	M226,380	—	M694,580
Brazil Gt. Southern ..	Apr. *	Mis. 32,750	—	M3,300	+	M 69,250	—	M4,200
B. Ayres & Pacific ..	Sept. 2	80,000	—	5,000	+	768,000	—	2,000
Do. Gt. South'n ..	" 1	89,000	—	9,000	+	870,254	+	107,346
Do. Western ..	" 3	50,000	—	9,000	+	446,000	+	34,000
Central Argentine ..	" 1	108,000	—	2,400	+	1,026,900	—	33,900
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte V. ..	" 2	10,804	—	1,576	+	98,350	—	3,925
Do. East'n Ex. ..	" 2	2,839	—	924	+	32,507	+	65
Do. North'n Ex. ..	" 2	1,970	—	44	+	10,353	+	1,319
Do. West'n Ex. ..	" 2	1,275	—	434	+	13,751	+	269
Colombian National ..	June *	11,840	+	946	6	65,500	+	7,188
Cordoba Central ..	Sept. 2	30,800	—	685	+	327,300	—	8,855
Costa Rica ..	July 1	6,499	—	1,867	1	928	—	1,050
Cuban Central ..	Sept. 2	9,761	—	2,557	+	84,534	+	13,049
Dorada Extension ..	Aug *	9,500	—	400	+	60,000	+	1,100
Egyptian Delta ..	" 104	5,364	+	1,045	+	63,520	+	11,672
Entre Rios ..	Sept. 11	12,500	—	3,400	+	108,000	+	23,500
French Sainte Fé ..	May	94,572	—	4,945	+	443,607	+	71,319
Gt. South of Spain ..	Aug. 26	Ps. 75,980	—	Ps. 15,904	+	Ps2,390,973	+	Ps386,767
Gt. West. of Brazil ..	Sept. 2	7,600	—	900	+	310,100	—	32,700
Havana Central ..	" 2	6,594	—	1,649	+	53,980	+	5,089
Inter. of C. Amer. ..	May 6*	37,809	+	10,495	+	180,392	+	71,429
La Guaira and Car. ..	June *	15,250	—	2,000	+	49,250	+	7,000
Leopoldina ..	Sept. 2	32,419	—	3,028	+	791,165	—	214,777
Manila (Nr. & Sth.) ..	" 2	8,008	—	1,279	+	321,623	+	4,074
Midland Uruguay ..	June	11,796	—	2,346	7	124,302	+	11,193
Mogyana ..	May *	M1,492,000	—	M277,000	+	M 626,990	—	M125,900
N.W. of Uruguay ..	June *	\$25,500	—	\$3,086	9	\$268,127	+	\$34,844
Nitrate ..	Aug. 31	31,519	—	1,717	+	695,147	+	235,474
Paraguay Central ..	" 26	2,820	—	240	+	23,640	—	6,674
Pauлиста ..	May *	M1,500,000	—	M126,000	5	M 9,400,000	—	M100,000
Peruvian Corp'n ..	July	\$855,430	—	\$110,592	10	\$10,798,927	—	\$1,514,384
Salvador ..	Sept. 2	\$7,250	—	—	+	884,595	—	\$5,255
S. Paulo (Brazilian) ..	Aug. 27	36,717	—	2,555	+	888,731	—	77,165
Sorocabana ..	May *	M1,269,000	—	M43,000	5	M 6,960,000	—	M290,000
Taital ..	June *	21,143	—	10,643	+	272,400	—	93,023
United of Havana ..	" 2	32,024	—	9,034	+	425,885	—	47,683
West'n of Havana ..	Sept. 2	6,324	—	1,435	+	54,907	—	6,695
Zafra and Huelva ..	May *	11,359	—	3,806	+	57,758	+	21,571

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The Investors' Review.

Money and Credit Notes.

BANK RATE 6 PER CENT. (Increased from 5 per cent. on Thursday, July 13.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

Through dividend payments and for other reasons money has been abundant enough all the week, and easier often for seven days than for one. Steady buying of Treasury bills at the Bank of England has helped to keep the credit cistern full, but discounts have kept up, on the whole, rather well, and exchanges, especially the French exchange, have moved in a manner against our market. That is to say the Paris cheque has come down below 28, above which it has been for some time, and the movement betokens a lessening of the strain of war payments by France abroad, which it would be delightful to note did it mean a speedy end to the slaughter. It, unfortunately, can have no such meaning yet, for the Prussians, knowing themselves beaten, will nevertheless hang on in hope that, like the greatest of the Hohenzollern brigands, they may exhaust their foes and be allowed to sneak away with some of the stolen property. It is our business to balk that hope by every means possible, and the decline in the Paris cheque merely indicates that we must expect another French loan to be offered on our market soon. It is a life-and-death matter for us all, and we must be prepared to do our utmost to lend France all we can, and on the lowest terms that can be arranged.

The Bank return was not wholly pleasant, but yet not bad. The note circulation is again up, but only by £112,000. Unfortunately, £886,000 in gold has been withdrawn, whether wholly or only partially for export we cannot yet tell, and must wait another month to get any light upon, but the total stock remains large at £55,342,000, and the Reserve is down no more than £968,000, which is wonderfully little—at 23½, only 1 per cent. down, in fact—considering the formidable volume of business which passes through the Clearing House and through the Treasury every day in the week. Private deposits and "Other" securities continue to

mutually distend each other, deposits being up £2,953,000 and securities higher by £3,798,000 on the week. Government balances have varied but little, and the total of "public" deposits is still £52,219,000, which, although £77,369,000 below a year ago's figure, is still enough to rub along with.

Latest items of gossip about the new German loan indicate its probable failure. Corporations, public bodies of all sorts that can be coerced, are parading their contributions, and the slight turn of the foreign exchanges here and there in favour of Berlin may indicate that patriotic Teutons living abroad are still "putting their money on the wrong horse," but the private subscriber in Germany is not prominent. He has begun to see that his country is being driven to ruin by its tyrants, or that the loan has no security of any kind behind it, since the said tyrants are afraid to impose the requisite taxation, whose product might be assumed to give a semblance of security. Most potent influence of all—as we note under Passing Events—the bulk of the German people have no means left with which to subscribe. Will loan-failure stop the war? Not unless the people have moral courage enough to stand up to their masters and remove them from power.

In view of attempts to send subscriptions to the German loan from this country—where many people of German nationality still live—*The Times* has done well to publish a warning to neutrals to beware of trying. Pro-Germans would not be allowed to do so openly, and if they try by roundabout ways and subterfuges familiar to the arbitragist, to evade our Money market police, so to say, the consequences are sure to be formidable. Confiscation of the money should be the least of the punishments inflicted for infringement of the regulations.

An interesting piece of news was published in the Money market columns of the *Morning Post* a week ago, to the effect that the Metropolitan Water Board had gone to New York for a loan of \$6,400,000 (£1,300,000) on yearling bills. This it was able to do under section 63 of the last Finance Act, in virtue of which interest on any British securities issued in the United States and payable there, is exempt from our taxation. But we imagine only so long as the securities remain in the States or abroad.

Some of the drawbacks of temporary borrowing are illustrated in the case of the Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia Railway. It has £600,000 6 per cent. two-year notes falling due in December next. They were issued at 99, and holders have the option of taking cash at maturity or exchanging for 5 per cent. debenture stock at par. Seeing that this stock is quoted at about 92-3, there is not much prospect of its approaching par before December, and the noteholders will therefore have to be paid out in cash. We understand that arrangements have been made for the sale of \$3,000,000 notes in New York to meet the prospective liability. Terms are not mentioned, but they are not likely to be very easy. However, it is an ill-wind that blows nobody good, and this little deal will add another prop to the stability of sterling exchange.

Brazil is said to be asking for an extension of the present "moratorium" on its debt interest. As last fixed up by the Rothschilds, paper to the nominal value of not more than £15,000,000 was to be printed and utilised in lieu of cash to maintain a show of solvency for the three years ending July 31st next year, and to prop the Brazilian exchange. The amount was more than the interest payable within that time came to, but the Government was to be allowed to devote £2,500,000 of the paper to pay for public works. Hardly had the scheme been put in operation when it began to illustrate the hopelessness of trying to prop up credit by increasing an already monstrous debt, and when the war came the essential cruelty of this squeeze-the-victim type of financing became only too obvious. So now there seems to be nothing for it but to extend the date of each payment resumption for another and a longer period, with little hope that the position in Brazil will at the last be better than in regard to its public debt than it is now. A much more radical, and

much more honest, treatment of a chronic disease appears to be demanded.

Silver has been weak most of the week, but leaves off to-night firmish at 32½d. per oz. At the end of last week the price was 32½d., and early this week dropped back to 32½d., but some buying on the part of Indian bazaars induced a recovery, which at one time lifted the price to 32¾d., with corresponding advances in the exchanges.

Applications for the Rs. 30,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 2,32,00,000. Of these Rs. 3,24,000 were allotted in bills, Rs. 17,04,000 in deferred transfers, and Rs. 9,72,000 in immediate transfers, tenders for bills and deferred transfers at rs. 4 3-32d. and for immediate transfers at rs. 4½d. receiving about 16 per cent. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is again Rs. 30,00,000. Between April 1 and September 5 the total sales were Rs. 9,02,77,713, realising £6,054,700.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, September 6, 1916.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued	72,030,180	Government Debt ..	11,015,100
		Other Securities ..	7,424,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	53,580,180
		Silver Bullion ..	—
	£72,030,180		£72,030,180

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital ..	14,553,000	Government Securities ..	42,187,947
Reserve	3,566,787	Other Securities ..	95,739,358
Public Deposits (including		Notes	35,766,060
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,761,623
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	52,218,939		
Other Deposits	105,094,078		
Seven Day and other Bills	22,184		
	£175,454,988		£175,454,988

Dated Sept. 7, 1916.

E. M. HARVEY, Deputy Chief Cashier.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year.

Last year, Sept. 8.		Aug. 30, 1916.	Sept. 6, 1916.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,672,843	Rest	3,548,698	3,566,787	18,089	—
129,587,552	Pub. Deposits ..	52,361,446	52,218,939	—	142,507
85,942,422	Other do. ..	102,140,601	105,094,078	2,953,477	—
30,906	7 Day Bills ..	21,257	22,184	927	—
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
34,418,359	Gov. Securities.	42,188,314	42,187,947	—	367
145,230,005	Other do. ..	91,941,125	95,739,358	—	3,798,233
54,138,361	Total Reserve ..	38,495,563	37,527,688	967,880	—
				3,940,740	3,940,740
				Increase.	Decrease.
£	Note Circulation	£	£	£	£
31,709,860	Coin and Bullion	36,151,935	36,264,120	112,185	—
67,479,221	Proportion ..	56,197,498	55,341,803	—	855,695
25.1 p.c.	Bank Rate ..	24.9 p.c.	23.9 p.c.	1 p.c.	—
5 "		6 "	6 "	—	—

SHORT TERM GOVERNMENT LOANS.

	Sales Last Week.	Sales This Week.	Total Outstanding.
	£	£	£
Treasury Bills	21,981,000	27,033,000	935,033,000
Exchequer Bonds, 1919 ..	484,000	1,145,000	32,801,000
Do. 1920	450,000	350,000	235,353,500
Do. 1921	1,928,000	1,747,000	56,230,000
War Expenditure Certificates	664,100	561,500	20,148,900
War Savings Certificates ..	2,000,000	1,500,000	22,850,000

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1916.	1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
January	1,071,948,000	918,685,000	153,263,000	—
February	1,107,655,000	960,743,000	146,912,000	—
March	1,364,599,000	1,231,392,000	133,207,000	—
April	1,090,356,000	976,264,000	114,092,000	—
May	1,447,416,000	1,164,194,000	283,222,000	—
June	1,147,630,000	960,209,000	187,421,000	—
July	1,239,193,000	1,316,695,000	—	77,502,000
August 2	290,541,000	260,768,000	29,773,000	—
" 9	281,203,000	273,843,000	7,360,000	—
" 16	276,710,000	283,050,000	—	6,340,000
" 23	259,155,000	258,873,000	282,000	—
" 30	257,173,000	275,985,000	—	18,812,000
September 6 ..	298,577,000	255,092,000	43,485,000	—
Total	10,134,156,000	9,135,793,000	998,363,000	—

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For 7 days ended Sept. 2.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE
	£
Customs	1,359,000
Excise	310,000
Estate, &c., Duties ..	450,000
Stamps	90,000
Land Tax and House Duty.	—
Property and Income Tax ..	1,501,000
Excess Profits Tax	3,102,000
Land Values	20,000
Post Office	600,000
Crown Lands	—
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	—
Miscellaneous	5,081
Bullion advances repaid ..	—
For Treasury Bills (nett amt.)	53,150,000
War Loan, 1925-8	—
War Loan, 1925-45	—
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919 ..	1,745,000
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920 ..	350,000
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1921 ..	1,747,000
War Expenditure Certificates	561,600
War Savings Certificates ..	1,500,000
Other Debts created under	—
War Loan Act, 1915	—
Telegraph Money Act, 1913	—
Under Post Office Rly. Act,	—
1913	—
Under Military Works Acts,	—
1897-1903	—
Under Housing Act	—
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920	—
East Africa Protectorate	—
Loan repayments	—
Cunard Loan—repayment on	—
account of principal ..	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	—
China Indemnity	—
Ways and Means Advances	—
Decrease in Exchequer	—
balances	2,186,844
	£68,086,525
	£68,086,525
National Debt Service ..	—
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	2,796,041
Development & Road Impvt.	—
Payments to Local Taxation	110,000
Other Consolidated Fund	—
Charges	10,067
Supply Services	36,255,417
Bullion Advances	100,000
For Advance for Interest	—
on Exchequer Bonds under	—
Capital Expenditure	—
(Money) Act, 1904	—
For Treasury Bills (nett amt.)	—
For Exchequer Bonds issued	—
under the War Loan Re-	—
demption Act, 1910	—
Issues under Section 1 of	—
War Loan Act, 1915	—
Under Telegraph (Money)	—
Act, 1913	—
Under Post Office (Lon-	—
don) Railway Act, 1913 ..	—
Under Housing Act	—
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8 ..	—
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11 ..	—
E. Africa Protectorate Loan	—
Cunard Loan repayment is-	—
ssued to reduce debt under	—
the Cunard Agreement ..	—
Deficiency advances repaid	—
China Indemnity issued to	—
reduce debt under Finance	—
Act, 1903	—
Ways and Means Advances	—
repaid	28,815,000
Increase in Exchequer	—
balances	—

CURRENCY NOTES.

Return of Currency Notes for the week ended September 6, 1916.

	Issued.	Cancelled.	Outstanding.
	£	£	£
£1 notes	3,458,899	2,852,397	91,756,832
10s. notes	2,200,460	1,029,687	28,549,366
Note certificates	—	—	10,130,000
Previous total	417,605,957	287,947,123	—
	422,265,316	291,829,118	130,436,198

Ratio of gold held against notes: this week, 21.85 p.c.; last week, 22.14 p.c.

FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	Aug. 18, 1916.	Aug. 11, 1916.	Aug. 20, 1915.
	£	£	£
Gold coin and certificates ..	52,185,200	41,790,400	41,190,200
Gold Redemption Fund ..	398,200	370,470	220,800
Gold Settlement Fund ..	22,000,200	21,224,200	10,986,000
Legal tender notes, silver, &c.	3,390,600	2,225,400	5,423,400
Total reserves	77,983,200	75,610,400	57,820,400
5% redemption fund against			
F.R. bank notes	100,000	100,000	—
10-day bills and loans	1,632,600	2,485,000	895,000
30-day bills and loans	5,853,400	5,262,000	2,042,800
60-day bills and loans	8,480,000	8,379,600	3,233,600
90-day bills and loans	4,916,600	5,077,600	1,831,200
Maturities over 90 days ..	496,000	500,000	317,600
Total	21,378,800	21,794,200	8,350,200
Investments—			
U.S. Bonds	9,405,800	9,340,600	1,748,000
One year U.S. Treasury			
notes	1,577,000	1,670,200	—
Municipal Warrants	5,557,600	5,595,000	3,710,600
Federal Reserve notes—nett.			
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—	3,977,400	4,013,800	1,361,000
nett.	4,213,600	3,289,400	2,548,000
All other assets	645,200	746,200	955,400
Total assets	124,838,600	122,159,800	76,493,600
Paid-up capital	11,022,000	11,026,000	10,865,800
Government Deposits	9,943,600	10,651,800	—
Reserve deposits—nett. ..	101,018,000	97,843,800	62,019,000
Note circulation—nett. ..	2,459,000	2,242,400	3,169,400
Fed. Res. notes in circulation	338,000	338,200	—
All other liabilities	58,000	57,600	430,400
Total liabilities	124,838,600	122,159,800	76,493,600
Gold reserve against nett			
liabilities	68.3 %	68.3 %	82.1 %
Cash reserve against nett			
liabilities	71.4 %	70.4 %	90.6 %

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	Sept. 2, 1916	Aug. 26, 1916	Aug. 19, 1916	Sept. 4, 1915
	£	£	£	£
Loans	650,040,000	648,808,000	648,010,000	530,918,000
Reserve held in own Vaults ..	89,280,000	89,740,000	88,172,000	99,776,000
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk.	32,980,000	34,350,000	32,100,000	27,816,000
Reserve held in Other Depos.	10,742,000	10,734,000	10,540,000	6,920,000
Net Demand Deposits	643,654,000	636,048,000	629,440,000	534,544,000
Net Time Deposits	34,634,000	39,430,000	43,408,000	28,436,000
Circulation	6,238,000	6,226,000	6,246,000	7,398,000
Excess Lawful Reserve	22,674,000	25,182,000	22,356,000	41,904,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits.

NEW YORK STATE BANKS & TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.).

	Sept. 2, 1916.	Aug. 26, 1916.	Aug. 19, 1916.	Sept. 4, 1915.
Loans	£ 142,938,000	£ 142,778,000	£ 142,436,000	£ 117,692,000
Specie	11,896,000	11,902,000	11,506,000	9,994,000
Deposits	150,936,000	150,466,000	150,524,000	121,534,000
Legal Tenders ..	1,788,000	1,744,000	1,730,000	1,690,000

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Sept. 7, 1916.	Aug. 31, 1916.	Aug. 24, 1916.	Sept. 9, 1915.
Gold in hand ..	£ 192,692,800	£ 192,509,280	£ 192,322,320	£ 175,007,640
Silver in hand ..	13,499,880	13,544,400	13,573,040	14,573,040
Bills discounted ..	15,512,720	17,912,760	16,999,520	10,596,200
Advances	46,942,280	46,993,400	47,223,080	23,573,240
Note circulation ..	663,954,480	656,985,880	655,042,640	528,921,320
Public deposits ..	6,853,480	3,206,520	6,340,600	2,291,320
Private deposits ..	84,888,000	88,546,360	89,612,520	99,149,760
Foreign Bills ..	86,640	60,000	8,520	62,680

Proportion between bullion and circulation 31.05 per cent., against 31.36 per cent. last week. Advances to the State £340,000,000, increase £4,000,000. The adjourned payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium, figures doubtful, and at the branches amounted to £30,520,280, decrease £225,280.

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Aug. 31, 1916.	Aug. 23, 1916.	Aug. 15, 1916.	Aug. 30, 1915.
Total Coin & Bullion ..	£ 124,715,450	£ 124,797,250	£ 124,805,150	£ 122,753,700
Treasury Notes	16,681,300	17,048,950	18,266,550	10,526,500
Bills discounted	353,874,250	332,929,150	335,869,000	247,084,950
Advances	634,350	514,150	607,450	764,050
Note circulation	355,892,700	343,157,700	346,337,000	278,216,750
Deposits	141,776,450	134,557,250	133,554,800	86,815,600

Clearing House returns during Aug., £266,331,160 against £273,378,015 in July.

IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Sept. 5, 1916.	Aug. 29, 1916.	Aug. 21, 1916.	Aug. 12, 1916.
Notes in reserve ..	£ 7,840,000	£ 9,400,000	£ 10,280,000	£ 10,870,000
Gold	155,160,000	155,090,000	154,860,000	154,930,000
Gold in reserve abroad ..	205,720,000	205,700,000	205,700,000	195,230,000
Treasury Bonds	391,310,000	389,460,000	393,110,000	387,330,000
Circulation note issue ..	702,150,000	696,090,000	692,720,000	687,620,000
Treasury deposits ..	20,270,000	20,210,000	10,280,000	20,000,000

NETHERLANDS BANK (12 Florins to the £).

	Sept. 2, 1916.	Aug. 26, 1916.	Aug. 19, 1916.	Sept. 4, 1915.
Gold and Silver	£ 49,360,417	£ 49,593,585	£ 49,664,250	£ 31,725,384
Bills and Advances	15,305,500	13,623,166	13,129,116	12,443,532
Note circulation	56,811,250	54,898,831	52,295,000	43,350,683
Deposits	11,059,500	11,566,416	10,971,000	1,677,792

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Aug. 26, 1916.	Aug. 19, 1916.	Aug. 12, 1916.	Aug. 28, 1915.
Gold	£ 45,704,353	£ 45,155,571	£ 44,359,379	£ 28,931,173
Silver	30,384,000	30,325,143	30,248,719	29,530,136
Foreign Bills	3,867,520	3,920,423	3,870,248	4,859,649
Discounts and Short Bills ..	23,398,423	23,659,669	23,544,706	26,210,432
Treasury Account, &c. ..	30,343,934	30,600,695	30,492,040	29,908,594
Notes in Circulation	88,890,388	89,082,620	89,502,618	80,846,749
Current Accounts, Deposits ..	32,023,674	31,877,738	31,663,956	25,784,869
Dividends, Interests, &c. ..	1,656,289	1,698,071	1,386,983	1,358,397
Government Securities	1,722,880	1,759,546	1,016,108	2,760,465

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	July 20, 1916.	July 10, 1916.	June 30, 1916.	June 20, 1915.
Total cash	£ 44,965,240	£ 44,948,800	£ 45,005,320	£ 45,121,040
Inland Bills	19,317,520	18,597,320	17,957,920	17,310,880
Foreign Bills	832,840	832,760	833,720	841,360
Advances	7,740,320	7,812,960	8,441,880	8,289,720
Government securities	8,793,080	8,777,000	8,439,960	8,559,160
Circulation	134,594,280	135,856,800	135,162,000	130,097,160
Deposits at notice	13,555,960	14,091,120	17,933,640	14,207,720
Current accounts	15,236,800	15,068,720	15,368,800	16,096,480

SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	Aug. 31, 1916.	Aug. 23, 1916.	Aug. 15, 1916.	Aug. 31, 1915.
Gold and silver	£ 13,190,966	£ 13,257,475	£ 13,263,655	£ 12,017,892
Bills	8,051,790	7,239,190	7,510,168	5,496,942
Note circulation	17,266,596	16,178,586	16,328,496	16,305,915
Current and deposit accounts	6,083,038	6,349,404	6,692,000	3,318,800

BANK OF NORWAY.

	Aug. 31, 1916.	Aug. 22, 1916.	Aug. 15, 1916.	Aug. 31, 1915.
Gold	£ 6,327,000	£ 6,328,000	£ 6,328,000	£ 3,519,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	6,107,000	6,250,000	6,471,000	3,698,000
Gov't Securities	767,000	767,000	768,000	784,000
Discounts & Loans	5,677,000	5,534,000	5,146,000	4,136,000
Notes in Circulation	12,389,000	12,126,000	12,012,000	7,937,000
Deposits at notice	3,994,000	4,079,000	4,161,000	1,766,000

BANK OF SWEDEN.

	Aug. 26, 1916.	Aug. 19, 1916.	Aug. 12, 1916.	Aug. 28, 1915.
Gold	£ 9,210,000	£ 9,211,000	£ 9,213,000	£ 6,299,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	9,462,000	9,284,000	9,365,000	5,603,000
Swedish and Foreign Gov't Securities ..	3,801,000	3,808,000	3,803,000	2,734,000
Discounts and Loans ..	2,955,000	3,020,000	3,195,000	5,838,000
Notes in circulation ..	18,094,000	18,302,000	18,174,000	14,877,000
Deposits at notice ..	5,984,000	5,956,000	6,213,000	4,899,000

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.
Paris	chqs.	28.12	27.98½	Antwerp	short	—	—
Brussels	chqs.	—	—	Italy	sight	30.86	30.60
Amsterdam	sight	11.54½	11.69½	Constantinople	3 mths	12½	12½
Christiania	—	16.85	17.38½	Rio de Janeiro	90 dys	12½	12½
Stockholm	—	16.95	17.05	Buenos Aires ..	90 dys	48½	48½
Copenhagen	—	17.20	17.70	Caleutta	T.T.	14½	14½
Petrograd	3 mths	154	145½	Bombay	T.T.	14½	14½
New York	cable	4.76½	4.76½	Hong Kong ..	T.T.	21½	21½
Lisbon	sight	35	34½	Shanghai	T.T.	21½	21½
Madrid	sight	23.62½	23.75	Singapore	T.T.	21½	21½
				Yokohama	4 mths	21½	21½

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Sept. 5, 1916.	Sept. 7, 1916.
		Sellers. Buyers.	Sellers. Buyers.
Amsterdam	Cable transfers ..	11.67	11.70
	Three months' bills ..	11.82	11.87
Paris	Cable transfers ..	28.00	28.05
	Three months' bills ..	28.40	28.45
Marcellus	Three months' bills ..	28.40	28.45
Switzerland	Cable transfers ..	25.27	25.37
	Three months' bills ..	25.65	25.75
Petrograd	Cable transfers ..	144½	145
Genoa, &c.	Cable transfers ..	30.75	30.85
	Three months' bills ..	31.20	31.30
Spain	Cable transfers ..	23.58	23.68
	Three months' bills ..	24½	24½
Lisbon and Oporto ..	Cable transfers ..	34½	35½
	Three months' bills ..	Nom.	Nom.
Scandinavia	Cable transfers ..	16.85	16.95

TREASURY BILLS.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months	5½	5½
	(£98 12 7) ..	(£98 12 7)
Six months	5½	5½
	(£97 2 12) ..	(£97 2 12)
Nine months	6	6
Twelve months	6	6
	(£94 0 0) ..	(£94 0 0)

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted ..	5½	5½
Three months	5½	5½
Four months	5½	5½
Six months	5½	5½
Three months fine inland bills ..	6	6
Four months	6	6
Six months	6	6

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate ..	6	6
" " short loan rates ..	6½	6½
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	4	4
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call) ..	4½	4½
" 7 and 14 days' notice ..	4½	4½
Current rates for 7 day loans ..	4½	4½
" for call loans ..	4½	4½

The Week's Stock Markets.

With a daily average of nearly 3,500 markings of business, which is a considerable improvement on recent experience, it might be thought that dealers would be feeling a little happier. If they are, they succeed very well in dissembling it, and one hears nothing but complaints about the prevailing stagnation in most brokers' offices. The fact is that the number of bargains recorded is only a very rough, and sometimes perhaps a misleading, guide to the amount of general business, and, of course, its distribution varies considerably from day to day. Again, the figures give no clue to the amount of the business on which brokers earn their commissions and jobbers their "turns," so that a larger number of bargains may quite conceivably represent smaller receipts towards office and other expenses—very few firms reckon to clear much more than these nowadays. Meantime, the tone of markets keeps wonderfully cheerful, in spite of the growls. It could hardly be otherwise in view of the continued successes of the Allies on all fronts, the admission of Bethmann-Hollweg that Germany cannot build (or man) sub-

marines sufficiently rapidly to compensate for the losses inflicted by the British Navy, and the very strong reasons for believing that the latest Imperial German loan has proved an utter fiasco. All these things are calculated to give us good heart, and therefore no one will sell securities bought at much higher prices if he can possibly help it, while there is generally enough investment money coming into the market to absorb any stock that is offered. But it is mostly "small beer," and the nearer the end approaches the more impatient members become to see business broadening out. There has been little evidence of a decided tendency in any direction. Home Railways were slightly depressed on the Trade Unions' almost unanimous vote in favour of nationalisation. Americans have been uncertain since the strike was averted, because Wall Street has been trying, without much success, to figure out how the increase of 20 per cent. in the wages bill is to be made good. Some interesting particulars are given in the monthly report of the British Bank of South America about Argentina's floating debt. It is well known that budget deficits and various necessary works have for some time been covered by temporary borrowing, and the total debt of this description now amounts to over \$358,000,000 paper, of which more than \$200,000,000 falls due in 1916-17. The Argentine Government has bonds and authorisations amounting to \$290,000,000 to meet the emergency, but no favourable opportunity has occurred, or is likely to occur soon, for issuing them, and the position is becoming decidedly uncomfortable. However, the holders of the short-term notes will no doubt be prepared to renew them—for a consideration.

There have been remarkably few incidents of a prominent character in the Stock Exchange this week, but, judging by the record of transactions, business is improving, and the tone has been more confident on the uniformly favourable war news. In almost every direction progress has been not only satisfactory, but brilliant, and although the end is not yet in sight, dealers are more inclined to look forward to the goal, and discuss the probable conditions of business afterwards. Consols have gained $\frac{1}{4}$, and the $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. War Loan $\frac{1}{4}$, but there are few changes in other gilt-edged securities. Bank stock advanced a point on the prospect of a dividend of $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. Scarcely any movement occurred in the Colonial list, but Nigerian 5 per cents., due in 1920, were in some request, as the yield, allowing for redemption, is about $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. In the Foreign market, the forthcoming French loan continues the subject of eager anticipation, and the fall in the exchange to below 28 is held to confirm the view that the issue is impending. It may be recalled that the "Victory" loan was issued on an exchange basis of 27 $\frac{1}{2}$, but it has been drooping in face of the new issue. Foreign stocks generally have been rather dull. Argentine 1886 has lost $\frac{1}{4}$, Brazil Funding $\frac{1}{4}$, Chinese 1896 and Cuban Ports a full point, Mexican Fives $\frac{1}{2}$, and Russian $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cents. $\frac{1}{4}$. Japanese issues received some support, but the movements have been small and irregular.

Home Railways were rather unsettled by the strong attitude of the Labour Congress on the question of nationalisation, but the main reason for the recoil in prices is the absence of business. The heavies have lost $\frac{1}{4}$ all round, and several others are a fraction lower, but really such movements mean very little in these times. American Railroads recovered smartly when the danger of a strike was definitely averted, but dealers on the other side are now beginning to count the cost, and they are not so happy, with the result that prices close below the best. Except for a few bonds and some of the less desirable shares, the market here is practically non-existent. Steels and International Mercantile Marines have both scored fresh high records, business in the States being still at full boom pressure. Canadian Pacifics have gained a point, and Grand Trunk Firsts have improved to the same extent, but the other issues have been neglected. Mexican Railway issues have fallen $\frac{1}{4}$. Argentine Railways were heavy, and the fairly good traffics did not exercise any stimulating effect.

Bank shares have been very quiet, and few changes have occurred. Bank of Australasia rose $\frac{1}{4}$, Capital and Counties $\frac{1}{4}$, and Chartered of India $\frac{1}{4}$, but Hong Kong and Shanghai fell $\frac{1}{4}$, and Lloyd's also shed a small fraction. Nothing at all occurred in the Brewery section, and among catering firms a small gain in Aerated Breads is about the only movement. Iron and Engineering companies received a certain amount of support, and several small gains are recorded. Dominion Steel rose $\frac{1}{4}$, and Workington Iron 1s.; otherwise the changes are insignificant. Among Land shares, Hudson's Bays are up $\frac{1}{4}$, while Forestal Land fell 1s. Shipping shares have been more in evidence again, and Khedivals have risen 1s., but Prince Lines fell $\frac{1}{8}$. Royal Mails are unchanged, while P. and O. fell a point, in spite of the confirmation of the agreement with the New Zealand Line. Among Textiles, Coats gained $\frac{1}{4}$, and Bradford Dyers, Calico Printers, and English Sewing Cotton

improved a fraction. Motor shares continued to improve, and Brazilian Tractions, after giving way a little, recovered.

Oil shares have shown a drooping tendency, and Anglo-Maikop, Burmahs, Roumanian Consolidated, Royal Dutch, North Caucasians, and others gave way a little, but Lobitos again improved on rumours of buying for control. Rubber

	Last Week	This Week		Last Week	This Week
Consols.....	59 $\frac{1}{2}$	59 $\frac{1}{2}$	N.S.W. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1922-7	85	95
War Loan 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ %.....	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	" 5% 1921-3	99	99
India 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ %.....	61	60 $\frac{1}{2}$	New Zealand 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %.....	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$
" 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %.....	71	70 $\frac{1}{2}$	Queensland 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %.....	86	84 $\frac{1}{2}$
Australian 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1920-22 ..	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	" 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % new.....	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$
Canada 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1940-60	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	Union of S. Africa 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % ..	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	94 $\frac{1}{2}$
" 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1920-5	96	96	" 1920-5	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	94 $\frac{1}{2}$
N.S.W. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %.....	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	Victoria 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1920-5.....	83 $\frac{1}{2}$	83 $\frac{1}{2}$
" 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 5 yr. bds.....	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	Westn. Aus. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %.....		
Belgian 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ %.....	61 $\frac{1}{2}$	61 $\frac{1}{2}$	French War Loan, 5% ..	85	84 $\frac{1}{2}$
Brazil, 1913.....	68	68	Japan 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % (1st).....	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	94 $\frac{1}{2}$
" New Funding.....	81 $\frac{1}{2}$	82 $\frac{1}{2}$	" (2nd).....	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	94 $\frac{1}{2}$
Chinese 1896.....	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	Russia 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %.....	70 $\frac{1}{2}$	70 $\frac{1}{2}$
" 1912.....	78 $\frac{1}{2}$	79 $\frac{1}{2}$	" 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %.....	81 $\frac{1}{2}$	81 $\frac{1}{2}$
Egypt Unified 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %.....	81	81 $\frac{1}{2}$	" 5%.....	90	90
Brighton defd.....	67	68 $\frac{1}{2}$	London and S.-W. dfd.....	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	26
Caledonian defd.....	98	98	" Do. new pf.....	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	98
Chatham ord.....	10	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	Metropolitan.....	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$
Gt. Central pfid.....	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	" Do. 5% New pf.....	18	18 $\frac{1}{2}$
" dfd.....	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	Met. District.....	62	61 $\frac{1}{2}$
Gt. Eastern.....	39	39	Midland dfd.....	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
Gt. Northern dfd.....	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	39 $\frac{1}{2}$	Nth. British dfd.....	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$
Gt. Western.....	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	Nth.-Eastern.....	103	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lancs. and Yorks.....	72 $\frac{1}{2}$	72	Nth.-Western.....	103	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
			Sth.-Eastern dfd.....	29 $\frac{1}{2}$	29 $\frac{1}{2}$
Canadian Pacific.....	183 $\frac{1}{2}$	185 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chesapeake.....	62 $\frac{1}{2}$	63 $\frac{1}{2}$
" Do. 6% Notes.....	106	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	Erie.....	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	39 $\frac{1}{2}$
E. Indian Guar. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % debts.	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	Milwaukee.....	97	98
Grand Trunk ord.....	12	12	N. Y. Central.....	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	108 $\frac{1}{2}$
" Do. 3rd pf.....	27 $\frac{1}{2}$	28	Southern.....	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$
" Do. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 3-yr. Notes ..	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	Southern Pacific.....	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
" Do. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 5-yr. ".....	97	97	Union Pacific.....	144 $\frac{1}{2}$	145 $\frac{1}{2}$
Atchison.....	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	U. S. Steel.....	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
Baltimore.....	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$			
Antofagasta dfd.....	129	130	Cent. Argentine ord.....	81	81
" Do. 6% Notes.....	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100	" Do. 5% Notes.....	97	96 $\frac{1}{2}$
Brazil Common.....	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	" Do. 6%.....	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
B. A. & Pacific.....	47 $\frac{1}{2}$	47 $\frac{1}{2}$	Leopoldina.....	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	38
B. A. Gt. Southern.....	87	87	Mexican ord.....	20	19 $\frac{1}{2}$
B. A. Western.....	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	90	San Paulo (Brazilian).....	193	194
			United of Havana.....	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bank of Australasia.....	117 $\frac{1}{2}$	118 $\frac{1}{2}$	London City & Midland.....	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Barclay & Co. "A".....	78	77	London County & West.....	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
" " "B".....	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	London Joint Stock.....	22	22
Capital & Counties.....	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (£100 pd)	28	28
Chartered of India.....	59 $\frac{1}{2}$	59 $\frac{1}{2}$	" Do. (£125 pd).....	30	30
Hongkong & Shanghai.....	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	76	Parr's.....	30 $\frac{1}{2}$	30 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lloyds.....	24	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	Standard of S.A.	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
London & Provincial.....	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	Union & Smiths.....	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	24
London & S.W.....	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$			
Apollinaris ord.....	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	13	Forestal Land.....	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	51 $\frac{1}{2}$
Armstrong, Whitworth.....	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	39 $\frac{1}{2}$	Furness, Withy.....	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$
Associated Cement.....	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	Hudson's Bay.....	7	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Birmingham Small Arms ..	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	Imperial Tobacco 'B' pf.	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$
Borax dfd.....	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	" Do. 'C' pf.....	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	36 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bovril.....	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	Kynochs.....	30 $\frac{1}{2}$	29 $\frac{1}{2}$
Brazil Traction.....	62	61 $\frac{1}{2}$	Lever Bros. "C" pf.....	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	21 $\frac{1}{2}$
British Amer. Tobacco ..	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	Lyons, J.....	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Brown (John), & Co.....	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	Marconi.....	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	38 $\frac{1}{2}$
Brunner, Mond.....	49	49	Maypole Dairy dfd.....	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	23 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cammell-Laird.....	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mond Nickel ord.....	38	38
Casner-Kellner.....	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	National Steam Car.....	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	19 $\frac{1}{2}$
Coats.....	61 $\frac{1}{2}$	61 $\frac{1}{2}$	Pears, A. & F.....	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cunard.....	83 $\frac{1}{2}$	83 $\frac{1}{2}$	P. & O. dfd.....	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	33 $\frac{1}{2}$
Dennis Bros.....	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	Royal Mail.....	126	127
Dorman, Long.....	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	South Durham Steel.....	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	34 $\frac{1}{2}$
Eastmans.....	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	Underground Inc. Bds.....	92	89 $\frac{1}{2}$
English Sewing Cotton.....	45 $\frac{1}{2}$	45 $\frac{1}{2}$	Vickers.....	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fine Cotton Spinners.....	30 $\frac{1}{2}$	30 $\frac{1}{2}$			
Anglo-Egyptian "B".....	71	71 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mexican Eagle pf.....	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$
Baku (ros).....	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	North Caucasian.....	29 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 $\frac{1}{2}$
Burmah.....	42	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	Roumanian Cons.....	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lobitos.....	39 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	Royal Dutch (100 gulden)	45 $\frac{1}{2}$	45 $\frac{1}{2}$
Maikop Combine (ros.) ..	31	31	Shell.....	58 $\frac{1}{2}$	58
Maikop Pipeline.....	41	51	Spies (10/-).....	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
Mexican Eagle.....	37	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	Ural Caspian.....	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$
Anglo-Java Rub. (2/-).....	64 $\frac{1}{2}$	66	Merlimau 2/-.....	51 $\frac{1}{2}$	51 $\frac{1}{2}$
Anglo-Malay 2/-.....	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	Pataling 2/-.....	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	34 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ayer Kuning £1.....	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	Port Dickson 2/-.....	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	31 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bukit Mertajam 2/-.....	51 $\frac{1}{2}$	51 $\frac{1}{2}$	Rubber Trust £1.....	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bukit Sembawang 2/-.....	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	Sapumalkande £1.....	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$
Carey United £1.....	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	Selangor United 2/-.....	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	21 $\frac{1}{2}$
Grand Central £1.....	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	Sialang £1.....	66 $\frac{1}{2}$	66 $\frac{1}{2}$
Gula Kalumpung £1.....	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	Singapore Para 2/-.....	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	31 $\frac{1}{2}$
Highlands £1.....	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	Singapore United 2/-.....	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	31 $\frac{1}{2}$
Java Para £1.....	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	Taipung 2/-.....	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$
Johore Rubber Lands £1.....	29 $\frac{1}{2}$	30 $\frac{1}{2}$	Tandjong 2/-.....	78 $\frac{1}{2}$	79 $\frac{1}{2}$
Langen Java £1.....	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	Tandjong Malim £1.....	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$
Linggi 2/-.....	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	Tebrau £1.....	67 $\frac{1}{2}$	66 $\frac{1}{2}$
London Asiatic 2/-.....	71 $\frac{1}{2}$	71 $\frac{1}{2}$	United Serdan 2/-.....	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	12
Malacca £1.....	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	United Temiang 2/-.....	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	34 $\frac{1}{2}$
Malayalam £1.....	32 $\frac{1}{2}$	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	Vallambrosa 2/-.....	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	17 $\frac{1}{2}$
Abbottakoon (10/-).....	69	66	De Beers dfd. (£2 ros.) ..	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Brakpan.....	43	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	East Rand.....	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
Broken Hill Prop. (8/-) ..	60 $\frac{1}{2}$	59 $\frac{1}{2}$	Gt. Boulder (2/-).....	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cam & Motor.....	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	Meyer & Charlton.....	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Central Mining (£12).....	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	Modder "B".....	64 $\frac{1}{2}$	64 $\frac{1}{2}$
Chartered.....	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Deep.....	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
City Deep.....	43	44 $\frac{1}{2}$	New Modder (£4).....	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	19 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cons. Gold Fields.....	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	Rand Mines (5/-).....	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	38 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cons. Langlaagte.....	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	Rio Tinto (£5).....	61 $\frac{1}{2}$	61 $\frac{1}{2}$
Crown Mines (10/-).....	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Van Ryn Deep.....	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$

shares have been fairly active, and the tone on the whole has been good. Plantation Investment Trusts have recovered the ground lost on the disappointing dividend, and some of the higher-priced shares have been in keen demand, with substantial gains in some cases. Java companies, after being rather neglected, have come to the front again, but the movements as a rule have been unimportant.

Lord Rochdale has accepted the deputy-chairmanship of the Union Bank of Manchester, in lieu of Sir Charles Behrens, who has resigned his seat upon the board.

LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

SUGAR.—No change was made in official quotations, and the comparatively small supplies available were readily disposed of. Stocks of raw descriptions in the three chief ports of the United Kingdom amount to 59,000 tons, against 44,600 last year, and 66,000 the previous year.

COFFEE steady, though generally quiet, and small offerings in auction were only partially disposed of. After ruling rather quiet, the market for future delivery improved on stimulating accounts to hand from the Brazils, closing, however, easier. December sold, 49s. 10½d. to 50s. 3d., and 50s.

COCOA very quiet, and featureless, with sellers asking late rates for most kinds. No public sales were held this week.

TEA.—Market firmer for nearly all descriptions, active and well-distributed competition being experienced. During the week 23,000 packages Indian, 20,000 packages Ceylon, and 4,000 packages Java were catalogued.

SPICE.—There was only a moderate amount of business in progress. Of pepper, black Singapore, afloat, sold, 7½d.; white ditto, October-December, 9½d., and Muntok, 9¼d. Fair Zanzibar cloves, October-December delivery, sold, 7½d. Tapioca steady, quiet. Flake spot, sold, 3½d. for fair.

RICE very firm, though generally dull. The steamer "Pekin," afloat, sold, 17s. for No. 2 cleaned Rangoon, and 16s. 6d. s.q., c.f. and i. terms, to Portugal. Bran keeps firm, with a good demand. Beans advanced under reserved offers and increased buying orders. Rangoon spot, sold, £19 15s. to £20 10s.; October-November, £21 to £22 10s. Japan peas, August-September, sold, £36.

FIBRES firm and dearer in the case of jute, as offers were very sparingly made. Native first marks, September-October, Dundee, sold £33 15s., £34 5s. Sales in hemp include fair, spot, at £51 10s.; November-January, £50 10s.; coarse, January-March, £46 5s., £46 10s.; brown, July-September, £48. New Zealand firm, but quiet.

SHELLAC.—A firm market resulted, and there was a fair trade doing. Fair second orange, spot, sold 13½s.; October, 13½s. 6d., 13½s., and 13½s.; December, 13½s. 6d., 13½s. Free A.C. garnet, spot, sold 12½s.

RUBBER market remained generally quiet. Plantation, spot, crepe, sold 2s. 2½d., 2s. 3d.; October-December, 2s. 4d., 2s. 4½d., and 2s. 4d. Ribbed smoked sheet, spot, sold 2s. 2½d., 2s. 2½d. Fine hard Para, spot, 3s. 3½d.; September-October, 3s. 1d. Soft fine, September-October, 2s. 10d.; ball ditto, 2s. 1d.; scrappy, 1s. 10d.

COPRA firmly held, and there was a moderate trade doing to Marseilles at slightly better prices.

METALS.—Copper: There is no feature to report in the standard market this week, business being on a small scale. A steady tone prevailed last Monday, when cash delivery closed at £110, and three months £107. Freer selling desire occurred until the middle of the week, and a gradual downward tendency set in, while values of these dates left off at £108 10s. and £106 respectively. At Thursday's session cash settled down at £109 10s., and three months £106 10s. Electro, £132 to £130. Tin: After a firmer opening last Monday, rates relaxed on realisations, standard, on spot, moving to £170 5s., and three months to £171 10s. A cessation of selling prevailed since, and by the middle of the week cash delivery fluctuated to £171, and three months £172. At Thursday's meeting a slight decline took place, cash closing at £170 15s., and three months at £171 15s. Shipments from the East during the past month amount to about 4,530 tons. Spelter rather lower. G.O.B., September, £48 10s.; December, £41 10s. Lead easier. Foreign, September, £30 5s.; December, £29 5s. Quicksilver unaltered at £17 15s.

CORN (Mark Lane).—Although business showed no expansion this week, the general tendency continued good, and in a few principal cases prices were placed at a higher level. Wheat: English whites and reds, delivered up, ranged to 67s. per qr., 504 lbs. Imported No. 1 Northern Manitoba held for 74s. 6d., ex ship. Flour: American first spring patents 52s. 6d. upwards, and Canadian patents 52s. to 53s., both landed. Oats: La Plata, new landed, 31s. 6d. to 32s. 6d., according to quality. American white clipped No. 2, 34s. 6d., ex quay. Grinding barley: American, on sample, 45s. 6d. to 46s., ex quay. Maize: New La Plata, sound, 53s. 6d., and white Egyptian quoted at 50s. 6d., both ex quay.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—An uncertain feeling continues to prevail throughout the market, and after the big advance in raw cotton prices at the end of last week as a result of the unfavourable Bureau report, rates during the last few days have been rather easier. Although no big slump in values is anticipated, it is doubted in some quarters whether the highest figures can be maintained. There is still time for some improvement in the outlook for the American crop, but it is feared that at the best the yield will only be of moderate dimensions. The times at the moment are out of joint, and all kinds of irregularities are noticeable as a result of the abnormal situation, both as regards high prices in the raw material and restriction of output in both spinning and manufacturing districts, owing to the shortage of labour. In cloth for export a considerable inquiry has been dealt with, but in most instances the demand has not been of a practicable character. In spite of difficulties in arranging terms of fresh contracts, some fair lots have been put through for India in light goods. On the other hand, bids in shirtings remain very poor, and this section of our market is very depressed. China shippers have not been stimulated to purchase with more freedom, and very few workable offers have been met with in grey staples. Of the minor outlets Egypt has undoubtedly been the best, and here and there quite a healthy business has been done, chiefly in sized shirtings. Manufacturers

derive some strength from the fact that the output of cloth is much smaller than in pre-war days, and more care than usual has to be given to the question of delivery, as it is feared that as the months go on still fewer operatives will be available. In American yarns for home use some irregularity in quotations has been perceptible; but many spinners remain fairly independent, and strive to improve their margin of profit as the raw material declines. Some special sales have been mentioned in

CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 8, 1916.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
Sugar —per cwt., duty 14½, 98% polarisation	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Wool —per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tate's Cubes No. 1	2 7 1½	2 7 1½	Australian	3-3 10½	1 10-3 11
Ditto, H.T.S.	2 6 7½	2 6 7½	Scoured Merino	9½-3 2	1 9½-3 2
Fine granulated	nom.	nom.	Greasy Merino	10½-2 3	1 1-2 0
Lyle's granulated	41 7½-42 1½	41 7½-42 1½	Greasy Crossbred	4-1 11	1 8-2 2
Foreign granulated, first marks	nom.	nom.	New Zealand (scoured) Merino	2-3 10	3 1½-3 6
f.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	2-1 10	1 2½-1 8
German Cubes f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Cape snow white	2-10 3	2 0-3 1
French Cubes	nom.	nom.	Indiarubber p. lb.		
Crystallised, West India	nom.	nom.	Plantation, Spot		
Beet, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Crepe	0 2 3	0 2 2½
Tea —per lb., duty 1½ lb.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Coal —per ton		
Indian Pekoe	0 9-1 1	0 9½-1 6½	Durham, best	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 9-2 0½	0 9½-1 11½	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Orange	0 9½-1 6½	0 10-2 1	East Hartlepool	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 10-2 0½	0 11-2 2	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Pekoe Souchong	0 8½-1 1½	0 9-1 0½	Steam, best	40½	35½ 40½
Ceylon Pekoe	0 8½-1 1½	0 9-1 0½	Seconds	35½	30½
Broken	0 9½-1 1½	0 9½-1 0½	Lead —per ton	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Orange	0 8½-1 0½	0 9-1 0½	English Pig	32 10 0	32 0 0
Broken	0 10-1 1	0 10-1 2½	Foreign soft	31 0 0	30 10 0
Pekoe Souchong	0 8½-1 0	0 9-0 10½	Quicksilver —per bottle firsthand	£17½	£17½
Cocoa —per cwt., duty 6d. per lb.	s. s.	s. s.	Tin —per ton		
Trinidad	83 0-85 0	79 0-84 0	English Ingots	£174-£175	£173-£174
Grenada	74 0-83 0	70 0-82 0	Do, bars	£175-£176	£174-£175
West Africa	70 0-74 0	70 0-74 0	Standard cash	£170 5 0	£171 0 0
Ceylon Plantation	73 0-74 0	72 0-74 0	Tin Plates, per box	32½ upds.	33½ upds.
Guayaquil Ariba	96 0-100 0	96 0-100 0	Copper —per ton		
Coffee —per cwt., duty 4½ per cwt.			English, Tough	nom.	nom.
East India	67 0-95 0	67 0-95 0	per ton	£127-£128	£126-£125
Jamaica	62 0-84 0	62 0-84 0	Best Selected	£150	£150
Costa Rica	62 0-84 0	62 0-84 0	Sheets	£110 0 0	£110 0 0
Provisions			Standard	£110 0 0	£110 0 0
Butter, per cwt.			Jute —per ton		
Australian finest	nom.	nom.	Native firsts for shipment Oct.	£32 10 0	£34 0 0
Irish Creameries	180½-188½	180½-186½	Oils		
Dutch ditto	nom.	nom.	Linseed, per ton	£36½-£37½	£36½-£37½
Russian finest	nom.	nom.	Rape, ref. English	£46½-£48½	£46-£48
Normandy baskets	nom.	nom.	barrels	nom.	nom.
Danish finest	196½-198½	194½-198½	Brown English	nom.	£43 0 0
Brittany rolls	16½-19½	16½-19½	naked	nom.	£43 0 0
Bacon —per cwt.			Cott'n Seed, crude	£34 10 0	£34½-£35
Irish	120 0-125 0	114 0-120 0	Ditto, refined	£41-£51½	£41-£51½
Continental	112 0-126 0	106 0-121 0	Petroleum Oil, per 8 lbs.	1½	1½
Canadian	100 0-110 0	108 0-116 0	Water White	1½	1½
American	97 0-103 0	98 0-104 0	Oil Seeds, Linseed	—	—
Hams —per cwt.			Calcutta—per 4½ lbs., Sep. Oct.	3 16 9	3 16 6
Irish	138½-148½	138½-148½	Rape, Toria	69½	69½
Canadian	0 0-0 0	0 0-0 0	Iron—per ton	nom.	nom.
American	70 0-110	68 0-112 0	Cleveland Cash	nom.	nom.
Cheese —per cwt.			Tobacco —duty, unmanufactured		
Edam	0 0-0 0	0 0-0 0	5½ to 6½ per lb.		
Canadian	102 0-105 0	103 0-106 0	Maryland & Ohio	0 6-0 10	0 6-0 10
Gouda	nom.	nom.	per lb. bond	0 8-1 6	0 8-1 6
English Cheddar	104 0-116 0	104 0-116 0	Virginalea	0 6½-0 10	0 6½-0 10
Wilts loaf	nom.	nom.	Kentucky leaf	1 0-3 0	1 0-3 0
New Zealand	102 0-104 0	103 0-105 0	Latakia	1 0-0 0	1 0-0 0
Rice —per cwt.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Havana	0 6-2 0	0 6-2 0
Garden Siam	17 3-17 6	17 6	Manila	0 6-2 0	0 6-2 0
spot	17 0	17 0	Cigars, duty 10½	2½ upds.	2½ upds.
Rangoon 2 stars	17 0	17 0	per lb.	2½ upds.	2½ upds.
Eggs —per 120.			Timber —Wood.		
English	24 0-25 0	24 0-25 0	Pitch Pine	250½-270½	250½-270½
Irish	23 0-24 0	23 0-23 0	Indian Teak	400½-600½	400½-600½
Danish	23 0-25 0	23 0-25 0	Turpentine		
Spelter			American Spot	2 2 9	2 3 3
G.O.B. as to position	£49-£42	£50-£44	Copra		
Flour —per sack.			Malabar, London		
Town Households	55½	56½	Sept.-Oct.	32 10 0	32 10 0
Official	55½	56½	Ceylon, London	31 12 6	31 12 6
American First	52½ upds.	53½ upds.	South Sea	28 15 0	28 15 0
Patents	52½ upds.	53½ upds.	F.M.S.	29 5 0	29 5 0

medium counts, but coarse numbers rather tend to lose ground. Only miscellaneous sales have been mentioned in shipping yarns. The demand for India is rather better than that for the Continent. Bolton spinners remain stiff in quotation, and pretty full rates have had to be paid for anything wanted, but buying has been rather restricted.

Kaministiquia Power.—Net earnings for July, \$25,954.51; increase, \$2,495.01. Aggregate net earnings from November 1, \$241,166.53; increase, \$19,060.40.

At the annual general meeting of the British Empire Trust, on Monday, Mr. R. M. Horne-Payne, the chairman of the company, dealt at some length with the position and prospects of the Canadian Northern Railway system, the British Columbia Electric Railway, the Toronto Power Co., and other enterprises with which the Trust is closely associated.

Our Foreign Trade.

Last month's Board of Trade returns are the best that have been issued since the commencement of the war, and as the improvement has been progressive for some time past, we may safely infer that our foreign commerce is in a wonderfully healthy condition, notwithstanding the enormous amount of energy directed to the output of munitions. Here is a summary of the figures for August and for the past eight months:—

AUGUST, 1916.			
	£	£	%
		Increase.	
Imports	76,116,834	6,715,915	9.6
Exports	47,720,323	15,281,468	47.1
Re-exports.....	7,738,486	414,737	5.6
EIGHT MONTHS.			
Imports	626,693,513	53,035,709	9.2
Exports	335,851,261	85,068,007	33.9
Re-exports.....	69,754,508	1,698,949	2.4

Allowance must be made for the fact that last month had only four Sundays, against five in 1915, and there was no Bank Holiday this year, so that there were at least two extra working days to its credit. Moreover, there has been a considerable advance in prices, but when all is said and done, the figures are wonderfully satisfactory. Compared with August, 1914 (the first month of war, when everything was disorganised), there is an increase of £33,774,000 in imports, of £23,059,000 in exports, and of £3,319,000 in re-exports. On the eight months (which included seven months of peace in 1914) there is an increase of £149,135,000 in imports and of £11,777,000 in exports, but a decrease of £1,768,000 in re-exports, quite a marvellous record in its way.

With regard to the past month, there is a decrease of £1,259,000 in food, drink, and tobacco imports, mainly owing to much smaller landings of meat, including animals. Bacon declined 23½ per cent. in quantity, but only 7 per cent. in value, while beef fell 42½ per cent. in quantity and 41½ per cent. in value, so that there was only a trifling advance in price in this case. Butter fell 26½ per cent. in quantity and only 12 per cent. in value, while margarine increased 46 per cent. and 77½ per cent. respectively, and cheese 33 per cent. and 60 per cent. Wheat was 23 per cent. short, but the price was higher, the value being only 16½ per cent. down. Indian corn fell 30 per cent., but we paid 4½ per cent. more for the smaller quantity. Barley increased 58½ per cent. and cost 112 per cent. more, but oats were cheaper, an increase in weight of 60½ per cent., costing only 36½ per cent. more. Imports of raw materials increased £7,636,000, the principal items being cotton £3,054,000, oilseeds £2,233,000, and timber £960,000, while there was a decline of £680,000 in hides. Prices scarcely affected the last named, but cotton was decidedly dearer, the quantity being up 103½ per cent., and the value 189 per cent. Hemp, flax, wool, and timber were all much higher, a decrease of 20 per cent. in sawn wood being accompanied by an increase of 24 per cent. in cost. Changes among manufactured articles just about cancelled each other out, and the nett difference is a trifling increase of £230,000.

Exports have much the same tale to tell. Raw materials show an increase of £1,607,000, to which coal contributed £1,546,000, or 44½ per cent. increase, although the quantity fell 4½ per cent. Manufactured articles advanced £12,068,000, cotton contributing £3,004,000, iron and steel £2,452,000, apparel £1,219,000, woollen fabrics £945,000, and chemicals £723,000. Iron and steel increased 7½ per cent. in quantity and 69½ per cent. in value, and cotton piece goods were up 1½ per cent., but fetched 32 per cent. more. Jute also was higher, but woollen tissues came appreciably cheaper. For the eight months to date exports of coal show an increase of £7,691,000, iron and steel £15,020,000, cotton fabrics £18,977,000, woollens £9,364,000, apparel £3,467,000, chemicals £3,269,000, paper £1,554,000, cutlery £960,000, and motors, &c., £885,000. Looking at the enormous variety of the goods we send out, we can only express

the utmost surprise and satisfaction that our foreign trade displays such wonderful elasticity. Bullion movements are now temporarily excluded from the returns—quite rightly, we admit—and therefore we cannot give our usual tables showing the visible balance of trade.

American Business Notes.

President Wilson's Bill to settle the dispute between the railroad managers and their "train men" will not settle it. The conflict between Capital and Labour will go on in the United States, and will continue to be all the more embittered because of the dishonesties by which railway inception and management have been distinguished in the past. In the actual position we see the effects on both sides of past unscrupulousness. "You have made enormous fortunes by robbing the community in the past," say the men, "and we are out to get some of the plunder back for ourselves." "The past has nothing to do with this dispute," say the representatives of the capitalists in reply. "You are not now fighting honestly for an eight-hour day, but for excessive wages. Take, for example, a freight employee paid 5 cents a mile, with a guarantee of \$5 for 100 miles, or ten hours or less. It is proposed to make this guarantee the same for eight hours or less. On a freight run of, say, only 60 miles he earns \$5 for his time. It is now proposed that for this work he be paid \$5 for the first eight hours and \$1.25 for the other two hours, a total of \$6.25—increasing his pay by 25 per cent. If by reason of traffic delays he is held idle on a side track, so that he does not complete his trip until the end of 12 hours, he is now paid \$6 for his time no matter how little work he performs. The demand is to pay him \$7.50 for this 12 hours' service. Meanwhile, the employees would continue to have the same opportunities as now to make still larger pay on the mileage basis. For example, the man on a 5 cents a mile rate making, say, 150 miles in only 7 hours, makes \$7.50 for his day's work. If after this he is called for a short period of emergency work—say, only two hours—he gets another full day's guarantee of \$5, making \$12.50 in this example for only nine hours' work."

This in essence is the case of the masters, and they demand arbitration on the entire dispute. "We won't arbitrate," answer the men, and the President, struggling hard to avert a strike, and offering a Commission with roving powers of investigation, seems to have suggested a compromise, which, yielding to the men's demands, sought to placate the magnates by hinting that the money—\$50,000,000 additional in wages to be paid—might be got back from the long-enduring public through an increase in freight rates. "The brass tacks of the situation is this," says Mr. Ripley, the able president of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fé, in picturesque American, "let the men declare for an eight-hours' day for eight-hours' work, and I will take off my hat and coat and put in my best links for their cause." But the men want the money, it seems, not the binding engagement to put in a stipulated amount of work for it, and therefore the fight will be resumed, new law or no new law. It does not open up a very exhilarating prospect for the future of railroad property in the Republic, all the same, and we think the men would have shown more wisdom in accepting arbitration; for slack times will come again, putting the boot on the other leg probably, and no force on earth is more ruthless than corporate capital in America when it gets the upper hand. Presumably the wages paid—though the highest in the world now for this class of labour, the managers allege—are short of enough on the average, but it is best to secure amelioration by straight, above-board fighting. Will our railwaymen stand up like men and fight above board? Labour is getting ready for insurrection here also. Further than this we cannot now go, because final judgment is impossible until we have before us a full statement of the men's case.

In its final shape, the Ship Purchase Bill President Wilson has piloted through Congress may involve the United States people in more loss than gain. Also it might for a time though create trouble in the Atlantic carrying trade. A Shipping Board is created, and endowed with £10,000,000, to be procured by the sale of Panama Canal bonds, created but not needed for the completion of that great undertaking. Members of this board are to have salaries of \$7,500 a year, instead of the \$10,000 first proposed. It is to have power to adjust foreign discriminations against American shipping by diplomatic action, and to retaliate if grievances cannot be redressed by other means. The Board is further authorised, through a corporation or corporations to be organised for the purpose, "to build, purchase, lease, or create" vessels suitable for use in ocean trade, but ships already engaged in the domestic or foreign commerce of the Republic must not be bought, unless such vessels have been definitely withdrawn from that commerce—surely a door opened wide for the incoming of many abuses—and the Government itself is forbidden to run ships for a longer time than five years after the war in Europe ends; but it may acquire ships of certain quality, whether of home or foreign build, for use in the coastwise trade of the United States, and, of course, the President is empowered to take any ship for the Navy it may want, on suitable compensation being paid. Other provisions there are, but they do not affect the main design of the fabric. It assumes an ability to create a mercantile navy, auxiliary to the fighting navy, also to be constructed on the waste-all European scale, and to make it a "paying proposition" in defiance of the bar-the-door-to-all free, clean intercourse between the Republic and other countries policy which has hitherto effectually kept the Republic out of the international carrying trade. If the board builds fast enough, though, it might get a chance to make money for a time by hiring out its ships to European countries likely to be short of tonnage for some years after the war.

For the first half of this year, says the American Iron and Steel Institute, 19,619,522 tons of iron were produced in the United States. Compared with the second half of last year, which gave an output of 17,682,422 tons, this is an increase of 1,937,100 tons, and it is 7,385,731 tons above the production for the first half of 1915, which was only 12,233,791 tons. But in the second half of 1914 the manufacture amounted to no more than 10,796,150 tons. Within 18 months, therefore, the production of pig-iron in the States has well-nigh doubled. A Cleveland trade journal furnishes monthly statistics to show that in every month of the six ended June 30 last the output exceeded 3,000,000 tons. No wonder exponents of trade feelings in the States are jubilant, and the hope is that the war demands from Europe may continue unabated for the rest of this year. In that event 1916 may prove to be "the year of a century" in the history of steel production in the great Republic. But we hope the European demand will fall off before the end of the year, both because the war may have passed the maximum of its devastation ere then, and because the Allies are better equipped to provide for themselves. They will find it cheaper in several ways to do that, for customers have been so urgent thus far that the vendor in the States has been able to riot in the prices he could exact. Bessemer steel billets cost less than six guineas a ton in January last, but soon rose to £9 a ton. At the beginning of last year the quotation sank as low as £3 16s. to £3 18s. a ton. Other prices have gone up in proportion.

Insurance News.

The managers of insurance companies in the City of London are justly proud of the figures just issued by the Insurance Advisory Committee, and which include the head office staffs of all fire, life, marine, and accident companies in the City, together with the branches controlled from the headquarters there. The return shows that the proportion of men either serving or

about to join the forces to the total number of eligible men at the time of the outbreak of war is 97.2 per cent., the proportion to the total male staffs two years ago being 56 per cent. It is much to the credit of the companies that in all cases the men serving their country, and practically all the men joined voluntarily, receive as an addition to their Army pay and allowances a sum sufficient to maintain their pay at the pre-war level.

Many people with aircraft insurance policies issued under the Government scheme are now receiving their notices asking for the premium for renewing the policy for another year. As there are many optimistic individuals who think that the war will end long before the autumn of next year, these careful souls are raising an objection to paying the full year's premium. A question in the House of Commons elicited the reply from the Prime Minister that, owing to the additional work involved, which has been a great strain upon the depleted staffs of the fire insurance companies, who are acting as agents for the Government, it is impossible to renew the policies for a lesser period than was originally arranged, namely, for one year, renewable for a similar period. Policyholders would be well advised to pay the small sum involved in view of the increased activity recently displayed by Zeppelins, in spite of the fact that some of the smaller non-tariff offices are showing a disposition to issue six months policies. At the end of that period it may be that all the trouble of renewing the policy will have to be faced, and the game seems hardly worth the trouble.

Fire underwriters doing business in Canada and the United States received a nasty jar when the figures of the July losses became available. Owing to a heavy loss occasioned by the Black Tom Island disaster, where the estimates of the damage put the loss at over two millions sterling, the total losses for the month are about £4,600,000, as contrasted with £2,800,000 for the corresponding month of last year. For the seven months to July 31 the grand total comes to £29,758,000, an increase of £9,477,000 over the figures for the first seven months of 1915, and unless a very substantial improvement is shown during the rest of the year there does not appear to be much prospect of a profit for many of the companies.

Tea, Oil and Rubber.

After dropping ½d. to 2s. 3d. early in the week the price of rubber has remained very steady, an equilibrium having been established round about the even figure. In the share market the tone has been cheerful, and at first business was fairly active, but it fell off considerably towards the close. For a change, interest has mainly centred in the higher class, well-established ventures, partly due, no doubt, to the increased Linggi, Hepburn, and other interim dividends. This seems to indicate that the buying is of a more purely investment character than was the case when low-priced shares, and much rubbish, were being run after. There is nothing further to discuss with regard to the prospects of the industry at the moment, but if a reverse should occur, the older and stronger companies are in the best position to face it. Unfortunately, very few of them made anything like adequate provision for such contingencies in the halcyon boom days, and most of them are ill prepared for any hard knocks the future may have in store.

Some interesting and useful statistics relating to the Rumanian oilfields have been collected by our Paris contemporary, *L'Information*. As recently as 1895 the production was only 80,000 tons, but with the introduction of foreign capital it began to advance by leaps and bounds. In 1900 the output was 250,000 tons and in 1905 it exceeded 600,000 tons. By 1910 it had jumped up to 1,350,000 tons, in 1913 it was nearly 1,900,000 tons, and it is now over 2,000,000 tons, representing a gross value of about £6,000,000. Some £20,000,000 of capital is invested in the business, of which Germany subscribed nearly £6,000,000, Holland coming next with £2,720,000. The gross profit of the various companies in 1915 was about £4,000,000 and

the nett profit £1,880,000. The following table gives particulars of the 14 principal producing companies:—

	Production of Crude Oil.			Issued Capit'l.*
	1913. Tons.	1914. Tons.	1915. Tons.	
Astra Romana.....	444,025	466,605	342,173	60
Steaua Romana.....	402,360	368,397	367,565	70
Romana Americana.....	338,228	420,532	375,915	25
Colombia.....	226,770	26,083	34,710	5
Concordia.....	83,127	81,963	77,890	12.5
Orion.....	75,274	77,482	56,358	15
Roumanian Consolidated....	62,681	74,383	92,583	29.7
Chiciura Oilfields.....	41,451	50,383	8,033	12.6
Alpha.....	27,888	14,973	34,626	4.5
Nafta.....	23,066	35,745	25,760	5
Traian Roumanian.....	22,621	15,893	—	6.3
Aquila Franco-Romana.....	17,700	20,010	56,967	6
Anglo-Roumanian.....	12,974	13,585	13,202	3.8
Internationala.....	45,132	44,104	75,296	6.25

* In millions of francs.

As we have previously mentioned, the Astra Romana is controlled by the Royal Dutch-Shell group, but there are also French and German interests. Its great rival is the Steaua Romana, controlled by the Deutsche Bank, one of whose directors, Herr Strauss, was its managing director. Standard Oil interests own the Romana-Americana, and took 40 per cent. dividends out of it last year. French groups own the Colombia, which was the fourth largest producer, but it has fallen on evil times during the last two years. It will be interesting to learn how Rumania deals with the German interests now they are at war, but with Galicia overrun by the Russians, the most important point is that the Central Empires are cut off from Rumanian supplies of petroleum.

We have several times referred to the shipments of rubber direct from the East to the United States, and a few figures may be of interest. Imports into the United States for the nine months ended March, 1916, and March, 1915, respectively have been as follows:—

	1916.	1915.
	\$	\$
United Kingdom.....	34,079,700	47,377,000
East Indies.....	46,524,550	14,029,000
Brazil.....	16,956,750	38,499,000
Total.....	97,561,000	99,905,000

It will be seen that, while imports from the United Kingdom fell off 28 per cent. to March last, and those from Brazil dropped 56 per cent., the East Indies increased their shipments by 230 per cent. Moreover, it was only in March that the movement began to assume serious proportions, the imports in that month being \$10,600,000, against \$4,800,000 in February. Another point which the figures bring out is that the total imports for the later period are considerably below those of the earlier, which will come as an unpleasant surprise to a good many people. This is all the more remarkable because the price in March last was 65 cents, against 48 cents in 1915, an increase of 35 per cent., so that the quantity imported was less than the dollar figures would indicate.

What Balance Sheets Tell.

BOLCKOW, VAUGHAN AND CO., LTD.

A circular has been issued by the directors stating that they are not in a position to lay before the shareholders the usual balance-sheet for the year ended June 30, 1916. The obligations of the company for excess profits and other duty have not yet been determined. Under these circumstances the directors do not feel themselves justified at present in publishing a balance-sheet. They are satisfied, however, that, after the payment of debenture interest and the dividend on the preference shares, there are profits available for the payment of a further dividend to the ordinary shareholders of 8 per cent., in addition to the interim dividend of 3 per cent. paid in March last. Dividend warrants will be posted on the 28th inst.

SINGER AND CO., LTD.

Thanks to munitions work this company increased its trading profits in the 12 months ended July 31 by £12,541 to £62,245, and the total income, including £15,101 brought in and £534 from dividends, was £17,115 up at £77,880. Income-tax, however, absorbed an extra £6,594 at £12,000, and £5,450 more at £8,560 is written off for depreciation of plant, &c., and after providing for other charges the nett surplus is £6,435 better at £54,099. The dividend is again increased by 5 per cent. to 20 per cent., but this time the shareholders get the advantage of having it paid tax free, instead of less tax as last year, and

£25,000 is transferred to a contingencies' reserve, compared with a like amount to reserve, leaving £2,997 more at £19,098 to be carried forward. Current liabilities have risen by £24,974 to £52,212, against increases of £18,055 to £43,896 in sundry debtors, £24,742 to £38,314 in cash and £3,200 to £70,515 in stocks. Factory account remains at £25,500, while plant, &c., has been reduced by £4,669 to £42,556, but there is a new item of £5,081 for outlay on machinery, &c., on behalf of Ministry of Munitions. Investments have been increased to £22,648 through the purchase of £10,000 Exchequer bonds.

EASTERN CHEMICAL CO., LTD.

An alluring picture of the profits to be made out of the manufacture in India of sulphuric acid and other chemicals for use in the textile trade was drawn in the prospectus of this company in January, 1913. So far, however, it has not been realised, and the report for the 15 months ended March 31 is full of reasons and excuses for the failure. The works were carried on under very considerable difficulties caused by the war, repairs taking months instead of days, plant being lost by the sinking of merchant ships, and raw materials, plant, &c., being held up by delays in shipping. In addition to these troubles, the directors complain that the chemical industry in India is severely handicapped by the duties on imported raw materials, &c., being higher than those on foreign-made finished products imported for consumption by the textile and other trades. Even this catalogue does not exhaust the woes, as during the first ten months a large proportion of the sulphuric acid and Epsom salts produced had to be delivered against pre-war sales contracts at rates which did not cover the higher cost of raw materials and labour. Altogether the profit on sales only amounted to £3,361, and practically the whole of this was swallowed up by administration charges of £3,313, while debenture and other interest required £1,051. Depreciation on the leasehold buildings and plant at 10 per cent. took £4,828, and £2,565 was written off general expenditure to December 31, 1914, so that, after making minor adjustments, there was a debit balance of £8,456 to be carried forward. Additions to property during the period cost £11,014, and in order to provide funds 8,500 ordinary shares were issued; but more money is required for the extension of the sulphuric acid plant, and after allowing for the possible conversion of the £9,700 debentures outstanding, which have the right of conversion at 95 shares for each £100 debenture into shares until December 31, 1917, the remainder of the authorised capital, some 31,300 shares, will be offered to shareholders and others. In addition to the debit balance, the company has a good deal of deadweight to clear away in the shape of £5,130 for general expenses to the end of 1914, £2,352 for preliminary and debenture issue expenses, and £7,955 for benefits acquired under the agreement of January, 1913. The directors say that advices from Bombay show that since the accounts were closed sales have been steadily increasing at satisfactory prices, and if these are maintained much more satisfactory results can reasonably be expected; but in view of the figures just quoted, shareholders would be well advised not to indulge in too optimistic dreams.

Answers to Correspondents.

S. A. G.—(1) Labour difficulties and fighting have interfered with the company's business. Fuel has also been costly. There seems no hurry to buy more. (2) A few might be bought. The company has had a difficult time, and is not yet through with it, but the prospects look a little brighter, and ultimately the business should recover.

J.—(1) Quite a good share, but high enough, as there is to be an increase in the capital. Might sell. (2) These pay well at present price, and we see no reason to part with them, as the company is one of the best of its kind. (3) These are scarce, but you might be able to get a little under the figure you mention. It is, of course, speculative, as interest is dependent on the guarantee, but the concern has prospects. There is no stock we can recommend at present paying so high a rate. If you are prepared to take the risks of rubber shares and such like, you might get such a return. This leaves you 2s. in our debt.

C. H. H. (Devon).—We think you should. In exchange for your certificate you will ultimately receive another from the Treasury, which will represent your present security. If you know a broker, write to him for a form of deposit, and he will attend to the matter for you; if not, no doubt one of the banks in your neighbourhood will assist you.

Marine.—Quite correct. The commission is 1½d. per share. Registration fees of 2s. 6d. per 100 are charged by companies registered in South Africa. There is also a duty of 1s. per £100 or part of £100, in addition to our own stamp duty on transfers.

T. B. W.—In time, no doubt, the value will approach normal, and there may be sharp fluctuations meantime. It hardly seems worth while, unless you are prepared to deal fairly largely and to wait.

C. R. D.—The reason of the rise seems rather sentimental, and there may be a setback. In the long run the concern should do well. You might sell half, and take them back if they fall.

Katt.—The company has done well, and seems likely to continue to do so for some time, but we think you should sell, as the present abnormal conditions cannot last.

Canadian Bank of Commerce.—A branch of the bank has been opened at Riverhurst, Saskatchewan.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

**PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM
NAVIGATION CO.
AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW ZEALAND SHIPPING
COMPANY CONFIRMED.**

An extraordinary general meeting of the stockholders of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co. was held on Thursday at the offices, 122, Leadenhall Street, for the purpose of considering a resolution approving a conditional agreement with the New Zealand Shipping Co., and for increasing the capital. Lord Inchcape, the Chairman, presided.

The Secretary, Mr. F. J. Abbott, read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman said: Ladies and gentlemen,—For a number of years past the British India and Federal and New Zealand companies have worked in alliance in the trade between the United Kingdom and Queensland, and this has led up to a proposal to bring about a complete fusion of interests between the P. and O., British India and New Zealand companies. The P. and O. stockholders have seen the circular which has been issued by the board and the agreement which has been arrived at, subject to the concurrence of the P. and O. stockholders and to the consent of his Majesty's Treasury being obtained under the Defence of the Realm Act. That consent has been received. The New Zealand ordinary shareholders have practically unanimously accepted the provisional offer which was made subject to 76 per cent. of the shares being offered to the P. and O. Co., and to the approval of the P. and O. Co. in an extraordinary general meeting. Of 90,672 shares something like 90,215 have adopted the proposal, and the remaining few will no doubt also come in in due time. If they don't, no harm is done. Some are owned by people whose addresses cannot be found. In one case a small shareholder thinks we are not paying enough. The P. and O. board are of opinion that the fusion of interests will work to the advantage of the P. and O. and British India companies, and they confidently recommend it for your acceptance.

ASSETS OF THE NEW ZEALAND AND FEDERAL COMPANIES.

The New Zealand and Federal fleets comprise 27 steamers of an aggregate gross tonnage of 225,037 tons, and there are several new ships contracted for, some of which are approaching delivery. The assets of the New Zealand and Federal companies apart from the ships are valuable and liquid, and amount to a sum which, together with the ships and the business, make the proposed exchange equitable. The payment to be made for the £10 paid ordinary shares of the New Zealand Co., which company owns the whole of the Federal Co.'s ordinary shares, is £10 of P. and O. deferred stock, worth on the market to-day about three times that amount, perhaps a little more. While the bargain so far as the New Zealand and Federal shareholders is concerned is a good one for them, it is, in the opinion of your board, not a bad one for the P. and O. and British India companies, and we have no hesitation in recommending it for your acceptance.

In the year 1910 the P. and O. Co. purchased the Blue Anchor Line running to Australia, and have had no reason to regret this addition to their business. The acquisition of the New Zealand Co. is simply following the precedent established at that time, and I am sanguine enough to hope that the stockholders will not have any occasion to regret the step which, with your approval, we now propose to take. The New Zealand Co. have a well-established business both with Australia and New Zealand, with which we shall now be associated. A considerable number of the shareholders are in New Zealand, and practically all have agreed to accept P. and O. stock in exchange for their New Zealand shares, so that we shall have through them a bond of union with that important and progressive Dominion.

THE RESOLUTIONS.

I therefore, ladies and gentlemen, without further words, beg to propose the following resolution:—"That the conditional agreement, dated June 30, 1916, between the New Zealand Shipping Co., Ltd., and the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co. be approved and confirmed." "That the capital of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co. be increased from £1,798,133 deferred stock to £2,704,853 deferred stock by the creation of £906,720 additional deferred stock, thus making, with the addition of the existing preferred stock of the company, the total capital of the company £5,744,853, such further capital (as far as required for carrying out the said agreement) to be issued in the terms as to dividend and otherwise thereby provided." I will ask Sir William Adamson, our oldest director, to be good enough to second that.

Sir William Adamson, C.M.G.: I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution.

STOCKHOLDERS' VIEWS.

Professor Edward Hull, F.R.S.: I should just like to say a few words as one of the oldest shareholders in the P. and O. Co.—a shareholder for something like 50 years, long before the time when the capital was divided into preferred and deferred stock. This is the second opportunity I have had of speaking at a meeting of the company when amalgamation has been proposed. Amalgamation seems to be the order of the day, and doubtless the P. and O. Co., in adopting it in the former case, and in the present instance as well, have been following the spirit of the age, and the previous experience of the board enables them now to come forward and recommend this proposal to the stockholders. It is unnecessary for us to discuss the matter. We have every confidence in the directors' wisdom and discretion, and in their zeal for the company's interests. Therefore I have pleasure in supporting the resolution on the grounds which have been so clearly stated by the chairman, of promoting economy, strengthening the position of the company's concern, and generally of increasing the efficiency of the joint working.

Mr. Thomas Dence: Mr. Chairman, I am one of the largest shareholders in the New Zealand Shipping Co., and I have been for half a century a stockholder in the P. and O. Co. I should like to ask, first, whether the New Zealand shareholders will be entitled to rank *pari passu* with the holders of deferred stock of the P. and O. Co., and will receive the dividend that is usually paid at the latter end of the year?

The Chairman: They will.

Mr. Dence: Thank you. I think the proposal will be to the advantage both of the P. and O. Co. and of the New Zealand Co.

The Chairman: Well, gentlemen, if no other stockholders have anything to say, I will ask you to vote on the resolution.

The resolution was put to the meeting, and declared by the Chairman to be carried absolutely unanimously.

The proceedings then terminated.

BRITISH EMPIRE TRUST.

The fifteenth ordinary general meeting of the British Empire Trust Co., Ltd., was held on Monday at Liverpool Street Hotel, E.C., Mr. J. Davidson (managing director) presiding.

The Chairman stated that, owing to ill-health, Mr. R. M. Horne-Payne (the chairman of the company) was unable to be present, but he had prepared a very interesting statement, which Mr. N. Scott-Russell would read to the shareholders. In the course of his statement, Mr. Horne-Payne said:—"At our meeting last year, I told you how intensely difficult I found it to address you on matters of business at a time when all energies, efforts and thoughts were centred on the war. It is still more difficult to-day, and I am not sure that I could not best fulfil my task by limiting myself to stating that during the year, owing to conditions arising from the war, the British Empire Trust has not embarked on new business except such ordinary business as is regularly transacted from day to day, and that the efforts of your directors have been necessarily concentrated on protecting you from loss rather than on seeking to secure profits for you. I will now endeavour to give you some information about the companies with which we are closely associated. That the Canadian Northern Railway system has made great headway is shown by the facts that the gross earnings and nett earnings for the year ended June, 1916, show increases of 36 per cent. and 49 per cent. respectively, compared with the preceding year, and the nett earnings of the first month of the new financial year, viz., July, 1916, show the phenomenal increase of 146 per cent. over July, 1915. For the past nine months, since the transportation of last season's crop commenced, the Canadian Northern has shown exceedingly large gross receipts, but it was deprived of a large proportion of the profits it would otherwise have earned by the expense of combating an extraordinarily prolonged and heavy snowfall in January, February, and March, followed by floods in April. The best that can be said is that the Canadian Northern Railway officers now have an intimate knowledge of the territory, and are thus able to minimise the losses arising from such troubles. Of last season's harvest, the Canadian Northern system will handle about one-third of the whole crop of the Western Provinces, carrying altogether about 135 million bushels of grain.

Three events stand out in the year's history of the system. Firstly, the transcontinental line was completed and opened for traffic. The first trip was one of inspection by the president and officials of the company, during which the entire journey from Toronto to Vancouver was made in 91 hours, after deducting long stops, which is a remarkable feat. The second event of the year was the granting by the Parliament of Canada of a loan of \$15,000,000 to the Canadian Northern system. This money was borrowed to meet deficits and liabilities incurred during construction and the first year of operation as a transcontinental system, and which it had been intended to meet by the sale of securities which are available. The war rendered this sale impossible on any reasonable terms, and the Government loyally accepted the responsibility of protecting investors in this great enterprise, organised for the benefit of Canada, and in which Canada owns 40 per cent. of the share capital.

The loan is secured by a mortgage ranking immediately after all existing securities previously secured by trust deed. The statements made to Parliament show that the entire fixed charges of the Canadian Northern system are about \$15,000,000 per annum in round figures, but that by reason of the interest being supplied by the Dominion Government for a period of three years commencing this year upon the \$35,000,000 securities guaranteed by Canada in 1911, and upon the \$45,000,000 securities guaranteed by Canada in 1914, and by reason of a similar agreement under which the Government of British Columbia will pay interest upon the securities which it has guaranteed, the fixed charges of the Canadian Northern system would be reduced from \$15,000,000 by about \$4,500,000. That is to say, for the coming year the fixed charge will be about \$10,500,000 to \$11,000,000, instead of \$15,000,000, because the Dominion Government and the Government of British Columbia will pay \$4,500,000 in interest. The third event of the year was the conclusion of an alliance with the famous Cunard Steamship Co., whereby the Canadian Northern system will secure the most complete shipping facilities to and from all parts of the world. The agreement, which provides for the very closest working arrangement between the two parties, will prove a powerful factor in the expansion of Canada's overseas trade.

Turning to the British Columbia Electric Railway, the results of its operations are still very seriously affected by the depression prevailing in British Columbia, which is mainly the result of the war. During the first seven months of its financial year, namely, from July, 1915, to January, 1916, it showed a decrease in net earnings of \$598,790 compared with the same period of the previous year. Since the early part of the present year, however, the financial returns of this company show a decided improvement both as regards an increase in gross revenue and a decrease in expenditure. Since February 1 of this year the net revenue has shown the following monthly increases over the corresponding months of the previous year:—February, \$7,197; March, \$18,728; April, \$22,559; May, \$39,116; June, \$52,621; July, \$36,358. It is impossible to forecast what the conditions will be on the conclusion of peace, but it seems reasonable to expect a very considerable improvement in general commercial conditions in Vancouver and Victoria. In fact, a very noticeable improvement has already commenced. As to the Canadian Western Lumber Co., he was confident that for 10 years after the end of the war there would be a tremendous demand for lumber at profitable prices, and satisfactory profits would again be earned. The earnings of the Canadian Western Natural Gas, Light, Heat and Power Co. were well maintained, being only about 2 per cent. less than for the corresponding period of the previous year. In conclusion, he believed that the British Empire Trust had a future of usefulness and success before it. It had been largely instrumental in finding the money for the construction of railways in Canada, and he now regarded it as absolutely certain that very little of that capital would be lost.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted; the retiring directors and auditors were re-elected, and a vote of thanks to the chairman and directors concluded the proceedings.

LEACH'S ARGENTINE ESTATES.

The fourth ordinary general meeting of Leach's Argentine Estates, Ltd., was held on Friday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. W. E. Leach, Chairman of the company, presiding.

The Secretary, Mr. W. F. Yaxley, having read the notice calling the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman, after referring to the accounts, said when they last met a period of considerable anxiety had just been experienced. Owing, on the one hand, to over-production in Argentina, and, on the other hand, to the impossibility of realising the sugar on account of the difficult situation created by the war, the company had had to bear a serious financial strain. The sale of the balance of the 1914 crop to the Royal Commission on Sugar Supply relieved the situation. The directors anticipated more favourable results for the year then current, and their anticipations had been fulfilled. The price of sugar in Argentina was still low at the time the company began to sell its 1915 crop of 19,566 tons of sugar, but it rose gradually, with the result that the average realised for the year under review was \$2.76 m/n per 10 kilos nett at factory. That the amount of sugar produced was not larger was chiefly due to the extraordinarily unripe condition of the cane. An increased movement in their subsidiary businesses, particularly in that of alcohol, however, helped to swell the profits of the year, although the result of the banana crop was, owing to the frosts, less satisfactory than had been hoped for. As regarded the crop now in progress, up to the present the news received from the local management had been of rather a changeable character. Towards the end of May it was calculated that the 1916 Argentine sugar crop, with the surplus stocks in hand from previous years, would be sufficient to provide the country with sugar for the current year, and that prices would remain at more or less the level to which they had risen. Early in June a frost was experienced which caused considerable damage in the Tucuman canefields, though it only slightly affected the company's plantations situated near the equator. This had the effect of causing a reduction to be made in the estimate of the Tucuman crop, and it was realised that the country would be short of sugar before next year's crop would be available. Prices rose immediately; they soon exceeded the limit of \$4.10 per 10 kilos, and, in accordance with the law for the protection of consumers, the Argentine Government authorised the importation of 30,000 tons of

sugar, free of duty. Tenders were submitted for a total of 28,000 tons, and accepted proportionately. At first it was thought that the action of the Government would seriously affect prices, but it soon became evident that, owing to the level of the world's price of the article and the high freights, it would be impossible to import sugar which could be sold at the price then current, and this had subsequently proved to be the case. A further heavy frost occurred early in July, and at the end of that month a still more severe one was experienced. Nevertheless, the latest telegram received gave hope that 19,000 tons would be produced by the company in the current year. The directors, therefore, looked forward with confidence to a successful year's trading. Their expectations were based on the average prices now ruling and the practical certainty of their remaining at a high level. It was unfortunate for the country that the industry should have suffered in this way at a time when the difficulties of importation were so great and the world prices so high. It would have given great satisfaction to the majority of the manufacturers in Argentina if circumstances had permitted of their being able to respond for the favour of the protection which they had enjoyed in the past. There was no reason to be pessimistic as to the outlook for next year.

The report was unanimously adopted, and the retiring directors and auditors re-elected.

The Week in Mines.

Business has shown signs of broadening in the South African market, and the demand for Far Eastern shares has been steadily growing. Although fairly heavy realisations of enemy holdings of Kaffirs were in progress, the demand was more than sufficient to counteract the effect of the sales. Cape operators freely supported their favourite shares, and this buying was supplemented by a certain amount of local support. The latest news from the Burma Corporation had the effect of sending the price of the shares up to the highest level touched in the history of the company.

SOUTH AND WEST AFRICAN.

The strength of the Modderfontein group, of which quite a large number of shares changed hands, was the chief incident of the week, and in several instances new high "record" prices were touched. Modderfontein took the lead, and in response to a persistent demand, the price rose steadily from 17½ to 19½, buyers, the net rise on the week being over a pound. Modder "B" also reached a new high level, namely, 6½, and ditto Deep closed ½ higher at 7½. There was a keen demand for Government Mines, and the shares closed 2s. higher at 47s. 6d.; last month's profit was £22,561, against £20,669. In Johannesburg the price of the shares touched 48s. 6d., and rumours were current at that centre concerning a pending capitalisation of the debit balance, thus freeing profits for dividends. After weakening to 3½, Rand Mines came into request, with the result that the price closed ½ up on the week at 3½. Springs Mines on Cape buying advanced 9-32 to 3½. Welgedacht closed ½ higher at 1½, while Meyer and Charlton at 5½, East Rand Mining at 15s., Crown Mines at 2½, City Deep at 4½, and Brakpan at 4½ were all prominent in the upward movement. Exceptional weakness was shown by Nigel, which fell from 7s. to 4s. 6d., owing to unsatisfactory information given in the quarterly report, which aroused fears that the mine may be shut down at the end of the month. A little more interest was taken in Rhodesians, inquiries being received for some of the leading descriptions. Shamvas rose to 1½, but the price was finally only ½ higher on balance at 1½. Chartered moved between 12s. 10½d. and 13s. 3d., while Falcon hardened to 14s. 9d. Diamond shares had a firm appearance, as sellers were scarce. De Beers deferred advanced ½ to 12½, buyers, this being the highest price touched since the outbreak of war. The possibility of a resumption of dividend payments early next year was under discussion. Jagersfontein closed ½ higher at 4, and Blaauwbosch ½ higher at 4½. Apart from a small decline to 17s. 6d. in Ashanti Goldfields, West African ventures were inclined to harden, notably Fanti Consols and Gold Coast Amalgamated, which closed at 6s. 9d. and 16s. 6d. respectively.

COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

The principal American copper shares were adjusted to New York prices, but the remainder of the list claimed very little attention. Utah rose ½ to 17½, on the excellent dividend announcement, and Anaconda closed ½ higher at 18½. Hampden eased to 36s. 3d., and Mount Lyell to 26s. Tin shares showed slight irregular movements, with some of the Cornish issues easier, East Pool and Agar closing at 1½. Malayan improved ½ to 1½, and Geevor at 7s. 6d., Renong at 1½, and Siamese at 2½ were firmer. The publication of the news that the Westralian labour troubles were at an end had little influence on the market in the shares. Lake View, which advanced from 8s. 10½d. to 10s. 3d., was the only movement of any importance, and the demand for these shares was due partly to the advance in Burma Corporation. The shares of the last-named company reached a new high "record," namely, 3½—a rise of ½—buyers being attracted by the latest good developments at the 540-ft. level. Indian descriptions, where changed, were firmer, Nundydroog at 27s. and Ooregum at 20s. 9d. being the turn harder. There was hardly sufficient business passing to test quotations in the Russian section, but the fall in the value of the rouble tended to weaken the market. Russian Mining fell 2s. to 20s. 6d., Kyshtim ½ to 2 23-32, Tanalyk ½ to 2 23-32, and Russo-Asiatic ½ to 6½. Barrier shares were neglected.

BONDS CANCELLED.

IMPERIAL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT 4½
PER CENT. STERLING LOAN OF 1905.

The Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd., London, announces that £250,000 4½ per Cent. Sterling Bonds of the 1st SERIES, and £250,000 4½ per Cent. Sterling Bonds of the 2nd SERIES, have been PURCHASED on behalf of the Imperial Japanese Government for the purpose of cancellation, and the said BONDS are now CANCELLED.

The NUMBERS of the BONDS so CANCELLED are the following:—

IMPERIAL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT 4½
PER CENT. LOAN.

(FIRST SERIES.)

10 BONDS of £500.

210088 210408 210675/6 210755 210903/4 211180 211516 211977.

647 BONDS of £200.

130056 130261/2 130402 130416/20 132157/8 132928/31
133010/3 133017 133113 133286/8 134418/9 134795/6 134816/7
134903 135256/7 135424/8 135488 135574/606 135686 135704
135713/4 135862 135948 136239 136358/65 136473/7 136631
137075/8 137096/7 137101/2 137119 138870/1 139074 139148/51
139344/5 139635/8 139690/7 139875 139990/7 141234/5 141476
141652/3 141877 142334/5 142615/6 142768 143191 143320
143681 143768 143800 143922/3 144050 144554 144862 145476/500
145610 146067 146607 147791/5 148101/2 148106/13 148882 149066
149153/4 149416/7 149425 149909 150085/7 150099/100 150302/6
150385 150405 150464/5 150489 150536/9 150635 150657/64
150667 150807 150885 150988 151200 152204 152503 152694 152973
153450/7 153553 153562 153715/814 154123/9 154269 154282
155605/12 155865 155900 157168/77 157509/10 158330 158354
158476 158518 159406/7 159489/94 160709 161211/2 161390/6
161543/5 161637/43 161786 161940/1 162108 162291/4 162505/7
163006 163274 163387 163471 163730 163999 164080 164143 164718
164958 165028 167356 167512 167992/3 168021 168069/70 168387
168579/81 168760 168920 169223 169437 169720 170202 170558
170947 170953 171088 171719/20 171749 171853 171883/92 172314
172764 172873 172923 173131/2 173150 173400 173421 173570
173794/5 174453 174593/7 174666/7 175451/2 177686 177740
177749/53 177830 178532 178746 179121/2 179735 180551 180684/5
181587/8 181929/30 182315/7 182476 182619/20 182672 182713
182729/30 182859 183024 183244/5 183332 184331/2 184454
184458/60 184611 184731 184822 184828 185087 185144/6 185288
185475/84 185756 186005 186958/61 187029 187116 187573 187802
188158 188406 188446 188514 188913/4 189296 189900 190282
191102/6 191386 191594 191838 191910 192254 192605 192741
193348 193781 193784/8 193831/3 194400/1 194515 194745 195399
195613 195673/4 196274/5 197316 198239 198557/8 198789 198876
199058/9 200334 200447 200546 201022 201652/3 201678/80
201693/9 202342/3 202378 204479 204492 204501/2 205046/52
205516/20 205568 205766 206364 206510 206515 206596 206711/2
207854 207917 208133/4 208219 208359/60 208521 208653 209769.

1,156 BONDS of £100.

90 211 725/9 771 1087 1097 1269 1574 1577 2425 3332 3556
3985/95 4013/8 4168 4698 5221 5231/5 5413/5 6293 6424/9 6470
7011 7228/37 7240 7444/52 7753 8594/601 9255 9916/21 10640
11244 11656/7 12176/7 14362 14676/80 14694/5 14702/12 14816/8
14861 15495 16062 16345 16343/56 16926/47 17005/8 18016 18823
18852/6 19085/9 19164/5 19167/9 19913 20550/3 20582/4 21205
21236 21269 21828 22355/9 22579/83 22899/906 23103 23216/20
24417 24553 25179 25337 25630 25883/4 26638 26651/4 26760 26792
27050 27194/7 27308/12 27747/9 28463 28708/869 28884 29236
30439/41 30444 30670 30889 30936 30955/6 31474 31507/16 31732
32044 32391 32627 32715 32718/9 32968 32974/8 33094 34664/5
34667 34670 35461/6 35609 35670 35695 35698 36530 36711
37050/1 37468 37883/5 38237/41 38487/9 38558 38568 38570/9
38793 40118 40367/8 40392 40767/4 41099 41189/90 41429 41704
41722/4 42666 42679 42681 43433/4 43500 43952/6 44149 44645
44651 45090 45341 45458 45525/6 45711/3 45731 46183/4 47355
47595 47664/6 48345 48368/9 48656 48827 49017 49255 49335/6
49579/80 49946 50102/3 50223 50621 50646 51470 51625 51792
51947/8 52341/3 52419 52449 52635 52993 53024 53082 53705
54122/3 54181 54470 54480 54757 54804 55941 56169/71 56545
56605 57095 57551 57791 58023 58059 58181/5 58304 58383 58583
58807 58836/7 61101 61110/3 61216 61294 61384/9 61685/6 61973
62218/27 62323 62499 62514 62670 62688 62857 62954/8 63330 63376
63651 63716 63823 64582/3 64763 64973/4 65405 66003 66337/8
66366/7 66893 67187/93 67371 67775 67787 67811 68321 69000/69
69159/9 69180/1 69466 69578 70028/71 70258 70569 70614 70864/5
70950/1 71222/3 71477 71624 71684 71731 71848 71875 71987 72076
72171/4 72301 72958/60 73218 73334 73362 73437/40 73778/9
74266 76533 77596 77712 78055 78167 78361 78601/2 78718/9
78764/5 79285 79516 79864 79866 80088 80198 80513 80600 80671
80999 81380/2 81535/6 81659 81758 81811 81913/4 82203 82838/9
83114/1 83139 83456 83934/9 84014 84346 84348 85183 85203/7
85640 85813 85865/74 86838 87752 88018 88105 88348 89409/18
89605/8 89615/9 89855/6 91145 91651 91850 91863/5 92029 93015
93063 93302 93340 93357/9 94518/9 94893 94952 95378 95805 96247
96326 96403 96844 96912/4 96976/80 97050 97183 97488 98404 98505
99712 99884 99920 100098/9 100427/30 100666 72 100922 101186
101372/3 101526/7 101866 102273/7 102283 102435 102756 103164
103491/522 103576 103600/1 103650 103815 104227 104765 104797

104856 105518 105916 106449/55 106460 106535 106639 107105
107668/9 107674 107860 108172 108547 108699 108745 108813
108828/51 108999 109011 109046 109668 109649 110142 111367
111765 111918 112339 112354 112514/9 112521 112533 112547
113070 113301/7 114440 114487 115390 115585 115666 115695
115707 117245 117596/9 117691/700 118143 118154/6 118241
118692/3 118915 119212 119387 119611 120112/3 120117 120681
120836 122358 122703 122944 123237 124082 124107 124246 124690
127317 127636/8 127864 127879/80 127882 128190 129982 129394
129316/9 129419/33 129777.

IMPERIAL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT 4½
PER CENT LOAN.

(SECOND SERIES.)

640 BONDS of £200.

325216/8 325284 327341 327592/3 327900 327906 327908/13
327953 328026 328038/47 328060/9 328083/7 328265 328377
328670/700 328743/50 329043 329507 329649/50 330005 330156
330314/5 330348 330356/7 330613 332493/7 332689 332695/705 332711
331537 331611/3 331690 332263 332493/7 332689 332695/705 332711
332717 332915 333008 333034/47 333168 334012 334274/82 334339
334305/6 334527 334703 334801 334918/9 335054/8 335320 335555
335662 335671 336184/7 336214/6 336393/4 336399 336544 337068
337290 337563/72 337658/9 338156 338217 338519/20 338682
338872 339019 339036 339041/2 339106 339564 340085 340168
340197 340661 340682 341180 341189 341935 342171 342291
342305/6 342327 342481/2 342504/13 342862 342959/60 342983
343076/7 343306 343356/7 343370 343599 344046 344124 344162
344266 344371 344430 344677/8 344991 345101 345174 345982 346056
346346 346862 346994/6 347077/9 347263 347542/3 347547 347678
347783 348409 348440 348658/9 349023 349045 349686 349793/4
349880 350194 350199 350924/8 351055 351090/1 351147/8 351454
351624 351746 351905 351931/2 351970/1 352122/6 352186 352265
352392/3 352469 352547 352550 352860/1 352962 353018 353493
353543 353545 353571/3 353789 353902/22 353936 354259 60
354612 354652 354947 355056/9 355194/5 355562 356090 356223
359497 359617 359792 359908 357511 357556 357875 357997 358204
358546/7 358659 358826 359018 359095 359135 359446 359501
359583 359588 359601 359681/8 359841 360378 360417 360731
360849 361249/50 361756 362093/4 362201 362449 362075 363062/3
363385 363642 363706/8 363919 363936/9 364194 364961/7 365105/6
365418 365805 365940 365944/7 366242 366312 366773/4 366865/7
366910 367351 367578 367649 367701 367828/9 368303 368835/6
368855 369304 369808 369861 370152 370779 370781 371042/3 371778
372090 372329 372584 372667 372670/80 372683/4 372768 374323/5
375522/5 374791/2 374795/6 374961 375019 375164/9 375207/10
375586/7 375902 376646 376650 376921 377203 377504 377579 377692
377914 378455/8 378708/10 378956/60 378990 379217 379322 379734
379790 379792/3 379806 379936 379954 380074 380607 380676/7
380795 380826 380829 381419/20 381582 381588 381654 381674
381736 381840 382009 382249 382308 382321/2 382336/9 382710
382828/9 383032/5 383364 383601 384076/7 384323 384741 384783
384785 385073/4 385078/9 385095/7 386529 386842/3 387084
387109 387243 387263 387270 387274 387349 387355/7 388501
388667 388877 388879 389239 389334 389548 389650 389764 389940
390043 390249 390292 390486 390596 390707 391007 391034 391078
391501 392309 392558 392565 394261 394434 394692 394897
395086/8 395614 395751 396042/3 396817 396913 396973 397270
397992 398134 398204 398409 398543 398620 398674 399137 400189
400662 400812 401036 401620 401714 401976/7 402019 402497.

886 BONDS of £100.

225066 225107 225210/4 225358 225498 225526/8 225623/4
225860 225927/30 225939 226658/9 226690 227267/7 227671/5
228416 228601/10 228643 228696 228698 228710/3 228917 229078
229124 229144 229355/6 230251 230277/82 230357 230359 230500
230567 230844 231499 231817 232030 232053 232055/6 232317/22
232438 232921 233074/7 233129/30 233186 233598 233672 233764
233827 233898/901 234028 234036 234397 234508 234562 234649/57
234674 234718 234730/43 234900/1 235131/4 235264 236084
236141/3 236226 236330/9 236526 236658 236967 236977 236980/1
237168 237211 237216 237221 238588 238599 238639 238649/50
238826/7 238873/5 238907 238911 239089 239199 239240/1 239307
239742 239767 239793 240060 240127 240235 240404/5 240610/11
240637 241401 242035 242089 242275/9 242303 242441 242551/75
242634 242647 242721/7 242868 242883 242900/1 243035/7 243325/6
244256 244289 244487 244572 244756 244824 244898 244907
245118 245635/7 245639/42 245655 245655 245662 245665 245919/22
246060 246333 246388/9 246422 246476 246663 246840 246905
247014 247213 247598 247816 248115 248458 248552 248645 248879
248976 249394 249438/9 249451 249549/50 249903 249945/6 249990
250246 250409/10 250605/7 250752/3 251065 251207 251227
251589/97 251607 251718 251969/71 252367 252471 252501 252597
252641 252648 253076 253183 253862/9 254087 254202/3 254210
254327 254728 254919 254939 255241/4 255358/61 255816 255904
256068 256957 257115 257283 257598 258019 258059 258236/7
258518/9 258569 258613 258791 259162/4 259168/75 259242/50
259272/4 259681 259760 259832 260111 260247 260330/1 260340
260394 260851 260869 261178 261632/34 261674 261710 261728
262003 262078/82 262153 262349 263055/63 263348/51 264523
264724 264923 265068 265408/9 265421 266280 266421/2 266445
266481/90 266571 266854 266878 266886 266905 267154 267323
267354 267356 267594 267621 267668 267826 268063 268373 268375
268421/2 268499/510 268564 268929/33 269302/7 269310/3
269646/51 269724 269742 270045 270116 270227/33 270245/8 270340
270557/603 270988 271411 271671/2 271678 272067 272259 272322
272547/8 272618 272899 273247 273400 273428 274117 274293
274374 274570 274696 274802 275101 275112 275164 275407 27465

275574 275846 276282 276321 276337/8 276614 276626 276629
276713/22 276894/6 277001 277413 277849 277951 278304/8
278747 278814 278871 278984 279085 279095 279514 279755/6
279905 280330 280762 281176 281404 281727 281745 282415 282458
282501 282525 282931 283285 283366 283485 283535 283972 284156
284165 284399 284837/8 285245 285440 285570 285689 286121
286243 286678 286891 287629 287638 288304 288311 288516 288967
289036 289142/5 289350 289752 289754/5 290120 290129/30 290144
290257 290463/4 290472 290779 290876 291218 291382 291608
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1,670 BONDS OF £20.

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7805/7 7841/2 7917 7978/80 8226/39 8307/8 8426/7 8521/7 8580
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13808/9 14207/8 14212/41 14703 14821 14844/5 15057 15088 15418
15450/4 15544 15547/8 15692/701 16077/8 16028 17159/62
17896/900 18225/44 18575/6 18587/96 18741 19044/5 19317/21
19762/4 20022/5 20573 20723 21269 21891 21898 22953/5 22966/9
23142/3 23145/7 23202 23250/1 23422/4 23473 23582 23630
23993/24032 24076 24097/8 24174 24255 24257 24265/6 24269
24726 25105/14 25557/8 25857/61 26067/8 26178/85 26364 26425/6
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27626 27943 27986 28176/85 28188/91 28283/4 28295/7 28484
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30321 30332/4 30619/20 30727/8 308253 30834 31245 31757/61
31879 31900 31998 32078/85 32139/41 33186/90 33336 33378
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35216/7 35240/1 35396/8 35742/3 35792/3 36567 36589 36613/4
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215513 215846 216927 217828 218965 219340 219760 219827 219954
221147 221582 222502 223340 223418/9 224200 224394 224470,
224506 224723.

London, 5th September, 1916.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

A. F. Stoddard and Co.—4 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary shares; £2,000 written off for depreciation; £5,000 set aside to special reserve to reinstate the amount taken last year to meet the preference dividend. Last year no dividend was paid on the ordinary shares.

Arauco Co.—Interim on account of current year of 5 per cent. (against 3 per cent. a year ago), less tax, payable Oct. 10.

Bank of Australia.—14 per cent. per annum, and bonus of 12s. per share, together £3 8s. per share, equal to 17 per cent. per annum, placing £30,000 to reserve, with £121,700 forward, same as a year ago, payable, free tax, Oct. 6.

British General Insurance.—Interim at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for six months ended June 30, payable Sept. 30.

British Tobacco Co. (Australia).—Interim of 3 per cent. on the issued ordinary, payable Sept. 30, same as a year ago.

Canadian General Electric.—Quarterly of 1½ per cent. for the three months to Sept. 30, being at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum on the common, and a half-yearly of 3½ per cent. for six months to Sept. 30, being at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum on the preference, payable Oct. 1.

Edinburgh Rubber.—Interim of 12½ per cent., less tax, same as last year.

Glenshiel Rubber.—Interim of 12½ per cent. (actual), less tax, in respect of financial year ending Dec. 31.

Harpenden (Selangor) Rubber.—Interim of 20 per cent., less tax, on account of current year, payable Sept. 20.

Kern River Oilfields of California.—For 12 months ended May 31 at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, less tax, payable Sept. 30.

Malayan Tin Dredging.—Interim of 1s. per share, less tax at 5s., in respect of year to June 30, payable Oct. 23.

Molson's Bank, Montreal.—2½ per cent., being at the rate of 11 per cent. per annum, upon capital stock for current quarter, payable at Parr's Bank, London, Oct. 2.

Mooply Valley Rubber.—Interim for 1916 of 5 per cent., less tax; this is the company's first dividend.

North Anantapur Gold Mines.—Preferential (less tax) on the preference for six months ended June 30 last at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, and 6d. per share (less tax) on both the preference and ordinary, payable Oct. 5.

Orsk Goldfields.—Interim on the priority of 1 rouble 70 kopeks per share, and on the preference of 7½ kopeks per share, free tax, in respect of year ending Dec. 31, 1916 (Jan. 13, 1917), payable Oct. 16.

Pearson and Knowles.—Final of 6s. 6d. per share on ordinary, less tax, making 10 per cent. for year, and a bonus of 5s. per share, free tax, against 7½ per cent. last year. The directors state that, in consequence of the amount of excess profits and other duty not having been settled, they are deferring recommendations to reserve fund, and the meeting at the end of month will be *pro forma* only, and adjourned until the accounts are finally settled.

Pryce Jones.—Interim on the ordinary at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum for half-year ending July 31, against 2 per cent.

River Plate Trust, Loan, and Agency.—Interim of 9 per cent. on the "A" and 3 per cent. on the "B" shares, less tax, for half-year ended June 30, payable 2nd prox., same as last year.

Sephinuri Bheel Tea.—First quarterly of 10 per cent., less tax, on account of 1916, payable 20th inst.

Shamva Mines.—Interim of 1s. 6d. per share, less tax, for current quarter (being the third interim for year ending Dec. 31), payable Sept. 30.

Shawinigan Water and Power.—1½ per cent. for the quarter ending Sept. 30 on the common, payable Oct. 10, against 1½ per cent. a year ago.

Shelford Rubber.—Interim of 5 per cent., less tax, against 4 per cent., less tax.

Tarapaca Waterworks.—Interim of 4 per cent., free tax, on account of current year, payable Oct. 2.

Uva Rubber (Ceylon).—Interim of 5 per cent., payable Sept. 1.

Ulster Bank.—For half-year at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum, payable 22nd inst., same as a year ago.

Western Ranches and Investment.—Interim of 2½ per cent., less tax, same as last year.

Sir Max Aitken, Bart., M.P., has joined the board of the British Columbia Electric Railway Co.

As the result of the war the Chilean Nitrate Committee finds it impossible to supply the usual monthly statistics, but it appears that the total exports for August amounted to 107,383 tons, while the imports were 125,280 tons.

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SIXTH HALF-YEARLY REPORT OF THE COMMERCIAL BANKING CO. OF SYDNEY, LTD.

(INCORPORATED IN NEW SOUTH WALES.)

Presented to the Shareholders at an Ordinary General Meeting held at the Head Banking House, George street, Sydney, on Tuesday, 25th July, 1916.

The Directors submit to the Shareholders a Balance-sheet showing the Liabilities and Assets of the Bank on the 30th June, 1916, and present the following Report:—

The balance at credit of Profit and Loss, after adding the amount brought forward, and deducting rebate on current bills and accrued interest on fixed deposits, reducing premises account, paying Land, Income and other taxes, and providing for bad and doubtful debts as well as granting to the Officers a bonus on their salaries, amounts to

£209,538 8 9

Out of which the Directors recommend the following appropriations:—To payment of a Dividend for the half-year at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum out of the Half-year's Profits, £100,000; to Transfer to Reserve Fund, £70,000; to Balance, carried forward £39,538 8s 9d.....

£209,538 8 9

This meeting is called upon to elect a Director, consequent on the retirement, in terms of the Articles of Association, of the Honourable H. E. KARR, M.L.C., who is eligible for re-election, and has given the requisite notice that he is a candidate for the office. It also rests with the meeting to appoint Auditors for the ensuing year.

GEORGE J. COHEN, Chairman.

Dr.	LIABILITIES AND ASSETS.—(Including London Branch to 30th June, by Cable.)	Cr.
	£ s d	£ s d
Capital	£2,000,000 0 0	
Reserve Fund	1,805,000 0 0	
Reserve Capital	2,000,000 0 0	
	£5,805,000 0 0	
To Capital Paid up	£2,000,000 0 0	
Reserve Fund	1,805,000 0 0	
	3,805,000 0 0	
Notes in circulation	14,927 0 0	
Bills in circulation	773,538 7 10	
Deposits and other liabilities	24,284,843 18 9	
Profit and Loss Account	203,538 8 9	
	£29,087,847 15 4	
By Coin and bullion in hand	£4,043,953 9 2	
Cash at Bankers	88,746 12 5	
Australian Commonwealth Notes (Legal Tender)	2,805,102 0 0	
Money at short call in London	773,035 0 0	
British and Australian War Loan Stocks and Government and Municipal Securities	3,624,500 0 0	
Bills receivable in London and Remittances in transit	1,920,026 5 1	
Notes and Bills of other banks	105,483 10 5	
Amount due for Advances under Government Wheat Scheme	673,040 4 10	
	14,033,887 1 11	
Bills discounted, and all debts due to the Bank	14,465,017 13 5	
Bank premises, furniture, &c.	588,943 0 0	
	£29,087,847 15 4	

Dr.	PROFIT AND LOSS.	Cr.
	£ s d	£ s d
To Dividend Account for payment of a Dividend for past half-year at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum out of the Half-year's Profits	100,000 0 0	
Reserve Fund	70,000 0 0	
Balance carried forward	39,538 8 9	
	£209,538 8 9	
By Amount from last half-year	75,969 13 5	
Profit for half-year ended 30th June, 1916	133,568 15 4	
	£209,538 8 9	

RESERVE FUND.

1916—30th June	£1,805,000 0 0
By Transfer from Profit and Loss Account	70,000 0 0
	£1,875,000 0 0

GEORGE J. COHEN, Chairman.

H. H. MASSIE, General Manager.

L. A. PARKER, Accountant.

Sydney, 14th July, 1916.

We hereby certify that we have examined the bills, compared the balances and counted the coin in the Head Office of The Commercial Banking Company of Sydney, Limited, and have compared the returns of the Branches, and have found the same as specified in the foregoing Balance-sheet.

W. L. DOCKER, } Auditors.
J. J. BRENNAN, }

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1916, and September 2, 1916:—

	Estimate for the Year 1916-1917. (See note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1916, to Sept. 2, 1916.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1915, to Sept. 4, 1915.
Balances in Exchequer on April 1—			
Bank of England	—	£25,111,065	£1,898,728
Bank of Ireland	—	463,941	1,552,224
REVENUE.		25,575,006	83,450,952
Customs	71,000,000	27,022,000	16,813,000
Excise	65,000,000	20,470,000	22,930,000
Estate, &c., Duties	30,000,000	13,220,000	14,861,000
Stamps	7,000,000	2,980,000	2,543,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,650,000	310,000	330,000
Property and Income Tax and Super Tax	195,000,000	30,657,000	15,214,000
Excess Profits Duty	86,000,000	21,643,000	—
Land Value Duties	475,000	110,000	51,000
Post Office	36,100,000	13,600,000	11,900,000
Crown Lands	550,000	220,000	200,000
Receipts from Suez Canal	—	—	—
Shares and Sundry Loans ..	5,000,000	518,087	359,475
Miscellaneous	3,500,000	2,508,739	1,116,656
Revenue	502,275,000	133,268,826	86,318,131
Total, including Balance		158,843,832	169,769,083
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion	—	1,780,000	330,000
For Treasury Bills (net amount) ..	—	174,683,000	—
For War Loan, 1915-1916	—	—	35,798,408
For 3% Exchequer Bonds, 1920 ..	—	—	242,345
For War Loan, 1915-1916	—	—	452,000,000
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919 ..	—	424	—
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920 ..	—	32,801,000	—
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1921 ..	—	81,664,500	—
For War Expenditure Certificates ..	—	56,230,000	—
For War Savings Certificates	—	20,149,000	—
For other Debt created under the War Loan Act, 1915	—	22,850,000	—
Temporary Advances	—	10,000,000	—
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £345,000,000 in 1916-1917 and £229,804,000 in 1915-1916)	—	409,396,500	230,804,000
Total		968,398,256	888,943,836

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Estimate for the Year 1916-17. (See note.)	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1916, to Sept. 2, 1916.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1915, to Sept. 4, 1915.
EXPENDITURE.			
Permanent Charge of Debt ..	£12,818,000	£11,265,351	£12,136,675
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	114,436,000	49,288,131	4,211,562
Road Improvement Fund	—	—	694,395
Payments to Local Taxation	—	—	—
Accounts, &c.	9,500,000	2,640,801	2,806,740
Other Consolidated Fund	—	—	—
Services	1,700,000	690,768	793,695
Supply Services	1,637,529,000	690,506,697	513,682,755
Expenditure	1,825,983,000	754,391,748	534,325,822
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion	—	2,140,000	575,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	—	60,914	60,914
For Treasury Bills (net amount) ..	—	—	25,118,000
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan (Reimbursement) Act, 1910 ..	—	—	16,395,500
For Repayments to the Bank of England ..	—	—	160,427,623
Issues under Section 1 (5) of the War Loan Act, 1915	—	—	9,715,690
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 ..	—	150,000	980,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913	—	135,000	60,000
Under Housing Act, 1914	—	18,900	500,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8, issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1908	—	38,000	—
Old Sinking Fund—1910-1911	—	—	—
Issued under the Finance Act, 1911—	—	—	—
Section 16 (1) (b)	—	23,160	60,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1911-1912—Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Co. (Acquisition of Capital) Act, 1914	—	—	250,000
Temporary Advances repaid—Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £151,205,000 in 1916-17 and £46,852,000 in 1915-16) ..	—	185,101,500	46,852,000
		942,059,222	795,370,549
Balances in Exchequer—			
Bank of England	£25,015,933	£92,886,193	—
Bank of Ireland	1,323,101	687,094	—
Total		26,339,034	93,573,297
		968,398,256	888,943,836

MEMO.—Treasury Bills outstanding on Sept. 2, 1916 £935,033,000.

* Includes £587,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the Account.

NOTE.—Estimate as in House of Commons Paper No. 50 of 1916, and Supplementary Grants.

Treasury, September 4, 1916.

The Investors' Review

FOUNDED BY A. J. WILSON, FEBRUARY, 1892.

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NEW SERIES.

[Registered as a
Newspaper.]

SATURDAY, SEPT. 16, 1916.

[Price 6d.]

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THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.

(Registered in Japan.)

ESTABLISHED 1880.

Subscribed Capital	Yen 43,000,000
Capital Paid Up	..	..	..	Yen 30,000,000
Reserve Fund	..	..	..	Yen 20,400,000

Head Office: YOKOHAMA.

Branches and Agencies at

Antung-Hsien.	Harbin.	Nagasaki.	Shanghai.
Bombay.	Honolulu.	Newchang.	Sydney.
Calcutta.	Hong Kong.	New York.	Tiehling.
Changchun.	Kobe.	Osaka.	Tientsin.
Dairen (Dainy).	Liaoyang.	Peking.	Tokyo.
Fengtien (Mukden).	Los Angeles.	Ryojun (Port Arthur)	Tsinanfu.
Hankow.	Lyons.	San Francisco.	Tsingtau.

The Bank buys and receives for collection Bills of Exchange, issues Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit on above places and elsewhere, and transacts General Banking Business.

Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be obtained on application.

London Office: 7, BISHOPSGATE, E.C.

K. TATSUMI, Manager.

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LTD.

Head Office: 15, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.

Capital Authorised	...	...	£1,500,000
Capital Issued	...	...	1,125,000
Capital Paid Up	...	...	562,500
Reserve Fund	...	...	550,000

Branches:

INDIA, BURMAH, CEYLON, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS
CHINA, AND PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS.

The Bank buys and sells Bills of Exchange, issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, and transacts banking and agency business in connection with the East, on terms to be had on application.

DEPOSITS received for one year at 5 per cent. per annum. Rates for other periods on application.

On current accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on daily balances.

BANK OF MONTREAL.

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Paid up Capital	669,665	0 0
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits ..	354,791	5 3
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	606,962	10 0

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Passing Events.

Last week's public income amounted to only £5,918,000, or £1,527,000 less than that of the preceding week. Expenditure came to £12,173,000 less at £26,999,000, and consequently less money had to be raised by credit expedients to enable the Government to pay its way. The gross amount raised by the sale of Treasury bills was only £29,429,000, whereas the week before the total was £53,150,000. Again, £1,500,000 was credited as receipts from war savings certificates, and expenditure certificates yielded a mere £388,300, or £173,300 less than in the week ended September 2, but the worst return was from Exchequer bonds, which produced only £2,518,000, the lowest week's aggregate hitherto noted. The total amount now due on Exchequer bonds has risen to £173,214,000, and the nett increase in the debt on "Treasures" last week was £24,237,000, bringing the total up to £959,270,000. Allowing for advances repaid by renewals the entire receipts of the week were £33,554,000, and as the nett outgoings—leaving old debt renewed on one side here also—were only £26,999,000, as noted above, it follows that Exchequer balances were, small adjustments allowed for, £6,240,000 larger than on September 2 at £32,579,000. Nothing in the income exhibit for the week demands emphasis, but we may mention that the excess profits tax continues fairly prolific, and gave last week £2,035,000. Army and Navy requirements absorbed £25,084,000, and we can stand that and more for another year if necessary. At the same time if a little restraint in spending—in emitting drafts upon posterity—could be exercised here and there the self-denial and forethought exercised might help to make the peace easier, when it does come.

A story, originating with the Brussels correspondent of the *Echo Belge*, has been put among the gossip paragraphs of newspapers to the effect that the Prussians have seized deposits in the National Bank of Belgium to the amount of £24,000,000, giving a receipt for the money, and promising to repay it two years after the peace, meantime paying 4 per cent. interest. How the National Bank of Belgium, all whose assets and bullion were removed to places of

safety before the savages entered Brussels, could be possessed of so large a sum at this opportune moment is explained by the tactics of the Germans in dealing with the moratorium in Belgium. Formerly they upheld it, forbidding debts to be paid; recently they reversed this policy, and the resultant liquidations of old obligations drew all this money into the bank's vaults. The story is plausible—and hardly credible. That the Prussian brutes are cunning enough and capable enough of practising such a trick and effecting such a theft, while at the same time busy killing the Belgians by starvation, may be admitted at once, and yet the tale may have but slender support from facts. What, then, could be the object served by this yarn? Is it a mere romance elaborated to stimulate subscriptions to that hanging-back fifth war loan? We should not be at all surprised were the tale a German concoction designed to that end, and can see well enough how the fairy story could be turned to use—Boche use, of course. "Look how rich Belgium still is; able to lend us £24,000,000 at 4 per cent., you see. None of our enemies can borrow on any such advantageous terms," and the rest of the hypocrisies.

The Boches *borrow* and do not squarely steal in this instance, you will perceive—and that also makes the story suspect. It may, however, help to illustrate the straits to which the Berlin mawworms of the Kaiser are put to make a show of success with this loan of despair. By the four previous loans the Prussian officials claim to have raised in all upwards of £1,800,000,000, and it is extremely doubtful whether the odd eight hundred millions was anything near all new money. The scrip of the earlier loans could be utilised to the extent of 75 per cent. of the nominal value to raise means to subscribe for the later, and banks and loan offices, savings banks also, of every degree of strength were marshalled in support, but there was not enough available wealth in Germany to provide the necessary money in a clean, honest fashion even for the first loan, which was the smallest. Therefore the war loans of the Kaiser have throughout been manifestations of the Prussian gift of "bluffing." Not all the allurements of the "great indemnities" the Allies were to be compelled to pay as ransom from the clutches of the devouring savage, and by which the

Teuton sumph was befooled, could conjure "wealth" out of pockets that were empty or enlarge the borrowing facilities on mortgages. And now there are no lures of that sort to be availed of any more. Prussian fool-vanity has already been so far subdued as to have stopped the "indemnities" gabble. The anxiety now is to escape the closing jaws of the Allied trap, and all the hope is in Hindenburg the Hammerer—also Hindenburg the *held* and the *hided*. Do not despise him—he is a boar at bay, a beast of dash and sly swiftness. Only the traps are set, and the news from all fronts is inimical to the success of German loan No. 5. Germany is suffocated, in paper, paper, only paper.

And oh, that loan is wanted so much; if it could only be made to provide genuine cash. The paper money circulating within the empire—not merely the notes of the Reichsbank, but the Treasury notes and "acceptances" usable as currency, the postal cheques, the notes of the loan, or credit originating offices, the paper money of municipalities, and probably other expedients for disguising the hollowness of the empire's pretence of wealth—must now have risen to a mass great enough to sweep away the last ray of German credit among the nations, and when the facts become known the collapse will stagger us all. A loan, a new consolidation of a portion of Germany's overwhelming war obligations now choking up every avenue of business and family intercourse is therefore imperatively demanded—and there are only unpaid bills to subscribe with—unpaid bills and the prestige of Hindenburg.

And what of Austria? You may well ask. Nobody in Austria or Hungary either knows to-day where they stand in relation to credit between man and man, between citizen and Government, to business reliability and probity, more than we do. Three Austrian and three Hungarian loans for means to carry on the war will have so far been issued, and not even the finance ministers of the two countries appear to know what they yielded in cash. The probability is that they yielded very little, because it is still true that *ex nihil nihil fit*, and the Habsburg-linked groups or nationalities of serf peoples were, as coherent States, familiar with insolvency long before the war their masters provoked broke out. Neither Austria nor Hungary could to-day issue a fourth loan with the faintest hope of success. Their most faithful Jews could not help them. The position, therefore, is, let us once more try to din into the heedless mind—the mind to which finance and all things financial are as deep mysteries as the circulation of the blood before Harvey—some facts: Germany has to pay as high for her artillery and ammunition as we have. Her great pre-war stock accumulated with fell intent for long years before she let loose her brigands on the world to ravage and destroy, gave her an advantage at the outset, and for, perhaps, the first year; but that has long been lost, and to-day her expenditure on the war must be greater than ours, as great almost as that of all the Allies together except Russia, because she has to arm and equip Austrian, Hungarian, Bulgarian, and Turkish armies, whose killing tools are also just as costly as ours, if not more so. In addition, spies have to be maintained in swarms everywhere, aeroplanes and Zeppelins built and equipped, and endless amounts of capital swallowed up in searches after new and more abominable agents of "frightfulness." The cost of submarines alone must be enormous. A strange panorama of waste, is it not, this German one, an unstable foundation on which to base appeals for yet one more war loan. What have the Krupps, the Thyssens, the Phoenix Company, all the great ironmasters of the Sarre and the Rhur, got for their previous subscriptions to the war loans of the Kaiser, "All-highest" bounder and lunatic of devastation, strutting graveward, even as we all creep? They have got no new market opened to them unless the war furnishings of the Kaiser's allies and dupes above mentioned may be called a new one. The only return their present exports supply is corpses, and even these are

cremated in their thousands in Belgium, at Cologne, or elsewhere, to abate the stench and avoid the cost of carrion burial. Ah, but the fifth loan has unique security, and will doubtless prove a grand success. How much has the Kaiser himself subscribed? And Ferdinand the Felon—not for a moment to be confounded with Ferdinand of Roumania—has he no cash to spare? Is it true that his hoards are in safe places abroad?

How all German mercantile and industrial life has been stifled by our blockade is better disclosed by a German than even by the official defender of our Foreign Office and fleet against the predatory excursions in depreciation undertaken by the too eagerly patriotic Harmsworth family. This wonderful band has again been at it in its *Daily Mail, Evening News*, and perhaps its other papers of the kind that flourish on prejudice and ignorance, and has rather cleverly managed by its latest parade of United States statistics of exports to throw contempt on the hard and effective blockade work of the Navy; to heighten also mistrust and ill-feeling between us and Holland, and to render our negotiations with Sweden more difficult. But the object of all the rumpus is not really malignant in this sense, it is merely to further in an incidental way what may be called the politics of the sewer, to discredit this Minister and that; for this instant the Minister is Mr. Asquith, next instant it may be Mr. George, and after him Viscount Grey. Indeed, this last-named gentleman is always among the "slides" kept handy in the Carmelite Press "Cinema" for use in emergencies when no other may be just available. Patriotism, healthy anxiety for the proper conduct of the war, assiduity in helping at any point; qualities of that kind are not to be looked for in the neighbourhood of either White or Black-friars. But something to cloud some great man's reputation, to smudge a politician who may have snubbed us, to worry the Navy and make a First Lord angry—ah, then we are "on the job." "There is money in it!" And Carmelite Street has been much "on the job" once more with blockade "statistics" that have only remote connection with the blockade, compiled by an ignoramus in the usual style—lump figures flung at the eye without regard to anything except their mass. Add to this a real or affected—probably real—ignorance of our relations and attitude, our duty also, towards neutrals, and there you have the entire mystery of the trick. If its unfolding does not bring the family news-sheets a 48-hours' sensational "sale," then the brave boys who run the shows must find something else. But, as we say, the most effective testimony we have seen to the essential falsehood of all this kind of journalism was furnished last week by Herr Achelis, president of the Bremen Chamber of Commerce. This is what he is reported to have told a representative of "Aunt Voss," the *Vossische Zeitung*, one of the most patriotic of Prussian newspapers:—

As the severity of the British blockade of our coasts has been increased by Great Britain's arbitrary extension of the list of contraband goods, our overseas commercial activity has decreased, so that finally tobacco was the only article which sustained our foreign commerce. By the foundation of the Dutch Oversea Trust, and eventually by the German prohibition of tobacco imports, this branch of our commerce has also been paralysed. Our shipping has ceased owing to the war, but our shipowners to some extent participate in the Baltic trade. After referring to commercial submarine enterprise, he continued: "Bremen's export business has completely ceased. We do not know whether and how many of our goods which we sent out before the outbreak of war are still at our disposal, what has been sold, and whether we shall get any money for these goods. Thus at present our commerce shows no life at all, but our merchants were prudent before the war, so that it is hoped that with their reserves they will survive the war. Our shipyards are well occupied not only with war orders, but also with orders for peace-time."

This last statement might possibly be true, but we quote it rather as a sample of "bluff." What have "the enemy within our gates" to say to this picture? Probably nothing at all. Their behaviour as a concoctor of flimsy sensations reminds us always of a Cheap Jack we once saw at a country fair. The fellow recom-

mended his wares with a persuasive eloquence even the great Lord Northcliffe himself does not seem to have yet fully acquired, but if he found the thing offered unacceptable, that it drew in little or no money, he was prompt to change. "Ah, you do not want a toothbrush this morning, my young friend; have had no use for your teeth perhaps. Very well then, I will put this article on one side, and show you something else." The Carmelite Street newspapers are first rate at "showing something else" when one chosen sense and sensibility tickler has had its day or proved a "frost."

In the course of a highly interesting interview granted by M. Ribot to the Paris correspondent of the *Times*, the French Minister of Finance stated that a very satisfactory arrangement was arrived at, during a meeting he had with Mr. Asquith and Mr. McKenna at Calais on August 24, for strengthening the gold reserves at the Bank of England. The Bank of France has arranged to place a further substantial amount of gold at the disposal of this country on loan, in order to assist their exchange and to pay a proportion of what they owe us for purchases of materials on their behalf. The gold thus placed at the disposal of the British Treasury as a loan will be returned to the coffers of the Bank of France after the war. Both France and Russia have already sent here considerable amounts of gold in order to assist their exchanges and to help pay for their war purchases abroad. M. Ribot, in alluding to the huge total of gold in the Bank of France at the present time, pointed out that they were in a position to promise England a considerable sum out of their abundance. Russia has also promised a certain amount, and Italy likewise in proportion to her capacity. Thus the Allies are, so to say, pooling their gold in order to render their collective financial position still more strong. This arrangement cuts both ways, and is altogether in the common interests of the Allies. The natural result of the new arrangement for putting French gold at the disposal of the British Treasury was to cause a decided improvement in the Paris exchange, and with it the prospects of the new French loan to be issued early in October. While it is quite possible that for a time the extent of French credits may tend to increase supplies of floating credit in our market, there is nothing to warrant any expectations of a recurrence of cheap money conditions, and an early reduction in the Bank rate. With the Paris exchange at once showing the effect of the news of the new gold arrangements, it was curious to observe the value of the rouble steadily depreciating after the very pronounced improvement which took place towards the end of last month, which improvement at the time was attributed to speculative American buying. It is feared that the speculative element in the restoration of the exchange value of the rouble to normal after the war is greater than in that of the franc.

All German gossip that comes to us via Copenhagen is not truth, any more than via Amsterdam. It may often be German truth, though, and there is nothing inherently improbable in the story that the Kaiser's functionaries have issued a fiat directing all employers of labour in Germany to provide work for maimed soldiers no longer of use as gun-pulp. "In future," so runs the tale, "each employer of labour will be compelled to engage one invalid soldier in every five employees, and to pay the same wages to both." Is not that a master-stroke? The Kaiser has no money at all with which to provide pensions for the bipeds he has used up and battered in his war of plunder and land stealing. They are of no further use to him, this pitiful maimed, and if he dared he would leave them to rot where they lie in their helplessness. But, at least until the war is over, he may not dare to do that; so he turns to the employer of labour and says, "Look here, you serf you, provide for these legless, armless, eyeless, handless, and tongueless men, and pay them as fully as if they were your best hands." And the employer will obey, cursing the while, but only softly and under his breath, the slave-soiled groveller

that he is—will obey as long as he has any work to give out and any money to pay with. We commend this "system of pensioning" to the attention of the able and diligent Mr. Hogge, whose just and equitable soul is now much exercised on the subject of the Government's duties and obligations towards the enlisted men, their wives, and families. Could he but switch off all care in that direction, and throw the "onus of providing" direct upon the capitalist, his mind might be released to give attention to the question "how are ways and means to be provided?" a question his excursions in finance seem never hitherto to have allowed him to tumble upon. It is the question of the peace. There is the stuff of a Chancellor of the Exchequer in Mr. Hogge, if only he would take to ferreting out the wherewithal. Why not take a hint from Berlin?

The half-year ended June 30 proved a prosperous one for the National Bank of India, and its gross profits improved by £15,112, to £271,090. Of this £141,326, or £6,829 more, was retained as nett profit, and, with £103,140 brought forward, the available total was £16,974 up at £244,466. As, however, the present report is only an interim one, the directors defer to the end of the year the question of dealing with the surplus, and content themselves with declaring a dividend at the rate of 16 per cent. per annum, tax free, or the same as last year, leaving £164,466 to be carried forward. Liabilities on current and deposit accounts, &c., have risen by £1,244,658, to £17,637,368, and bills payable are £265,964 higher at £993,719, but acceptances show a decrease of £262,787 at £647,658. On the other hand, cash and bullion have been reduced by £1,108,028, to £4,108,906; but bills of exchange, which include Treasury bills, come to £1,764,934 more at £8,831,101. Investments in Indian Government rupee securities have also been increased by £137,805, to £387,518, and other investments by £467,866, to £1,587,132; while discounts, loans, &c., are £257,357 up at £5,973,427.

In spite of the persistence of internal troubles and the lamentable failure of the Imperial Government to placate Irish sentiment, affairs in the Sister Isle appear to have been wonderfully prosperous last year, according to the statistics of banking, railways, and shipping issued by the Irish Department of Agriculture. Deposits in the joint-stock banks amounted to £66,803,000 at the end of 1915, having increased steadily (with two unimportant exceptions) since 1887, when they stood at only £29,770,000. Another indication of increased prosperity is the fact that the note circulation of the six banks of issue practically doubled between June and December, when it reached £16,266,000; but that phenomenal jump was largely

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due to the withdrawal of gold from circulation. Savings bank deposits in December last amounted to £11,780,000, as against £13,300,000 in June, 1914, but the decrease is fully accounted for by investments in War Loans. The total of Government stocks with dividends payable at the Bank of Ireland was £46,936,000, having been increased by £4,895,000 during the year. Gross receipts of Irish railways amounted to £4,831,000, an increase of £170,000, but they are still far smaller than would be the case if the country were properly served with means of communication. Figures for shipping are only available for 1914, when arrivals from abroad decreased 1,100,000, to 4,620,000 tons, but arrivals from ports in the United Kingdom increased 1,600,000, to 9,127,000 tons. It is interesting to learn that the port of Cork accounts for two-thirds of the tonnage in the foreign trade, while Dublin and Belfast are each credited with about one-third of the cross-Channel and coasting trade.

Quite the most wonderful change in the fortunes of a company that we have come across recently is shown in the report of the Calico Printers' Association, Ltd., for the year to June 30. In the previous twelve months there was a trading loss of £51,176, but in the first half of the period it had amounted to no less than £276,560, so that business had improved materially in the latter half. After providing for debenture interest, there was a deficit of £179,176, and this was met by transferring £200,000 from the reserve, the balance, with £4,720 brought in, being carried forward. For the past year the profits come out at £792,387, after writing off £312,345, or £50,350 more, for depreciation, and the directors propose to deal in a very conservative way with this magnificent windfall. Two years' preference dividends absorb £301,600, and the ordinary shareholders are only to get 2½ per cent. (against nil for the two previous years), while it is proposed to place £300,000 to reserve, and to carry forward £12,500 more at £38,050. We should not be surprised if there is considerable grumbling at this Draconian distribution of the bumper profits, but we cannot say that the directors are not justified in the course they propose. Evidently the business is liable to violent vicissitudes, and in spite of what appears to be a liberal allowance for depreciation, it represents only about 5 per cent. on the valuation of the properties and plant. That this was not sufficient is shown by the fact that when the properties were valued in 1914 an additional £300,000 had to be written off (£250,000 of which was drawn from reserves), and they now stand in the balance-sheet at £5,708,000. The balance at the credit of capital account, however, has increased by a similar amount, so that it is merely a matter of book entries. Instead of an overdraft of £50,300, there is now £255,400 at the credit of current accounts, but sundry creditors, owing to the expansion of business, are £350,000 higher at £740,000. The balance at the credit of depreciation account is £282,620, an increase of £232,000, and cash is up £38,600 at £62,600. Stocks have increased £730,000 to £2,530,000, and debtors £80,000 to £1,370,000, but £76,000 has been written off copper rollers at £770,000. It is a very fine showing from every point of view, and we can only regret that a business capable of such splendid results should be so severely handicapped by the original sin of overcapitalisation.

Kynoch, Ltd., like many other firms similarly situated, finds itself unable to present complete accounts, but the directors have now issued a report which puts the position in a better light than could be inferred from the reduction in the dividend from 20 to 15 per cent. In announcing that dividend we think the directors ought to have given at least part of the explanation now made, for the bald statement undoubtedly led to misconceptions with regard to the company's results. It is now explained that the turnover has been many times greater than in any previous year, and the ratio

of profit being very fairly maintained, there is a substantially larger profit, but the directors are unable to form any reliable estimate of the excess profits duty and of the allowance for depreciation on capital expenditure, so that if the accounts were presented they might be quite misleading. It is hoped, however, to issue them in the course of the next 12 months, and if the cash profit allowed bears any proportion to the services performed, "it would then be possible to pay a dividend more in accordance with the value of the services rendered to the nation." As an armament firm the company experienced a long and unremunerative period before the war, when no dividend could be paid on the ordinary shares, but its disused plant has since made gigantic increases in output of a kind for which the post-war sales is likely to be very small. Until it is known how much money will be available the directors are greatly handicapped in preparing for the post-war period, when it is hoped to switch on to other lines for which a permanent demand may be expected, but unfortunately that seems to be inevitable in the circumstances. At the same time, we cannot see why there should be any great delay in reaching a settlement with the Government, especially if a certain amount of sweet reasonableness is displayed on both sides, and it might be worth while to take a liberal interpretation of the Finance and Munitions Acts in order to get rid of the present uncertainty.

Last year we were unable to secure a copy of the Lake Superior Corporation report, and although we have been more fortunate on this occasion, we are unable to make our usual comparisons. Naturally, in view of the intense industrial activity in Canada and the United States, the subsidiaries of the Corporation did much better in the year to June 30 than in the previous 12 months, and the report states that the nett earnings amounted to \$3,503,470, as compared with a deficiency of \$331,765 for the earlier period, but the bulk of it is required for interest and other appropriations. Interest absorbed \$1,513,540, while there was a loss of \$206,680 on securities realised, \$667,170 was set aside for sinking funds, and \$425,600 was written off for reserves, depreciation, &c., leaving an aggregate of \$358,720 to be carried forward by the various companies. Income from subsidiaries fell to \$290,000, which compares with \$343,000 last year, with \$438,000 in 1913-14 and with \$793,000 in 1912-13. Other income raised the revenue to \$335,760, while interest on the first mortgage bonds and expenses absorbed \$310,305, leaving a balance of \$25,455, to which is added \$25,070 brought forward. A beggarly \$40,000 is written off for depreciation of investments standing in the books at \$47,975,000, and the balance is carried forward. In a dozen years the Corporation has never succeeded in paying any dividend on its \$40,000,000 common stock, and on only three occasions has the full interest been paid on \$3,000,000 5 per cent. income bonds, but that dismal record has not prevented it from "guaranteeing" \$34,000,000 bonds of the subsidiary companies. We have no desire to "rub it in," especially under existing conditions, when prospects in some directions look more encouraging; but it will require a tremendous improvement to justify the kind of financing to which the Lake Superior Corporation lent itself. By far the most promising asset is the holding in the Algoma Steel Corporation, but even here further capital will be required to put the plant on a proper footing, and meantime the hematite ore in the Helen mine is about exhausted, and at the Magpie mine the outlook is admitted to be unsatisfactory. Increased earnings have been obtained by the Algoma Central and Hudson Bay Railway, but both it and the Algoma Central Terminals Co. are still in the hands of receivers, and their prospects of earning even bond interest are shadowy. However, Canada has before shown that it has wonderful recuperative powers, and with the impetus given by the present industrial prosperity these concerns may pull round faster than seems probable at the moment.

An appreciable rise within a week in the price of the £1 ordinary shares of North's Navigation Collieries from 34s. to 42s. was evidently due to the fact that it had become known in some quarters that a change of control was about to take place. It is now announced that the company has received an offer from Lord Rhondda, the Imperial Navigation Coal Co., Lysberg, Ltd., Mr. A. Mitchelson, and Mr. H. S. Berry jointly to purchase the ordinary shares at the price of £2 each. The issued ordinary share capital amounts to 600,000 shares, and the directors, other than Mr. Evan-Thomas, who retires from the board in favour of nominees of the purchasers, are to be paid by the buyers a lump sum of £10,250 as compensation for their loss of office, so that the offer involves a sum of nearly a million and a quarter. Lord Rhondda will act as chairman of the company, and an arrangement is being made by which the selling of the company's coal will be placed in the hands of Messrs. Lysberg, of Cardiff. It will be noted that the offer to North's shareholders comes from the same group who recently concluded an arrangement in the shares of D. Davis and Sons, and the object of the proposal is to bring the selling policy of the North's Co. into line with some of the principal adjoining collieries.

The story told by the directors of Goldsbrough Mort and Co. for the year ended March 31 is again one of serious difficulties encountered, mainly because the rainfall was exceedingly patchy, and the season generally unsatisfactory. Recent heavy losses of stock, amounting in the past two years to no less than 17,012,600 sheep, have naturally had a serious effect on the wool clip, and the exports, allowing for 170,000 bales carried over from the previous year, showed a shortage of no less than 530,000 bales as compared with two years ago. The high prices obtained for wool partly compensated for the decrease, but on the whole the value of the clip was much less than in the pre-war year. Owing, however, to the extension of the selling season the company handled 18,778 bales more than in 1914-15 at 118,730 bales, and its gross profits increased by £44,402 to £316,967. Expenses were heavier under most heads, and £25,529 was set aside for depreciation of investments, as against nothing a year ago; but, even so, the net profits were £9,471 better at £119,817, and, in addition to maintaining the dividend at the usual rate of 10 per cent., the directors resume the payment of bonuses with 2½ per cent., which compares with 10 per cent. two years ago. The £25,000 put to reserve last time is now transferred to an equalisation reserve, and a like amount is put to that fund out of the present surplus, leaving £6,975 to be added to the undivided profits, raising them to £98,069. A further reduction of £31,250 has been made in the "A" debenture stock, bringing the total of the "A" and "B" stocks outstanding down to £1,591,973, and liabilities on deposits are also £100,044 down at £45,084, while sundry creditors have risen by £35,786, to £96,111. Cash shows very little change at £196,603, but deposits are £141,000 larger at £150,000. Advances on stock and station properties show a decrease of £205,628 at £1,949,137, and properties in hand one of £20,087 at £260,771. Owing to the unsatisfactory season, the lambing returns from the Queensland properties are expected to suffer this year; while in New South Wales and Victoria the lack of rain is also bound to have an adverse effect.

We do not know what has been going on behind the scenes of the Metropolitan Electric Supply Co., Ltd., but before and since it succeeded in effecting that wonderful sale to the Marylebone Borough Council its affairs have always been something of a mystery. It might have been expected that the shareholders' committee appointed last March would have shed some light on the position, but "so as to avoid the necessity of publishing a report dealing with various matters intimately connected with the company's business and affairs, which if made public might seriously interfere

with the trading and future prosperity of the company," they have held a pistol at the head of the board and practically reconstituted it. Frankly, we cannot subscribe to the reasons given for secrecy, which, however, will no doubt be tamely accepted by the shareholders. There cannot or ought not to be anything in connection with a public service company of this sort which would be detrimental to its interests if published, unless it is of a shameful character, and then its customers as well as the shareholders would have a right to know. We have no desire to see dirty linen washed in public, but the committee's remarks make it imperative that there should be a further investigation and disclosure.

We can only judge of the actual results of Manchester Liners, Ltd., by the fact that the dividend and bonus for the year to June 30 are increased by 10 per cent., making the total distribution 25 per cent. Profits are given as £186,690, an increase of only £830, but this is after providing for depreciation and excess profits duty (new), neither of which amounts is specified, and they allow plenty of scope for a fertile imagination. Including £19,320, or £1,840 less, brought forward, and deducting £5,000 for a war bonus to officers, the available balance is £4,660 less at £181,390. It is proposed to place £100,000 to reserve, which goes against £50,000 last year, and £80,000 set aside for depreciation, and after paying the dividends already mentioned, £20,176 remains to be carried forward. During the year £30,000 debentures were redeemed, but sundry creditors are up £390,000 at £465,100, and "open voyages" are £50,000 higher at £125,830. Steamships have been written down £23,500 to £533,280, but investments are £360,000 higher at £469,920, debtors are up £56,500 at £126,800, and cash has increased £84,000 to £256,400. In March last one of the company's vessels was sunk by an enemy submarine, fortunately without loss of life, and it was replaced by a new ship, the *Manchester Hero*. In addition three second-hand steamers were purchased, two of which were delivered during the year. A large proportion of the fleet is still employed by the Government, and to maintain the company's services it has been necessary at times to charter outside tonnage. Anyhow, the results must be quite gratifying to the shareholders.

We have on several occasions referred to the proposal to amalgamate the Alaska group of gold mining companies, and a definite scheme of consolidation has now been drawn up by the committee which was appointed to consider the project. The committee recommends a speedy amalgamation of the three companies, the Alaska Treadwell, the Alaska Mexican, and the Alaska United, on the basis of a 54 per cent. interest for the Treadwell company, a 34 per cent. participation for the United company, and a 12 per cent. interest for the Mexican company. To effect the consolidation the Treadwell company will absorb the other two concerns. It will be necessary to increase the capital of the Treadwell to 400,000 shares of the par value of \$25 a share. The distribution of this stock will be made in the following ratio: 216,000 new shares for the 200,000 shares of present outstanding Alaska Treadwell Company stock, being at the rate of 1.08 new shares for one existing share; 136,000 new Treadwell shares for the 180,200 United shares, being at the rate of 1.80 new share for one existing share, and 48,000 new Treadwell shares for the 180,000 Mexican shares, being at the rate of 1.7 new share for every existing share. The committee has made a very exhaustive technical report, and there seems little doubt that the amalgamation will result in economies in working and more efficient plans for future development of the mines.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce has received cable advice from their head office, Toronto, stating that while no figures are yet available from threshing returns a fair estimate of the crop in the Western Provinces would be:—Wheat, 200,000,000 bushels; oats, 300,000,000 bushels; barley, 25,000,000 bushels.

Neither Free Trade nor Tariffs can Shape the Peace to Come.

In its August issue *Le Journal des Economistes* prints a second manifesto of the Free Trade League of France. It is followed by a memorandum on Free Trade, or "Free Exchange," compiled and issued here under the auspices, we should judge, of the Cobden Club. Both productions are full of the "wise saws and modern instances" that support liberty to trade and resist the political or caste domination through which, by the instrumentality of protective tariffs, the few keep the many in slavery. No words could well be more cogent than those in which the anonymous writers of the French Free Trade League's second manifesto brings before us the cruel absurdity of the French Customs duty on wheat. "In 1908 in France the Customs duty on wheat yielded £16,680, in 1909 £10,920. Then came a dry year. In 1910 the tax yielded £1,280,000, in 1911 £5,340,000, and in 1913 more than £4,000,000. A good harvest would bring the figures back to those of 1908 and 1909. Thus the tax produces substantial receipts only in the years of deficient crops, at the expense of the unfortunates to whom bread is the principal nourishment, and without benefit to the cultivators, who have no grain to sell. In maintaining the Customs barrier against free importations at 2s. 10½d. per cwt., does not the French Government authorise the poor to say: 'This impost fritters down the pensions bestowed on the disabled soldiers, and to the widows and orphans—and for whose benefit? Not for that of the small landowners, who have not sufficient wheat to sell, but for that of the medium and above all of the great landlords, people whose average expanse of arable land is about 180 acres.'"

So true is this that when the war broke out the French Government humanely suspended the duty on imported wheat. With the general argument of the Free Traders we are, then, in full agreement; cannot be otherwise, because we have ever found it impossible to believe at one and the same time in human emancipation from caste and cash oppression, and to support tariffs devised in the interests of the few, full of cruelty to the many. It is the supporters in this country of this kind of oppression and robbery, the subtlest of all forms of man's dishonesty towards his fellow, who are now agitating for the return here of the eloquent Mr. Hughes of Australia to help them in their assaults on Free Trade. Mr. Hughes possesses just the necessary limitation of vision and ignorance of history and economic truth to give unrestrained fervour to his eloquent tongue in furthering an ignoble ambition, and his clamour against Germany and everything German is just the sort of uninformed rant which finds acceptance with the unthinking.

Free Traders as we are, however, we find in the attitude of the French League and the Peers and M.P.'s who signed the British memorandum before us evidence of a mistake in tactics that may well prove more hurtful to the common people in every free country than the worst the Protectionists and their Hughes could devise. The rigidity of the Free Trade doctrine, as believed in both by French and British devotees, carries them on to formulate demands with which Free Trade has no concern. "What is good for one is good for all," they insist; therefore, Germany must be admitted into the Free Trade comity of nations after the war ends, just as if nothing had happened to put her beyond the pale of civilisation. That is how the matter is summed up by the writers of the second manifesto of *La Ligue du Libre Exchange*. The whole passage is worth quoting:—

"The question of Free Trade dominates all others. Repudiate Free Trade and it means a future war; adopt it and we have an effective guarantee of peace. The pacifists who seek to assure peace by courts of arbitration and other organisations more or less inpenious, devised to attenuate the effects of international events, take no account of their causes. But

the only way to suppress wars is to suppress the frictions which give rise to them. Dynastic ambitions, race and religious hatreds, are no doubt conducive to war; but while they acquire their maximum force in superheating the hoary passions of international rapacity, they are dissipated by the conception and practice of Free Trade. The present war affords a terrible example of the confusion between political and economic rivalries, and until humanity learns sharply to divide the one from the other it will remain subject to the anguishes and risks of a fresh catastrophe.

"For these and other motives the League submits to the forthcoming Economic Conference the following conclusions:—Free Trade is as much a necessity for our enemies as for our Allies. To impose Free Trade on our enemies is the most efficacious way to prevent dumping, at the same time that it will assure outlets for Alsace-Lorraine and abolish special Customs tariffs. The Allies in the Entente will exact a war indemnity from the two Central Empires. Its payment will be the less difficult the more the value of their exports expands. The only way by which the Allies can suppress economic rivalries between themselves, which the Germans and Austro-Hungarians would try to utilise in order to create disagreements among them, is to repudiate the policy of Protection, and resolutely adhere to one of Free Trade."

As logical as a treatise by Calvin all this is, one may admit; also that the logic appears to be fully endorsed by the British Free Traders, whose memorandum follows the French deliverance. It is all as irrefragable as cold reason can make it—and it "plays the game" of the revolutionists better than they have ever yet been able to do themselves. Ahead of all civilised nations lies the rearrangement of the order of society, and of one thing we may be sure—the outcome of the present struggle will be neither a plutocrat's nor a feudal despot's paradise. But the arguments of the Free Traders, if consolidated into actions, would perpetuate the disintegrating and tyrannous forces which lie at the root of German aggression in this war, and that the nations have risen as one man to destroy.

How petty an evil is "dumping" beside the horror of moral and intellectual besottment which the Prussian earth spirit has brought upon Germany! Dumping never did Free Trade Britain any harm to speak of; on the contrary, it helped her in many ways, not least in supplying her manufacturers, her machinery and tool makers, with raw or half-raw materials of use in their superior industries. And the will and power to "dump" must remain German when the war ends by the very law of being, through whose action German industries have been developed and organised. Dumping is the offspring of over-production, and the German industrial must over-produce. He cannot help himself. He is as little his own master as the spadassin, who must march to death or to murder the innocent and destroy at the word of command, and because he obeys the ordered rhythm of his place in the ant-hive he has no choice but to go on manufacturing more and yet more of his particular commodity without regard to market requirements or probabilities. What he has of overplus he is forced to sell abroad at any price, trusting to the docility with which the home consumer continues to buy dear to allow him to recoup the loss.

"Free Trade will sweep away all these abuses," say the Free Traders; and we agree, provided it is unfettered, uprightly-organised trade between peoples who are themselves free. But the more we study German trade habits and ideals the more convinced do we become that a far more vigorous method of safeguarding civilisation is required if we are to have a peace that will endure. The Germans are not free even in their industries. They are serfs, highly organised and well-drilled serfs doubtless, but yet as much under authority as the private in a Prussian-drilled regiment. And because they are on a lower plane of mentality than the civilised peoples around them, they are not to be trusted to behave like self-respecting, honest men. Would Free Trade with Germany, for example, right

away guarantee the nations against the manipulation of German railway and shipping charges in such a manner as to facilitate dishonest competition with native manufacturers in other countries. It would not. Another kind of guarantee, therefore, must be sought, of which the doctrinaire Free Trader has not yet thought.

We must first of all eradicate Prussianism from Germany, and thereby deliver German democracy from thralldom, give it the chance to rise by the effort of its own volition, by self-discipline, in the scale of manliness. That drastic remedy can only be applied with hope of success by destroying Prussian hegemony, not only over the Kaiser's own Germany, but over the German-speaking provinces of Austria as well. The feudal despots, great and small, as crown and highest embodiment of whose irresponsibility in ruthlessness the Kaiser stands, must be dispossessed and their lands distributed among the people. And the coal and iron deposits of the Rhineland and Westphalia, of Silesia also, where not handed over to a reconstituted Poland or to a liberated Bohemia, must be taken out of Prussian hands in order to remove from that untameable thief the hitherto irresistible temptation to fashion weapons of destruction by help of which his predatory impulses may be given free rein. This means that the boundaries of Prussia proper must be set back at least to the limits they stood at before Frederick II., called the Great, came to the throne. All the states, great and small, that then lay round Brandenburg, west, north and south, must be delivered from the Prussian *Junker* tyranny, and their surplus wealth taken possession of by the Allies until the losses of the war have been as far as possible made good.

"A too formidable undertaking; can never be more than a pious ideal," we have been told—for in outline all this was set down soon after the war began, and embodied in "No Deluding Peace"—but objectors of this cast of mind forget that the population of Germany is not by any means all Prussian, that the masterful Prussian savage has merely imposed his domination on a population of very varied origin—French, British, Irish, Scandinavian, Slavonic, Jewish, &c.—feebly endowed with manly moral ideals or principles, given to a dreamy sentimentality divorced from all reference to righteousness, and as a rule densely ignorant, with the ignorance of an immeasurable self-conceit well nurtured through many generations by the cunning slave-drivers. History records no other example so striking, so humiliating, as this of 70 to 80 millions of people apparently content to lay themselves beneath the feet of the masterful few. By reason of the diversity of origin, however, there must be a foundation of better things in the Germanic serfs, and therefore the first duty of the Allies must be to set them at liberty from Junkerism, not merely in military oppression, but in industrial organisation as well. To every kingdom, principedom, or free city within the German Empire the way should be opened to allow its people to lead their own lives. Should they, after settling down and counting the costs of the war, agree among themselves to unite in forming a great German democracy, it would not be the duty of the Allies to say them nay. We should merely have to insist that the redeeming annuities payable by the cultivators of the farms taken from the feudal despot and divided up, together with other burdens imposed by the peace, should continue to be paid until the capital of the war indemnity had been liquidated, and also to maintain in complete dependence upon and subservience to the Allied Powers for their common good all coal and iron mining, all iron and steel works in what is now Rhenish Prussia and in Westphalia. Would-be world-dominators, hitherto controllers of these industries, would be dispossessed by this treatment; but is there any valid reason why they should not be? The workers themselves should not suffer, should not be oppressed, but might probably be better off than ever they have been. For only the fair profits of such undertakings as were

permitted to go on producing would be the property of the Allies, and these it is their imperative duty to secure.

Let the reader take his map and broaden his outlook by a little study. Prussia, to begin with, has no valid claim upon any territory on the left bank of the Rhine, and none of it must be allowed to remain hers there. And whatever territory on the right bank of the river may be necessary to the Allies to guarantee their peoples against a resumption of brigandage by the Prussian savage must be held in pledge until, at the soonest, the indemnity—now probably, on a moderate estimate, at least £8,500,000,000 for the two criminal Empires—has been liquidated. Said Prussians themselves indicated the rule of conduct to be followed by their treatment of prostrate France after the war of 1870. Accordingly, the basin of the Ruhr in Westphalia—which only became Prussian in 1815—as well as that of the Sarre in the Palatinate and Lorraine, must be removed from all danger of misuse by the Prussian, whose only trade is war, as Mirabeau long ago observed. Most of the Palatinate, if not all, ought to be allotted to France, and part of the Rhine province to Belgium, so that it might possess the whole of the mineral basin extending north-eastward from Charleroi almost to Cologne. Perhaps, also, a little rounding off may be advisable for much-injured Luxembourg. That, however, is a minor point. The essential is that the men who come to arrange the terms of peace for the beaten Prussian must not allow themselves to be led astray by any philosopher, whether Free Trader or Protectionist. Let them stick to the main purpose in view, the destruction of Prussian despotism—the tyranny of the armed brute—which is also Turkish despotism and Bulgarian, Austrian, and Magyar—and arrange sure measures for removing from civilised mankind all danger of any recrudescence of the same scourge. It will be time enough to discuss a resumption of trade with Germany on the principle of a free interchange of commodities when we have cleaned out the pest-house and liberated the slave populations, whose moral degradation has been carried so far that they grovel and lick the hands of the human beasts who smite them.

But how are we to impose our will so completely on the monsters of oppression as to be able to drive them out of their strongholds of absolutism? By keeping the populations they oppress so long and so increasingly short of food as to attune their minds to that measure of individuality in willing which will make them our helpers in the work. But this phase of the great problem must await another opportunity for discussion. Enough be it for the present to have entered a protest against both the Protectionist and the Free Trade blind leaders of the blind. Their *malesaine* activities are ill-timed, out of place, and might easily become traitorous to the future of civilisation. For both factions stir up thoughts among the masses that lead on towards revolutions, towards violent and, it may be, devastating changes in the fabric of society.

British Burmah Petroleum.—Total production of crude oil for August, including that of the Rangoon Oil Co., 69,203 barrels.

LONDON CITY & MIDLAND BANK

LIMITED

PAID UP CAPITAL	-	-	-	£4,780,792
RESERVE FUND	-	-	-	4,000,000

SHIPOWNERS' FREIGHTS BROUGHT HOME FROM ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD AND REMITTANCES MADE FOR STEAMERS' DISBURSEMENTS.

THE LONDON CITY AND MIDLAND EXECUTOR AND TRUSTEE COMPANY LIMITED HAS BEEN FORMED FOR UNDERTAKING THE EXECUTORSHIP AND TRUSTEESHIP OF WILLS AND MARRIAGE SETTLEMENTS, AND ALSO TO ACT AS TRUSTEE FOR DEBENTURE HOLDERS.

Railway Nationalisation.

However much it may be deprecated in certain quarters, and particularly in the Stock Exchange, we believe that the nationalisation of British railways in the near future is inevitable. It will have been noticed that at the Trade Union Congress last week a resolution in favour of this policy was carried by a practically unanimous vote, but it is on quite different grounds from what the workmen's representatives contemplated that the step will have to be decided upon. After the war we shall have entered on what will be virtually a new era both socially and industrially, and many obstructive anachronisms will have to be swept out of existence. Among these the pre-war system of railway management takes a prominent place. Its costliness has only been rivalled by its obstinacy in resisting reforms, and its extravagance in certain directions by its niggardliness in providing for the public's needs. Deputations of traders or passenger associations might bombard board rooms with prayers and petitions, but they were usually received with an irritating superciliousness which refused to consider any grievance, however legitimate, and the smallest concessions could only be secured after a heart-breaking struggle, if they were obtained at all. Rates and fares are almost prohibitive in some cases, chaotic timetables are calculated to provide a minimum of convenience at a maximum of cost in train mileage, and the arrangements with regard to goods traffic have been a monument of incompetence. And all the time the provision for maintenance, depreciation and renewals was so inadequate that capital expenditure mounted up by leaps and bounds while new issues could be made on favourable terms (and proper maintenance was probably shirked when they couldn't), although the amount of new works and new lines was quite insignificant.

All these things will have to be altered after the war. Trade will require all the encouragement it can get from cheap and rapid transit, and many other facilities will be demanded which it is hopeless to expect from boards of directors as at present constituted. Labour, too, will have to be more generously recompensed, but the only reply that men of Lord Claud Hamilton's type can give is a haughty *non possumus*—it always has been so and always will be so until they are driven into a corner or abolished. Therefore we believe that the only solution is for the State to take over the whole railway system. But nationalisation on reasonable terms is not a simple problem, and it is desirable that the question should be thoroughly discussed before any final decision is arrived at. No complete figures have been published since the war, but at the end of 1913 and 1914 the paid-up capital of the railways in the United Kingdom was as follows:—

	1913.	1914.
	£	£
Ordinary.....	493,064,000	493,791,000
Preferential.....	354,796,000	358,005,000
Guaranteed.....	124,335,000	124,334,000
Loans.....	12,103,000	12,924,000
Debenture stock.....	349,713,000	352,168,000
Total.....	1,334,011,000	1,341,222,000
Including nominal additions of	198,721,000	199,203,000

For this huge expenditure we have a system of 55,660 miles of single track, including nearly 15,000 miles of sidings. About 6,700 miles are actually single track, and for this wonderful system the capital cost has been over £24,000 per mile. What sort of value has the country received for all this expenditure? It has been stated that the aggregate contains some £350,000,000 for legal fees and expenses, and at least as much again represents the rapacity of landowners, for which no equivalent intrinsic value has been received. To start with, therefore, we cut down the productive expenditure by more than one-half, and a large proportion of the balance is made up of rolling stock which has been, or ought to be, scrapped.

On the other hand, it is certain that very heavy further expenditure will have to be incurred during the next few years. Upkeep has been scamped or ignored since the war, and in the near future many sections of lines will have to be electrified if they are to compete

successfully with other modes of transit. Is the country going to pay the full price for all past expenditure, useful or otherwise, and at the same time relieve the shareholders of future liabilities by shouldering the burden of necessary improvements? Are we to repeat the gratuitous blunders of the Telegraph, Metropolitan Waterworks, Port of London, and Telephone purchases? We hope not, but we shall have to be on the alert if the "vested interests" are not again to combine to rob the public. Fortunately, the Railway Act of 1844 provides a basis for negotiation. It applies only to railways sanctioned after its enactment, and stipulates that the State may purchase any line thereafter constructed for "twenty-four times the average dividend for the three previous years," but the companies are entitled to claim extra consideration for "prospects." At present the only "prospects" are for increased expenses, heavy capital expenditure, and reduced dividends, and these will have to be taken into account in any settlement arrived at. We admit that the problem bristles with difficulties, but they are not insuperable. The main thing is that we should begin to study it in plenty of time, so as to be prepared to discuss it intelligently when the proper moment arrives. It will be better not to magnify the obstacles; the starting point must be that the present huffer-mugger system cannot continue; it has to be got rid of, and some solution will have to be found without running the risk of hanging another millstone round the public's neck.

By-the-Way War Notes.

Is there a power behind the Government in this country working against an effective prosecution of the war? Really there are moments when one dreads lest it should be so. Consider these "roundings up" of men at railway stations, in clubs—soon probably enough in churches and chapels, although the male youth is not to be found there as their fathers were—in theatres, on playgrounds, wherever they can be pounced upon. Is that kind of recruiting zeal of the sort calculated to reconcile the nation to permanent submission to universal conscription, to eagerness for a fight to the finish? Does it not throw a disquieting light rather on the imperfect nature of the work done in registering all males of military age? If the authorities know so little about "who's who" among the people after all their blizzards of papers to be filled up, have they really done anything but waste money?

But, after all, these press-gang experiments are even more ridiculous than exasperating, and the profusion in wasting the sinews of war they suggest is insignificant compared to the havoc of the recruiting tribunals. These were instituted by Parliament to conjure away the opposition of the working classes to the introduction of any military usages calculated to aid in the Prussianising of the British people—and one may say they have betrayed their trust, completely failed of their object. There are exceptions to be sure—as witness that local tribunal which protested against the South-Western Railway board's practice of thrusting out the married men from its staff to join the Army instead of the unmarried; but they are emphatically exceptions. We have had personal experience of these new courts, and it has spurred us to make enquiries. The result of both the experience and the information obtained is to drive us towards the fear that, after all our self-sacrifice and heroism the Prussian brute may so far win in the end—by merely holding on and letting himself be killed, knowing that he, swine-like, breeds faster than we—as to obtain a peace that will leave us far short of the victory humanity demands of us.

Smarting under the feeling of shame at being made a mark of with elaborately polite insolence by the appeal tribunal at the House of Commons—the local Westminster tribunal treated THE INVESTORS' REVIEW appellant as if he had just been one of the habitually drunks "up before the beak," and is not worth dwelling upon—the natural impulse is to tell the whole story for public edification; but we shall not do that now, partly

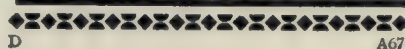
because we cannot yet dwell adequately on its humorous side—it was really very funny at moments in committee room No. 9—but more because all the space we can spare is required to emphasise the heedlessness with which these tribunals, created to protect the democracy against military tyranny, are doing their utmost to load up debt on democracy's shoulders, debt our descendants will have either to accept responsibility for or perish from among the civilised. And not only do they in their subservience to the recruiting officer, lightly lay upon our backs the cost of maintaining in comfort—comfort often far in excess of anything they ever enjoyed before—the wives and families of hundreds of thousands of men voluntarily enlisted or compulsorily enrolled, but they seldom betray the least perception of, or regard for, the position of our industries face to face with war. They may have heard that it is vital to this country that its foreign markets should be kept open and enlarged, especially in this war time, when we must find means to pay for our gigantic excess imports—heard, but heeded not. Decisions are therefore given in thousands that may have the effect of crippling or disorganising important branches of our manufacturing and export trades, but the tribunals neither know nor care. And the patriotism of the nation shines nowhere more clearly than in the silent stoicism with which these "Alice in Wonderland" decisions are submitted to and obeyed. "There will be a reckoning day!" probably, but we shall not discuss that yet. We must get on with the war, and win it first, as Mr. Winston Churchill says.

The financial burden, however, is a matter of immediate importance, for the more regardless the scale of our war waste the sooner must our power to go on fighting be either weakened or brought to a standstill. No people comprehend that better than the Kaiser and his surroundings. War is the only business they know, and they know, with the brigand-driven-desperate's astuteness, all its risks and chances. "It is ruin and extinction for us, is it?" the Junker barbarians say; "so be it; but we shall pull you down to hell with us if better cannot be." And for success in this vengeful endeavour the Prussians have a more powerful auxiliary in our methods of recruiting than in any Bulgar, or Turk, or other Ally of all those they have duped. And the bulk of the "civilian tribunals" created here to keep the recruiting agent in order have proved to be his obsequious slaves in nearly all instances, above all by bearing hardly on the married man. Size of family the man had to abandon, age, utility, nothing was material. The ranks of the uniformed had to be swelled out, he must enroll.

Thanks to the national spirit, nay to the instinct of self-preservation also, a magnificent army has been created, an army thoroughly worthy to stand by the side of our Allies and to help them in their work. We can be confident, too, that as it has been doing it will continue to do to the last hour of the fighting. But several problems have risen of importance during its creation, and none more so than that of the charge it imposes, and may when the war is over still in large measure impose, on the country's revenues. How many married men with families are there to-day in the British Army? Are there a million of them, or two millions, or more or less? We the payers are not told, nor is it expedient now that we should be; but the Chancellor of the Exchequer must know, and should be able to tell the country whether or not the presence of even 500,000 married armed men among our native-born troops, fathers of, on the average, only one child each, is not a source of enormous expense to the Treasury, expense it must become less and less able to bear as time goes on. He might be able also to tell the country through the House of Commons whether the non-combatant personnel of the enrolled, khakied fighting man is now adding £35,000,000 or £50,000,000 per annum over what it should have been to the cost of the war. In the mind of the ordinary citizen there begins to be doubts springing up whether wisdom has attended the gathering of this mighty force, and the rush and bustle now being displayed after shirkers conveys a sense of funk as motive force rather

than of perspicacious courage. There is no funk among the people we know, but, on the contrary, a rising determination to go on to victory, but it looks otherwise at times among the officials, and the sight of the streets swarming everywhere with men in khaki, of married men among them in great numbers, strolling along with wife and child or children enjoying their holiday, and that not only in recognised military centres, but everywhere throughout the land, does create and sustain the impression that confusion and waste of material and effort have been allowed to play a greater part than they should in the constitution of our land forces. We heard this week of an enrolled married man who had had to be withdrawn from the field and put to paid for ammunition work at home, who is still a soldier and billeted on his own wife, who herself enjoys a separation allowance for self and children still paid of, we think, 30s. a week. As the family increases the draft on the Treasury increases. To what extent is this authentic example typical? Is there no better, more economical way of raising and maintaining the necessary great army?

For our part we feel sure it would be much cheaper and incalculably more advantageous to our vitally necessary manufacturing industries and our overseas trade, as likewise to our all-powerful and important fighting Navy which the War Office looks down upon, were we to hire and equip and maintain a Russian army of, say, 1,000,000, to help us in swiftly winning the war. We are all engaged on the same business as Allies, and all the members of the alliance have to stand by each other to the end. What harm could come of obtaining help from that one of the Allies who is strong above all the rest in men, giving in exchange for help granted, pay, arms, munitions, and a handsome bonus on retirement? France has already got Russian help in this way, why not we? There is nothing in this of the old degradation of German prelates, dukes and electors who sold their slaves like hogs to go and be killed for George III. of England and Hanover, or other tyrant of the time.



UNDERGROUND

WHY CAN'T WE BEAT
NEW YORK?

□ □ □

THE PEOPLE OF NEW YORK
TRAVEL ON THE AVERAGE
338 TIMES IN THE YEAR.

□ □ □

THE PEOPLE OF LONDON
TRAVEL ONLY 276 TIMES.

□ □ □

LET US MAKE UP THE
LITTLE DIFFERENCE NOW,
IF WE CAN, OR AT ANY
RATE AFTER THE WAR.

London Electric Railways,
Electric Railway House,
Broadway, Westminster, S.W.



Perhaps Mr. Lloyd George has already discussed the subject when in Paris. It will have to be discussed whether the War Office likes it or not, because the killing of the Germans unfortunately must go on for a long time yet, they are such dolts of slave-souled mongrels. Witness those tales of Prussian officers who cringe and weep and offer their trinkets to propitiate their British captors and buy life. Why do they do that? Because they have been told that the British are fiends who habitually murder the Germans that fall into their hands, who give no quarter. That is the practical outcome of the "Gott strafe England" hottentotism of Germany's masters and teachers, and the spectacle bids us abandon illusions. There will be no peace as long as the Kaiser can procure gun food of this quality. Hunger and extermination will alone open the way to the peace the Allies must procure, the peace which sweeps Habsburg and Hohenzollern, Turkish Sultan and Bulgar "Czar," with all their supporting and man-consuming impostures, out of existence as "powers" on earth for ever.

Not only may it be advisable to incorporate and maintain a large Russian army along with our own, but we shall also be impelled in all probability to lean upon our warrior Indian peoples far more extensively than we have yet done. In the Indian Peninsula there are large populations, nationalities we might even call them, of the noblest fighting races the world ever saw. The Mahometan population alone in India is by itself as large almost to-day as that of the German empire of Prussia was before the war, and the Hindu fighting races of Rajputana, of the North-West Provinces, of Middle India, or the warriors of the foot hills of the Himalayas, and among the Hill tribes on the Afghan border, are capable of providing us with splendid soldiers in millions and millions. Why have we utilised this inexhaustible reservoir to so small an extent? We might tell you if we had time and space, but one reason undoubtedly is—unwillingness to pay India the price she means to ask for her help. It cannot be either counted or paid in rupees. And yet when the war is over, whether by the efficient and powerful help India can give or not, some such price as her awakened and awakening peoples ask will have to be paid for peace sake, because we shall be too exhausted to refuse. Would it not be as well, then, to begin to "think imperially," as the late Joseph Chamberlain talked about doing, and to shape our offensive on the broad liberty-giving lines our necessities impose, instead of wasting our activities in Parish Vestry politics and stop-thief gymnastics by the "force" in fulfilment of orders emanating from a recruiting department that seems bemuddled? As for our economics and finance generally, had we not been indeed the richest nation on earth the Kaiser's brute hordes and their scientific murder tools might have had reason of us all before now. Mercifully also the spirit of liberty is strong within us. Yes, and we must, in winning by that spirit, set others free.

Mr. Take Jonescu's denunciation of the Bulgarians for their alliance with their former oppressors the Turks, with whom they have joined in order to attack the Russians, their deliverers, is as balm to the wounded spirit. This is "an infamy to which history supplies no parallel," declared that eminent Rumanian statesman, and the words are none too strong. The glory of that deliverance and the memory of the depths whence the Bulgarians had been dragged by the hand of Russia, and by that alone, made it impossible for us to believe until compelled that the Bulgarian people could have sunk so far as to fight side by side with their former murderers. They have done so, and by ranging themselves with the Turk in the open field they court the Turks' fate. Both together they must disappear from among independent Powers, great or small.

It would be superfluous for us to attempt a review of the week's campaigning and its results. So many descriptive pens dispense the facts, the praise, and blame for us every day that all can follow the drama with a closeness greater than ever before. What they show is in a high degree encouraging. The past week

has been one of progress almost everywhere, and not least in the West. Success, instant, overwhelming, does not come at once, as we should like it to do; but coming it is everywhere, and the siege makes uninterrupted progress. If it be true, as the competent but flighty military critic of the *Times* asserts, that the Rumanian advance into Transylvania has impelled Hindenburg to send an unknown number of divisions from the West to the East to help the Austrians and Hungarians, then the collapse of the besieged empires is nearer than may appear. But many of Colonel Repington's calculations look speculative or merely fanciful, as, for example, his guess that 160,000 to 180,000 men, German gun food, are set free, or about to be set free, by the return of Austro-Hungarian convalescents to the fighting line, and what can be clearly seen is that the rushing of armies hither and thither to stop advances, now at this danger point, now at that, is no longer possible with the least hope of changing or averting the coming decision. If the West has already been weakened then the Verdun battle is over, definitely lost by the Kaiser, and his defence on the Somme has passed its maximum resisting power. If German troops have been collected by Mackensen for his Bulgar-Teuto-Turk foray in the Dobrudja then General Sarrail's advance from Salonica has been made easier, and if further north the German front on the Dvina has been drained of men needed to try and hold back Brusiloff, then, with the help of their fleet, the Russians may soon clear the enemy out of Courland. The offensive of General Sarrail, moreover, takes pressure off the Italians in Albania, and all the forward movements of the Allies everywhere are rendered, turn by turn, or simultaneously, less difficult, less costly in precious human lives.

Boys of 16 are being called up for examination in Germany next month, preliminary to enrolment, it is said. German reserves, if depending on that kind of help, cannot be far from the depletion which means defeat. We have only to hold on, then, and to press on unrestingly everywhere on all fronts to heighten daily the probability that the Kaiser's last end-of-the-war prediction may yet turn out to be the one true thing the sinister weed of humanity ever said in his life. Beware, therefore, of sudden and beguiling Teuton-inspired moves for peace. We have to make an end of three hoary tyrannies for good and all—the Prussian, the Austro-Hungarian, and the Turkish. Until that too long delayed labour of Hercules has been accomplished there can be no solid foundation laid upon which to build a peace that will endure. And denied a sure peace our civilisation is doomed.

If it be true that the military lords of the German Empire have ordered the Kaiser to cease interference in the campaigning then are we in a manner sorry. The Kaiser is a degenerate and a dangerous homicidal lunatic, but for that very reason he has been often a valuable help to the Allies in winning the war. As long as he could order his dupes and victims hither and thither to be slain, we could rely on him to give us many favourable opportunities. Also were there in the creature glimmerings now and then of a sensitiveness to outside criticism. He could feel enough shame at moments to flinch, and try to concoct excuses for his crimes. But now that he is to be confined to the purely ornamental side of Kaiserly histrionics, the ignorant brutes who hold the German Empire at their mercy will submit to no bridling, will feel no shame for any crime perpetrated, and as they have all the astute guile of the untaught savage they are only too likely to try to bring yet further and more ghastly horrors on mankind than even their crimes against Belgium and their enslavings of Belgian and French civilians. They will assuredly try to prolong the conflict not only long after their Allies are crumpled up and done for, but after all hope of victory on any field has been abandoned by the ruined German masses themselves. At present their professors and preachers, wallowers all at the feet of the men with the sword, still use the language of brag, still bid the miserable common people hope for triumph and plunder, oh, much plunder; but when even these blind leaders of the blind have been shamed by events

into silence the Junker, lusts driven, will try to persevere were it only in the mad endeavour to pull all the nations he set out to subdue and destroy, down into the bottomless abyss into which he is flinging his own country. Well may M. Briand warn us that *les Boches* will fight on, fight to the last gasp. We, too, must fight.

Exchequer Bonds.

For some time past there have been unmistakable signs that the Exchequer Bonds have been gradually drifting out of favour. Early in January the sales in one week amounted to nearly 20 millions, but that figure has never been approached since. Recently the sales have dropped to below five millions per week, and last week the amount disposed of was only 2½ millions, the lowest figure since the sales began. Exchequer Bonds have, in spite of the extensive advertising campaign indulged in, never yielded the results that had been hoped for, but special influences have in the past few months been at work to render them less attractive than they originally were. Ever since the outbreak of war investors have been persuaded to invest their money in short-term investments, and up to quite recently these have been eagerly snapped up. The unsatisfactory military situation made investors nervous of tying up their money in long-term investments, owing to the prospect of a further advance in the rate of interest generally, and as a result all fresh borrowers, with a very few exceptions, issued short-term obligations to meet their requirements. Numerous Colonial Governments issued 4 and 5-year bonds, and special legislation was passed to enable statutory companies, such as railways, to issue redeemable stocks. The Exchequer Bonds were introduced at a period when the demand for such securities was at its zenith, but the flood of such securities on offer at last began to overhaul the demand. Investors found that they were becoming too full of short-term stocks, and began to cast around for longer-dated securities, which would avoid the necessity of reinvestment at unknown levels in a few years' time. This tendency was stimulated by the gradual turn of events at the front, which gave capitalists greater confidence. In consequence we have the rather anomalous position of British Government Exchequer Bonds being now less sought after than irredeemable railway debentures, though the former can be bought to yield fully ½ per cent. more than the latter. Another proof of this disposition to take longer-dated maturities is to be found in the poor response made to the last two short-dated Colonial loans, about 80 per cent. of the New South Wales issue being left on the hands of the underwriters.

Another cause of the lessened popularity of Exchequer Bonds was the raising of the Bank rate to 6 per cent. in July, which necessitated an increase in the rates for Treasury bills and war expenditure certificates, the competition of which forced Exchequer Bonds into the background. Then as regards the smaller investor, he is chiefly attracted by the advantages of investing in War Savings Certificates, with their tax-free privilege. Consequently many stockbrokers report that most clients are seeking now a long-term investment, and are freely discussing the advisability of the Government placing on tap a long-dated loan, in order to rake in the large amounts of money which are known to be waiting for it in the hands of financial and insurance companies, besides the ordinary investor. Of course, a reduction in Bank rate would facilitate the sales of a long-dated loan, but there is no sign that the Bank of England proposes to take such a step at present. The Bank rate was raised in July to counteract the effects of the rising value of money in New York; but that proved to be purely a temporary phenomenon, and now money in New York is cheaper than ever it was early in the year. Therefore the cause of the rise in Bank rate having ceased to operate, the effect, which is maintained artificially now, ought logically to be removed. Other and more effective measures for maintaining the exchange are now being put into operation.

Letters to the Editor.

RUSSIA AND IRON.

SIR,—I think you overlooked, in your article on "Monopolies and Public Revenue," the fact that the Comptoir de Longwy is acting in a very strongly protectionist country, and I do not agree with your high appreciation.

Besides, Russia has her own iron and steel works, which are going to expand after the war, and which have been very serviceable to the Empire during the war. I think the Russian ironmasters, rightly or wrongly, are going to fight against the combined energies of the Powers, as you say.

Russia wants to get independent from Germany. Help her to develop those magnificent resources in lending her capital and intelligence—by a wise combination with the Russian producers. But do not give the impression the Russian market is going to be submerged.

Yours truly,

TESTIS.

* * * The writer of this note, a distinguished Continental economist, rebukes us under a misapprehension. We are unreservedly in favour of comradeship between all the Allies in the development of their resources, and abominate rivalry of the old familiar sort. And we did not praise the Comptoir de Longwy for its excellence, except in comparison with the Yankee Trust and the German Cartel, suggesting it as a sort of model that might help the Allies in devising how best to establish a system of co-ordination of mutual help in the development of their individual resources and industries after the war. Of course, Russia has her own iron and steel works to develop, but need she do that in hostility to her Allies?—Ed.

Insurance News.

An interesting table has been compiled by the *Post Magazine* showing the results for the past year of the leading Russian joint stock fire and marine insurance companies. Ten companies doing fire business had a premium income of 82,958,000 roubles, and the losses of these companies were 48,043,000 roubles, or about 58 per cent. of the premiums. Nine companies transacting marine business against a premium income of 30,759,000 roubles had claims amounting to 15,987,000 roubles, or roughly 50 per cent. These figures must be regarded as satisfactory in view of the fact that for a portion of the period under review an important section of the country was in the occupation of the enemy. With one or two exceptions the companies doing marine business restricted their operations to the Russian rivers and waterways. Before the war the greater part of the surplus from Russian marine business was reinsured with German companies, but the London market now receives a large share of the business, most of the companies having offices here, chiefly for the purpose of reinsurance business.

German insurance companies, however, are making a big fight for business in other directions, and it would appear from the details of the fire insurance business transacted in the United States during 1915 by companies of enemy nationality reporting to the New York Insurance Department that such companies participated in the improved underwriting results of the year as compared with those of 1914. Thus ten German offices on premiums aggregating nearly 19 million dollars made an underwriting profit of \$402,000, while four marine offices made a profit of about the same amount on premiums written of \$3,350,000.

According to the *Weekly Underwriter* of New York insurance offices, in common with other businesses, will be subject to additional taxes if the new Revenue Bill is enacted in the form in which it has been put forward by the Committee on Finance of the Senate of the United States Congress. After January 1, should the measure become law, the larger of the life offices will be called upon to pay an extra £80,000 or so per annum, and vigorous opposition to the new proposals is being organised by these offices.

The Investors' Review.

Money and Credit Notes.

BANK RATE 6 PER CENT. (Increased from 5 per cent. on Thursday, July 13.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

Be its requirements excessive or only less so, the Exchequer continues to have no difficulty in raising all the money it requires. Week after week the market has to provide from 30 to 35 or more millions of new money, and provided it is without moving current loan rates more noticeably than the recoil of a French "75" gun strains its carriage. Sometimes the rate for seven-day loans stiffens to 5 per cent., at others it may be as low as $4\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., and call loans shuttle languidly between $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and 5. As for Treasury bills in their most popular form of yearlings, they sometimes cost the buyer only £94 per cent., and sometimes he is obliged to pay a few pence more.

Foreign exchanges may be said to be the only forces directly affecting the course and mood of the money market, now that the purchases and sales or transmigrations of bullion are no longer made public. This week exchanges have been on the whole favourable, the French cheque especially having dropped at one time to 27.86, from which point, however, it soon rose, only to hover near 27.89. Although nothing is known about it, the market still expects that a sensible or more probably an *ad lib.* portion of the new loan will be offered here—offered and we expect taken with generous freedom. The New York cable transfer rate was 4.76 $\frac{1}{2}$ a week ago; it was 4.76 $\frac{3}{8}$ this morning.

Our ordinary discount market has kept firm, although business has been moderate enough. A parcel of Russian bills has been placed at 5 $\frac{3}{8}$ per cent., not a bad rate as things are, and our usual remitted bill business has been transacted at rates varying little from those ruling a week ago. Six months' Bank bills have seldom changed hands under 5 $\frac{1}{8}$ per cent., and the shorter usances remain at 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.

In spite of the "pooling" of gold by the Great Powers of the *Entente*, the Bank of England's stock continues to shrink. As the end of the year draws closer the pressure on its stock increases in ordinary years. It is therefore reasonable to infer that the pressure will be greater than the average this coming year end, and unusual efforts will have to be made to prevent any troublesome depletion. If possible, too, the necessary measures must succeed without further increase in the rates for money. If the market, however, fails to protect itself otherwise then the Bank rate may have to be again raised. To us it is a matter of continual marvel that the war and the nation's trade have been financed so long and so far with so little suffering to users of banking credit.

And last week the decline in the gold stock was only £646,000, leaving the total still £54,696,000. The return for the week is in fact most noticeable in the deposit changes. Government or "public" deposits have gone up £6,928,000, and "Other" or market and private customers' deposits down £8,711,000, because the purchases of Treasury bills have exceeded the payments of the Exchequer and because "Other" securities have run down to the extent of £1,279,000. Thanks to the sensible drop in liabilities, the proportion of reserve to them remains almost the same as a week ago, viz., 23.9 per cent.

A 15-year loan of \$100,000,000, or £20,000,000, is announced for the Government of the Dominion of Canada. It is to bear 5 per cent. interest and the issue price is fixed at 97 $\frac{1}{2}$, payable 10 per cent. on application and the balance in three instalments at intervals of a month. An interest bonus of 0.61 per cent. is involved in the price of issue as redemption is at par.

We hope to loan will furnish one more great proof of Canadian solidity in wealth. Already the Commercial Cable Co. has applied for \$2,000,000, which, if allotted, will raise the total of its investments in "pro-British" loans to \$10,000,000.

The court of directors of the Bank of British North America announce the appointment of an advisory committee in Montreal, consisting of the following gentlemen:—Sir Herbert B. Ames, M.P., vice-president of Ames Holden McCready, Ltd.; Mr. W. R. Miller, senior partner in the firm of Messrs. R. Moat and Co., stockbrokers; Mr. W. R. MacInnes, freight traffic manager of the Canadian Pacific Railway Co.

SILVER.

The improvement in the price of silver which took place in the end of last week was followed by profit-taking on account of the bazaars, and the quotation steadily receded from 32 $\frac{9}{16}$ d. to 32 $\frac{5}{16}$ d. per oz. An improvement in the Chinese exchanges reduced the possibility of sales from that quarter, and with supplies from other sources restricted there has been a trifling recovery to 32 $\frac{3}{8}$ d. per oz.

Applications for the Rs. 30,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 2,34,64,912. Of these Rs. 77,000 were allotted in bills, Rs. 20,64,000 in deferred transfers, and Rs. 8,59,000 in immediate transfers, tenders for bills and deferred transfers at 1s. 4 3-32d. and for immediate transfers at 1s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. receiving about 17 per cent. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is again Rs. 30,00,000. Between April 1 and September 12 the total sales were Rs. 9,38,02,713, realising £6,291,340.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, September 13, 1916.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued	£	Government Debt..	£
.. .. 71,419,120		.. .. 11,015,100	
		Other Securities ..	7,424,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	52,969,120
		Silver Bullion ..	—
£71,419,120		£71,419,120	

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£	Government Securities ..	£
Proprietors' Capital ..	14,553,000	.. .. 42,187,546	
Reserve ..	3,566,962	Other Securities ..	94,460,298
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts) ..	59,146,591	Notes ..	35,297,685
Other Deposits ..	96,383,386	Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,226,833
Seven Day and other Bills ..	22,423		
£173,672,362		£173,672,362	

Dated Sept. 14, 1916.

E. M. HARVEY, Deputy Chief Cashier.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year.

Last year. Sept. 15.		Sept. 6, 1916.	Sept. 13, 1916.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,743,902	Rest ..	3,566,787	3,566,962	175	—
121,374,686	Pub. Deposits ..	52,218,939	59,146,591	6,927,652	—
90,168,083	Other do. ..	105,094,078	96,383,386	—	8,710,692
26,084	7 Day Bills ..	22,184	22,423	239	—
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
34,418,359	Gov. Securities.	42,187,947	42,187,506	441	—
144,954,906	Other do. ..	95,739,358	94,460,298	1,279,060	—
90,672,492	Total Reserve ..	37,527,683	37,024,518	503,165	—
				8,710,692	8,710,692
£		£	£	Increase.	Decrease.
37,515,345	Note Circulation	36,264,120	36,121,435	—	142,685
63,737,837	Coin and Bullion	55,341,803	54,695,953	—	645,850
23.9 p.c.	Proportion ..	23.9 p.c.	23.8 p.c.	—	—
5 ..	Bank Rate ..	6 ..	6 ..	—	—

SHORT TERM GOVERNMENT LOANS.

	Sales Last Week.	Sales This Week.	Total Outstanding.
	£	£	£
Treasury Bills ..	27,053,000	29,292,000	964,385,000
Exchequer Bonds, 1919 ..	1,145,000	486,000	33,287,000
Do. 1920 ..	350,000	350,000	235,708,500
Do. 1921 ..	1,747,500	1,672,000	57,911,000
War Expenditure Certificates	361,500	388,300	20,537,200
War Savings Certificates ..	1,500,000	1,500,000	25,600,000

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1916.	1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
January	1,071,048,000	918,685,000	153,263,000	—
February	1,107,055,000	960,743,000	146,912,000	—
March	1,364,599,000	1,231,392,000	133,207,000	—
April	1,090,350,000	976,264,000	114,092,000	—
May	1,447,316,000	1,164,194,000	283,222,000	—
June	1,147,630,000	960,209,000	187,421,000	—
July	1,239,193,000	1,316,695,000	—	77,502,000
August 2	200,541,000	260,768,000	29,773,000	—
" 9	281,203,000	273,845,000	7,350,000	—
" 16	276,710,000	283,050,000	—	6,340,000
" 23	259,155,000	258,873,000	282,000	—
" 30	257,173,000	275,985,000	—	18,812,000
September 6	298,577,000	255,092,000	43,485,000	—
" 13	273,357,000	254,607,000	18,750,000	—
Total	10,405,513,000	9,390,400,000	1,015,113,000	—

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.
(For 7 days ended Sept. 9.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE
Customs	National Debt Service .. 210,840
Excise	Interest, &c., on War Debt .. 1,513,059
Estate, &c., Duties	Development & Road Impvt. —
Stamps	Payments to Local Taxation 178,747
Land Tax and House Duty. —	Other Consolidated Fund
Property and Income Tax .. 1,039,000	Charges 11,700
Excess Profits Tax	Supply Services 25,084,459
Land Values	Bullion Advances
Post Office	For Advance for Interest
Crown Lands	on Exchequer Bonds under
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares —	Capital Expenditure
Miscellaneous	(Money) Act, 1904
Bullion advances repaid .. 42,000	For Treasury Bills (netamt.) —
For Treasury Bills (net amt.) 29,429,000	For Exchequer Bonds issued
War Loan, 1925-8	under the War Loan Re-
War Loan, 1925-45	demption Act, 1910
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919.. 486,000	Issues under Section 1 of
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920.. 350,000	War Loan Act, 1915
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1921.. 1,682,000	Under Telegraph (Money)
War Expenditure Certificates 388,300	Act, 1913
War Savings Certificates .. 1,500,000	Under Post Office (Lon-
Other Debts created under	don) Railway Act, 1913 ..
War Loan Act, 1915	Under Housing Act
Telegraph Money Act, 1913 —	Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8..
Under Post Office Ry. Act, 1913 —	Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11..
Under Military Works Acts, 1897-1903	E. Africa Protectorate Loan
Under Housing Act	Cunard Loan repayment
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920 —	issued to reduce debt under
East Africa Protectorate	the Cunard Agreement
Loan repayments	Deficiency advances repaid
Cunard Loan—repayment on	China Indemnity issued to
account of principal	reduce debt under Finance
Suez Canal Drawn Shares.. —	Act, 1903
China Indemnity	Ways and Means Advances
Ways and Means Advances —	repaid 6,555,000
Decrease in Exchequer	Increase in Exchequer
balances	balances 6,239,563
£39,793,368	£39,793,368

CURRENCY NOTES.

Return of Currency Notes for the week ended September 13, 1916.

	Issued.	Cancelled.	Outstanding.
	£	£	£
£1 notes	2,930,140	2,783,573	91,903,459
10s. notes	2,074,044	1,075,902	28,547,428
Note certificates	380,000	—	10,510,000
Previous total	422,265,316	291,947,123	—
	426,649,500	295,688,613	130,960,887

Ratio of gold held against notes: this week, 22.15 p.c.; last week, 21.85 p.c.

FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	Aug. 25, 1916.	Aug. 18, 1916.	Aug. 27, 1915.
	£	£	£
Gold coin and certificates ..	51,959,800	52,185,200	42,229,200
Gold Redemption Fund	327,470	398,200	220,800
Gold Settlement Fund	22,190,200	22,000,200	11,186,000
Legal tender notes, silver, &c.	2,453,000	3,200,600	3,975,600
Total reserves	76,939,400	77,983,200	57,611,400
5% redemption fund against			
F.R. bank notes	100,000	100,000	—
10-day bills and loans	2,591,000	1,632,600	889,000
30-day bills and loans	5,501,400	5,853,400	2,131,600
60-day bills and loans	8,556,200	8,480,000	3,441,800
90-day bills and loans	4,709,600	4,916,800	1,716,000
Maturities over 90 days	477,400	496,000	389,900
Total	21,935,600	21,378,800	8,567,800
Investments—			
U.S. Bonds	9,359,200	9,405,800	1,767,200
One year U.S. Treasury			
notes	1,641,000	1,577,000	—
Municipal Warrants	5,572,600	5,557,600	5,161,600
Federal Reserve notes—nett.	4,244,400	3,977,400	2,498,200
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—			
nett.	4,330,800	4,213,600	1,398,000
All other assets	708,200	645,200	998,400
Total assets	124,722,200	124,838,600	77,996,600
Paid-up capital	11,072,600	11,022,000	10,937,800
Government Deposits	10,019,800	9,943,600	—
Reserve deposits—nett.	100,484,200	101,018,000	63,397,800
Note circulation—nett.	2,746,600	2,459,000	3,347,600
Fed. Res. notes in circulation	338,000	338,000	—
All other liabilities	61,000	58,000	313,400
Total liabilities	124,722,200	124,838,600	77,996,600
Gold reserve against nett			
liabilities	68.4%	68.3%	82.1%
Cash reserve against nett			
liabilities	70.6%	71.4%	88.2%

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	Sept. 9, 1916	Sept. 2, 1916	Aug. 26, 1916	Sept. 11, 1915
	£	£	£	£
Loans	661,392,000	650,040,000	648,808,000	533,330,000
Reserve held in own Vaults ..	82,062,000	89,280,000	89,740,000	101,114,000
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk.	32,898,000	32,980,000	34,250,000	27,622,000
Reserve held in Other Depos.	10,820,000	10,742,000	10,734,000	5,936,000
Nett Demand Deposits	647,828,000	643,654,000	636,048,000	534,676,000
Nett Time Deposits	33,940,000	34,634,000	39,430,000	28,160,000
Circulation	6,279,000	6,238,000	6,226,000	7,396,000
Excess Lawful Reserve	14,212,000	22,674,000	25,182,000	41,978,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits.

NEW YORK STATE BANKS & TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.).

	Sept. 9, 1916.	Sept. 2, 1916.	Aug. 26, 1916.	Sept. 11, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Loans	145,140,000	142,938,000	142,778,000	117,692,000
Specie	12,076,000	11,896,000	11,002,000	9,934,000
Deposits	153,496,000	150,956,000	150,466,000	121,706,000
Legal Tenders	1,882,000	1,788,000	1,744,000	1,730,000

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Sept. 14, 1916.	Sept. 7, 1916.	Aug. 31, 1916.	Sept. 16, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold in hand	192,864,000	192,692,800	192,509,280	177,504,360
Silver in hand	13,531,120	13,499,880	13,544,400	14,584,840
Bills discounted	15,252,200	15,512,720	17,932,760	9,848,080
Advances	46,878,280	46,942,280	46,993,400	23,513,960
Note circulation	664,106,360	663,954,480	656,985,880	530,681,000
Public deposits	8,277,520	6,853,480	3,206,520	3,034,800
Private deposits	85,854,320	84,388,600	88,546,360	102,651,960
Foreign Bills	69,480	86,640	60,000	66,960

Proportion between bullion and circulation 31.05 per cent., against 31.36 per cent. last week. Advances to the State £340,000,000, unchanged. The adjourned payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium, figures doubtful, and at the branches amounted to £30,373,880, decrease £146,400.

IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Sept. 5, 1916.	Aug. 29, 1916.	Aug. 21, 1916.	Aug. 12, 1916.
	£	£	£	£
Notes in reserve	7,840,000	9,400,000	10,280,000	10,870,000
Gold	155,160,000	155,090,000	154,860,000	154,930,000
Gold in reserve abroad	205,720,000	205,700,000	205,700,000	196,230,000
Treasury Bonds	391,310,000	389,460,000	393,110,000	387,330,000
Circulation note issue	702,150,000	696,090,000	692,720,000	687,620,000
Treasury deposits	20,270,000	20,210,000	10,280,000	20,000,000

PROTECTORS



NORTH BRITISH
and MERCANTILE
INSURANCE COMPANY. ESTABLISHED 1809.

"An old and first-class office."

"Low rates a distinctive feature."—The Times.

Funds - £23,400,000.

LONDON - 61, Threadneedle Street, E.C.
EDINBURGH - 64, Princes Street.

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Sept. 7, 1916	Aug. 31, 1916	Aug. 23, 1916	Sept. 7, 1915
	£	£	£	£
Total Coin & Bullion	124,673,200	124,715,450	124,797,250	122,816,750
Treasury Notes	18,693,650	16,681,300	17,043,950	12,479,100
Bills discounted	357,111,000	351,874,250	332,929,150	253,370,050
Advances	526,000	634,350	514,150	638,050
Note circulation	358,771,800	355,892,700	343,157,700	277,994,250
Deposits	143,894,800	141,776,150	134,557,250	98,401,150

Clearing House returns during Aug., £266,331,160 against £273,378,015 in July

NETHERLANDS BANK (12 Florins to the £).

	Sept. 9, 1916	Sept. 2, 1916	Aug. 26, 1916	Sept. 11, 1915
	£	£	£	£
Gold and Silver	49,253,250	49,360,417	49,503,586	31,644,337
Bills and Advances	15,001,666	15,305,500	13,673,166	12,313,787
Note circulation	156,417,000	56,811,250	54,898,833	43,265,924
Deposits	12,065,166	11,059,500	11,566,416	1,758,334

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Sept. 4, 1916	Aug. 26, 1916	Aug. 19, 1916	Sept. 4, 1915
	£	£	£	£
Gold	46,017,421	45,704,353	45,155,571	28,931,172
Silver	30,324,487	30,324,003	30,325,143	29,530,136
Foreign Bills	3,809,310	3,867,520	3,920,423	4,859,649
Discounts and Short Bills	23,697,472	23,398,423	23,659,669	26,210,432
Treasury Account, &c.	29,425,952	30,343,934	30,600,696	29,908,594
Notes in Circulation	82,325,490	88,890,328	89,082,620	80,846,749
Current Accounts, Deposits	31,058,042	32,023,674	31,877,738	25,782,869
Dividends, Interests, &c.	1,763,987	1,656,239	1,698,071	1,358,397
Government Securities	2,194,485	1,722,880	1,759,546	2,780,465

SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	Sept. 7, 1916	Aug. 31, 1916	Aug. 23, 1916	Sept. 7, 1915
	£	£	£	£
Gold and silver	13,682,535	13,190,966	13,257,475	12,031,367
Bills	6,996,084	8,051,790	7,239,140	5,344,538
Note circulation	17,145,760	17,266,596	16,178,596	16,169,794
Current and deposit accounts	5,568,124	6,083,033	6,349,404	3,473,302

BANK OF SWEDEN.

	Sept. 2, 1916	Aug. 26, 1916	Aug. 19, 1916	Sept. 4, 1915
	£	£	£	£
Gold	9,207,000	9,210,000	9,211,000	6,301,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills	9,443,000	9,462,000	9,284,000	5,708,000
Swedish and Foreign Govt. Securities	3,795,000	3,801,000	3,808,000	2,702,000
Discounts and Loans	3,746,000	2,955,000	3,020,000	5,726,000
Notes in circulation	19,650,000	18,694,000	18,300,000	15,889,000
Deposits at notice	5,258,000	5,984,000	5,956,000	4,073,000

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.
Paris.....	chqs.	27.98½	27.89	Antwerp.....	short	—	—
Brussels....	chqs.	—	—	Italy.....	sight	30.60	30.70
Amsterdam..	sight	11.69½	11.68½	Constantinople	3 mths	—	—
Christiania..	—	17.38½	17.15	Rio de Janeiro	90 dys	12½d.	12½d.
Stockholm..	—	17.05	16.52½	Buenos Aires	90 dys	45½d.	45½d.
Copenhagen..	—	17.70	17.25	Calcutta.....	T.T.	1/4½d.	1/4½d.
Petrograd...	3 mths	145½	150½	Bombay.....	T.T.	1/4½d.	1/4½d.
New York...	cable	4.76½	4.76½	Hong Kong....	T.T.	2/1½d.	2/1½d.
Lisbon.....	sight	34½	35	Shanghai....	T.T.	3/0½d.	3/0½d.
Madrid.....	sight	23.75	23.70½	Singapore....	T.T.	2/4½d.	2/4½d.
				Yokohama....	4 mths	2/1½d.	2/1½d.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Sept. 12, 1916.		Sept. 14, 1916.	
		Sellers.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Buyers.
Amsterdam..	Cable transfers	11.70	11.67	11.70	11.67
	Three months' bills	11.87	11.82	11.87	11.82
Paris.....	Cable transfers	27.91	27.86	27.92	27.87
	Three months' bills	28.30	28.25	28.35	28.25
Marseilles..	Cable transfers	28.30	28.25	28.35	28.35
Switzerland..	Cable transfers	25.50	25.40	25.57	25.47
	Three months' bills	25.85	25.75	25.95	25.85
Petrograd...	Cable transfers	150½	149½	151½	150½
Genoa, &c.	Cable transfers	30.75	30.65	30.75	30.65
	Three months' bills	31.20	31.10	31.20	31.10
Spain.....	Cable transfers	23.76	23.70	23.75	23.65
	Three months' bills	48½	48	48½	48
Lisbon and Oporto	Cable transfers	35½	35½	35½	34½
	Three months' bills	16.65	16.55	16.67	16.57
Scandinavia..	Cable transfers	16.65	16.55	16.67	16.57

TREASURY BILLS.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months	5½	5½
	(£98 12 7) .. (£98 12 7)	
Six months	5½	5½
	(£97 2 1½) .. (£97 2 1½)	
Nine months	6	6
Twelve months	6	6
	(£94 0 0) .. (£94 0 0)	

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Last week	This week
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted	5½	5½
Three months	5½	5½
Four months	5½	5½
Six months	5½	5½
Three months fine inland bills	6-6½	6-6½
Four months	6-6½	6-6½
Six months	6-6½	6-6½

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Last week	This week
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	6	6
short loan rates	6½	6½
Bankers' rate on deposits	4	4
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	4½	4½
7 and 14 days' notice	4½	4½
Current rates for 7 day loans	4½-5	4½-5
for call loans	4½-4½	4½-5

The Week's Stock Markets.

At the beginning of the week the news that more French gold is to be placed at the disposal of the British Treasury led to the belief in some quarters that the Bank rate would be reduced to 5 per cent. this week, so as to pave the way for the issue both of British and French War Loans. It is practically settled that the latter will make its appearance at the beginning of next month, and it is understood that the terms will be the same as for the "Victory" loan, viz., 5 per cents. offered at 88, or 87½ for prompt cash. As the last issue proved such a brilliant success, the next is certain of an extremely favourable reception, and the only point discussed here is the amount likely to be reserved for London subscriptions. But with the Bank rate left at 6 per cent. the expectation (never well-founded) of an early issue of a British loan has faded, and really there is no reason why we should be in any particular hurry while the war can be financed by Treasury bills and other short-term borrowing. We are quite aware of the dangers of an excessive floating debt, but the circumstances are altogether exceptional, and we can see no cause for anxiety about the smooth working of the present method now or in the near future. Otherwise there is not very much to be said about markets, which remain in a condition of more or less suspended animation, although the Treasury's emphatic reminder that time bargains cannot be allowed probably indicates that in some quarters there was a tendency to take liberties with the regulations. Home Railways have had another set-back on the failure of the conference with regard to the men's claim for an all-round increase of 10s. a week in their wages. In South Wales the men threaten to strike if their demands are not granted, and the offer of a 3s. per week advance has been scornfully rejected; but it is generally believed that a compromise can be arrived at on the basis of a 5s. increase. Whatever the result may be, the outlook for railway investments is not very encouraging. The American market received a mild stimulus from the Republican victory in Maine, but the only really active counters are Industrials under the lead of Steels and International Marines. At the end of August the unfilled orders of the Steel Trust amounted to 9,660,000 tons, against 4,930,000 tons a year ago, so the dollars will be raked in as fast as they can be counted for some time to come. Associated Portland Cements had a bitter disappointment in the passing of the preference dividend, and a drop of something like £175,000 in the profits, but the company's turn will come when the restoration of industrial Belgium and Northern France can be tackled.

Stock markets have shown a more irregular tendency this week. Buying of gilt-edged securities appeared to have been stimulated at first by the news of the arrangement between the Allies for pooling their gold, which led to talk in some quarters of a reduction in the Bank of England rate and an early issue of a new War Loan. Consols rose sharply to 60½ d., and the 4½ per cent. War Loan hardened to 96½ d., but with a growing stringency in the Money market prices reacted to 59½ and 96½ respectively, while the 3½ per cent. loan dropped to 86½. Colonial Government stocks have hardly been mentioned, but Gold Coast 4 per cent. and South Australia 3½ per cent. both rose ½; and New South Wales 4 per cent., 1922, and 4½ per cent., 1922-7, fell ½ each. Amongst Foreign Government bonds the French War Loan was again prominent on the preparations for a new issue.

A rise to 85 was followed by a reaction to 84½, but the drop was quickly wiped out and there has since been a further improvement to 85½. Japanese 4½ per cents. have been wanted for redemption purposes and have hardened to 95, but the 4½ per cent. loans and the 5 per cent. 1907 have fallen ½ to ¾. Peruvian Corporation issues jumped sharply on a somewhat mysterious demand on the Amsterdam Bourse, and the preference closed 3 up at 27, while the ordinary stock and debentures were both higher. Argentine, B.A. Water Works relapsed to 94, and

finished ½ to ¾ above the lowest. American Railroad shares have been steady with an improving tendency on the hopes of a Republican victory in the Presidential election engendered by the Maine results. U.S. Steel, after a little reaction due to profit taking, again came into favour, and further advanced to a new "record" of 110½. Canadian Pacific shares improved to 186½, but reacted to 186½. Grand Trunk stocks were idle and unchanged. Argentine Railways were steady with small declines in some of the prior charge issues. Mexican first preference recovered ½ to 70, but Guayaquil and Quito bonds were marked down 1½ to 38.

Bank shares have again been very quiet, but the majority of the small changes in the London group were favourable. Joint-Stock improved ¾, Lloyds ½, and Barclay "B" and London and Provincial ½ each, but Parr's fell ½. Bank of Australasia was marked down 1½ to 115 xd and b., and Anglo-South American and London and Brazilian were easier. Dealings in Shipping shares were small, but P. and O. deferred rose ¼ and Royal Mail fell that amount. African Steamship shares were marked up 8½ to 34½ on amalgamation rumours. Brazilian Traction relapsed to 60½ on the Rio exchange, but rallied sharply to 61½ on a little buying. Hudson's Bays fluctuated within narrow limits, but closed unchanged, and amongst other land shares Forestal Land ordinary and preference improved, but Niger were offered and relapsed to 41s. Engineering and Iron and Steel things were in good demand and showed fair gains in most cases, while Bengal Iron and Steel jumped sharply. Some inquiry for Colliery shares was stimulated by the proposed North's Navigation deal, and the shares of that company touched 43s., but relapsed to 41s. British Oil and Cake Mills dropped to 27s. 9d. on a little profit taking, but a renewal of the support sent them up to 29s. 3d., and a demand sprang up for Magadi Soda ordinary and deferred. Associated Cement were dull on the announcement that no preference dividend can be paid for last year. Textiles were quiet but firm. Courtaulds were active and rose to 7, but they closed ½ under that figure. Meat shares hardened on the interim dividend of 1s. per share declared by the British and Argentine, and amongst Catering things Lyons improved to 4½.

Dealings in Oil shares have been on a moderate scale, but, as usual, there has been a fair business in Shell, which left them a shade up. Royal Dutch rose to 45½, but relapsed and closed ½ down on the week at 45. North Caucasian, Spies, and Ural Caspian were inclined to give way, but Rumanian Consols were supported and higher. Kern River were bought on the declaration of a dividend of 8 per cent. for 1915-16, and Venezuelan Concessions were wanted on the management being taken over by the Shell Co., but Mexican Eagle were easier. Rubber shares have again been the most active section of the markets, and business has been well distributed. Rubber Plantations Trust and its subsidiaries were all in demand, and a good inquiry was also experienced for Johore Rubber Lands, Siah, Sedenak, Ledbury, and Lumut. Batu Caves improved on the interim dividend of 35 per cent., which compares with 25 per cent. last year. Java issues were firm with a demand for Njasinga and Kawie, but closed below the best on the news of an earthquake in the island.

LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

SUGAR.—Prices were kept at the same level as previously, and the moderate supplies of grocery descriptions offered soon clear. Stocks of raw kinds in the three chief ports of the U.K. total 55,600 tons, against 42,700 same time last year.

COFFEE.—Offerings in auction were on a light scale this week, and all desirable home trade qualities elicited fair patronage at the extreme of recent rates. Bold Uganda sold up to 71s.; bold sizes of washed Dumont, 67s. to 68s. The terminal market proved quiet and easier. December sold, 50s., 49s. 7½d.; March, 51s. 7½d., 51s.; May, 52s.

COCOA market quiet and unchanged, in the absence of auctions. By private treaty, Trinidad sold 83s., and Accra 73s.

TEA.—The market continues to steadily harden, and with active and well-distributed competition offerings were readily absorbed during the week. Catalogues embraced 37,300 packages Indian, 31,000 packages Ceylon, and 4,000 packages Java.

SPICE.—Only a small assortment was submitted to auction, and failed to attract much support. For arrival, trade moved quietly in pepper, and black Singapore, afloat, sold, 7½d.; white ditto, October-December, 9½d.; and Muntok, 9½d. Cloves remain slow. Fair Zanzibar, spot, sold, 7d. Tapioca steadily held, though trade was quite restricted.

RICE.—Very quiet, but steady, as sellers were not pressing. No. 2 cleaned Rangoon, spot, sold, 17s. Bran firm, and Rangoon, October-December, London, sold, 21s., ex ship terms. Beans very firm. Spot Rangoon, sold, £22.

FIBRES mostly quiet, though not much change occurred in values. Of Manila hemp, coarse August-October sold, £49; brown ditto, £48. Weekly receipts were moderate. New Zealand quiet, unaltered. Jute: Small sales include native first marks, spot, London, £31 to £31 10s.; September, Dundee, £34; Daisee, No. 2, September-October, £34.

SHELLAC slightly unsettled, but a fair trade resulted, both with regard to spot and forward. Fair second orange spot sold, 131s.; October, 132s. 6d., 131s. and 132s. 6d.; December, 135s., 135s. 6d., 134s., and 135s.

RUBBER, after being firm, assumed a quieter tone. Plantation, spot, crepe, sold, 2s. 3½d. to 2s. 3½d.; October-December, 2s. 4½d. Ribbed smoked sheet, 2s. 3½d. to 2s. 3d. Fine hard Para, spot, done, 3s. 4d. to 3s. 3½d.; ball, September-October, quoted, 2s. 0½d.

COPRA remained generally steady, though actual business was confined to a narrow compass.

	Last Week	This Week		Last Week	This Week
Consols.....	59½x	59½	N.S.W. 4½ 1922-7	95	94½
War Loan 3½%	86½	86½	" 5% 1921-3	99	99
India 3½%	60½	60½	New Zealand 4%	88½	88½
" 3½%	70½x	70½	Queensland 4%	84½x	84½
Australian 5½% 1920-22	100½	100½	" 4½% new	95 x	95
Canada 4% 1910-60	85 x	85	Union of S. Africa 4½%	94½	94½
" 4½% 1920-5	96	96	" 1920-5	94 x	94
N.S.W. 4%	86½	86½	Victoria 4½% 1920-5	93½	93½
" 4½% 5-yr. bds.	96 x	96	Westn. Aus. 4%	84	84
Belgian 3%	63½	63½	French War Loan, 5% ..	84½	84½
Brazil, 1912	68	68	Japan 4½% (1st)	94½	95
" New Funding	82½	82	" (2nd)	94½	94½
Chinese 1866	93½	93	Russia 4%	70½	70½
" 1912	79½	79½	" 4½%	81	81½
Egypt Unified 4%	81½	81½	" 5%	99	99
Brighton defd.	68½	67½	London and S.W. dfd.	26	25½
Caledonian defd.	94	94	" Do. new pf.	98	98
Chatham ord.	94	94	Metropolitan	25½	24½
Gt. Central pf.	104	104	" Do. 5% New pf.	90	90
" dfd.	81	81	Met. District	61½	61½
Gt. Eastern	39	38½	Midland dfd.	15½	15½
Gt. Northern dfd.	50½	50½	Nth. British dfd.	105½	105½
Gt. Western	96½x	96½	Nth. Eastern	106½	106½
Lancs. and Yorks.	72	71½	Nth. Western	102½	102½
			Sth. Eastern dfd.	29½	28½
Canadian Pacific	185½	186½	Chesapeake	63½	64½
Do. 6% Notes	106½	106½	Erie	39½	39½
E. Indian Guar. 4½% debts.	92½	92½	Milwaukee	98	97½
Grand Trunk ord.	12	12	N. Y. Central	108½	110½
" 3rd pf.	28	28	Southern	25½	25½
" 5½% 3-yr. Notes	97½	97½	Southern Pacific	102½	103½
" 5½% 5-yr. "	97	97	Union Pacific	145½	149½
Atchafson	108½	108½	U. S. Steel	104½	110½
Baltimore	89½	90½			
Antofagasta dfd.	130	130	Cent. Argentine ord.	81	79½
" 6% Notes	100	100½	" Do. 5% Notes	96½	96½
Brazil Common	74	74	" Do. 6% "	100½	100½
B. A. & Pacific	47½	47	Leopoldina	38	37½
B. A. Gt. Southern	87	86½	Mexican ord.	19½	19½
B. A. Western	90	89½	San Paulo (Brazilian) ..	194	194
			United of Havana	85½	85½
Bank of Australasia	118½	118½	London City & Midland ..	7½	7½
Barclay & Co. "A"	72½	72½	London County & West. ..	15½	15½
" "B"	11½	11½	London Joint Stock	22	22½
Capital & Counties	22½	22½	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (£100 pd)	28	28
Chartered of India	59½	58½x	" Do. (£12 pd)	30	30
Hongkong & Shanghai ..	76	76	Parr's	30½	30½
Lloyds	23½	24	Standard of S.A.	10½	10½
London & Provincial	16½	16½	Union & Smiths	24	23½
London & S.W.	11½	11½			
Apollinaris ord.	1½	1½	Forestal Land	57½	52½
Armstrong, Whitworth ..	39½	40½	Furness, Withy	50½	49½
Associated Cement	32	32	Hudson's Bay	7½	7½
Birmingham Small Arms	48½	46½	Imperial Tobacco 'B' pf.	22½/6x	22½/6
Borax dfd.	35½	35½	" Do. 'C' pf.	36½/6x	36½/6
Bovril	20½	20½	Kynochs	29½	29½
Brazil Traction	61½	61½	Lever Bros. "C" pf.	21½	21½
British Amer. Tobacco ..	96½	95½/6x	Lyons, J.	4½	4½
Brown (John), & Co.	33½	34½	Marconi	3½	3½
Brunner, Mond	4½	4½	Maypole Dairy dfd.	23½/6	23½/6
Cammell-Laird	6½	6½	Mond Nickel ord.	38	38
Castner-Kellner	3½	3½	National Steam Car	10½	20½
Coats	62½	62½	Pears, A. & F.	1½	1½
Cunard	83½	84½	P. & O. dfd.	337	338
Dennis Bros.	37½	38½	Royal Mail	126	125
Dorman, Long	34½	34½	South Durham Steel	34½	36½
Eastmans	81	81	Underground Inc. Bds.	89x	89½
English Sewing Cotton ..	45½	45½	Vickers	37½	37½
Fine Cotton Spinners ..	30½	31½			
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	7½	8½	Mexican Eagle pf.	37½	37½
Baku (10s.)	37½	37½	North Caucasian	28½	27
Burmah	4½	4½	Roumanian Cons.	18½	18½
Lobitos	43½	43½	Royal Dutch (100 gulden)	45½	45
Maikop Combine (10s.) ..	31	31	Shell	5½	5½
Maikop Pipeline	37½	37½	Spies (10-1)	15½	15½
Mexican Eagle	37½	36½	Ural Caspian	37½	36½
Anglo-Java Rub. (2½-) ..	6½	6½	Merlimau 2½	5½	5½
Anglo-Malay 2½	11½/10x	11½/10x	Fataling 2½	34½	34½
Ayer Kuning 2½	37½x	36½	Port Dickson 2½	3½	3½
Bukit Mertajam 2½	51½x	51½	Rubber Trust 2½	24½	24½
Bukit Sembawang 2½ ..	3½/6	3½/6	Sapumalkande £1	21½	22½
Carey United £1	34½	34½	Selangor United 2½	66½	66½
Grand Central £1	25½	25½	Sialang £1	31½/10x	31½/10x
Gula Kalumpung £1	28½	28½	Singapore Para 2½ ..	3½	3½
Highlands £1	54½	54½	Singapore United 2½ ..	3½	3½
Java Para £1	33½	32½	Tanjong 2½	79½	79½
Johore Rubber Lands £1 ..	30½	32½	Tanjong Malim £1	25½	25½
Langen Java £1	50½	51½	Tebrau £1	66½	67½
Linggi 2½	21½	21½/10x	United Serdang 2½	12½	12½
London Asiatic 2½	71½	71½	United Temiang 2½	3½	3½
Malacca £1	85½	87½	Vallambrosa 2½	17½/10x	18½
Malayalam £1	36½	35½	De Beers dfd. (£2 10s.) ..	12½	12½
Abbottiakoon (10/-)	6½	6½	East Rand	13½	13½
Brakpan	43½	43½	Gt. Boulder (3½-)	12½	12½
Broken Hill Prop. (8/-) ..	59½/6x	58½	Meyer & Charlton	5½	5½
Cam & Motor	11½	11½	Modder "B"	6½	6½
Central Mining (£12)	6½	7	" Do. Deep	7½	7½
Chartered	13½/10x	13½	" New Modder (£4)	19½	19½
City Deep	4½	4½	Rand Mines (5/-)	31½	31½
Cons. Gold Fields	13½	13½	Rio Tinto (£5)	61½	61½
Cons. Langlaate	17½x	17½	Van Ryn Deep	38½x	38½
Crown Mines (10/-)	2½	2½			

Brazilian old Funding loan fell to 90. Cuban Ports was marked down to 39½, but rallied towards the end and closed at 40.

The Home Railway market has been under the shadow of the labour demands, but there has been little indication of selling pressure, and for the most part the changes have been unimportant. Great Western and North-Western lost ½, and Great Northern preferred and deferred, Midland deferred and North-Eastern ½. Caledonian stocks receded sharply, but rallied and

METALS.—Copper: The standard market opened firmer for cash and early maturities last Monday, with sellers manifesting reserve, spot closing at £112 10s., and three months at £107 10s. Values in the latter position advanced on the following day to £109, cash delivery being unchanged. By the middle of the week prices were carried up, while steady inquiry prevailed, with a scarcity of sellers, cash reaching £117, and three months £114. At Thursday's session values of these dates left off at £115 and £114 respectively. Tin: Irregular, and on balance little altered since the week's commencement, standard cash by last Wednesday touching £169 15s., and three months £170 15s. At Thursday's meeting values in these positions were finally fixed at £170 10s.

CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 15, 1916.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
Sugar —per cwt., duty 14/1, 98% polarisation	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Wool —per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tate's Cubes No. 1	2 7 13	2 7 13	Australian	10-3 11	1 6 3 10 1/2
Ditto, H.T.S.	2 6 7 1/2	2 6 7 1/2	Scoured Merino	9 1/2-3 2	1 0 1/2-2 7
Fine granulated..	nom.	nom.	Greasy Merino	1-2 0	1 3 1/2-4 1/2
Lyle's granulated..	41 7 1/2-42 1 1/2	41 7 1/2-42 1 1/2	Greasy Crossbred	8-2 2	1 0 1/2-1 10 1/2
Foreign granu- lated, first marks	nom.	nom.	New Zealand (scoured) Merino	3 1 1/2-3 6	2 9 1/2-3 7
f.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	2 1/2-1 8	1 3 1/2-1 10
German Cubes f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Cape snow white	2 0-3 1	2 1-2 9 1/2
French Cubes	nom.	nom.	Indiarubber p. lb.		
Crystallised, West	nom.	nom.	Plantation, Spot		
India	nom.	nom.	Crepe	0 2 1/2	0 2 4 1/2
Beet, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Coal —per ton		
Tea —per lb., duty	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Durham, best	nom.	nom.
1/1 lb.			Seconds	nom.	nom.
Indian Pekoe	0 9 1/2-1 6 1/2	0 9 1/2-1 6	East Hartlepool..	nom.	nom.
Broken ..	0 9 1/2-1 11 1/2	0 10-2 6 1/2	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Orange ..	0 10-2 1	0 11-1 11 1/2	Steamers, best	35/ 40/	35/ 40/
Broken ..	0 11-2 2	0 11-1 10	Seconds	30/	30/
Pekoe Souchong	0 9-1 0 1/2	0 9 1/2-1 0 1/2	Lead —per ton.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Ceylon Pekoe	0 9-1 0 1/2	0 9 1/2-1 0 1/2	English Pig..	32 0 0	31 15 0
Broken ..	0 9 1/2-1 0 1/2	0 9 1/2-1 1 1/2	Foreign soft..	30 10 0	30 10 0
Orange ..	0 9-1 0 1/2	0 9 1/2-1 0	Quicksilver —per bottle first hand	£ 17 1/2	£ 17 1/2
Broken ..	0 10-1 2 1/2	0 10-1 2 1/2	Tin —per ton		
Pekoe Souchong	0 9-0 10 1/2	0 9 1/2-1 0 1/2	English Ingots	£ 173-£ 174	£ 172-£ 173
Cocoa —per cwt.			Do, bars	£ 174-£ 175	£ 173-£ 174
duty 6d. per lb.			Standard cash	£ 171 0 0	£ 170 5 0
Trinidad—per cwt.	79 0-84 0	79 0-84 0	Tin Plates, per box	33/ upds.	34/ upds.
Grenada ..	73 0-82 6	73 0-82 6	Copper —per ton.		
West Africa..	70 0-74 0	70 0-74 0	English, Tough,	nom.	nom.
Ceylon Plantation	72 0-91 0	72 0-91 0	per ton ..	£ 126-£ 125	£ 131-£ 129
Guayaquil Arriba.	96 0-100 0	96 0-100 0	Best Selected	£ 150	£ 150
Coarse —per cwt.			Sheets ..	£ 110 0 0	£ 116 0 0
duty 42/- per cwt.			Standard		
East India ..	67 0-95 0	67 0-95 0	Jute —per ton.		
Jamaica ..	62 0-120 6	62 0-120 6	Native firsts for shipment Oct.	£ 34 0 0	£ 34 0 0
Costa Rica ..	62 0-84 0	62 0-84 0	Oils —		
Provisions —			Linseed, per ton..	£ 36 1/2-£ 37 1/2	£ 36 1/2-£ 37 1/2
Butter, per cwt.			Rape, ref. English,	£ 46-£ 48	£ 46-£ 48
Australian finest	nom.	nom.	barrels ..		
Irish Creameries	180/-186/-	184/-190/-	Brown English,		
Dutch ditto ..	nom.	nom.	naked ..	£ 43 0 0	nom.
Russian finest	nom.	nom.	Cott'n Seed, crude	£ 34 1/2-£ 35	£ 34 1/2 0
Normandy baskets	nom.	nom.	Ditto, refined ..	£ 41-£ 51 1/2	£ 40-£ 51 1/2
Danish finest	194/-198/-	196/-200/-	Petroleum Oil, per		
Brittany rolls ..	16/6-19/6	16/6-19/6	8 lbs.	1/1 1/2	1/1 1/2
doz. lb. ..			Water White ..	1/2 1/2	1/2 1/2
Bacon —per cwt.			Oil Seeds, Linseed		
Irish ..	114 0-120 0	111 0-118 0	Calcutta—per 40		
Continental ..	106 0-121 0	102 0-109 0	lbs., Sep.-Oct.	3 16 6	3 16 6
Canadian ..	108 0-110 0	112 0-114 0	Rape, Toria ..	69/	69/6
American ..	98 0-104 0	96 0-101 0	Iron —per ton	nom.	nom.
Hams —per cwt.			Cleveland Cash ..		
Irish ..	138/-148/-	136/-150/-	Tobacco —duty,		
Canadian ..	0 0-0 0	0 0-0 0	unmanufactured		
American ..	68 0-112 0	68 0-106 0	56/6 to 6/22 per lb.		
Cheese —per cwt.			Maryland & Ohio		
Edam ..	0 0-0 0	0 0-0 0	per lb. bond	0 6-0 10	0 6-0 10
Canadian ..	103 0-106 0	105 0-107 0	Virginian leaf..	0 8-1 6	0 8-1 6
Gouda ..	nom.	nom.	Kentucky leaf ..	0 6 1/2-0 10	0 6 1/2-0 10
English Cheddar	104 0-116 0	104 0-116 0	Latakia ..	1 0-3 1	1 0-3 1
Wilt's loaf ..	nom.	nom.	Havana ..	1 0-3 1	1 0-3 1
New Zealand ..	103 0-105 0	104 0-106 0	Manila ..	0 6-2 1	0 6-2 1
Rice —per cwt.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Cigars, duty 10/1		
Garden Siam			per lb.	1/ upds.	2/ upds.
spot ..	17 6	17 9	Timber —Wood.		
Rangoon 2 stars ..	17 0	17 0	Pitch Pine ..	250/-270	250/-270
Eggs —per 120.			Indian Oak ..	400/-600	400/-600
English ..	24 0-25 0	23 6-24 6	Turpentine —		
Irish ..	22 0-23 0	21 6-22 0	American Spot ..	2 3 3	2 2 7 1/2
Danish ..	23 0-25 0	23 0-25 0	Copra —		
Spelter —			Malabar, London		
G.O.B. as to position	£ 50-£ 44	£ 54-£ 47	Sept.-Oct.	32 10 0	32 10 0
Flour —per sack.			Ceylon, London	31 12 6	30 15 0
Town Households	56/	56/	South Sea ..	28 15 0	28 10 0
Official ..			F.M.S. ..	29 5 0	28 10 0
American First					
Patents ..	53/ upds.	54/6 upds.			

have met with more business. It is still extremely difficult for buyers and sellers to arrange terms of fresh contracts, and our customers are nervous as to committing themselves to lines of weight at current rates. After a rather easier tendency in raw cotton quotations a hardening movement has set in. Traders hold very diverse views as to the raw cotton situation, and there is still time for many things to happen to the American crop. There is no particular change in the outlook for the Egyptian growth, but it is too early for any definite estimate to be published. The inquiry in cloth for export has been fairly extensive, and in some quarters buyers and sellers seem to be getting to closer quarters. For India, demand has again chiefly run on light bleaching cloths, and certain producers are now wanting delivery six months ahead for fresh contracts. The undercurrent of demand to dhooties continues fairly healthy. Occasional transactions have been mentioned in the commoner kinds of shirtings, but the better qualities still drag. Only small lots have changed hands for China, and dealers in Shanghai seem quite content to work with smaller stocks than usual. Some improvement, however, has occurred in the turnover for Java. There has not been much activity for South America, prices in many instances being out of the reach of buyers. A steady demand continues in printing and finishing cloths. Certain producers of heavy goods have obtained relief as a result of special contracts for the Government. Some useful orders continue to be booked in home trade fabrics, and advices from this section are generally healthy. American yarns for home consumption have tended to harden in quotation, and some spinners have met with a rather increased business, the bulk of the buying being in medium counts. Not more than a sorting-up trade has been reported in shipping yarns. The strong position of Egyptian spinnings is well maintained, and although fair buying has not been unknown, many users are purchasing from hand to mouth.

The Week in Mines.

The outstanding incident in the Mining markets this week has again been the activity and strength of the Far Eastern Rand descriptions, though in a few instances profit-taking has caused prices to slip back a little. The death of Sir Sigismund Neumann is not likely to affect the group of mines which he founded; he has in recent years not taken the same active interest as formerly in the mines of the group, in which other groups have taken an interest. The group was never a really prominent one, the chief mines being the Consolidated Main Reef, the Wit. Deep, and the Wolhuter. The latter, one of the model mines of the Rand, is now also included in the Rand Mines group for some purposes. Copper shares have been firm, and prominent in the Miscellaneous sections have been the buoyancy of Burma Corporations and Morocco Minerals.

SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

In the South African market there has been some good buying of the Eckstein group, notably Central Minings, which have risen 5/6 to 7 in anticipation of a dividend before very long. Crown Mines have risen 1/2 to 2 1/2, and Rand Mines have improved to 3 1/2 in sympathy. Springs have been actively bought from the Cape, and are 1/8 higher at 3 1/2, while Coal Trusts have risen 1/8 to 3 1/2, and Consolidated Mines Selections 2s. 9d. to 23s. in sympathetic response. East Rand Props have at last met with a few friends, and have advanced 1s. 6d. to 16s. 9d., while East Rand Minings have recovered 1s. to 16s. 6d. Modder Leases have further improved to 48s. The loan to this company will, no doubt, be capitalised in order to bring the property to the dividend-paying stage as soon as possible. The existing capital is a very moderate one, and has no water in it. Goerz have risen 1s. 6d. to 13s. 6d., Gedulds 9d. to 44s., Randfontein Estates 1s. 3d. to 14s. 6d., and Wit. Deep 3-32 to 1 7-32. New Modderfonteins have relapsed 3/4 to 18 1/2. In the Rhodesian department, Lonely Reefs rose 1/8 to 1 3-32, on news that at the 17th level the reef has been cut in a crosscut, having a width of 20 inches and an assay value of 3 ozs. 16 dwts. per ton. The importance of this news lies in the fact that this is the lowest point reached in the mine. Too often the Rhodesian Mines have shown an extraordinarily persistent tendency to peter out at depth, and the Lonely Reef is a notable exception to the rule. Diamond shares have reacted on sales to secure profits. De Beers deferreds have relapsed 1/2 to 1 1/2. West Africans, Fanti Consols at 7s., Gold Coast Amalgamateds at 17s., and Presteas at 8s. 9d. have met with some support, and are again slightly higher.

COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

A rise of £6 per ton (to £115) in the price of the metal has stimulated buying of copper shares. Anacondas have risen 1/2 further to 18 1/2, and Rio Tintos 1/2 to 6 1/2. Hampdens, however, have relapsed to 35s. 6d. Of the smaller-priced issues Mons Cupris have been actively bought, and are 1s. 3d. to the good at 4s. 9d. Tin shares have been moderately firm, in spite of a decline in the price of the metal. Malayan Dredgings have risen further to 2, and Naraguta Extendeds have risen 9d. to 5s. 6d., Tronohs 1/8 to 1 1/2, and Reneggs, on the dividend of 12 1/2 per cent. for the past year, have advanced further to 1 1/2. South Croftys, however, have weakened to 14s. 6d. Broken Hills have been on the dull side this week, owing to the lower price ruling for lead. This, however, did not restrain the demand for Burma Corporations, which advanced 7-32 to the fresh high level of 3 31-32.

and £171 10s. Spelter firmer. G.O.B., November, £54, and December, £47. Lead quiet. Soft foreign, November, £30; December, £28 15s. Quicksilver remains unaltered at £17 15s.

CORN (Mark Lane).—There is no improvement in the amount of business passing this week, trade being confined chiefly to immediate requirements, with the tendency in a few principal respects lighter. Wheat: English whites and reds range at 67s. per qr. (504 lbs.) delivered. Imported grades, No. 1 Northern Manitoba, 73s. 6d. ex ship. Flour: American first spring patents, 54s. 6d. upwards, landed. Oats: La Plata new, landed, 31s. 9d. upwards. Grinding barley: American, on sample, 45s. 6d. to 46s. 6d. ex quay. Maize: New La Plata (sound), 52s. ex quay.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—There has not been any distinct change in the market during the past week, but on the whole the tone has been rather firmer, and some producers

The depreciation in the value of the rouble has taken the steam out of the Russian group, which is a shade lower all round. Of the Westralian descriptions, Sons of Gwalia have been in demand up to 15s. 9d., and Lake View and Oroayas, in view of the company's interests in the Burma Corporation, have risen 1s. 6d. to 11s. 9d. American shares show little change, but Alaska Uniteds have fallen $\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{4}$. Strong buying of Morocco Minerals 10s. shares has hoisted the price up to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. Oriental Consolidateds have declined $\frac{1}{8}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$, and Waihis have slipped back to 40s. 6d.

MINING NEWS.

TRANSVAAL GOLD OUTPUT.—The production last month was £3,318,116, an increase of £10,141 on August last year. The following table shows the monthly production since January, 1911:—

Month.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
January ..	2,765,386	3,130,830	3,353,116	2,708,470	3,037,058	3,344,048
February..	2,504,634	2,989,832	3,118,325	2,660,186	2,872,406	3,201,063
March ..	2,871,740	3,528,688	3,358,050	2,917,346	3,202,514	3,384,121
April.....	2,836,267	3,133,383	3,334,358	2,904,924	3,160,651	3,205,643
May	2,913,734	3,311,794	3,373,998	3,059,340	3,243,347	3,303,377
June	2,907,854	3,202,517	3,173,582	3,049,558	3,208,224	3,235,767
July	3,012,738	3,255,198	2,783,917	3,111,398	3,272,258	3,232,891
August....	3,030,360	3,248,195	3,092,754	3,024,937	3,307,975	3,318,116
September	2,976,065	3,176,846	2,990,685	2,982,630	3,299,423	—
October ..	3,010,130	3,265,150	3,051,701	3,116,754	3,388,122	—
November	3,057,213	3,216,965	2,860,788	3,040,677	3,317,534	—
December	3,015,499	3,297,962	2,857,938	2,952,755	3,317,949	—
Total..	34,991,620	38,757,560	37,358,040	35,588,075	38,627,461	26,225,926

NATIVE LABOUR RETURNS.—For the second time since January these returns show an increase, amounting to 3,943, which compares with an increase of 628 in July. There was an increase of 1,982 at the gold mines, and at the diamond mines there was a further increase of 1,807, following an addition of 1,234 in July:—

Month.	Natives on Gold mines.	Natives on Coal mines.	Natives on Diamond mines.	Total natives.
July, 1915.....	190,026	9,371	—	199,397
August	196,866	9,943	—	206,809
September	204,833	9,743	—	214,576
October	210,017	9,513	—	219,530
November	210,068	9,432	—	219,500
December	209,438	9,309	132	218,879
January, 1916	209,835	9,228	802	219,865
February	209,426	9,468	970	219,864
March	203,575	9,588	917	214,080
April	199,936	9,827	938	210,701
May	194,765	9,811	1,459	206,035
June	192,809	9,859	2,105	204,773
July	192,130	9,932	3,339	205,401
August	194,112	10,086	5,146	209,344

The natives employed on the gold mines should, until the end of the year at least, show a gradual increase.

ENORMOUS COPPER PRODUCTION.—According to advices from America 20 leading copper companies operating in the United States, Canada, and South America produced approximately 895,000,000 lbs. of copper in the first half of 1916, an increase of no less than 299,000,000 lbs., or 50 per cent., over the corresponding period of last year. The Anaconda made the largest individual increase: 52,300,000 lbs. more than in the first six months of 1915.

PENA COPPER.—The output of ore in 1915 rose from 58,832 tons to 122,120 tons. At the end of the year the estimated quantity of copper contained in ore on heaps was approximately 2,640 tons as against 3,011 tons. The total amount of the mineral stocks at December 31 was £94,904, representing the cost price, as against £100,178. Production of copper precipitate amounted to 607 tons against 597 tons in 1914. Profits, after charging £10,034 for depreciation, amounted to £65,299, and the nett profit works out at £42,642 against a loss of £2,683. Thus the dividend of 6 per cent., less tax, the first since 1906, is to be paid, leaving £26,152 against £11,466 to be carried forward.

PHILIPPINE DREDGES.—In the year ended October 31 the four dredges of this company recovered gold valued at £45,045, but the profit balance was only £1,953. Adding £9,707 dividends received and other revenue the total balance is £11,701, and after providing for interest, depreciation, &c., there remains £2,275, which reduces the debit balance brought forward to £43,503.

LOTHIAN COAL.—The profits of this company, after providing for depreciation and excess profits duty, amounted to £65,763, as compared with £42,597, and £4,786 was brought in. Ten thousand pounds are again placed to reserve, and £8,000 is allocated for expenditure postponed in consequence of the war. The directors recommend an extra dividend of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., making $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the year on the preference shares, and a final dividend of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., making 15 per cent., tax free, for the year on the ordinary shares, carrying forward £6,449. Last year the ordinary share dividend was only 5 per cent.

Mr. Wm. Charles Bacon has been elected chairman of the Manchester Ship Canal Co.

The directors of the Standard Bank of South Africa, Ltd., have given a donation of £1,000 towards the cost of the proposed extension of the South African Military Hospital at Richmond Park.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1916, and September 9, 1916:—

	Estimate for the Year 1916-1917. (See note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1916, to Sept. 9, 1916.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1915, to Sept. 11, 1915.
Balances in Exchequer on April 1—			
Bank of England	—	25,111,065	81,898,728
Bank of Ireland	—	463,941	1,552,224
REVENUE.		25,575,006	83,450,952
Customs	71,000,000	28,398,000	18,227,000
Excise	45,000,000	20,860,000	23,500,000
Estate, &c., Duties	30,000,000	13,570,000	15,488,000
Stamps	7,000,000	3,221,000	2,773,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,650,000	310,000	330,000
Property and Income Tax and Super Tax	195,000,000	31,705,000	15,414,000
Excess Profits Duty	86,000,000	23,678,000	—
Land Value Duties	475,000	110,000	51,000
Post Office	36,100,000	14,000,000	12,300,000
Crown Lands	550,000	220,000	200,000
Receipts from Suez Canal	—	—	—
Shares and Sundry Loans..	5,000,000	518,087	359,475
Miscellaneous	3,500,000	2,595,807	1,418,418
Revenue	502,275,000	139,186,894	90,060,893
Total, including Balance	—	164,761,900	173,511,845
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion	—	1,820,000	430,000
For Treasury Bills (net amount).....	—	204,112,000	—
For War Loan, 1925-1928	—	—	35,798,408
For 3% Exchequer Bonds, 1920	—	—	242,345
For War Loan, 1925-1945	—	424	466,000,000
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919	—	33,287,000	—
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920	—	82,014,500	—
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1921	—	57,912,000	—
For War Expenditure Certificates	—	20,537,300	—
For War Savings Certificates	—	24,350,000	—
For other Debt created under the War Loan Act, 1915	—	10,000,000	—
Temporary Advances—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £345,000,000 in 1916-1917 and £231,500,000 in 1915-1916)	—	409,396,500	232,150,000
Total	—	1,008,191,624	908,132,598

	Estimate for the Year 1916-17. (See note.)	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1916, to Sept. 9, 1916.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1915, to Sept. 11, 1915.
EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.			
EXPENDITURE.			
Permanent Charge of Debt ..	12,818,000	11,476,191	12,402,352
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	114,436,000	50,801,190	4,277,081
Road Improvement Fund	—	—	694,395
Payments to Local Taxation	—	—	—
Accounts, &c.	9,500,000	2,819,548	3,117,120
Other Consolidated Fund	—	—	—
Services	1,700,000	702,468	806,370
Supply Services	1,697,529,000	715,591,156	552,067,142
Expenditure	1,825,983,000	781,390,553	573,364,460
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion	—	2,140,000	675,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	—	60,914	60,914
For Treasury Bills (nett amount).....	—	—	19,637,000
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan (Redemption) Act, 1910	—	—	16,395,500
For Issues under Section 1 (5) of the War Loan Act, 1915	—	—	170,143,313
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913	—	150,000	980,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913	—	135,000	60,000
Under Housing Act, 1914	—	18,900	500,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8, issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1903	—	38,000	50,000
Old Sinking Fund—1910-1911: Issued under the Finance Act, 1911—	—	—	—
Section 16 (1) (b)	—	23,160	80,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1911-1912—Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Co. (Acquisition of Capital) Act, 1914	—	—	250,000
Temporary Advances repaid—Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £156,260,000 in 1916-17 and £51,212,000 in 1915-16)	—	191,656,500	51,212,000
Total	—	975,613,027	833,408,137
Balances in Exchequer—			
Bank of England	31,160,876	73,793,696	—
Bank of Ireland	1,417,721	925,715	—
Total	—	1,008,191,624	908,132,598

MEMO.—Treasury Bills outstanding on Sept. 9, 1916 * £959,270,000.

* Includes £450,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the Account.

NOTE.—Estimate as in House of Commons Paper No. 50 of 1916, and Supplementary Grants.

Treasury, September 11, 1916.

European Oilfields.—Production week August 27, 1916, 88,900 poods.

Spies Petroleum.—The production, including 30,970 poods from ambars, for week Sept. 10, 178,535 poods, or about 2,880 tons. Total production for year from Jan. 14 to Sept. 10 5,887,695 poods, or about 94,963 tons, against 9,539,140 poods, or about 153,857 tons, for the same period last year.

More About the Defaulting Morgan Shipping Combine.

To round off the observations printed last week on the International Mercantile Marine Co. we append a table, put forth to show its composition. From that it will be seen that it owns or controls at least four shipping companies nominally British—viz., the Oceanic (White Star), the Frederick Leyland, the Shaw, Savill and Albion, and the Geo. Thompson Cos. We therefore have the anomaly—it might very well be the embarrassing, if not injurious, anomaly—of a freight corporation registered in a country neutral in this war, at liberty, therefore, to trade with our enemies, and to use its subsidiaries, sailing under the British flag, as most effective agents in conducting that trade, whether contraband or not. Whether Lord Robert Cecil's department has come in contact with anything of this sort among the company's many vessels or not we do not know, nor does it much matter to us. The "combine" is not a wholesome one, no matter how cleanly the shipping lines composing it may be allowed to carry on their business, and if it is to continue to exist all the vessels owned by it or under its control ought to be transferred from the British to the United States register. How many of its stockholders are Germans, hyphenated or other? A list is wanted.

The table given here is authoritatively described as an exhibit of "the principal securities owned by the International Mercantile Marine, either directly or through its subsidiary concerns":—

Name of Company.	Outstanding	Owned or Controlled by Marine Company.	
		%	Amount.
International Nav. Co. Ord. shares	£700,000	100.00	£700,000
Share Lien certificates*	£25,000,000	100.00	£25,000,000
Oceanic Steam Nav. Ord. shares	£750,000	100.00	£750,000
Atlantic Transport Ord. shares	£1,000,000	100.00	£1,000,000
Atlantic Transport Co. of W. Va. Cap. stock	\$3,000,000	100.00	\$3,000,000
Société Anonyme de Nav. Belge. Amer. Cap. stock	fr.13,845,000	100.00	fr.13,845,000
British and Nth. Atlntic. Stm. Nav. Co. Ord. shs.	£456,940	99.98	£456,870
Fdk. Levland and Co. Pf. shs. 5 % Cum.	£1,414,350	41.50	£587,030
Ord. shares	1,200,000	98.70	1,184,930
Nederlandsche-Amerikaansche Stoomvaart-Maatschappij (Holland-America Line) Ord. shares	fl.12,000,000	25.50	fl.3,060,000
Shaw-Savill and Albion Co. Pref.	£195,375	.25	£500
Ord. shares	£195,375	44.20	86,365
Geo. Thompson and Co. 6 % Pref.	£150,000	.80	£1,200
Ord. shares	50,000	20.00	10,000
Management shares	50,000	40.00	20,000

* Issued by the International Navigation and owned by the International Mercantile Marine.

In addition, there is a funded debt amounting to £2,665,807 outstanding and due by the subsidiaries of the International Mercantile Marine, not directly by itself, of which the following further table gives the particulars:—

NAME—	WHEN DUE.	AMOUNT.
International Nav. Co. 4½ % Mortgage on London real estate	£2,000 payable yearly, beginning in 1913 and ending in 1940, balance payable 1920	£72,000
Oceanic Steam Nav. Co. 4½ % Debentures (V. 87, p. 1091; V. 99, p. 202; V. 102, p. 2081, 2165)	£125,000 yearly, but may be refunded by new series running to 1943	\$,331,700
Atlantic Transport Co., 4½ % Mortgage on London real estate	Approximately £420 due semi-annually to June 24, 1918	2,107
George Thompson Co., 4½ % Debentures	June 30, 1925	250,000

From a circular issued by the committee of the preferred and common stockholders we learn that through investigations by their accountants they have satisfied themselves that the "value of the company's assets greatly exceeds the amount of its debts," and that might very well be without in any appreciable measure warranting its present capitalisation. Current earnings, however, are "extraordinarily large," it is added, and lead the committees to infer that "were times to return to normal under conservative management the earnings should be sufficient to show a substantial balance after payment of all fixed charges," which is an eminently cautious and non-committal opinion. What would happen should the earnings fall below normal it would be indiscreet at this juncture to inquire. The present is the favourable moment to reorganise the company on a plan that demands a much smaller sacrifice from the holders of its fluff or "chiffon" stocks than was at one time threatened. The wise course is to take the passing luck on the hop, as it were, and leave the rest to—to whom? Perhaps to Morgan.

The stocks, though, are getting to prices supposed to represent solidity. Soon, therefore, it will be time for those who can to sell, and let the other fellow have his chance to dream of fortunes. Ballin, if we may guess from his boasts, lives in hopes of joining forces with this Morgan combine to lick 'us in the Atlantic trade by and by.

Being a public concern, a company whose securities are offered in the Stock Exchanges of Europe and America as scrip with substance behind it, not only should we be given a list of the stockholders, many of whom may be Germans for aught we can tell, but a complete list of the ships owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by the "combine"; their tonnage, their age, and their equipment. For the nominal amount of money involved is no mean sum. Actually the stock or share capital of the International Mercantile Marine Co. outstanding is, in our money, £20,320,000, of which £9,975,000 or so is common and £10,350,000 preferred. On none of this paper has any dividend ever been earned or paid. In addition, there is a 5 per cent. first mortgage sinking fund bonded debt of \$17,632,000 (part of an original \$20,000,000) outstanding, secured on certain of the Marine Co.'s assets, variously, also precariously, secured; and also a 4½ per cent. "mortgage of collateral trust gold bond—\$75,000,000 authorised, \$52,594,000 outstanding—secured on various other specific assets and on the properties of the International Mercantile Marine Co. These two bond issues, aggregating about £14,050,000 in sterling, constitute the "combine's" own direct obligation to the public, wholly outside the sectional mortgages, to use a railroad term, represented by the bonds in the table above, and even then we do not possess a complete view of the moneys risked or involved in and papered over the fabric, because the "combine" is only part-owner of some of the businesses controlled by it. As it stands, however, we get fully £37,000,000 as the share capital and outstanding bonded debt of it and its feudatories, so to say, beyond which there are the large amounts of Leyland, Holland-America, Shaw-Savill, and Geo. Thompson preference and ordinary share capital in the possession of other owners. And before the war the fabric was so hopelessly waterlogged that it defaulted on its 4½ per cent. bonded debt interest in October, 1914, following that up by failure to pay the 5 per cent. interest due April 1, 1915, on the prior bond. Is it solvent now?

American Business Notes.

President Wilson has been selected as a matter of course to be Democratic candidate for a second term in the Chair, and the State of Maine has immediately after led off by going strongly Republican in its local elections. That probably means a vote for Mr. Hughes in November. But then Maine has nearly always been Republican, and its influence on the present contest can only be sentimental and insignificant. The incident does, however, imply that the return of the Roosevelt faction to the Republican fold powerfully increases the forces of reaction and monopoly, and may ensure Dr. Woodrow Wilson's defeat.

Times of unusual prosperity are often dull times, and one may say that nothing is doing in the United States at present. Money is being made in heaps by catering for the requirements of the belligerents, and labour continues insistent that it is not getting its full share. According to it the rich are growing richer and the poor poorer all through the Republic. President Wilson has not gained anything as a mediator or as a dispute-queller by his scamped legislation intended to bestow an eight-hours' day upon the engine-drivers, firemen and guards on the railways, and other branches of labour have been bawling or muttering threats of strikes all the week. For the most part, however, labour is too poor in America to combine and strike with success and effect—protection sees to that. "High wages!" Yes, by all means; but higher prices, tariff-clinched monopolies as well. The workmen will never be able to grow rich enough to

bother the capitalist bosses much. So things may just grind and grind along until adversity comes great enough to awaken men to a sense of righteousness, a sense of the existence and claims of the "fellow-man."

We have looked into the report of the Denver and Rio Grande Railway to see whether the position had mended in its past fiscal year, and we find it has a little. The nett income from working is \$2,546,000 larger at \$9,058,000, and the entire free balance, after adding outside receipts and deducting rent and interest paid, together \$6,269,000, taxes, &c., is \$2,397,000 up at \$3,816,000. That allowed \$287,000 to be given to sinking and renewal funds and \$2,300,000 to be devoted to road and equipment repairs and improvements. A year ago only \$211,000 was available for these latter objects, so that the concern did improve its position. The \$1,229,000 left, however, would go but a short way towards paying dividends on the unsecured stocks of the company. Their total is \$87,776,000, of which \$49,776,000 is 5 per cent. preferred stock. As proprietors already know, the company's western extension, the Western Pacific Railway Co., has been sold up by its creditors, and is now being worked by the receiver. What it is doing under his hands the board of the Denver and Rio Grande Co. does not seem to know, but Mr. Mudge, the Denver president, in his report says he has been advised that the Panama Exhibition at San Francisco gave the bankrupt road a fillip. So for the fiscal year closed June 30 last its gross income was approximately \$7,500,000 and the nett \$2,000,000. In the accounts appended to the Denver and Rio Grande report we find that it has pledged securities of the Western Pacific Co. to the nominal value of \$62,500,000, and that the "book value" is now \$4,285,000. No wonder Denver shareholders get no dividends. And there are other depreciated securities in the company's strong-box just as depressing to look at. But they have not been pawned. Is there no hope? Yes, a good deal, and we should hold on for the present.

In dealing with the report of the Canadian Pacific Railway for the past year closed June 30 the *New York Chronicle* recalls the fact that in all \$414,202,000 (£82,840,000) of capital costing nothing has from first to last either gone into the enterprise or been put aside to become available in supplement to stock or borrowed capital as time may allow. This is the list:—(1) Capital value of unsold land as estimated at June 30 last, \$121,215,000; (2) \$15,000,000 appropriated from surplus income in 1913; (3) \$11,751,000 premium netted on new stock sold; (4) going back eleven years it is noted that cash subsidies and bonuses received from the Dominion, State and Municipal Governments up to 1905 had amounted to \$30,752,000, and that the proceeds of land sales to the same date had yielded \$36,194,000, or together \$66,946,000; (5) accumulated income or premiums on new stocks appropriated in the last eleven years in lieu of fresh capital, \$57,180,000; and, finally, (6) the actual surplus of \$100,605,000 as standing unspent in the latest balance-sheet of the company. We cannot be sure, however, that these items exclude overlappings. The actual book surplus, for example, is not all deposited in cash "outside the business" as we say, and may have been in good part already invested or spent.

The happiness which comes of prosperity has not yet returned to the badly swindled stockholders of the New York, New Haven, and Hartford Railroad, and at the present moment it is rather an acute problem whether or not one of its annexed roads, the Boston and Maine, can escape subjection to a receivership. For all that, the conglomerate of about a score of railways, tramways, steamship lines, trusts, &c., &c., gathered under this once honoured name perked up a little in the twelvemonth closed June 30 last. Omitting the Boston and Maine, gross receipts rose by \$9,694,000 to \$76,312,000. To be sure, nett income came out at but \$3,638,000 more, but that made it \$22,371,000, and as "all nett earnings are put back into the road," any advance in income hastens the hour when the proprietors may get back their own again. During last

year the board paid off debt to the amount of \$6,140,180 and spent \$4,352,153 on improvements, or a total of \$10,492,334, out of income, and President Elliott estimates that "within the next five or 10 years from 20 to 30 million dollars" will be required to bring the property thoroughly up to date in regard to motive power, yards, terminals, station improvements, &c. The sketch is vague enough as to time, but that the money will all be wanted—aye, and considerably more—may be taken as a fact definite enough. And because the company has redeemed a slice of its own debt we must not run away with the notion that it is coming out on top of its troubles at express speed. Its contingent liabilities were increased last year by an issue of \$8,000,000 in 4 per cent. bonds of the New York, Connecticut Railroad, making now a total of \$24,000,000 outstanding by this road and guaranteed principal and interest jointly by the Pennsylvania and New Haven Railroad Cos. That obligation should not be an onerous one. And as regards the Boston and Maine, although its figures for the past year are not yet ready, enough is known to permit the New Haven board to say that, after meeting all charges, there will be a balance to the good, whereas a year ago there was a deficit of \$334,462.

A road of many vicissitudes and almost more disappointed hopes, the New York, Ontario and Western earned \$15,300 more last July to June year, and saved no less than \$340,000 in expenses, so that it came out with a nett revenue of \$332,243 larger at \$2,666,088 after paying taxes, &c. This enabled the management to meet fixed charges of \$1,682,000, with \$984,000 over. The concern was able to pay \$291,000 as dividend to the New Haven Co., as compared with nothing at all handed over for the previous year.

Advance statistics regarding the finances of the 48 States embraced in the North American Republic inform us that in 29 of them expenditure exceeded income to an aggregate of \$55,283,404, or 80 cents per head. That was for the fiscal year 1915. In the 19 other States revenue exceeded expenditure by \$18,608,917, or 54 cents per head. Therefore, taking the whole 48 States, outgo exceeded income by \$36,674,487, or 37 cents per head. In other words, the 48 States ran into debt on current expenditure account to the extent of about £7,500,000, a quite insignificant amount. Their total revenue was \$458,232,597, or, roundly, £91,750,000, and of that \$365,543,797 came from various sorts of taxes, no less than \$185,876,319 of it from levies on real and personal property. Liquors and licences produced about \$36,000,000. Summed up in the approved American way, property taxes of all kinds returned \$2.73, and other taxes 98 cents, and from departmental earnings—fees, charges, minor sales, &c.—and from miscellaneous sources 43 cents per head. In Arizona taxes on property were as high as \$7.28 per head, and in Missouri only 91 cents, these being the two extremes. Current expenditure amounted to \$379,030,094, on top of which came \$95,192,799 for interest. Evidently very few of the public utility undertakings are the property of the people through their Governments; for only \$18,545,955 was required to meet the working expenses of railroads, toll bridges, ferries, canals, docks, wharves, &c., belonging to the community, and these were the property of nine only of the 48 States. Among the general expenses were \$147,164,247 for education, libraries, schools, &c., and legislative and judicial departments took a mere \$44,508,417, but charities, hospitals, and "corrections" needed \$89,189,400. Another \$26,294,691 was absorbed in police, militia, fire brigade, and affiliated public duties, and pensions and gratuities took \$22,215,000. Comparing State with city expenditure the advantage seems all on the side of the rustic, and that suggests a warning. If mankind is to preserve itself upon the earth, to grow in moral and physical strength thereon, it will have to arrange for a new and permanent dispersal. Taking 204 towns in the United States of more than 30,000 of a population, it has been found, says the reporter of the Census Bureau, that the average cost of their administration had risen in the year 1914-1915 to \$34.65 per head, whereas that of the

States was only \$5.03. In both expenditure tends upward, but rises much faster in the towns, and in time that must force a change. We have long looked to electricity as the great dispersing force by the wise utilisation of which the mass of mankind may be redeemed from the atrophying degradation of the city slum.

No great amount of debt has been piled up by the controllers of these State finances. The total debt, funded and floating, at the end of June, 1915, was only \$4.31 per head, or \$424,155,000 for the whole 48 States, and for the three States, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Kansas, it was only 4 cents per head. The poverty of the multitude is not due to excessive mortgaging of the worker's brain and sinew power, but to the social organisation, which facilitates private enterprise in wealth acquisition.

Tea, Oil and Rubber.

Rubber has remained steady at 2s. 3½d., and, with the added stimulus of a batch of satisfactory interim dividends, the share market has been active and buoyant. In fact, business has been broader and better distributed than for some considerable time past, with most attention paid to the better-class shares, which indicates that real investors instead of mere profit-snatchers have been mainly in evidence. After the meeting of the Rubber Plantations Investment Trust the shares recovered to the level they stood at before the disappointment caused by the dividend announcement. An interesting calculation has been made by the manager of an estate in Malay as to the cost of opening and planting with Para rubber 2,000 acres in four years. Very full details are given, and the accuracy of most of the figures may be accepted; but rent is put at \$1 per acre up to the 17th year, whereas the average probably rises to \$3 or \$4 long before then. The price of rubber is taken at an average of 1s. 6d. per lb., and on the basis of yields rising to a maximum of 600 lbs. per acre—which we should think is much too high over an area of 2,000 acres—profits are shown advancing from 57 per cent. in the eleventh year to 102 per cent. in the seventeenth year, and giving a total return of 577 per cent. over that period on the capital invested. No profits are anticipated up to the eighth year. There is room for a very considerable margin of error in these calculations, and still leave a very profitable investment; but that is just the rub, for we have no doubt that plenty of capital will be attracted until the stage of over-production is reached.

In the year ended June 30 the Sungkai-Chumour Estate, obtained a crop of 467,720 lbs. of rubber, against an estimate of 430,000 lbs., and a yield in the previous year of 371,600 lbs. A saving in the f.o.b. cost was more than neutralised by heavier charges elsewhere, and the all-in cost rose by .66d., but it was still low at 1s. 1.73d. The average price realised was 2s. 4½d., which is lower than that shown by undertakings whose financial year ended earlier, but represents an improvement of 3.67d. compared with 12 months back, and the nett profits were £11,016 higher at £30,798. Adding £6,035 brought in, the amount to be dealt with is £10,754 up at £36,833, out of which dividends aggregating 60 per cent., less tax, have been paid, as against 40 per cent. for 1914-15. The appropriation of £4,000 to reserve is not repeated, but the balance carried forward is increased by £6,754 to £12,833 to provide for excess profits duty. For the current year a crop of 500,000 lbs. is expected. Altogether a very satisfactory report.

Exchange considerably affected the results of the European Oilfields Corporation, Ltd., in the year to March 31 (o/s), the Russian profits being converted at the rate of Rs. 14.13 to the £1, the average rate for the 12 months, and the floating assets and liabilities at Rs. 15.75 to the £1, the rate ruling at the date of the balance-sheet. Gross production amounted to 4,655,000 poods, an increase of 100,000 poods, but the weekly average was 9,500 poods less owing to the stoppage last year on account of the strike. The

average, however, has more than recovered in the current year. Fortunately prices were high, being 44.48 kopeks, against 34.05 kopeks, per pood, and the profits on trading were only £1,300 lower at £56,150. Miscellaneous receipts fell £4,700, and the nett profit is £8,200 lower at £34,884. It is proposed to again place £25,000 to reserve (raising it to £135,000), and £6,400 less at £7,907 remains to be added to the balance carried forward, which will then stand at £50,355. During the year £8,582 debenture stock was cancelled, reducing the amount to £153,000, and liabilities were reduced by £11,000 simultaneously with an increase of £3,000 in assets, so that the company is gradually strengthening its position. Working expenses were heavier owing to the high cost of materials and the war bonus granted to the workmen. A contract has been entered into for the sale of the entire output from November 1 next until May 1, 1919, at 1 kopek per pood over average Bourse prices, with a minimum of 42 kopeks, and the company ought to do well when exchange returns to a normal level.

KASINTOE RUBBER.—Owing to unavoidable delays the new factory which was being erected could not be got ready until November, and in these circumstances it was not considered advisable to extend the collection of rubber. An estimate of 135,000 lbs. had been made for the year ended December 31, 1915, but the actual crop harvested was only 70,913 lbs., or just about double the previous year's output. The gross price realised was 1s. 0.15d. up at 2s. 11.80d., but the company has not yet reached the stage of giving a profit and loss account, and the nett proceeds, amounting to £9,995, were written off property account. After allowing for this the cost of the property has been increased by £10,056 to £97,590, while buildings are £5,861 up at £7,485, and machinery, &c., £3,890 up at £4,136. On the other hand, a further call of 2s. 6d. per share, making them 18s. paid, yielded £14,121, and raised the paid-up capital to £98,817. The crop for 1916 is estimated at upwards of 200,000 lbs.

SOUTH-EAST BORNEO RUBBER.—With an increase of 7,239 to 41,185 in the average number of trees tapped the output for the year ended March 31 was 22,585 lbs. larger at 68,137, but the nett price realised, although 5.65d. better than that of the previous year, was still poor at 2s. 3.67d. A year ago the proceeds of produce sold, &c., amounting to £3,590, were written off block account, but this time the directors give a trading account and a profit and loss account, which show a gross profit of £5,006 and a nett balance of £2,792. Dividend payments, however, are out of the question in the present financial condition of the company, and the whole amount is carried forward. During the year £4,298 was spent on the property, making a total of £46,483 against the paid-up capital of £40,000 and a debenture debt of £15,400, while the company is burdened with dead assets in the shape of £6,060 for preliminary expenses and cost of debenture issue, and £7,570 for London expenditure to March 31, 1915. Current liabilities are therefore comparatively heavy at £6,942, against which stocks of rubber are valued at £3,835, and cash comes to £550. The crop for the current year is estimated at 115,000 lbs.

Answers to Correspondents.

*: A Key to these Answers will be posted early each week for a subscription of ONE GUINEA per annum, 11s. for six months, or 5s. 9d. for three months.

Deposits against future queries may be lodged with the Publisher.

Colonial Born.—We fear not. Think the present not a bad time to get out of them what money there may be left.

R. E. M.—The risk is, we think, remote as there is room for both. The company is strong financially, and the stock is quite a reasonable investment.

Lenox.—(1) We think you might purchase. The company is a powerful one, and profits will probably recover after the war. (2) Of those you mention we prefer No. 3 as it seems to have the best chances of increase in receipts.

D. B. S.—Probably purchases for the sinking funds. We think you should sell.

T. C. W.—Lend them.

Kopje.—Gas Light and Coke ordinary stock.

F. R. D.—We know of none.

L. F.—(1) Quite good even if dividends should be delayed by rate of exchange. (2) Not so good, but yet a fair security as the revenues should be ample. Also hampered by the exchange.

Canadian Bank of Commerce.—A branch has been opened at Speers, Saskatchewan. As the name of the town of Berlin, Ontario, has been changed to "Kitchener," their branch at that point will in future be known as Kitchener, Ontario.

The directors of Messrs. Joseph Crosfield and Sons, Ltd., have elected Mr. Roscoe Brunner, J.P., to be chairman in the place of the late Mr. F. W. Brock. Messrs. Emile S. Mond and Gill Hunt have also been elected to seats on the board.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

Alliance Trust.—Interim for half-year ended July 31 on the ordinary at the rate of 19 per cent., less tax, same as a year ago.

American Investment Trust.—Interim for half-year ending Sept. 15 at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the deferred, payable Sept. 30, same as a year ago.

Banteng (Selangor) Rubber.—Final of 10 per cent. (actual) in respect of year ended April 30, making 20 per cent. (2s. per share), less tax at 3s. 4d., for the year, payable Oct. 2, against 12½ per cent.

British and Argentine Meat.—1s. per share.
Browett, Lindley, and Co., Engineers.—This company, which has paid nothing on its preference capital since 1902, has declared an interim at the rate of 6 per cent.

Cammell, Laird, and Co.—Interim on the ordinary of 2½ per cent., being 2s. 6d. per share, less tax, payable Oct. 5, same as a year ago.

C. Davidson and Sons.—Of 1s. 6d. per share, making 2s. per share, or 10 per cent. for the year. At the corresponding date of last year no dividend was paid.

Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China.—Interim for half-year ended June 30 last at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, free tax, payable Sept. 20, same as a year ago.

Chas. Baker and Co.—Interim for half-year ended July 31, payable Oct. 10, on the preference and "B" preference at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, and on the ordinary at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum (against 5 per cent.), less tax at 4s. 4d.

Colonial Bank.—3½ per cent. for half-year ended June 30, subject tax, being at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, against at the rate of 6 per cent.

Consolidated Waterworks of Rosario.—Interim of 3 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary for half-year ended June 30, payable Oct. 2, same as a year ago.

Dalmellington Iron.—Final on the ordinary of 5 per cent. and a bonus of 5s. per share, both free tax, making 15 per cent. for the year, with £5.16 forward, against 7½ per cent. last year, free tax.

Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Tea.—Interim of 15 per cent. on the ordinary on account of 1916, payable Sept. 30, less tax, at 4s. 6d., same as a year ago.

Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph.—Interim for quarter ended June 30 last of 3s. per share, free tax, payable 14th prox., against 2s. 6d. per share.

Edinburgh Collieries.—Interim of 5 per cent., free tax, on the ordinary, same as last year.

Foreign, American, and General Investments Trust.—Interim for half-year ending Sept. 15 at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on the deferred, payable Sept. 30, same as a year ago.

Gandy Belt Manufacturing.—Interim of 8 per cent. (actual), less tax.

Central Ceylon Rubber and Tea.—Interim of 10 per cent. on account of 1916, payable Sept. 30, free tax, against 15 per cent.

Irrawaddy Flotilla.—Interim of 40s. per share, free tax, same as last year.

John Milligen and Co.—Interim at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, free tax, for half-year ended July 31.

Kurau Rubber.—Interim of 20 per cent. (actual), less tax, in respect of financial year ending Dec. 31 next, against 15 per cent.

London Asiatic Rubber and Produce.—Interim of 15 per cent. (actual) in respect of year ending Dec. 31, 1916, payable Nov. 1, equivalent to 3 3-5d. per share, less tax at 4s. 6d., against 10 per cent.

Lunuvu (Ceylon) Tea and Rubber.—Interim of 5 per cent. (actual) in respect of year ending Dec. 31, 1916, payable Oct. 21. This is equivalent to 1s. per share, and tax will be deducted at the rate of 4s. 6d. in the £. A year ago the dividend was the same.

Manila Electric Railroad and Lighting.—1½ per cent. (£1.50 per share) for quarter ending Sept. 30, 1916, on the common, payable Oct. 2, same as a year ago.

Mercantile Bank of India.—Interim of 5 per cent. for past six months, payable Sept. 25.

Montevideo Waterworks.—Interim of 3 per cent., less tax, for half-year ended June 30, payable Oct. 2, same as last year.

Neill and Co.—The directors have passed the dividend on the preference.

New York Central Railroad.—1½ per cent., payable Nov. 1.

New Zealand and Australian Land.—Final of 5 per cent., with a bonus of 5 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary, same as last year.

Northern Banking.—For half-year ended Aug. 31 last at rate of 13 per cent. per annum on the shares and 6½ per cent. per annum on the "B," less tax, same as a year ago.

Pantiya Tea and Rubber.—Interim of 10 per cent., free tax, in respect of year ending Dec. 31, payable Sept. 30, same as a year ago, but less tax.

Pennsylvania Water and Power.—1½ per cent. for quarter ending Sept. 30, payable Oct. 1, against 1 per cent.

Poonmudi Tea and Rubber.—Interim of 5 per cent. on account of 1916, payable Sept. 15, less tax, at 4s. 6d., same as a year ago.

Ronong Tin Dredging.—12½ per cent., 2s. 6d. per share, less tax at 3s. 6d., in respect of year ended June 30 last.

St. George Rubber Estates.—Interim in respect of half-year to June 30 of 10 per cent., less tax, payable 18th inst., same as a year ago.

Salaba Rubber.—Interim of 8 per cent. (actual), less tax at 4s. 6d., in respect of year ending Dec. 31, 1916, payable Oct. 10, equivalent to 1s. 7 1-5d. per share.

Sapumalkande Rubber.—Interim of 3 per cent. (actual), less tax at 4s. 6d., in respect of year ending Dec. 31, 1916, payable Oct. 20, equivalent to 7 1-5d. per share, same as a year ago.

Siak (Sumatra) Rubber.—Interim of 5 per cent., free tax, in respect of year ending Dec. 31 next, payable Oct. 12.

Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth, and Co.—Interim for half-

year ended June 30 at the rate of 10 per cent., free tax, on the ordinary, payable after Sept. 30, same as a year ago.

Steel Company of Scotland.—At the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, less tax, against 7½ per cent. last year.

Sungei Kruit Rubber.—Interim 7½ per cent., against 5 per cent. a year ago. The directors desire that this increased interim distribution should not be taken as an indication of any increase in the total dividend for the year.

Tongkah Harbour Tin Dredging.—1s. per share (5 per cent.), payable Oct. 21, against 2s. per share a year ago.

United Tobacco Companies.—Interim of 5 per cent. on the issued ordinary (free tax).

Vulcan Motor and Engineering.—Bonus on the ordinary of 2s. per share, free tax.

Workington Brewery.—Interim for half-year ended Aug. 31 at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on ordinary.

Yokohama Specie Bank.—12 per cent. per annum for six months ended June 30 last, yen 400,000 to reserve, and yen 1,437,000 forward, same as a year ago.

MINING RETURNS FOR AUGUST.

Abosso.—10,304 tons, producing £16,026 (July, £13,985).
Ashanti.—8,748 tons; value, £35,060 (July, £37,623).
Aurora West.—14,630 tons; profit, £4,197 (July, £4,493).
Balaghat.—2,325 tons, 1,265 ozs. fine gold (July, 1,618 ozs.).
Bantjes.—24,000 tons; profit, £2 (July, £330).
Brakpan.—59,500 tons; profit, £35,158 (July, £35,143).
Bullfinch Prop.—6,500 tons; profit, £943 (July, £1,859).
Cape Copper.—Output, 225 tons (July, 229 tons).
Champion Reef.—13,862 tons; 10,278 ozs. fine (July, 9,402 ozs.).
Chenderiang Tin.—33½ tons; profit, £1,240 (July, £1,080).
City and Sub.—28,100 tons; profit, £20,135 (July, £20,298).
City Deep.—60,000 tons; profit, £60,272 (July, £59,503).
Cons. Langlaagte.—54,700 tons; profit, £22,595 (July, £22,161).
Cons. Main Reef.—29,005 tons; profit, £13,035 (July, £11,920).
Crown.—195,000 tons; profit, £61,044 (July, £56,070).
Durban Road Deep.—27,800 tons; profit, £2,608 (July, £2,155).
East Rand Prop.—163,000 tons; profit, £45,781 (July, £43,344).
Ferreira Deep.—53,110 tons; profit, £33,849 (July, £26,831).
Geduld.—27,840 tons, £42,528; profit, £14,253 (July, £14,089).
Geldenhuis Deep.—56,500 tons; profit, £14,285 (July, £17,726).
Ginsberg.—15,580 tons, £15,673; profit, £2,811 (July, £2,817).
Glencairn.—21,490 tons; profit, £1,265 (July, £1,356).
Glynn's Lydenburg.—4,255 tons; profit, £2,236 (July, £8,104).
Gov. Areas Mod.—58,000 tons; profit, £22,561 (July, £20,669).
Globe and Phoenix.—6,596 tons; profit, £19,582 (July, £18,418).
Jibutil (Anantapur).—3,000 tons, 744 ozs. (July, 747 ozs.).
Jupiter.—23,800 tons, £25,919; profit, £5,602 (July, £5,102).
Kamunting Tin.—35½ tons; profit, £2,041 (July, £3,091).
Knight Central.—26,500 tons; profit, £1,440 (July, £1,890).
Knight's Deep.—107,700 tons; profit, £17,002 (July, £17,502).
Langlaagte Est.—49,384 tons; profit, £13,000 (July, £13,480).
Luipaard's Vlei.—21,930 tons; profit, £3,642 (July, £4,548).
Main Reef West.—26,590 tons; profit, £2,060 (July, £2,423).
May Consolidated.—13,600 tons; profit, £574 (July, £454).
Meyer and Charl.—15,000 tons; profit, £22,326 (July, £20,558).
Modder "B."—45,000 tons; profit, £53,393 (July, £57,160).
Modder Deep.—41,800 tons; profit, £46,983 (July, £45,190).
Mount Boppy.—6,336 tons; value, £8,300 (July, £5,700).
Mysore.—26,642 tons, 16,596 ozs. (July, 16,602 ozs.).
New Goch.—31,000 tons; profit, £8,433 (July, £9,483).
New Heriot.—13,000 tons; profit, £8,700 (July, £8,648).
New Modder.—54,300 tons; £64,033 (July, £66,442).
New Primrose.—22,600 tons; profit, £3,015 (July, £3,008).
New Unified.—14,800 tons; profit, £4,170 (July, £4,157).
North Anantapur.—2,000 tons, 1,118 ozs. fine (July, 1,108 ozs.).
Nigel.—9,900 tons, loss £2,849 (July, loss £2,829).
Nourse.—42,600 tons; £62,312; profit, £10,146 (July, £9,231).
Nundydroog.—8,300 tons, 6,781 ozs. (July, 6,643 ozs.).
Ooregum.—13,227 tons, 8,643 ozs. fine gold (July, 7,410 ozs.).
Pahang Cons.—Black tin produced, 221 tons (July, 220 tons).
Princess Estate.—22,900 tons; profit, £1,445 (July, £1,173).
Randfontein Cent.—194,508 tons; profit, £81,161 (July, £76,331).
Rayfield Tin.—60½ tons (July, 50 tons).
Renong Tin.—Output, 99 tons (July, 68 tons).
Robinson Deep.—55,100 tons; profit, £26,970 (July, £25,201).
Robinson.—59,600 tons; profit, £32,172 (July, £32,789).
Roodepoort United.—35,145 tons; profit, £2,069 (July, £3,114).
Rose Deep.—66,000 tons; profit, £2,316 (July, £17,476).
Sheba.—6,531 tons, 2,099 ozs.; loss, £461 (July loss, £340).
Simmer and Jack.—66,800 tons; profit, £16,357 (July, £17,460).
Simmer Deep.—67,800 tons; profit, £6,322 (July, £4,901).
Sub Nigel.—9,060 tons, £19,255; profit, £5,190 (July, £4,235).
Sudan.—2,100 tons for £4,840 (July, £4,785).
Taquah.—5,588 tons; output, £15,382 (July, £15,267).
Transvaal Estates.—16,450 tons; profit, £16,104 (July, £11,368).
Van Ryn Deep.—45,300 tons; profit, £50,032 (July, £50,089).
Van Ryn.—38,800 tons; profit, £18,276 (July, £17,870).
Village Deep.—52,300 tons; profit, £24,553 (July, £30,064).
Village Main Reef.—29,000 tons; profit, £13,642 (July, £13,101).
Vogelstruis Estates.—11,270 tons, 2,050 ozs. (July, 1,950 ozs.).
Wanderer.—13,680 tons; profit, £1,464 (July, £1,602).
West Rand Cons.—34,000 tons; profit, £7,837 (July, £5,929).
Witwatersrand.—42,200 tons; profit, £24,052 (July, £24,065).
Wit. Deep.—44,009 tons; profit, £14,079 (July, £14,208).
Wolfram Mining and Smelting.—Output, 28 tons (July, 27 tons).
Wolhuter.—36,400 tons; profit, £13,637 (July, £13,626).
Zinc Corporation.—29,130 tons tailings were treated in the zinc plant and 14,662 tons ore in the lead mill, producing 6,855 tons of zinc concentrates and 3,829 tons lead concentrates; estimated value, on the basis of lead at £20, £57,288.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

THE RUBBER PLANTATIONS INVESTMENT TRUST, LTD.

REVIEW OF RUBBER AND TEA INDUSTRIES.

The seventh ordinary general meeting of the Rubber Plantations Investment Trust, Ltd., was held on Friday at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., Mr. George Croll presiding.

The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, said: Gentlemen, I very much regret that Mr. Lampard is unable to be present to-day. In his absence my co-directors have asked me to take his place. I will now ask the representative of the secretaries to read the notice calling the meeting and the auditors' report.

Mr. J. S. Woodward, A.C.A., representing the secretaries (Messrs. Harrisons and Crosfield, Ltd.), read the notice and also the report of the auditors.

The Chairman: Gentlemen, the report and accounts have been in your hands for rather longer than the usual time, and I assume that I have your permission to take them as read. (Agreed.) Since our meeting last year our co-director, Sir Frank Swettenham, has retired from the board. The Government duties which he has undertaken make a very great demand on his time, and he felt that he had no alternative but to ask us to release him from his duties. Sir Frank had been a director from practically the beginning of the company, and during that time his services were very much appreciated by all the members of the board, and it was with very great regret that we accepted his resignation. Also since we met last year the board have appointed Mr. Morrison and Mr. Welch as members of the board. Both those gentlemen have had wide business experience. Under the articles of association they retire at to-day's meeting, but I have no doubt it will be your wish to confirm the action of your board and to re-appoint them. I also have a letter from my co-director, Captain Hoare, who asked me to express to you his apologies for not being present to-day. He says his military duties make it quite impossible for him to attend.

THE BALANCE-SHEET.

If you will turn to the balance-sheet I will direct your attention to the principal items of interest. Our authorised capital remains the same as last year; the number of shares issued is also the same, but the issued capital is now, inclusive of the £96,193 10s. 5d. shown as calls in arrear, £1,401,538, against a nett amount of £890,125 a year ago. This increase is, as you are aware, due to our having called up 7s. 6d. per share during the year, making all the issued shares now fully paid. The large amount of £96,000 odd shown as calls in arrear is accounted for by the last call of 2s. 6d. being only payable on March 31, the date to which the balance-sheet was made up. At present the amount of calls outstanding is £5,392, so the position is very satisfactory. At March 31, 1915, there were outstanding 98,462 options over a similar number of the company's unissued shares. These were due to expire on March 31, 1916, but after having given the matter very careful consideration and obtaining the sanction of the Treasury, your board decided to give the option holders an opportunity of extending their options for three years to March 31, 1919, on payment of 3s. per option. Holders of 86,463 shares took advantage of this offer, and you will observe that £12,977 14s. is credited to the premiums account, being moneys received in return for this extension. A further 6,487 options were converted by the holders into shares, and against these there appears in the balance-sheet a sum of £5,230, while the remaining 5,512 lapsed. As from March 31, 1916, the issued capital of the Trusts is £1,408,025 in £1 shares, fully paid. Temporary loans at the date of the balance-sheet amounted to £150,500, as against £417,633 last year, a reduction of £267,133. Since then, however, these loans have been discharged, and we have now funds available amounting to £122,000, so that in place of our owing £417,633 at the date of the making up of last year's balance-sheet, our bankers and brokers now owe us £122,000—(hear, hear)—and this reversal of the position I have no doubt you will consider very satisfactory. Sundry creditors show an increase of £9,097 against the previous year. The profit and loss account, to which I will refer later, shows a credit balance of £157,263, which is an increase on the previous year of £47,954. Turning to the assets side, investments appear at £823,216, being a reduction on the previous year of £91,973. This decrease is accounted for by realisations, less calls paid and new investments made. The liability in respect of calls

not yet due amounts to £24,626, showing a reduction of £30,386. Purchase of properties and expenditure on same stands at £958,074, against £755,021 last year, being an increase of £203,053. Sundry debtors show an increase of £20,958, accounted for by sums due from brokers. Loans receivable and interest accrued on same show an increase of £52,729, while cash shows an increase on the previous year of £38,520. (Hear, hear.)

APPRECIATION OF INVESTMENTS.

The amount invested in the companies of which a list is given in the printed report, represents practically 99 per cent. of the total investments held. Investments and loans to companies in which we are largely interested amount to £991,025, against £1,030,270 a year ago, and they consist of 67½ per cent. in sterling shares, 1 per cent. being rupee shares, 3½ per cent. in guilder shares, and 28 per cent. in debentures and secured loans. I think the list speaks for itself; but I may say that, with the exception of five of the companies, I have personally visited all of them, and with one exception they are all properties which either are or will become first-class. (Hear, hear.) The exception is the Ankola Tea and Rubber Company. Owing to the relatively high capital costs of that company's estates, due to adverse climatic conditions and other difficulties with which they have had to contend, it will, I understand, be necessary to write down the share capital considerably. Our debenture-stock holding is, however, amply secure. A valuation of all our investments was made by the company's brokers, Messrs. Laurence, Sons and Gardner, as at March 31 last, and showed a net surplus of £134,437, against a deficiency of £193,305 at the same date last year. This shows a recovery during the year of £327,742. (Applause.) At the date of our meeting on October 8 last year the deficiency was £161,000, while the position taken out yesterday showed a surplus of £222,703—(hear, hear)—thus showing a recovery from the date of last meeting of £383,703. (Applause.) When you consider that our largest holdings are in companies which are yet a long way from full maturity, I think you will agree that the Board's confidence, expressed by Mr. Lampard at previous annual meetings, that the depreciation then shown was of a temporary nature, has been fully justified. (Hear, hear.)

DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPERTIES.

I will now deal with the properties owned entirely by this trust. At the date of the balance-sheet the amount invested in these was £958,073 17s. 1d., and this amount is represented by 3,587½ acres of rubber, 8,550 acres of tea, and 42,439½ acres of reserve land. The details are given in the body of the report, and it is not, therefore, necessary for me to go over them again. With the exception of the South Indian property—which is represented by 574 acres of rubber, 610 acres of tea, and 1,431 acres of reserve land—they are all situated in the Siantar district of the East Coast, Residency of Sumatra. When we acquired these properties very little development had been done in this district. It was 30 miles from the nearest railway station, and the road was by no means a good one; in fact, at certain seasons of the year it was almost impassable for ordinary traffic, while Siantar Town consisted of little more than a few semi-temporary buildings. To-day all this has changed. The Deli Railway Company have completed a railway to Siantar Town, the Government have made the road a first-rate one, and Siantar Town is now a rapidly growing centre of activity. Our estates, which either adjoin or are in close proximity to the centre, are rapidly developing into prosperous and profitable enterprises. The rubber takes rather longer to come into bearing than that grown at a lower elevation, but the reports are in every way satisfactory, and the crops promise to be up to our expectations.

TEA CULTIVATION IN SUMATRA.

It is, however, the cultivation of tea which has most largely occupied our attention in this district. We have now practically completed our present programme of 8,000 acres, and I am glad to say that our most sanguine anticipations are being more than realised. (Applause.) During the earlier years of our work we had a good many difficulties to overcome. The industry was new to Sumatra; transport was difficult and expensive, and all our seed had to be imported. Now experience has been gained; transport difficulties have been removed, and while we still have to import our seed, we shall in due course have our own seed-bearing trees. The reasons for our embarking on such a large tea programme were that our initial experience indicated that this part of Sumatra was eminently suited to this particular cultivation, and while, as I have mentioned, rubber takes somewhat longer to come to maturity, there was every

indication that tea would reach the profit-producing stage earlier than in any other country in which it is cultivated. This anticipation has already been realised, and to those of whom have any knowledge of tea the yield of 1,102 lbs. per acre from tea in its fourth year of growth will be sufficient evidence of this. (Applause.) I think I can now confidently state that all the initial difficulties in establishing this large acreage of tea have been overcome, and we have only to await its reaching maturity before we reap the results of our efforts. (Applause.)

The crop for the year 1915, *i.e.*, January-December, was 1,312,160 lbs., which was equivalent to a yield of 710 lbs. per acre over the 1,847 acres which were in partial bearing. The all-in cost of 9.28d. per lb. and the gross price realised was 11.20d. Now, I do not wish to detain you unduly, but our interest in this part of Sumatra is so large that there are one or two points which I wish to put clearly before you.

We were the pioneers of tea in the East Coast of Sumatra. We have cultivated approximately 8,000 acres; the crop harvested last year was 1,312,160 lbs.; the estimate for the current year is 3,000,000 lbs., and while it is somewhat difficult to estimate so far ahead, our visiting agent, Mr. Ris, in conjunction with our general manager, Mr. Slotemaker, has given us a provisional estimate of 5,250,000 lbs. for 1917. (Applause.) This should go on steadily increasing until, when the whole 8,000 acres is in full bearing, we shall receive a figure of something between 10 millions and 11 millions. This provides for a crop of between 1,200 and 1,400 lbs. per acre. This yield is, I know, phenomenal, but I give it on the assurance of our visiting agent and general manager, and it is based on what is now being obtained from the older areas. At the present time all-in costs are abnormal by reason of the rate of freight and packing material, but I presume we can look to these returning to normal in due course.

COMPARISON WITH INDIA AND CEYLON.

Now, how do these figures compare with India and Ceylon? The average yield per acre for the whole of India for the season 1915-1916 was 650 lbs. per acre; the average yield for the whole of Ceylon for the year 1915 was 530 lbs. per acre; our yield for tea in its fourth year of growth was 1,102 lbs. of made tea per acre, as I have already said. It is more difficult to get the highest yields for any one company, but I notice that Mr. George Seton's annual table, giving the results of 50 leading Indian tea companies, in only two cases did the crop per mature acre exceed 1,000 lbs. In one case it was 1,003 and in the other 1,005 lbs. Only one Ceylon company to my knowledge produced 1,000 lbs. per acre, and this was on a comparatively small acreage.

The other important item in production is the cost. It is difficult to give comparative figures, because they are complicated by variations in the rates of freight prevailing, and the way in which different accounts are made up, but I have again taken Mr. George Seton's list of Indian companies, and I find that the companies included in it vary from 4.83d. to 9.70d. per lb. During this period, however, the rate of freight from Calcutta was only 47s. 6d. per ton of 50 cubic feet—a rise of only 17s. 6d. on the pre-war rate. The pre-war rate from Ceylon was 33s.; it is now 147s. per ton. The pre-war rate from Sumatra was 63s. 6d.; it is now approximately the same as Ceylon. In comparing our cost with that of a Northern India company an allowance of 1½ has to be made on account of freight alone, and on the basis of the Sumatra pre-war rate the increase is now .94d., or practically a penny per lb.

FREIGHTS AND "ALL-IN COSTS."

Apart from the question of freight, our all-in cost of 9.28d. for last year's crop is no indication of the ultimate cost when we are plucking from mature areas. I think, however, we are now in a position to estimate fairly accurately what this will be, and on the basis of the pre-war rate of freight, I conclude that our all-in cost should not exceed 6½d. per lb. Now, how does the prices realised for our tea compare? Here again we show to advantage. The average London prices realised for all Indian tea for the 12 months ending June 30, 1916, was 10.87d. The average London price realised for all Ceylon tea for the same period was approximately 10.85d., and for Java tea 10.24d. The average London price realised for our tea for the 12 months ending June 30, 1916, was 11.27d., practically a penny higher than Java, and a halfpenny higher than Ceylon and India. (Applause.)

So much for production; but what about consumption? You may be aware that tea responds in an exceptional way to favourable weather conditions, and that the weather conditions last year were exceptionally favourable. India, Ceylon, and Java produced increased crops, 102,000,000 lbs. in excess of the pre-

vious year, but all this found a market at relatively high prices. This increase was distributed as follows:—

United Kingdom took	...	...	23,000,000
Holland	...	...	13,000,000
North America	...	...	4,500,000
Russia	...	...	17,000,000
Bombay	...	...	10,000,000
Other places	...	...	4,500,000
			102,000,000

There is every indication that the present year's production will show a considerable decrease of that of last year, but while it may be a long time before we see the free breakfast table—about which we used to hear so much at one time—there is an increasing tendency all over the world towards curtailing the consumption of alcoholic liquor, and as tea is the cheapest substitute it is therefore likely to be the one adopted by the masses of the people. (Hear, hear.)

RESERVE LANDS.

All this has a very considerable bearing on the large blocks of available reserve land, a considerable portion of which are at least as good as that portion which we have already cultivated. The improved communications with Siantar and the success of our enterprise have drawn a good deal of attention to this part of Sumatra, and even under the conditions prevailing at present portions of our land have a realisable cash value considerably in excess of the cost to us. Experienced tea planters from India and Ceylon and also Java, who have seen our properties, are all agreed as to their exceptional merits. (Applause.)

In concluding my remarks on these properties, I wish to acknowledge the work of our visiting agent, Mr. Ris, our general manager, Mr. Slotemaker, and the staff working under them. Mr. Slotemaker became general manager at a difficult period in the development programme, and it is largely due to his great organising and his administrative ability that we have these fine properties in the first-class condition in which they are to-day. I would also like to record the board's appreciation of the work done by the late Mr. Cockburn; Mr. Ris and Mr. Slotemaker have both acknowledged the assistance which his great experience and knowledge of the technical side of tea planting was to them. I have dealt very fully with our tea interests because they are a very important part of our operations, and because the tea-producing industry has received much less public attention than rubber, but I do not wish you to think that we are neglecting what, after all, is our premier interest. Rubber is, however, so much in the limelight that I will only briefly touch upon the main features during 1915 and the first half of 1916.

OUTPUT AND CONSUMPTION.

The world's output of rubber in 1915 was approximately 150,000 tons against 120,000 in 1914, the proportion of plantation-grown rubber being 104,000 tons in 1915 against 71,000 tons in 1914; the production of wild rubber shows a small decline, so that rather more than the total increase in the world's production is accounted for by the increased output of plantation rubber. It is anticipated that the output of plantation rubber in 1916 will be about 140,000 tons; the increase of 1916 output over 1915 being about the same as the increase of 1915 over 1914. Approximately 83 per cent. of the plantation rubber to be produced in 1916 will be grown in British colonies, and when you take into account the large proportion of rubber produced in the Dutch East Indies on estates owned by British companies fully 90 per cent. of the present output of plantation rubber may be attributed to British enterprise. (Applause.)

I wish I could give you figures equally pleasing in regard to our participation in the consumption from the manufacturing point of view, but although we have so much to our credit in production the United States of America easily take premier place amongst the manufacturers of the rubber goods. In 1915 the United States imported about 65 per cent. of the world's production of rubber, against 50 per cent. in 1914, and judging by figures, for the first part of this year it looks as if they would absorb fully 65 per cent. of the 1916 production. In view of the large purchases of munitions of war in U.S.A. by our Government the British proportion of the 120,000 tons of rubber which the U.S.A. will import this year, valued at upwards of 27,000,000 sterling, is of the utmost importance in helping to meet the adverse trade balances. Notwithstanding the substantial annual increase in the output of rubber stocks have not accumulated in the distributing markets, the official figures of London stocks of plantation, at August 31, showing only 8,145 tons against 6,618 at December 31 last, and 5,131 tons a year ago.

I look upon this as a very healthy state of affairs, for although the actual stock is higher than a year ago, it only represents a normal increase proportionate to the larger crop which is being dealt with this year.

PRICE FLUCTUATIONS.

We had a very steady market in plantation rubber during the first ten months of 1915 on a basis of from 2s. to 2s. 6d. per lb., but early in November the market took a sharp upward turn, reaching its highest point in January, 1916, when plantation first crepe touched 4s. 3d. per lb. This phenomenal rise was due to a combination of circumstances which was not foreseen. Stocks were at a low point, and the German submarine menace, which happily was short-lived, frightened both dealers and consumers, who rushed in to buy and forced the price up in a short time to a level which it was soon found was not warranted, supplies continuing to arrive safely, thanks to the efforts of our Navy. Since March prices have gradually declined, and we are now on about the same level as we were 12 months ago. A price of from 2s. to 2s. 6d. per lb. is, in my opinion, one which growers have every reason to be satisfied with, and I think it is one which gives the maximum encouragement to the manufacturers. The part played by motor transport in all the phases of this war is stupendous, and although a large proportion of the available rubber is at the present time being used for war purposes, it is my belief that the lessons learned from war transport work will have speeded up the development of motor transport in such a way that when peaceful conditions again prevail all the rubber that can be produced on the plantations of the Middle East will be largely taken up by this modern form of transport. (Hear, hear.) Now that the world is accustomed to the use of rubber it cannot do without it, and although ups and downs are inevitable in every business, there is, in my opinion—and, I think, in yours, too—no doubt whatever about the permanently profitable future which lies ahead of the plantation rubber industry. (Hear, hear.)

Before closing my remarks I should like to call your attention to the paragraph in the body of the printed report in which your directors state that they anticipate that the average nett cost to the trust of the acreage represented by its investments and properties when in full bearing, and after allowing for the amount standing to the credit of premiums account, it is not likely to exceed £65 per acre.

TRUST'S POLICY VINDICATED.

When reading through the report of the proceedings at last year's meeting, I came across the following statement made by a shareholder in criticising the policy of the board. After stating that we had been rash and indiscreet, he went on to say, "If they (the board) had put their money into something speculative, which was producing a high rate of dividend for the time being, there would have been something to be said for it, but to put all their money into things which are not yielding any income was the height of folly, and did not inspire confidence in the administration or foresight of the board." (Laughter.) I remember this statement surprised me at the time, but when I saw it again in cold print the other day it struck me as a most extraordinary argument. During the early years of this Trust we had plenty of opportunity of adopting the policy, which apparently our critics would have at least condoned. The public at one time paid as much as £1,000 per acre for rubber, and there were some rubber trust companies which came into existence after ours, which adopted the policy of placing their shareholders' money in what, at the prices then ruling, were highly speculative investments, yielding a high rate of dividends; but where are they now? Some, I believe, have ceased to exist, while one—which was very prominent at the time—after writing off a very large sum, has sunk its identity in that of another company. If we had adopted such a policy I wonder what you would have had to say about the depreciation—permanent depreciation—which your capital would have shown! We may have gone to the other extreme, but it was a safe extreme, and while in July, 1914, our investments showed a depreciation of £275,641 they to-day show an appreciation of £222,703—(applause.)—and that, remember, on investments largely represented by companies which are yet a long way from full maturity, and including nothing for the undoubted appreciation of our properties. (Hear, hear.) I think that is all I have to say about our investments in properties.

The profit for the year amounted to £47,953 16s. 7d., to which has to be added the amount brought forward from the previous year of £109,309 4s. 2d., giving us a total of £157,263 0s. 9d. Your board propose to deal with this by the payment of a dividend of 3 per cent.; absorbing £32,754 6s. 4d., and by the payment of £3,275 8s. 8d., due to the directors under

the company's articles of association, and by carrying forward the balance of £121,233 5s. 9d.

CRITICISMS ANSWERED.

I have noticed that there have been various criticisms with regard to the proposed distribution. Some seem to think that we ought to have distributed nothing at all, while others think that we ought to have distributed something more than 3 per cent. I have no doubt that the first criticism was probably due to the fact that those who offered it were unaware of the present financial position of the Trust, which I have already explained. At the date of the balance-sheet we owed £157,000 odd, while to-day we have over £100,000 in hand. With regard to those who suggest that we should have distributed a larger amount, all I can say is that at the present time your directors think that it is wise to adopt a conservative policy—(hear, hear)—and, by strengthening the Trust in every way, to ensure the ultimate payment of very much larger dividends. I now beg to move the adoption of the accounts and balance-sheet and the reports of the directors and auditors. I will ask Mr. Hamilton to second the motion. After that has been done, if there are any questions, I shall be very pleased to answer them. (Applause.)

Mr. E. L. Hamilton: Ladies and gentlemen,—You have heard from the chairman a very lucid and frank statement, disclosing, I think you will agree, a greatly improved and quite satisfactory position, both financially and with reference to the future prospects of the Trust. Mr. Croll, in referring to our shareholding interest in some 29 companies, has told you that with five exceptions he has visited the properties of all those companies. He is, therefore, in the position of being able to give you most reliable information. He has also given you a most interesting account of the properties owned entirely by the Trust. It is from those properties, as he has told you, now rapidly developing their earning powers, that we look in due course for a handsome reward for our period of waiting. I am one of those who have the greatest confidence in the future of the rubber and tea industries, and I am fully satisfied that the holdings of the Trust are represented by properties of the highest rank. It would be superfluous for me to go over the ground traversed by Mr. Croll, so with these remarks I beg to second the motion for the adoption of the report and accounts.

SHAREHOLDERS' VIEWS.

Mr. W. H. Radford, in a lengthy speech, said he had a substantial holding in the company, and remarked that the speech of the chairman was of a hopeful nature; but the shareholders could not live on hope. What they wanted was dividends. The policy of putting all their cash resources into things which would come into bearing in many years' time was really no good from the point of view of present shareholders. There ought to be a change of policy, and there should be more money put into things which would be immediately productive. They had very fine agents, who know a great deal about the rubber industry, but the question was whether their large interests in other concerns did not interfere with their management of this Trust. He moved that the meeting be adjourned for seven days to enable a committee of shareholders to confer with the chairman for the purpose of replacing four of the present directors by electing to the board four other directors having larger shareholding interests.

Mr. Lambert seconded the amendment.

Mr. Stewart wished to know whether it was in the mind of Mr. Radford that the qualification of the new directors whose appointment he suggested should simply be that they held a large number of shares, or that they should be experienced in this class of business. It did not go without saying that because a man happened to have a lot of money invested in a company he could be of any assistance in carrying on its business. (Hear, hear.) The whole object of this trust had always been understood to be the development of properties, and this necessarily involved a period of waiting, and he thought the shareholders generally were content to continue to rely upon the policy of the board, feeling perfectly certain that in a comparatively short time they would meet with their reward. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Maggs said it would be interesting to know what proportion of the profits was derived from the sale of shares, and how much had accrued from dividends received. Personally, he had been a shareholder in other rubber trust companies, and his experience in them had certainly not been more favourable than his experience in this trust had been. (Hear, hear.) The prime error made by Mr. Radford was in comparing a rubber-producing company with a rubber trust company.

Mr. H. W. Morrison said he looked upon Mr. Radford's speech as an attack on the management of the company by Messrs.

Harrisons and Crosfield, and would like to say, on behalf of his co-directors, that they had nothing but admiration for the way in which Messrs Harrisons and Crosfield managed the business. The meticulous care and extraordinary delicacy which they showed in all their transactions with the companies with which they were associated were beyond praise.

Mr. Radford denied having made any attack on Messrs Harrisons and Crosfield or their management, which, on the contrary, he considered had been good.

CHAIRMAN'S REPLY.

The Chairman, in reply, said that out of the profit of £78,000 made last year, £12,000 was derived from the sale of shares and £56,000 from investments and properties. (Applause.) He did not know whether he was expected to make a detailed reply on the amendment moved by Mr. Radford. (Cries of "No.") There was, however, one point to which he wished to refer. Mr. Radford had said that he cast no imputation on the honesty or integrity of the members of the board. He (the chairman) did not think they required any recommendation from Mr. Radford on that point. (Hear, hear.) Every member of the board was sufficiently well known to a large number of men in the City of London for it to be recognised that all their actions were straight and above board. (Hear, hear.) In the past speeches of Mr. Lampard the policy of this trust had always been clearly stated; that policy had been adhered to, and they were now beginning to reap the benefit of it. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Radford had made a great point of their having paid only 3 per cent., but as a matter of fact the trust had paid 63 per cent. in dividends in the seven years of its existence. They could have recommended a very much larger dividend this year than they had done, but he had already given the reasons why the directors considered it wise to conserve the resources of the trust.

The amendment was then put to the meeting and declared lost, not a single hand being held up in its favour.

The Chairman thanked the shareholders for this expression of their confidence, and thereupon put the original resolution, which was carried *nem. con.*

The dividend recommended was declared, and the retiring directors and auditors were re-elected.

On the motion of Mr. S. H. M. Killik, seconded by Mr. H. M. Knight, a cordial vote of thanks was passed to the chairman and directors as well as to the staff both at home and in the East.

The proceedings then terminated.

What Balance Sheets Tell.

JOHN SPENCER AND SONS, LTD.

Like most makers of steel this company became a controlled establishment in November last, and evidently derived considerable benefit from the enormous war requirements in the year ended June 30. Its profits showed a further improvement of £76,683 at £156,969, and after providing for all charges, including £21,642 for income-tax and £1,460 for excess profits duty on account of 1915, the nett balance, with £20,237, or £7,956 more, brought in, amounted to £139,024. The dividend, however, is only increased by 1½ per cent. to 7½ per cent., as the directors have set aside £53,500 to meet war taxes and contingencies. They have also provided £25,000 for depreciation, compared with £15,000 written off and £10,000 added to reserve a year ago, but expenditure on renewals and improvements came to £4,971 less at £7,958, and only £442 is provided for bad debts as against £2,000 last time, and the balance carried forward is increased by £4,887 to £25,124. Current liabilities are £29,257 higher at £153,000, but, on the other hand, sundry debtors owe £155,593, or £47,758 more, and as stocks are valued at £146,262, while the company has £59,563 in cash, the position looks good.

WILKIE AND SOAMES, LTD.

For some years this company, which owns the Thames Soap and Candle Works, Greenwich, was in very low water, and even its preference dividend fell into arrears. These were gradually wiped out, the final ten months being cleared off in 1914-15, but the company still had a severe struggle, and in November last its burden was lightened by writing £125,000 off the ordinary capital. War requirements, however, brought many changes to this particular trade as to others, and the company has participated in the prosperity. For the 15 months ended July 1 the nett profits amounted to £29,211, after providing for depreciation, &c., and with £5,412 brought in gave a total of £34,623 available. The company is therefore able to resume the payment of dividends on the ordinary shares, which have had nothing since the distribution of 2½ per cent. for 1906-7. Now they receive a distribution at the rate of 20 per cent., which is equivalent to about 5½ per cent. on the original ordinary capital, and £15,123 is carried forward, subject to excess profits duty. Property and plant account shows a reduction of £151,032 at £20,432, of which £125,000 is accounted for by the writing down of the capital. Stocks have risen by £24,493 to £62,103, debtors owe £5,591 more at £24,507, and investments have been increased by £26,357 to £100,848, but cash is £13,431 down at £3,000. Current liabilities, including a loan of £5,000 from the bankers, although £6,140 higher, are still very moderate at £9,972.

METROPOLITAN GAS CO.

For the half-year to June 30 this Melbourne undertaking had a gross income of £414,590, an increase of £28,000, but unfortunately the cost of manufacture was £32,000 higher, and other expenses also advanced, with the result that the nett revenue is £10,200 down at £117,445. After paying interest, which required £3,200 less, there is a balance of £97,280, out of which £27,000 is again placed to reserve and £3,000 to gas stoves account. This time also £5,000 is set aside for meter renewals, but a year ago £8,800 was written off capital for plant condemned as useless. The dividend of 6s. 6d. per share is repeated, but it requires £3,300 more this time, and £62 remains to be added to the amount carried forward from last half-year, raising it to £54,156, an increase of £17,500 over last year. Since last year the share capital has been increased by £50,000, and the premium account by £45,000, so that there is now a credit of £24,850 in place of a debit of £6,835. Sundry creditors have increased £35,000 to £147,730, and sundry debtors £32,000 to £137,820, while the stock of coal is £8,000 higher at £48,640.

LEIGH MILLS CO., LTD.

Excellent results were again obtained in the year to July 29 last. Trading profits were £10,500 higher at £31,105, and £500 more was brought forward, but charges were slightly higher, and the disposable balance is not quite £10,000 up at £26,187. It is proposed to place £10,000, or £2,500 more, to reserve, and to repeat the dividend of 8 per cent. per annum, but on this occasion a bonus of 1s. per share is added, both paid free of income-tax. There then remains £5,968, or £3,500 more, to be carried forward. Provision has been made for excess profits duty, but the amount is not stated. Owing to the increased business, loans have increased £10,000, and creditors £20,600. Buildings, plant, &c., are up £8,000 at £52,880, and stocks are £54,000 higher at £146,680, but debtors are down £4,000, and cash has dropped £10,000 to £23,310. The company is moderately capitalised, and the balance-sheet has a clean appearance.

ARNOLD J. VAN DEN BERGH, LTD.

Magnificent results were obtained in the year to April 30 by this coöperage firm, which is closely associated with the margarine people of the same name. Gross profits were practically doubled at £99,230, but owing to liberal appropriations nett profits are only £9,000 higher at £42,995. Directors' fees are doubled at £6,720, expenses and bad debts are up £1,600, Dutch excess profits duty, loss by floods and 25th anniversary expenses absorb £13,150 (new), depreciation is increased by £12,000 to £19,000, and £6,100 (new) is written off investments. Moreover, exceptional expenditure at the factories was £3,800 higher at £5,040. About £1,500 more was brought forward, and it was possible to double the dividend and bonus at 25 per cent. to place £10,000 against £6,000 to reserve and still increase the carry forward by £9,400 to £31,210. A year ago, however, £15,580 was written off goodwill, thereby extinguishing that item. It is quite a gorgeous showing, and the 25th anniversary celebrations must have taken place under the happiest conditions. Changes in the balance-sheet are only such as might be expected from the expansion in trading. Creditors are up £30,000, cash and bills have increased £14,000, debtors £16,600, and stocks £52,500, the last item now standing at £115,920.

Critical Index to New Investments.

AIRCRAFT MANUFACTURING Co., LTD.

On behalf of the British, Foreign and Colonial Corporation, Ltd., the London City and Midland Bank invites applications for the purchase of 100,000 7 per cent. preference shares of this company at the price of 21s. per share. In its present form the company was started in 1912, when the area of the works was approximately 6,000 square feet, and it has now grown to 250,000 square feet, and the plant, &c., is valued at £99,000, in addition to which there are stocks amounting to about £100,000. No statement of profits is given, but the accountants certify that for the year to March 31 last the nett profits, before allowing for excess profits duty, were sufficient to pay the preference dividend more than eight times over. We do not like this method of giving the facts, and the business is evidently speculative, having regard to what may happen after the war, but it will no doubt prosper for some time to come. By the way, the prospectus does not disclose the names of the directors, which is somewhat unusual.

Pennsylvania Water and Power.—Gross earnings for August \$108,000, showing an increase of \$21,776 over the month of August, 1915.

The Standard Bank of South Africa, Ltd., has opened a branch at Berlin, near King William's Town, in the Cape Province.

Banco Popular Argentino.—Balancesheet to June 30 last shows paid-up capital, £925,204; increase over corresponding period last year, £763. Deposits, £1,882,983; increase, £60,971. Reserve funds, £466,176; increase, £1,661.

IRISH RAILWAYS.

	Sept. 8	£	+	£	135,822	+	£
Belfast and County Down ..	8	3,858	+	462	11,054	+	770
Grand Canal ..	8	1,141	+	3	862,053	+	25,203
Great Northern ..	8	25,085	+	735	1,173,188	+	35,857
Gt. Southern and Western ..	8	40,024	+	491	459,311	+	459
Midland Great Western ..	8	16,467	+	3,013			

* From Jan. 1. † From July 1.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam Bengal .. Aug. 5	1,11,000	—	8,150	22,62,506
Bengal & N.W. .. " 5	3,39,710	+	45,837	72,28,623
Bengal Nagpur .. " 12	8,12,000	+	1,58,000	1,31,89,905
Bombay, Baroda .. Sept. 9	10,68,000	—	2,59,000	3,00,22,000
Burma .. Aug. 5	3,35,934	—	60,287	71,48,093
Delhi Umballa .. Sept. 2	74,800	—	19,898	15,05,778
East Indian .. " 9	20,73,000	+	2,80,000	5,00,60,000
Gt. Indian Penin. .. " 9	16,15,400	+	2,16,300	4,49,56,774
Lucknow-Bareilly .. Aug. 5	30,649	—	1,076	8,06,523
Madras and S. .. " 19	8,75,000	+	99,841	1,99,58,992
Mahratta .. " 29	1,07,710	+	5,781	22,00,929
Nizam's Gd. (Broad) .. " 29	61,266	+	2,679	12,87,191
Robilkund and .. Aug. 5	26,065	—	3,932	7,77,762
Kumaon .. " 5	5,30,826	+	3,170	1,12,07,222
South Indian .. " 5				8,14,598

a 13 days. † April 1. ‡ October 1.

COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

			£		£		£
Belra.	May *		33,808	+	2,094	—	—
Canadian Northern	Sept. 7		8,708,900	+	252,400	+	8,228,000
Canadian Pacific	" 7		82,679,000	+	8,677,000	+	8,228,000
Gr. Trk. Main Line	" 7		210,808	+	29,090	+	873,969
Gr. Trk. Western	" 7		37,602	+	6,936	+	311,037
Detroit G. H. & M.	" 7		13,794	+	1,804	+	102,398
Gr Trk Pac Prairie Sc	" 7		14,595	—	1,172	—	42,497
Mashonaland	June *		56,677	+	6,565	2	94,815
Mid. of Westn. Aus.	July *		4,902	—	367	1	367
New Cape Central.	Aug. 12		1,272	—	619	—	7,400
Rhodesia	June *		82,423	+	6,719	+	6,719

a 9 days. * Months. † July 1. ‡ Jan. 1. c From Oct. 1.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

		£	+	£	£	£	
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	Aug. 31a	1,558,000	+	133,000	8,196,000	+	580,000
Chicago G.W. ..	" 14	360,000	+	70,000	1,884,000	+	208,000
Colorado & South'n ..	" 14	301,000	+	12,000	1,821,000	+	153,000
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	31a	802,000	+	55,000	4,414,000	+	221,000
Louisville & Nashv'e ..	31a	1,766,000	+	470,000	10,618,000	+	1,503,000
Minn. S.P. (Soo) ..	" 14	681,000	+	134,000	4,383,000	+	1,038,000
Missouri Kansas ..	31a	1,685,000	+	239,000	6,265,000	+	1,095,000
Northern Pacific ..	" 21	1,643,000	+	287,000	9,745,000	+	1,683,000
Southern ..	31a	2,101,000	+	367,000	11,794,000	+	1,098,000

a 10 days. † Includes Wisconsin Central. ‡ From July 1.

MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

NAME.	NETT EARNINGS FOR MONTH.			No. of Mths.	NETT EARNINGS TO DATE.		
	Month.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year.		Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year.	
		Dols.	Dols.		Dols.	Dols.	
Atcholson T. & S. Fé	July	4,069,000	+ 720,000	1	4,069,000	+ 720,000	
Atlantic Coast Line	"	460,000	+ 222,000	1	460,000	+ 222,000	
Baltimore & Ohio ..	"	3,087,000	+ 10,000	1	3,087,000	+ 10,000	
Canadian Northern	"	1,197,400	+ 711,000	1	1,197,400	+ 711,000	
Canadian Pacific ..	"	4,017,000	+ 1,217,000	1	4,017,000	+ 1,217,000	
Chesapeake & Ohio	"	1,355,000	+ 213,000	1	1,355,000	+ 213,000	
Chicago & N.W. ..	"	2,448,000	+ 800,000	1	2,448,000	+ 800,000	
Chicago Burl. & Q. .	May	2,869,000	+ 1,230,000	11	37,764,500	+ 9,266,000	
Chicago G.W. ..	July	913,000	+ 25,000	1	913,000	+ 25,000	
Chicago Mil. & S. P.	"	1,389,000	+ 378,000	1	1,389,000	+ 378,000	
Chicago, Rock I. & P.	June	1,473,000	+ 419,000	12	16,811,000	+ 2,771,000	
Colorado & Southern	May	447,000	+ 227,000	11	5,317,000	+ 1,457,000	
Cuba	June	604,000	+ 147,000	12	6,815,000	+ 1,609,000	
Do.	May	261,131	+ 482	11	2,314,953	+ 626,709	
Delaware & Hud. ..	June	719,000	+ 19,000	6	4,205,000	+ 583,000	
Denver & Rio Gran.	"	1,847,000	+ 171,000	12	10,151,000	+ 2,611,000	
Erie	July	1,737,000	— 222,000	7	10,388,000	+ 2,908,000	
Gr. Tr. Main Line. .	"	2,262,400	+ 135,100	7	£ 1,425,850	+ £ 167,000	
Grand Trunk Westn	"	£ 49,400	+ £ 24,000	7	£ 288,900	+ £ 243,800	
Detroit G. H. & Mil.	"	£ 11,150	— £ 1,350	7	£ 32,250	+ £ 39,850	
Gt. Northern ..	June	2,912,000	+ 821,000	12	37,370,000	+ 7,035,000	
Illinois Central ..	July	1,023,000	+ 491,000	1	1,023,000	+ 491,000	
Kansas City Southn.	"	534,000	+ 68,000	1	534,000	+ 68,000	
Lehigh Valley ..	"	1,222,000	+ 194,000	1	1,222,000	+ 194,000	
Louisville & Nashvl.	"	1,433,000	+ 250,000	1	1,433,000	+ 250,000	
Minn. S. P. (Soo) ..	June	1,043,000	+ 493,000	1	1,043,000	+ 493,000	
Miss. K. & Texas ..	July	617,000	+ 145,000	1	617,000	+ 145,000	
Missouri Pacific ..	June	601,000	— 491,000	1	601,000	— 491,000	
New York Cent. & H.	July	5,720,000	+ 1,319,000	7	35,358,000	+ 12,600,000	
N. Y. N. Haven & H.	June	2,130,000	— 752,000	12	22,382,000	+ 3,647,000	
New York Ont. & W.	July	406,000	+ 24,000	1	406,000	+ 24,000	
Norfolk & Western.	"	1,816,000	+ 128,000	1	1,816,000	+ 128,000	
Northern Pacific ..	June	2,592,000	+ 430,000	12	31,032,000	+ 9,482,000	
Pennsylvania East	"						
and West Lines. .	July	11,330,000	+ 1,475,000	7	62,097,000	+ 2,353,000	
St. Louis & San F. .	May	1,201,000	+ 310,000	11	12,343,000	+ 1,747,000	
Seaboard Air Line. .	June	467,000	+ 74,000	12	467,000	+ 74,000	
Southern	July	1,282,000	— 83,000	1	1,282,000	— 83,000	
Southern Pacific ..	"	5,048,000	+ 456,000	1	5,048,000	+ 456,000	
Union Pacific ..	"	3,454,000	+ 605,000	1	3,454,000	+ 605,000	
Wabash	"	1,016,000	+ 512,000	1	1,016,000	+ 512,000	

‡ Includes Wisconsin Central. * Gross earnings. † Surplus.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—HOME.

		£	+	£	£	£	
Bristol ..	Sept. 8	10,895	+	831	361,679	+	15,512
Dublin United ..	" 8	6,739	+	178	216,424	+	3,072
Hastings and Dist. ..	" 8	1,734	+	217	38,165	+	2,260
Isle of Thanet ..	" 9	752	—	110	61,996	+	3,019
Lancashire United..	" 6	2,205	—	46	113,386	+	2,637
Provincial ..	" 12	2,894	+	132	64,901	+	5,901
Yorks. (West. Rdng.) ..	" 10	1,911	+	165			

* From Oct. 1.

† From Jan. 1.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.

	£	+	£	Ms.	£	+	£
Anglo-Argentine .. Sept. 2	47,933	—	1,847	1	1,771,989	—	11,483
Auckland Electric .. Aug. 25b	20,467	—	591	a	41,974	—	55
Brazilian Traction .. " 1	M4,050,000	+	M150,000	6	M26,680,000	+	M844,580
Brisbane Elec. Inv. .. Apl.	30,320	+	3,739	2	62,600	+	6,390
British Columbia .. June 1	556,399	+	150,000	10	853,782	—	845,969
B. A. Lacroze .. " "	36,212	—	4,203	12	490,818	—	15,324
Burmah Electric .. July 29	Rs. 3,437	—	Rs. 289	—	—	+	Rs. 3,920
Calcutta .. Sept. 9	Rs. 72,268	+	4,936	—	Rs. 23,37,109	+	1,09,785
Cordoba Light P. & T. .. July	14,263	—	112	3	57,313	+	776
Hongkong .. " 29	17,172	—	5,234	3	142,128	+	91,730
La Plata .. " June 6	3,736	—	140	6	25,925	+	161
Lima .. " May 1	15,693	+	69	4	78,913	+	1,440
Madras Electric .. June 31c	Rs. 32,762	—	Rs. 2,272	—	Rs. 43,711	+	Rs. 31,700
Mexico .. " Nov. 1	215,256	—	108,669	—	3,193,106	—	1,077,227
Puebla .. " Dec. 1	40,000	—	5,660	—	669,500	—	844,500
Rangoon .. " Aug. 5	4,253	—	257	—	32,342	—	1,693
Singapore Electric .. May 20	13,139	+	1,897	8	247,759	+	29,716
Toronto .. " 1	438,997	—	65,938	—	1,693,709	—	1,098,311
United of Monte V. .. Aug.	20,044	—	449	10	292,332	+	13,986
Vera Cruz .. " Apl.	83,500	—	39,600	5	287,400	—	112,000
Winnipeg .. " July 1	74,587	—	4,966	—	705,095	—	3,898

b 28 days. * From Jan. 1. † Net. a From July 1. c Two weeks.

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.			
	Week ending	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	Wks.	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	
Alcoy and Gandia ..	Sept. 9	Ps. 12,000	+	Ps. 2,000	Ps. 481,600	+	Ps. 39,900
Antofagasta (Chili) ..	" 10	37,845	+	3,795	1,213,020	+	351,065
Arauco ..	July	8,100	—	1,350	152,238	+	17,066
Argentine N.E. ..	Sept. 9	6,100	—	952	67,902	—	1,915
Bilbao R. and Canta ..	June	4,325	+	669	24,777	—	1,796
Bolivar ..	Aug. *	8,500	—	1,111	15,500	+	968
Brazil ..	July *	M3,357,000	+	M78,935	M24,660,000	+	M2,129,720
Brazil Gt. Southern ..	Apr. *	Mis. 32,750	—	M3,300	M69,250	—	M4,200
B. Ayres & Pacific ..	Sept. 9	89,000	—	2,000	857,000	—	4,000
Do. Gt. South'n ..	" 10	95,000	—	12,000	965,254	—	119,346
Do. Western ..	" 10	52,000	—	10,000	498,000	—	44,000
Central Argentine ..	" 9	119,200	+	5,200	1,146,100	—	28,700
C. Ur'g'ay of Mta V. ..	" 9	11,475	+	1,931	109,825	—	1,994
Do. East'n Ex. ..	" 9	3,704	—	1,501	36,271	—	725
Do. North'n Ex. ..	" 9	2,012	—	522	18,365	—	797
Do. West'n Ex. ..	" 9	1,637	—	49	15,388	—	220
Colombian National ..	June *	11,840	—	946	65,500	—	7,188
Cordoba Central ..	Sept. 9	33,500	—	3,585	360,800	—	5,270
Costa Rica ..	July 1	6,499	—	1,867	928	—	1,057
Cuban Central ..	Sept. 9	9,317	—	1,971	83,851	+	15,020
Dorada Extension ..	Aug. *	9,500	—	400	64,000	—	1,100
Egyptian Delta ..	" 20a	4,922	—	943	68,442	—	12,615
Entre Rios ..	Sept. 9	12,600	—	3,500	121,500	—	27,000
French Santa Fé ..	July	90,932	—	15,010	919,079	—	91,201
Gt. South. of Spain ..	Sept. 2	Ps. 65,880	+	Ps. 17,843	Ps. 456,053	+	Ps. 394,610
Gt. West. of Brazil..	" 2	8,200	—	1,600	318,300	—	31,700
Havana Central ..	" 2	6,594	—	1,649	53,980	—	5,089
Inter. of C. Amer. ..	May *	37,809	—	16,495	180,392	—	71,429
La Guaira and Car. ..	June *	15,250	—	2,000	49,250	—	7,000
Leopoldina ..	Sept. 9	32,959	—	2,394	824,124	—	212,383
Manila (N. & Sth.) ..	" 3	8,008	—	1,279	321,333	—	4,074
Midland Uruguay ..	July	11,796	—	2,346	124,302	—	11,193
Mogovana ..	June	M2,819,000	—	M221,678	M11,605,000	—	M1007,815
N.W. of Uruguay ..	June *	\$25,500	—	\$3,086	\$268,127	—	\$34,844
Nitrate ..	Aug. 31	31,519	—	11,717	685,147	—	235,404
Paraguay Central ..	Sept. 2	2,520	—	100	26,160	—	6,570
Paulista ..	July *	M4,000,000	—	M31,867	M19,250,000	—	M989,366
Peruvian Corp'n ..	Sept. 9	\$835,430	—	\$110,592	\$10,798,927	—	\$1,514,834
Salvador ..	Sept. 9	\$20,300	—	4,550	\$214,805	—	\$9,803
S. Paulo (Brazilian) ..	" 3	36,875	—	4,658	922,606	—	72,507
Sorocabana ..	May *	M1,269,000	—	M23,000	M6,960,000	—	M392,000
Taital. ..	June *	21,743	—	10,643	225,909	—	93,023
United of Havana ..	Sept. 11	31,280	—	7,083	393,705	—	54,766
West'n of Havana ..	" 2	6,321	—	1,435	54,907	—	6,695
Zafra and Huelva ..	May *	11,359	—	3,806	57,578	—	21,591

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THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.

(Registered in Japan.)
ESTABLISHED 1880.

Subscribed Capital	Yen 48,000,000
Capital Paid Up	Yen 30,000,000
Reserve Fund	Yen 20,800,000

Head Office: YOKOHAMA.

Branches and Agencies at

Antung-Halen.	Harbin.	Nagasaki.	Shanghai.
Bombay.	Honolulu.	Newchang.	Singapore.
Calcutta.	Hong Kong.	New York.	Sydney.
Changchun.	Kobe.	Osaka.	Tientsin.
Dairen (Dainy).	Liaoyang.	Peking.	Tokyo.
Fengtien (Mukden).	Los Angeles.	Ryojan (Port Arthur)	Tsinanfu.
Hankow.	Lyons.	San Francisco.	Tsingtau.

The Bank buys and receives for collection Bills of Exchange, issues Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit on above places and elsewhere, and transacts General Banking Business.

Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be obtained on application.

London Office: 7, BISHOPSGATE, E.C.

K. TATSUMI, Manager.

THE LONDON & RIVER PLATE BANK (LIMITED).

ESTABLISHED 1862.

Authorised Capital	£4,000,000
Paid-up Capital	1,800,000
Reserve Fund	2,000,000

BRANCHES—

ARGENTINE.—Buenos Aires, Rosario, Mendoza, Concordia, Bahia Blanca, Córdoba, Tucumán, Paraná, Barracas (Buenos Aires), Once (Buenos Aires), Boca (Buenos Aires), Calle Santa Fé (Buenos Aires), Calle B de Irigoyen (Buenos Aires). URUGUAY.—Montevideo, Montevideo Agency (Calle Rio Negro), Paysandu (Agency), Salto (Agency). BRAZIL.—Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Santos, Pernambuco, Para, Bahia, Victoria, Curitiba, Manaós (Agency). CHILI—Valparaiso. FRANCE—Paris (16 Rue Halévy). Agency in New York and Agents throughout the world.

Letters of Credit, Drafts, and Cable Transfers issued. Bills negotiated, advanced upon or sent for collection.—7, Princes Street, E.C.

BANK OF NEW ZEALAND.

(Incorporated July 29th, 1861.)

BANKERS TO THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT.

London Office: 1, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL £5,500,000

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL.

Four per Cent. Guaranteed Stock	£529,988
"A" Preference Shares issued to New Zealand Government	500,000
"B" Preference Shares issued to New Zealand Government	250,000
Ordinary Shares	1,500,000
	£2,779,988

Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits £2,118,605

Negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange.
Grants drafts on its Offices in New Zealand, Australia, Fiji and Samoa. Remittances made by telegraphic transfer.

ALEXANDER KAY, Manager.

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LTD.

Head Office: 15, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.

Capital Authorised	£1,500,000
Capital Issued	1,125,000
Capital Paid Up	562,500
Reserve Fund	550,000

Branches:

INDIA, BURMAH, CEYLON, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS
CHINA, AND PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS.

The Bank buys and sells Bills of Exchange, issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, and transacts banking and agency business in connection with the East, on terms to be had on application.

DEPOSITS received for one year at 5 per cent. per annum. Rates for other periods on application.

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Branch - 11, Calea Victoriei, Bucarest.

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HEAD OFFICE: 41, LOTHBURY, E.C.

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PAID-UP CAPITAL	£1,548,525
RESERVE FUND	£2,000,000
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Further Liability of Proprietors	539,437 10 0
Reserve Fund	400,000 0 0

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Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits	354,791 5 3
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Paid-up Capital	£350,000 0 0 (25,000 Shares of £10 each.)
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Reserve Liability of Shareholders £250,000.	

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Reserve Fund	2,675,000
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	3,500,000
	£9,675,000

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Paid-up Capital	£500,000	Reserve Fund	£10,000
Reserve Fund	£1,010,000	Uncalled Capital	125,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	625,000		£1,760,000

London Office—11, Leadenhall Street, E.C.

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PERCY ARNOLD, Manager

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ESTABLISHED 1837. LIMITED. INCORPORATED 1880.

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Reserve Liability of Proprietors	4,000,000
Total Capital and Reserves	£7,960,000

HEAD OFFICE - - - 71, CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.

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TELEGRAPHIC REMITTANCES are also made.

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DEPOSITS are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application.

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Passing Events.

In the week ended the 16th inst., national expenditure rose £10,466,000 to £37,465,000, making a daily average of more than £5,352,000, and war expenditure alone accounted for that expansion, supply services having taken £35,854,000, as compared with £25,084,000 for the preceding week. We must expect these fluctuations and be thankful that thus far we have been able to stand the pressure the most severe demand may impose. Since April 1, when the present fiscal year began, the expenditure has amounted to £818,855,000, which is nearly £200,000,000 more than was paid away in the same portion of last fiscal year, when up to September 18, £619,243,000 was disbursed. And the waste? It is probably an averaged 20 to 25 per cent., but there is nobody capable of stopping it, and, after all, we have more armies now to sustain. Against these massive figures the income of the week looks tiny indeed, although it was £759,000 up last week and amounted to £6,677,000, of which £2,320,000 came from excess profits duty, bringing up the total receipts thus far from that new source to £25,998,000. The small revenue of less than £7,000,000 left a large gap to be filled, and it was widened by the necessity to repay temporary advances to the amount of £10,475,000. Thus, taking everything into account, £48,020,000 had to be found, and the Treasury did not quite succeed in getting it. In fact, the total income, including £29,529,000 nett raised upon Treasury bills, £3,009,000 provided by the slightly increased sale of Exchequer bonds, and the small sum of £456,000 brought in by sale of expenditure certificates and by £1,700,000 the product of savings certificates, was £6,579,000 short of requirements, amounting, that is to say, to only £41,441,000, consequently the shortage just mentioned had to be taken from the Exchequer balances, which are now again becoming quite small. With last week's nett increase of £20,602,000 in the Treasury bills outstanding, the total is now £979,872,000. When will Mr. McKenna be forced by the magnitude of this form of floating debt to announce his new loan? When is he going really to tap the enormous excess earnings of the nation, now mostly running to waste, by opening a premium bond loan after the fashion common in France and in other places abroad?

We dislike exceedingly the tendency supported in quarters where we should not expect it to thrust all occupations and responsibilities upon the Government. No sooner does a difficulty arrive in any particular trade than the clamour starts, "the Government must intervene." We have been assured again and again within the last fortnight that the Government is about to assume control of coal mining, to become the one coal miner in the kingdom, and also, doubtless, the one distributor of coal, and the wonder is that we have not been pestered by a more insistent outcry for Government interference with the wheat trade. That, however, is coming, though not quite in the same form. Formidable influences are being set in motion to hustle the Government into giving a national "price guarantee" to the farmer. The landowner, who would most benefit, is not apparently expected to do anything, but the town dweller, the general taxpayer who earns his wage and has no other "stake" in the country, is to be asked to saddle himself with a 42s. or 45s. per quarter "guarantee" to the farmer who condescends to grow wheat. And there has been a hubbub, rather a contemptible one, about dear tea. The Government has controlled sugar, not we fear in all respects to the advantage of the consumer, but still with wonderful efficiency, and now it must take tea in hand, if you please, in order to smash "the rings of scoundrels and speculators" by whom the price has been forced up. There has been no forcing up, and we do not want any Government control. An effective answer to the clamour was given this week in the *Financial Times*, which, by comparing price between the past year and two years ago, demonstrates that the rise has only been from an average of 9.27d. per lb. to 10.85d., or 1.58d. per lb. This is all that the "speculators" have succeeded in putting on to the price of tea, and the rise does not all represent their profit, for amongst the causes affecting the cost are higher freights, dearer labour, dearer packing materials, and the cost of the larger capital involved in conducting the trade owing to the rise in the tea duty. No undue profits have been made on this side by the tea trade, and we do not believe that any are likely to be made, still less do we think that there has been a combination amongst the middlemen, or between a ring of middlemen and a group of producers, to take advantage of a crisis in the country's history to make money dishonestly.

We never really feared that railway men would actually strike over their wages dispute. They asked in the usual manner of bargainers for more than they expected to obtain, and after due discussion face to face with some of the leading and ablest general managers, after being reasoned with also by Mr. Runciman, they have accepted an increase amounting to half what they had demanded. The bonus granted under the agreement reached last October was 5s. a week and was supposed to be the last concession, but the men have now pointed out, reasonably enough, that prices have risen so materially since then as to make it impossible for them to be satisfied with the 5s. bonus. There could be no question of the cogency of the argument; therefore the public should now be glad to learn that the men have been satisfied a second time with the addition of another 5s. a week, making a war bonus of 10s. a week in all. We hope for the sake of the nation at large, and especially in the interests of railway stockholders, that circumstances will not occur to disturb this latest agreement. Undoubtedly the extra pay now granted will add sensibly to working costs, but that is unavoidable in present circumstances, and we feel sure that most railway proprietors will bow as cheerfully as they can to the inevitable. Employees of 18 years of age and upwards who are now getting the 5s. bonus are to get the 10s. bonus, and those under 18, with the exception of boys engaged since January 1, 1915, are to receive 5s. in lieu of 2s. 6d. The first payment under the revised scale is to be for the week ended last Saturday. It is added that the truce entered into at the meeting between the parties to this agreement on October 1, 1914, is to continue in force.

To people who are interested in such matters the scandals that have come to light in connection with the Royal Army Clothing Department, Pimlico, will not occasion much surprise. For years past, long before the war, the Department had been treated with scant respect by reputable contractors, who found by experience that honest work and fair prices did not insure orders or the acceptance of goods when delivered. Except in cases where trouble might have led to exposure there was apparently only one method of "getting on" with the Department, and good firms gave up the business in disgust. An illustration of the working of the Department came under our notice a few months ago. A contractor was offered an order for certain articles to be made to standard, the Department supplying the material. The pattern shown was a quarter of a century out of date, and the contractor found that by slight modifications he could save (let us say) $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the material required and 5 per cent. on the cost of making-up, the Government getting the entire benefit of both economies. His first deliveries were ignominiously rejected, although they stood every conceivable test, and he had to show his teeth very emphatically before he gained his point. But he would have nothing more to do with further orders from the same source. In another case several gross of articles were brusquely rejected, but when the maker insisted on going through them with the inspector less than one dozen were found to be even remotely defective. Instances of the kind could no doubt be multiplied indefinitely, and a case was mentioned in Court of a contractor who had been driven into bankruptcy because he would not conform to the accepted creed of Pimlico. That does not exonerate Hinde's, Ltd., or the other shoddy creatures who have driven respectable firms out of the business, and the judge in the Asseling and Montague charges did well to pour indignation and contempt on them as he could not punish them in any other way. But are there not very much bigger culprits behind the miserable pilferers who have been sentenced for pocketing a few hundred pounds of ill-gotten gains? And will investigation prove anything but a farce unless it is carried to the topmost ramifications? We are not at all sanguine. A few years ago a very big firm was knocked off the Admiralty contractors' list. The circumstances were well known to people behind the scenes, but the whole affair was hushed up, and so far as we know there were only vague references to it in the Press, because it was prac-

tically impossible to obtain sufficient evidence to successfully meet the threat of libel actions. And we daresay the same thing will happen again if big and powerful interests are threatened, unless the Government has the courage to see it through. Unfortunately, the Government has its hands full even if it had the inclination or the strength to move, and all we can really hope for is that some of the other culprits will be frightened into honesty and some slight conception of patriotism by the recent disclosures.

When it was first stated that the Government refused to pay rent for the De Keyser's Hotel, which it had commandeered, we came to the conclusion that there must be some mistake, or that the War Office or whatever department is responsible had merely left the matter in abeyance as is too often their wont. But at the meeting of proprietors held to protest against the Government's attitude it was made clear that there was no mistake at all. The company was told that the Crown was entitled to take any premises it might select, and that "it would be a derogation of these rights to pay any rent whatever." A more wrongheaded and stupid view it would be impossible to imagine. When the Government has requisitioned ships or horses, or sugar or wool, or anything else, it has paid for them, and why an exception should be made in the case of owners of hotels or clubs is not obvious to the ordinary intelligence. Owing to the publicity given to this attempted robbery a lame official excuse has been put forward that there is no department competent to deal with such cases. But a department was found, tardily enough, when the owners of an aviation ground which had been appropriated under similar circumstances haled the Crown before the Courts and carried the case to the House of Lords. The sooner the same department puts in an appearance now the better, if only to save what is left of its dignity.

One of our industries which has derived considerable benefit from the stoppage of German supplies is the manufacture of dyestuffs, and the results obtained by the United Indigo and Chemical Co. show that it has risen well to the occasion. For quite a number of years the concern was in low water, and even after its capital had been more than cut in half in 1909 the largest return it was able to make was $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the preference and ordinary shares, a distribution which was reached in 1910 and again in 1912 and 1913. The war, however, brought such a complete change that in the year ended June 30 the nett profits rose from £7,596 to £28,850, and this substantial improvement has now been followed by a further increase of £24,176 to a total of £53,026. With £24,458, or £13,003 more, brought forward the amount available is £77,484, but of this £34,000 is set aside for excess profits duty, and the directors then proceed to divide the surplus remaining up to the hilt. Both the participating preference and the ordinary shares get dividends of 20 per cent. compared with 10 per cent. and a bonus of 5 per cent. a year ago, but the distributions are this time less tax instead of tax free, and after again giving the directors a bonus of 5 per cent. on the nett profits, £25,157, or only £699 more, is carried forward. Depreciation on plant and machinery was deducted before arriving at the trade profits, and would seem to have been on a very moderate scale as property and goodwill account is only £989 down at £39,829, and it is therefore unfortunate that the directors have not taken advantage of the exceptional prosperity to at least make a beginning with the creation of a reserve fund. Stocks are £23,098 larger at £52,902, and debtors owe £24,678 more at £73,461, but cash is £5,464 down at £20,202, against which there is an increase in the liabilities of subsidiary companies, &c., of £2,353 to £10,862. The combined assets of the parent and subsidiaries are consequently £40,769 higher at £175,533, and as in addition the holding in War Loan has been increased by £6,586 to £10,654 sundry creditors of the parent company are £43,231 up at £50,180.

Even German ingenuity cannot persuade the admiring world that the latest efforts of the Kaiser's officials

in raising the wind have been successful. The Finance Minister of the Empire can only attract, or attach, paper to be added to the masses of such flimsy and perishable material previously collected or printed and "dumped." Not even fetish Hindenburg, the all-conquering, who has been summoned to help, can conjure money—solid cash—out of receptacles where none is. "There is any amount of gold in Germany," the newspapers assert, "and it will have to be forced out of its owners' possession if they do not choose to part with it voluntarily." It may be true, probably is, that gold is hoarded in Germany still, but the numbers who possess it and the amount hoarded need not be anything near the £600,000,000 spoken of. And whether large or small, it will be mostly inaccessible to the Prussian taskmaster, threaten as he may. His own paper money, every week becoming of smaller exchangeable value, effectually blocks the way to gold. "But you have your jewellery; hand that over as security for yet more of our paper money," is the latest appeal. It may be responded to; we hope it may, because the Allies will then have something besides the remnant of the gold window-dressed in the Reichsbank to serve as foundation for payment of the compensations and indemnities to be exacted from the aggressors when the war is over. By vigour of this kind, too, the Teuton may learn that war can never more be "cheap."

Mystery still in some degree surrounds the robbery of the Belgian banks—£40,000,000 is now said to have been taken from them—but an explanation of how they became possessed of so much paper money has been furnished by the Belgian Government in Havre. It seems that from the start of their occupation of Belgium the Germans had forced an exchange of 1.25 fr. to the mark upon the country, and the stocks of materials requisitioned by the invaders were paid for in German paper marks at this dishonest exchange. Foreign debtors of Belgium also in many cases took advantage of the, to them, highly favourable exchange to pay their debts in the over-valued German paper money, which accordingly accumulated in the Belgian banks. Not only the National Bank, the Belgian Société Générale, and private banks, but private individuals were compelled to accept this fraudulently emitted and over-valued currency, and as they could not "pass it on" to third parties, as the Germans also prohibited the exportation of Belgian securities, and refused for the most part to accept payment, except in francs, of the monthly contribution of £1,600,000 exacted as tribute from the held-down people; as, moreover, Belgian trade and industry have been entirely stopped, there was nothing for it but that German depreciated paper marks should accumulate in the safes of the banks. If this is the "money" the Prussian financiers have now requisitioned, it will not appreciably increase their power to pay for the war, but the Allies will be entitled to rank it at its full gold value in the account for damages and compensation sent in to the Kaiser when the war ends, as it should do now, well within the third year. Another winter of war should just about serve to reduce the Prussians and their slaves to the proper frame of mind.

Nor will the suggested seizure of Savings Bank funds within Germany help much. Indeed, the story that such a step was in contemplation was denied almost as soon as circulated, though that does not necessarily mean absence of intention to commit a blunder so colossal. When a Government has to descend to direct and open robbery of its own people its end can hardly be far off, even among races and tribes reduced to such abjectivity as those of the two derelict empires. As yet, however, the coercion in Germany has not gone further than the squeezing of Government creditors, the commandeering of banking credits, and appeals to patriotism more or less minatory, none of which read more absurd than the one alleging that the people who are able and who remain unpatriotic enough not to subscribe to the loan are "helping to prolong the war." And yet there may be logic of sorts behind that asser-

tion likewise. A little time will show. If the truth cannot meantime be instilled into German intellects through the stomach it may quite well happen that coercion will be applied, and the whole fabric of German banking and mercantile credit—or all of it that yet remains standing—be tumbled into chaos, a confusion great enough to obliterate for ever the claims of the raw-minded Teuton to rank among the races capable of shaping the destinies of mankind towards higher ideals. We have said all along that this fifth German War Loan was not going to be easily subscribed, even by help of mock exhibitions of wealth like those the previous loans have familiarised us with; but even if the loan were to be a confessed fiasco—which it will never be—the war will go on. When a bankrupt knows that there is no hope for him he often becomes reckless to the extent of madness, and the Prussian bankrupt is only too certain to increase the fury of his criminality when he sees the ruin he has incited hanging over him as inevitable as death.

It is not alone in the mere juggling with imaginary totals in finance that the difficulties of the German Empire are becoming so acute as to be insurmountable, but the internal condition of the Empire grows more and more ominous of a break-up, if not of a shattering in pieces, which is too often overlooked here. In the *Mercure de France* for July 16 this aspect of German affairs was luminously discussed by M. Paul Louis, and it ought not to be lost sight of here. We generally think and speak of the German Empire as a centralised and united State, like the United Kingdom or like the French Republic. It is not that at all, but only the presiding authority over a group of independent States, the most conspicuous and powerful amongst which is Bavaria. Each one of these States, large or small, has its local sentiment or what may be called patriotism—although there is no such thing as real patriotism in all Germany—but that, perhaps, may be ignored. What is of more importance is that each State has an independent power to regulate its taxation within limits defined when the Empire was set up. Broadly speaking, the direct taxes are the property of each individual State, and the indirect alone belong to the Empire. The Empire, therefore, cannot levy poll taxes nor, we take it, even an income-tax over the entire Empire. In other words, the power of the Hohenzollern to tax the people without limit or hindrance is restricted to the Prussian kingdom, and that is one reason why the Imperial Finance Minister has been unable to institute any system of taxation which could be offered to the subscribers of German loans as a guarantee that part at least of the interest might be forthcoming when the war is over. Nothing is done and little or nothing can be done to secure these loans, as we keep insisting, and the hostility of the various States embraced within the Imperial fabric to Prussian domination, to Hohenzollern demands for money, and so forth, is on the increase. Again and again, says M. Louis, the Bavarians, Württembergers, and Hessians have complained that they are being sacrificed to the Brandenburgers, the Pomeranians, and the Mecklenburgers—that is to say, to Prussia. That the hostility between the various States, united only in their hatred of the Prussian, will carry them far enough to burst the Empire in pieces this well-informed writer does not believe, and neither do we, just because the Teuton is no patriot; but that it will be effective in preventing taxation from being imposed in any degree adequate to the necessities of the Empire is certain. Hence the difficulties of the political functionaries who carry out the policy of the Hohenzollerns are daily on the increase, and keep step with the embarrassments caused by shortage of food in driving the Empire towards that impotence which should herald its destruction. Another winter of misery and true patriotism may be borne even in Germany to the discomfiture of "All Highests," "Most Catholics," and their satellite frauds.

Actual profit earned by the great engineering, coal mining, shipbuilding, and now munition-producing

firm of John Brown and Co., Ltd., in its year closed March 31 last was probably restricted by the very fact that its business has come under the control of the Minister of Munitions. Both the Sheffield and Clydebank establishments became controlled establishments on July 12, 1915, and the profit made in the company's past year was £33,171 down at £553,072. In the previous year, however, the profit earned was upwards of £140,000 higher than that for 1913-14, so that the decline for the past year is insignificant. Allowing for an increase of £2,716 in the interest payable on debentures and mortgages the free nett income was £35,887 lower at £485,120, but the sum of £128,052 brought forward was £30,632 larger, consequently the entire divisible balance of £613,172 is only £5,255 worse, and the directors are able to continue the dividend on the ordinary capital at 12½ per cent. for the year, less tax. This is the same rate as was paid for 1914-15, but the year before that the shareholders received only 10 per cent. What provision has been made to meet special war taxation is not disclosed, but the report tells us that, whatever it may be, it is included in the amount due to sundry creditors. That follows the general fashion, and a comparison of the figures might mislead here, for including such provision the sum due to sundry creditors at the date of the balance-sheet shows a reduction of £128,964 on the figure of the previous year, bringing it down to £1,081,269. The previous year, however, the entry showed an increase of £322,880, so that here also it is probable that the effect of Government control may have reduced the general current debts due by the company, and consequently lowered the total compared with the previous year, when an unusually large increase was shown. Generally the accounts contain nothing to comment upon, but we do not know whether the £150,000 put to a reserve for contingencies this time is something put aside to a new nest-egg or not. A year ago the total amount put aside out of profits was £175,000, £100,000 of that being utilised to meet capital expenditure, and the remaining £75,000 added to the reserve fund, raising it to £300,000, not an excessive amount by any means. If, however, the money is utilised to keep down capital outlays in any form it should strengthen the company's position. Last year the capital cost of the great variety of assets belonging to the company was increased by £131,818 to £4,955,335, and in the preceding year there was a decrease of £72,236, caused probably by the assignment of £100,000 of the profits to capital expenditure. The company owns not only its property in Sheffield and at Clydebank, but collieries at Aldwarke and Rotherham, and shares in Thos. Firth and Sons, Ltd., Coventry Ordnance Works, Ltd., Harland and Wolff, Ltd., Dalton Main Collieries, Ltd., Rossington Main Colliery Co., Ltd., Trent Iron Co., Ltd., together with Spanish mines and other properties unspecified. Difficulty was experienced last year in maintaining the output of the collieries owing to the scarcity of men. Also cost of production was greatly increased through the several advances in wages made during the year and by the high prices of pig-iron and other materials, nevertheless the profits came out at a most substantial total, and everything appears to be in excellent order. Developments at Rossington Colliery continue satisfactory, the directors say, and they also inform the shareholders that not only has the usual depreciation of the properties been provided for, but that extra provision has been made for additional wear and tear brought about by the exigencies of the war.

It is stated that the iron works of the Sheepbridge Coal and Iron Co., Ltd., have been a controlled establishment since November 8 last, but the shareholders have no reason to find fault with the results for the year to June 30, which show a nett profit of £205,890, or £37,500 more than for the previous 12 months. The amount brought forward, however, was £21,000 less, and the available balance is £16,500 higher at £249,960. After again setting aside £70,000 for the development of new properties it is proposed to repeat the dividend of 15 per cent. for the year, which re-

quires £14,000 more, as the 286,826 new ordinary shares are now 16s. paid against 8s. a year ago, and the balance forward is slightly smaller at £42,630. Paid-up capital has increased £123,000 to £984,000, and sundry creditors are up £130,000 at £182,840. Share premiums amounting to £61,500 have been written off properties, which, however, are £28,000 higher at £811,240. Debtors have increased £38,000 to £161,000, cash is up £73,000 at £84,540, and there is a new item of investments standing at £211,200; but advances have been reduced by £20,000 to £325,230. Miners' wages have been raised 13½ per cent., and including the war bonus they are now 40 per cent. above the 1911 level and 110½ per cent. over the 1888 basis. These charges, together with the higher cost of materials, have considerably increased the cost of production, but, as we have seen, the company has been perfectly able to recoup itself. It is stated that no fewer than 2,600 of the workmen employed by the Sheepbridge Co. and its subsidiaries have enlisted, and one marvels more than ever how the output can be kept up under the circumstances.

Life in the parlours of the Ulster Bank is evidently ideally placid and conducive to longevity if the experience of two of the directors is any criterion. In the report for the year ended August 31 the death of Mr. James Carr, the senior director, after over 70 years' service, and the retirement of Mr. J. Taylor Blackwood with 63 years' service to his credit are announced. Records like these are surely unique, and we are glad to see that Mr. Blackwood's services are to be recognised by the grant of a pension of £1,700 a year. With business good in the North of Ireland the bank is able to make a satisfactory showing for the 12 months. Its nett profits, including £15,436 brought forward, improved by £3,494 to £149,519, out of which the usual dividends of 21½ per cent., less tax, have been paid. The provision for depreciation on investments is £5,000 smaller at £30,000, but the directors put £4,000 to the officers' superannuation fund and appropriate £7,600 to give the staff a bonus of 10 per cent. on their salaries, leaving £23,028, or £7,592 more, to be carried forward. Liabilities on deposit and current accounts are £990,634 higher at £11,544,114, bills for collection have risen by £46,275 to £194,857, and the note circulation shows an expansion of £707,384 at £2,417,187. Against these there is an increase of £1,587,154 to £6,484,752 in investments, which is due to the purchase of Treasury bills, as Government stocks are only £4,225 up at £2,835,857, and the holding of Colonial Government and other securities has been reduced by £417,071 to £1,648,895. Cash balances are £948,798 higher at £3,706,924, but bills discounted, advances, &c., come to £784,066 less at £5,187,511.

Japan's prosperity arising out of the war has not proved an unmixed blessing to the country's banks and other financial institutions, who have found themselves embarrassed by the large amounts of money on their hands. Six months ago the directors of the Industrial Bank of Japan stated that it was impossible to find employment for the large amounts held, and matters have certainly not improved in this respect during the half-year ended June 30. It is true that the gross profits, including 58,223 yen, or 17,963 yen less, brought in, were 18,970 yen up at 3,051,065 yen, but expenses, interest, and depreciation of National Loan bonds required an extra 136,930 yen at 2,429,374 yen, so that the nett profits were actually 117,959 yen down at 621,691 yen. The appropriations to reserve against losses and dividend equalisation reserve are reduced by 9,450 yen to 49,750 yen and 2,550 yen to 12,450 yen respectively, and the dividend is cut down to 5½ per cent. as against 6½ per cent. a year ago. Out of the balance 20,000 yen, as before, is appropriated for the remuneration of officers, and 58,241 yen, or 18,459 yen less, is carried forward. Changes in the various series of debentures issued resulted in an increase of 1,348,500 yen to 63,791,800 yen, but deposit and current accounts are 140,205 yen lower

at 20,160,094 yen, and funds in trust and other sums due by the bank show a decrease of 1,210,507 yen at 13,234,756 yen. On the other hand, cash is 2,339,446 yen down at 404,265 yen, and money at call and short notice 1,351,030 yen down at 7,504,708. Bills discounted, too, come to 2,379,071 yen less at 29,640,893 yen, and loans on lands and buildings have been reduced by 366,920 yen to 1,156,280 yen, while fixed loans have only risen by 60,919 yen to 29,317,023 yen. Investments in National Loan bonds, however, have been increased by 4,724,412 yen, and the holding of Local Loan bonds is 857,519 yen higher at 10,611,819 yen. Funds in hand for payments on account of loans, debentures, &c., are 719,588 yen smaller at 12,853,665 yen, and properties taken over in "liquidation of debts" show a further increase of 142,906 yen at 363,259 yen.

While so many industrial concerns are doing well out of the war, it is the fate of the Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers (1900), Ltd., to have been very hard hit, as was only to be expected from the embargo placed on new buildings by the Government under the Defence of the Realm Act. Nett profits for the year to June 30 amounted to £355,768, a decrease of just £100,000 as compared with the previous 12 months, which followed a decline of £108,000 on the 1913-14 figures, and of £63,500 on those for 1912-13. So the business of the company has been on the down-grade for quite a considerable time, the profits in the last-mentioned year having been £627,000. At that time we had hopes that the frenzied over-capitalisation of the combine was beginning to right itself through the losses and sorrows of the ordinary shareholders, but there is again a great deal of leeway to make good. Interest required £4,000 more at £226,380, and £2,500 more at £53,710 (still very inadequate, we are afraid) was set aside for depreciation and sinking funds. This time, too, £10,000 is charged for income-tax adjustment, and after appropriating the usual £50,000 to general reserve, £11,000 more at £164,100 remains to be carried forward. For the first time in the company's history the preference dividend (requiring £125,660) has to be passed. Barely half of it was earned, but in any case, as the directors frankly admit, the substantial amount carried forward is not in a sufficiently liquid form to render it available for dividends, even if, on other grounds, it seemed desirable so to use it. However, the dividend is cumulative, and no doubt it will be easy enough to pay off arrears when the cement trade recovers. During the year £100,000 was paid off debenture stocks and certificates of indebtedness, but the total is still terribly heavy at £4,750,000. Sundry creditors have increased £32,000 at £270,960, and reserve funds are £112,000 higher at £665,000. Stocks are £50,000 higher at £342,500, and investments £140,000 up at £2,012,000, but debtors are £20,000 down at £424,000, and cash has been reduced £10,000 to £88,650. It is likely enough, however, that the company will have a good time when the war is over, and when Mexico (where the company has large interests) is more settled; but it has a terrible load of debt to carry, even under boom conditions, and its competitors are keen, energetic, and not so heavily handicapped.

In the past two years the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Co. of Canada, Ltd., has made very substantial progress, but it has still a long way to go to justify its capitalisation at \$5,000,000. For the year to January 31, 1914, there was a deficit of \$15,340, which was converted into a surplus of \$5,730 in the following 12 months. For the period to January 31 last the profits amounted to \$110,226, an increase of \$60,200, and after paying interest on advances and setting aside \$5,000 as a reserve against doubtful debts the surplus is raised to \$80,815. In addition there is a claim against the Government for stations taken over by the Admiralty and for other services rendered, but the amount has not yet been agreed, although it is hoped an equitable settlement will be reached in the near future. No details are supplied as to the revenue from the transmission of

messages or the profit from installations on which work, it is stated, the company's plant in Montreal has been kept fully occupied, but it is time these particulars were given seeing that the company has now been in existence over a dozen years, and ought to be getting on to a purely commercial basis. Except for an increase of \$87,200 in cash there is nothing calling for remark in the balance-sheet, which is a singularly unilluminative document.

Like many other concerns far removed from the actual scenes of the European conflict the Niger Co., Ltd., suffered terribly in the earlier stages of the war, but we are glad to see that there has since been a very conspicuous improvement in its affairs. For the year 1914 there was a nett loss of £31,070, but for 1915 there is a nett profit of £149,112. Customs payments were slightly less at £170,600, but there was a trading profit last year of £154,895 against a loss of £47,000, and the profits of tin-working were £11,000 higher at £27,800, but in 1914 £36,980 was taken as a credit for the claim against the Government for damage in the Garua district. After placing £40,000 to reserve (against £10,000 two years ago) it is proposed to resume the regular dividend of 10 per cent., and to carry forward £11,600 more at £25,670. Sundry creditors are £105,000 lower at £424,825, and sundry debtors are down £211,000 at £689,810, but stocks, &c., have increased £223,000 to £996,000, cash is up £15,000 at £35,520, and investments are £7,600 higher at £135,400. Properties have been written down £21,000 nett to £247,400, and, on the whole, the balance-sheet has a remarkably clean and strong appearance. Of course, there have been difficulties both in the trading business and in the tin-mining industry owing to the depletion of staffs caused by the war, but the company's purchases of African produce were greater than in any previous year, and the results would have been still better than those recorded above but for the shortage of freight and the congestion at home ports. Anyhow, the company is managed in a much more businesslike way than most similar ventures, and probably there are few shareholders who still regret the deal made when the Government relieved it of its administrative functions.

It was inevitable that a company like the Anglo-Russian Trust, Ltd., should suffer severely from the effects of the war, and in the circumstances it is highly creditable that an income of £95,500 was obtained in 1915 from interest, dividends, &c. Comparison with the previous year is, however, impossible, as in the 1914 accounts income was given after deducting an unspecified amount for interest on loans, an item which is now placed on the debit side at £61,150. As the loans have increased by only £120,000 to £1,048,500, it is safe to assume that the actual profits were some £50,000 to £55,000 smaller. Last year £25,000 was written off against sundry debtors and £10,000 off preliminary expenses, while £5,910 was spent on advertising, and a half-year's dividend was paid on the 5 per cent. preference stock. On the present occasion, after paying debenture interest and expenses, there is a balance of only £12,670, or about £2,000 less than the amount brought in. Office expenses have been reduced by £6,700, apart from advertising, and directors' fees have been cut in half at £1,250. Sundry creditors have been reduced £54,700 to £12,045, but there is an increase of £20,000 in bills discounted, &c., at £307,770. No allowance has been made for depreciation of investments, which are £180,000 higher at £2,055,000, cash has been reduced £15,600 to £12,028, and sundry debtors are £96,600 lower at £465,100. Debenture stock issue expenses and commission have again been written down £1,600, but still stand at £43,230. Of course, there are no profits on issues or underwriting of capital in these times, but the company has established a fair connection, and will get its share when conditions improve. Perhaps the most satisfactory statement in the report is that arrangements have been made whereby the liabilities

have been reduced £471,380 during the current year, but particulars of the transaction are withheld for the meeting. It may be of interest to recall that for 1912 a dividend of 10 per cent. was paid on the ordinary shares and £15,000 was placed to reserve. For the following year 6 per cent. was paid, but the £15,000 had to be taken back from reserve, and for 1914, as already mentioned, only a half-year's preference dividend could be distributed. The directors were too liberal at the start, but, of course, no one could have foreseen the complete disorganisation of business that has taken place since.

The results obtained by the West Hartlepool Steam Navigation Co. in its financial year ended March 31 are as remarkable an example of the exceptional prosperity in the shipping world as any we have seen. From the time of its incorporation down to 1913-14 the undertaking was anything but successful, having only once (in 1901-2) paid a dividend on its ordinary shares, while from 1907-8 to 1913-14 even the preference dividend could not be met. War requirements in the latter part of 1914-15 so far helped the company that it was able to wipe out one year's arrears of the preference dividend, and since then there has been a rapid improvement. Five of the vessels were sold during the 12 months under review, and a substantial portion of the fleet was continually engaged on Government service, yet the profits increased by no less than £195,012 to £316,856, and after writing off £14,261, or £1,234 more for classification expenses and repairs not recoverable from underwriters and meeting other charges, the nett balance, including £9,584 brought in, was £194,573 up at £312,179. Of this total £142,500 has been set aside for income-tax and excess profits duty, compared with £3,000 for income-tax last year. The whole of the arrears of the preference dividend to December 31, 1915, are cleared off at a cost of £82,500, and £50,000 is transferred to reserve, as against £79,821 written off for depreciation a year ago. The ordinary shares then get a dividend of 5 per cent., tax free, which absorbs £10,500, and the balance carried forward is increased by £3,327 to £12,911. As the result of the sale of the five vessels mentioned above the value of the fleet and other property shows a decrease of £93,466 at £381,847, while, on the other hand, the outstanding debenture debt has been reduced by £68,500 to £57,800. Sundry creditors, including the provision for excess profits duty, have risen by £132,919 to £181,505, against which steamers' current accounts are £57,781 up at £69,989, cash is £58,575 higher at £113,438, and £108,768 has been invested in War Loan and Treasury bills, while debtors are only £3,412 down at £48,675.

In the year to June 30, 1915, the profits of the American Cyanamid Co. dropped \$266,000, owing to the dislocation of the fertiliser industry caused by the war, and the works had to be reduced to one-eighth of their capacity, but towards the end of the period three times that amount was in commission. During the first half of the past year three-eighths of the capacity provided all the cyanamid (lime nitrogen) that was required, but in the second half the works were fully employed, and the profits rose to \$385,500, an increase of \$327,000. This allows of the payment of one year's preference dividend (\$196,600), and the setting aside of \$100,000 for depreciation. Last year \$238,365 was carried forward, but \$195,000 of this has been appropriated in respect of depreciation for 1914-15, leaving a surplus of \$43,365, which is now increased to \$232,280. The company has therefore done very well, and it has strengthened its position in other directions, so that it is now able to submit a comprehensive profit and loss account. This shows that the nett sales were \$1,881,530, and the costs \$1,197,310, leaving a gross profit of \$684,220, and the nett profit as already stated. Moreover, although the accounts do not show exactly how it has been accomplished, \$231,000 has been written off "founding and propaganda," the bond issue has disappeared, and current liabilities have been reduced

by \$345,000. There is still one year's preference dividend to be provided, but last year's profits were sufficient to pay over 7 per cent. on the ordinary, and no doubt the arrears will soon be wiped out. Although the authorised capital has been doubled at \$22,000,000, the amount issued remains at \$5,776,000. The company has secured an option to acquire the entire capital stock of the Ammo-Phos Corporation, and it has made a contract for a period of years with another large manufacturer for the supply of lime nitrogen for the purpose of producing ammonia, while great things are expected from the appropriation of \$20,000,000 by the United States Government to secure an adequate supply of nitric acid. We gather that the artificial production of nitrates even with very cheap power does not leave a large margin of profit when the natural product of Chili is at a low level, but this company seems to have a good chance of doing well with reasonable luck through by-products which are becoming increasingly valuable.

A very marked improvement is recorded in the report of the Renong Tin Dredging, a comparatively new concern which operates on the Renong and Pak Chou Rivers in Siam. The company has now three dredges of the latest type working, on which the whole process of extraction and recovery is carried on, and these in the year ended June 30 obtained 827½ tons of tin ore from 1,823,519 cubic yards of ground treated, as compared with 301 tons from 1,006,740 cubic yards in 1914-15. The price realised per ton of tin ore was £111½, an appreciable increase. Consequently the profit and loss account shows a credit balance of £30,745, instead of a loss of £18,009, and after deducting the debit balance of £6,875 brought in, and arrears of preference dividend, the available balance is £16,369. This suffices to pay a maiden dividend of 12½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, leaving £6,236 to be carried forward. These figures have been arrived at after providing for depreciation. Of the £18,000 debentures issued in 1914-15 £7,500 has been redeemed, while the issued capital has been increased by a corresponding amount through the exercise of options at a premium of 5s. per share. The returns from the dredges this year are showing a further improvement, and in view of the better financial position it is proposed to pay off the balance of the debentures now outstanding. The company has the advantage of being under the financial guidance of Guthrie and Co., whose management of Eastern undertakings, such as the Linggi, has been distinguished by its success.

Workmen's Wages, the War, and What May Come After.

Probably the majority of people who read about the demand of railway workers for an advance in wages of 10s. per week put it down to the men's selfishness. "The men do not care a straw," we frequently hear it said, "for the interests of the country or the Empire, and would not mind if we lost the war so long as they got all the money they wanted." We do not believe that this expresses the truth with regard to railway servants or the working classes in general. That there is selfishness in the demand of the men is no doubt true, but is it greater selfishness than what we see displayed by the classes above them and expected to set them an example? We doubt it, doubt, indeed, whether the men are not stimulated to make these excessive-looking demands by what they see taking place around them. We are told that the root of all this labour agitation for more and more pay is to be found in South Wales. The miners in South Wales stand in a position of permanent uncompromising hostility to employers of labour, the capitalist, and they think with good reason. They see colliery owners becoming rich quick, companies for which they work at a fixed wage showing ever-increasing profits and paying larger and larger dividends; men they knew to be poor some years ago they behold blossoming into peers, buying estates, building more or less magnificent mansions, setting

themselves in these and other ways apart from the class they originally belonged to. "We are not getting our fair share of the profits being made," the men conclude, and consequently no opportunity is lost by them to make a move to extract by the force of combination some of the money they think themselves deprived of.

Not only in these directions is a stimulus given to the discontent of the working classes, but the whole constitution of modern industrial life is warped by the arbitrary differentiation of class from class. Take our railways, for example. Those who know anything about the origin of these highways are more apt to be surprised than not at the submissiveness of the nation to what is after all a great imposture, an imposture of the same nature, though not carried to the same extent, as that which enables small minorities of privileged families in the two derelict empires of Central Europe to dominate over many millions of their fellow-citizens and ruin them without challenge. When our railways were first beginning to be constructed their projectors were met in many parts of the country by the most uncompromising hostility on the part of the landowners, and outrageous prices had generally to be paid before the right of way was given to a railway to cross an estate. By and by these landowners began to discover that there was money in the new enterprise, and then they settled down upon it with a view to still further augment what may be called the amenities of their existence. They hastened to become directors, and have remained in control of our railways ever since to an extent that has been on many occasions most inimical to the public interest. Men not very old will remember the furious resistance offered by the superior social classes to such a concession as the penny-a-mile fare on all trains initiated by the Quaker board, as it then was, of the Midland. That change revolutionised railway travelling for the people by cheapening it, and saved some lines from insolvency; but the directors drawn from the privileged classes resented the concession as if it had been a personal injury. Writing to us some time ago, a railway director, one of the few men of business to be found in that class, remarked sarcastically, "Of course, railway directors are by hypothesis fools or worse. Some of the cunuchs who criticise them have a good deal to learn, too." This correspondent makes a mistake. The critics of our railway administration are not in the habit of calling railway directors *fools*. What they say is, these men are *parasites*. They have fastened themselves on to an industry about which they, as a rule, know nothing, and often care as little; they draw from that industry not only fees in supplement to their income from other sources, but privileges of free travelling that enable them to pass up and down and across the country at will, without contributing anything whatever to the revenue of the railways. The porters at the stations see these men coming and going alone or with their wives and families and friends—generally all travelling free—and they have to bow before them and obsequiously fulfil their slightest wishes, lest they should come under the displeasure of masters, all-powerful masters, who know nothing about railway work. With this example continually before them, with no evidence whatever visible that privations of any sort are being accepted or endured by this superior, this privileged class, is it to be wondered at that the men should grumble, should say, "Well, if these directors are not suffering, why should we? We must have more money."

All this is not said with a view to accentuate the hostility between class and class, but simply to explain the forces at work and to warn the privileged amongst the community that they will have to reconcile themselves to a change in their attitude towards the masses of their fellow-citizens if they are to avert serious domestic trouble when the war is over. As long as the fighting continues, and as our fellow-citizens are being drawn away into the Army and the Navy, no more serious trouble is likely to arise than these frequent wrangles over the question of wages, or wages and prices. When, however, the Army has to be disbanded—and it will have to be that pretty smartly when the

war ends if we are to avoid insolvency, national and Imperial—then the men who have been risking their lives for the redemption of civilisation will have the upper hand, and it may be that, according as their masters now behave, will be the attitude assumed by the millions of discharged warriors and the terms they will formulate. We see that sundry peers and prelates have been illuminating columns of the *Times* with their ideas about the relations to be established between class and class after the war is over. They are mostly full of benevolence, these worthy gentlemen, and occasionally make suggestions, some of which may deserve consideration; but we notice that it is mostly benevolence without expense which they propose to exercise. They are anxious about the relations between capital and labour, and appear to regard capital as something sacred, set apart, and incapable of dislodgment in any degree from its privileged position. Without attempting to understand or to define what capital consists of, they nevertheless would have the capitalist and the labourer become partners in some way or other; and the idea is good enough in itself, but first of all capital must have its rights, its pound of flesh, for it is a thing sacred, and then what is left over might be shared, a dole going benevolently to the worker.

Before anything can come of these discussions and aspirations of uninstructed kind-heartedness, would it not be well to determine in some manner or other what capital is? In the course of a pretty long life we have had to pass under review thousands of joint-stock companies, at least 90 per cent. of which—we speak within the mark—were more or less dishonestly capitalised—from the point of view of the workers' interests—and also the nation's. Is the company which wraps up in its capital £10,000, £100,000, £500,000 for what is called "goodwill," to be put in a position to render that asset valuable by paying more or less substantial dividends on the nominal capital into which the "goodwill" is transmuted, to be let off by the working classes on payment of a small percentage of the surplus

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THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR NEW ZEALAND,
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profits? What are the "surplus profits" in such cases? Is not the "goodwill" in part the price paid for something that may not, that often does not, exist, or, still worse, an effective method of hiding from the workmen the extent to which their labour is sweated? These questions are asked in order to emphasise the magnitude of one of the most insurmountable difficulties that our Victorian finance has raised up to bar the way to anything like real harmony between those who labour with their hands and those who find, and who hitherto have too often fixed, the wages paid. A new basis of mutual understanding will have to be reached, and a frankness in dealing honestly with the real facts exhibited, of which we as yet see little or no symptom, if industrial peace and progress are to be with us when the war ends. As we now moonrake along, we are in much more danger of a new revolution.

By-the-Way War Notes.

One of the best bits of information we have picked up this week relates to the extent of our losses. At the beginning of our Somme offensive these were heavy, less so considerably than those inflicted upon the Germans, but still great enough to rouse our recruiting authorities to an uneconomic fury of waste in augmenting our potential military strength. That Sir Douglas Haig was known to be unusually solicitous of the lives of his troops only made the outlook the more stimulating to the fears of the easily scared. Our capacity to win was never for a moment in question, even with the croakers, but the tactics to be pursued in order to hasten victory unquestionably began to be debated. All that is now past. What our losses were, what they actually are, need not now be gone into. They were never as great as the pre-offensive estimate, but whatever they were at the beginning they are now down, so as to be, say, as three to five compared to what they were. Not only so, but about 60 per cent. of the wounds are so slight as to be curable within a few weeks, and the men are soon able to return to the front. Is it any wonder that a joyous confidence in victory now permeates our armies on all fronts, and radiates through the hospitals where our wounded are gathered together and cared for? How many prisoners have the Germans captured from us since July 1? Not 5 per cent. of the numbers we have taken from them. Our daring and masterful airmen may sometimes fall into their hands, but they get less and less chance to capture anybody in the trench warfare where they now continually get beaten.

Our commanders are very careful not to commit themselves to guesses at the enemy's losses, but when Sir Douglas Haig or Generals Foch, or Nivelle, or Sarrail allow it to be emphasised that the enemy has suffered extremely in killed, wounded, and prisoners, we may be sure the facts known to them bear out the assertion. And when Sir Douglas Haig says in his official *résumé* of the recent fighting on the Somme that "since July 1 the British forces alone on the Somme battle front have met and engaged 35 German divisions"—nominally 700,000 men—of which 29—probably between 400,000 and 450,000 men—"have been defeated and withdrawn exhausted," no doubt can remain. The German losses must have been appalling, and they are going on at every point of contact along the far-extended fronts their arrogant offensive has lined with resolute foes, determined to make an end of Prussianism for good and all.

Testimony equally significant is afforded by the tale of the prisoners captured by the Allies. Without counting the Rumanian quota—and Rumania has not yet had time to count her captures—since July 1 and up to the 18th inst. the four Great Powers of the *Entente* have made 490,668 of the enemy prisoners. To the Russians 402,471 have fallen, to the French 33,699, to the Italians 33,048, and to the British 21,451. The Allies have also captured 1,131 guns and 2,624 machine guns in the same time, Russia again leading with 841 guns of all calibres and 1,580 machine guns or Maxims. The

French follow with 145 guns and 729 machine guns, we standing third with 109 guns and 223 machine guns, while Italy comes last with 36 guns and 92 Maxims.

The record is in all respects satisfactory, but in official circles we see little evidence of the right type of content. On the contrary, we too often find the newspapers filled with assertions and rumours well calculated to encourage the Germans to persevere in the hope that they may weary us out and make us ready to grant them a peace that will save the face of the Kaiser and his Junkers by at least allowing them to retain some of the land they had set out to steal. What, for instance, is the meaning behind the constantly circulated rumours that the military age here is to be "extended" to men of 45 or, it may be, of 48; and why is yet one more super-superior recruiting Tribunal to be set up? To the ordinary citizen who pays and suffers buffeting there appears to be no lack of fighting men; khaki-clad warriors meet one everywhere, on the streets, in places of amusement, in trains, on trams, almost everywhere except in the churches and chapels, and seem to increase rather than diminish in numbers. One afternoon last week this writer counted the men in uniform he met on his own side of the street, and these only in a walk along the Strand from Wellington Street to Villiers Street, and found the number just 50. That was about 4 p.m., but no matter what the hour, the men of the Army will be found there and everywhere in crowds. We do not speak of the wounded soldiers, they are not counted, but only of the able-bodied and presumably trained troops who now seem capable of fighting, and with whom our streets are thronging. And in our ignorance we ask what are all these men kept here for? Have we a million or two millions of men or three kept at home for reasons ascribable to causes and influences which need not be otherwise indicated, but which are by no means all discreditable? The nation will want to know much more about it all than it has yet been told before it acquiesces in a further extension of the military age, or submits to see the nation's industries put to further strain by the withdrawal of vitally necessary men.

An amusing version of the elevation of Marshal von Hindenburg to the supreme command of the Kaiser's armies has made its appearance this week, and may be truth. For it ascribes the change to the Kaiser's wounded vanity. He is furiously jealous of and hates Hindenburg, because that old Hanoverian boarhound has of late outstripped him in popularity with the mob. So it was plotted between William of the short arm and his familiar Falkenhayn that a comedy should be played. Falkenhayn was to be noisily dismissed, and Hindenburg put in his place, so that when the now foreseen disaster arrived, he, and not the Kaiser, would be made the scapegoat. The tale is plausible enough, and may be true, for it would explain the under-meaning of the information circulated last week by the Berlin or other official lie factory to the effect that the council of chief war makers assembled in the "All Highest's" presence had taken away all military power from the "War Lord" henceforth. We more than half believed the yarn, and mockingly lamented the loss of our "best asset" among the Huns; but if the latest story skims near to truth, then the earlier one would fit in as part of the prearranged deception. "I, the All Highest, cannot henceforth be to blame, for so meek and solicitous of serving the German nation was I that I bowed to the will of my new chief of the General Staff, Field Marshal von Hindenburg, the idol of your choice, and abandoned all warlike operations to his care. He has failed; let him alone have the responsibility." Thoroughly Hohenzollernish that would be.

Talking of Hindenburg, the wooden man would seem to have developed into an orator of the lachrymose, sham sentimental kind. In his capacity of temporary chief tout for the War Loan No. 5, which the German people cannot seemingly be prevailed on to take up—or have not the means to take up—he is reported to have argued thus—we give his words as translated by Mr. F. W. Wile, of the *Daily Mail*. "In accents of quiet confidence," the warrior cried:—

Hats off to every single one of our warriors on the Somme! One can when one must. Where there is a will there is a way. One must only find the way—must decide what way, and then go ahead in that direction consistently and with energy. The difficulties are great, but we have a good right to hope that we shall conquer. When it is raining on our side so that we cannot push our wagons through the mud, it is usually raining over on the other side too. Who says that history always travels along a straight, uninterrupted line? Does it not in nearly every case describe curves which sometimes go up and sometimes down? One thing, of course, we must have, and that is money. To wage war costs money. But I cherish the firm hope that this time, too, our war loan will have a great success, and confound the hopes of our enemies, for it goes well with us in north and south, east and west. Those at home must realise that they, too, are waging war. I do not forget the poor mothers who must stand for hours in the street waiting for half a pound of meat, while filled with anxiety about their children who may be sitting behind closed doors playing with matches!

The touch about the "poor mothers" and their children, coming just after the boasting, unsupported by a single consoling fact, and the eager appeal for "money, money," with which to reach victory, is—well, hollow enough, but also good enough, for Germans.

In contrast with this stolid old soldier's words and sentimentalities we should like to place here the concluding words of M. Briand's final speech in the French Chamber of Deputies on Tuesday. The Prime Minister of France had been roused to a white heat of patriotism by a whine for peace uttered by a Socialist Deputy named Brizou, a man obviously of the same breed as our peace waiters at home—"Give us peace, come of our liberties what may"—and denounced the grumbler in a speech which ended in sentences of inspired patriotism, charged with the loftiest ideals of humanity:—

France, which had not ceased to manifest her pacific sentiments, has suffered a long premeditated aggression. One day Germany leapt at her throat, and in order to get at her passed over the body of little Belgium, whose neutrality she had guaranteed. For two years France has held the invader in check, and is driving him back foot by foot. At such a moment you come to talk to us of peace. What an insult, what an outrage to the memory of all our dead! Several of our departments are invaded. The Germans are committing odious excesses against the populations, whose demeanour is nevertheless admirable, and it is at the moment when ears are stretched to hear the guns of deliverance that you tell us to make peace. You do not know the generosity of France if you believe that she could accept an immediate peace in exchange for a saving of billions of francs or even a saving of blood. That would be a war peace, and generations to come would be the prey of unimaginable anguish constantly threatened by the vision of Germany again dealing the wicked blow which on this occasion has failed. If you desire peace to reign in the world and ideas of justice to prosper, then wish for the victory of your country. Then only will peace come. Till that moment do not seek to make the country believe that it could obtain peace now, for peace to-day would be a humiliating peace, and there is not a Frenchman who dares to wish it.

Earlier in the same session M. Briand had given expression to warm feelings about the loyal help of England that also deserve to be preserved. It is language of this kind which will do more to unite the two countries in enduring brotherhood than tons of "decorations" and exchanges of journalistic or diplomatic civilities or "tributes." M. Briand is not "paying an eloquent tribute" to the United Kingdom here, he is speaking loyally out of the fulness of his heart, and with intimate knowledge of all that has passed between the two Governments since the German hordes of savages burst in upon France, violated treaties, and gave unbridled rein to their foul lusts. England, said M. Briand, had never said "No" to any request made by France since the war began, and was not only doing her part nobly on land, but fulfilling with success her arduous rôle of guardian of the freedom of the seas:—

The institution of compulsory service is a thing unheard of in British history, and we know in face of what difficulties Great Britain created her formidable Army. Hundreds of thousands of soldiers are on our territory whom it was necessary to arm and who are now glorious at our side. The British spontaneously entered the war in entire loyalty. They have still further extended their action, and you know what difficulties they have to surmount with us in the mountains of Macedonia. Look at the figures of her losses and judge of the effort of Great Britain. The Russians, notwithstanding transport difficulties, have crossed the world to join their brothers in France and in the Balkans. We are all making an effort against the same enemy. We must put in common all our resources in effectives and money and work with them, for we have all come wholeheartedly to

the help of the Fatherland. Italy also is making every possible effort among the difficulties of a mountainous country. What every Frenchman desires to-day is that the blood which has been shed shall not have been shed in vain, that France shall emerge greater from the test, that the cause of liberty shall triumph, and that to-morrow she shall obtain the halo of glory which she deserves. The country is not misled by any propaganda. It has its face turned towards victory. It wishes to hasten it, and with that object is giving men, guns, and shells with a firm and a high heart and with unshakable moral.

Note the hint about putting all resources in common, for to that it is coming, and may be on a higher plane of unity than that implied in the rate per cent. obtainable on money lent. For M. Briand's words were not spoken in relation to Russia, Italy and ourselves alone. His survey included Serbia and the other allies leagued together in the supreme effort to deliver the world from a threatened bondage worse than death. But are we freeing ourselves while forcing back and consuming the savages who have attacked us? Ah, we cannot yet be sure of that. Old formulæ, old classifications, time-honoured ideals of life and hypocrisies around man's relation to man prevail too largely still, and far deeper agony of suffering may have to be endured by us all before the worm-eaten structure inherited from a self-absorbed past is torn down and the way made plain for the new life that must blossom forth if mankind is to be elevated and made indeed free.

Constantine the Dane has again been unbosoming himself to an American journalist, and naturally poses as the most well-meaning and innocent of men. And the poor man may be all that he claims to be—we do not care to examine. What the onlooking world sees is that the Greece this king was put to preside over has been made to play traitor not only to the Powers to whom the country owes all it has of liberty, but to the Greek people themselves. Inspired by German intriguers the Greek army has been a nuisance, if not a danger, to the Allies gathered at Salonica to redeem Serbia; treachery has been in evidence everywhere, and reached its crowning infamy in the surrender of Kavala to the Bulgarians, and the worst, the most cruel, and at the same time nefariously persistent enemy Greece has ever had. And now at this hour of writing the air of Athens is foul with intrigue, with cunning plotting against the Allies of the *Entente*, and an insolent disregard for orders legitimately given and promises tendered makes the place a scandal in the eyes of honest men everywhere. It is at a moment like this, when the best elements in and the most worthy aspirations of the Greek people are being derided by another stop-gap Ministry, when even remobilisation in defiance of the Allies is threatened—unless Germany finds the money it must remain a threat—that Constantine comes forward to say, "I am really an honest, well-meaning sort of chap, don't yer know, quite ready to follow Rumania's example," if this, if that, "if you make me see that the step is to the advantage of Greece." He has been successful in causing Greece to lose her chance anyway, and as things have turned out we are rather inclined to be grateful to the man for that same. How is a people so subtly evasive of plain dealing to be trusted in anything, given charge over the destiny of anybody? What can be done with a man whose only conception of duty appears to be slavish imitation of his brother-in-law? His address to the recruits, which was published the day after the interview, might have been spoken by the "All Highest" weed himself, and proclaimed Constantine to be both incorrigible and hopeless. But Greece may yet be saved by the manliness of her patriots.

In one of his bulletins of Wednesday last Sir Douglas Haig gave the text of a captured Prussian document which had been signed by General von Falkenhayn while Chief of the German General Staff. It was dated August 24, and is as follows:—"The wastage of guns in the last few months has been considerably in excess of production. The same is true of ammunition in our reserves, of which there has been a serious diminution. It is the duty of all ranks, not only in the artillery, to endeavour to remedy this serious state of things. All ranks must make the most serious endeavour to assist in the preservation of material, as

indicated above, or otherwise the making good of losses and the placing of new formations in the field will be rendered impossible." Last week the surmise was put forward in this journal that German resources in guns and munitions of war must be getting straitened. All the stock accumulated in the years preceding the outbreak of Prussian savagery must long ago have been consumed, and now when the Allies are smashing in the enemy's defensive lines on all fronts, and when exhaustion has so completely overtaken the resources of Austrian, Magyar, Turk, and Bulgar, the maintenance of the supplies of war material must be an increasing strain on German resources. The above piece of news more than confirms our surmise, and is in all respects encouraging. We must lose no opportunity of forcing the enemy to overstrain himself.

Great seem to have been the performances of the "tanks" in last week's Somme battle. More power to them and their marvellous crews. Their utility in scouring out machine gun nests and in emptying trenches filled with bombers or with trench mortar batteries means a still greater reduction in our casualties. The Prussians may say that the "cruelty" of these new instruments of war "equals their efficiency," but to us the cruelty is humane. None of the Allies ever invited the Prussians to march forth to steal other people's property, committing as they went every imaginable abomination in crime. If they do not relish the punishment the defenders of liberty are now compelled in self-defence to mete out to them they are at liberty to skulk back to their lairs. Until they do that we must go on killing them off by every means we can devise or lay hold of.

We hope all the victories to be henceforth won by the Kaiser's troops will be as "decisive" as that he claimed for the mongrel army led into the Dobrudja by Marshal Mackensen. If they are thus triumphant we may look for the war to draw towards a close, perhaps, by the end of the year. It is useless to speculate, but when we see the speed at which the poor, stupid German mobs are being consumed on every front, and the steadiness with which pressure is being applied by every one of the Allies, there is surely abundant reason for confidence in the result. The more, in fact, the troops of the two doomed Empires dash themselves against the containing hosts of the Allies, the broader will be the foundations upon which the ultimate peace may be laid.

American Business Notes.

From now onwards we may probably enough have little news of interest from America, except railway reports and discourses and quotations about the approaching Presidential election. Into the political hubbub it is no business of ours to enter. For one thing, we cannot always perceive the dividing line between the Democrat and the Republican. Both are now "reformers," progressives, both profess to wage war against the dishonest employment and tyranny of capital, both want to make life more livable for the masses of their countrymen, and both advocate a policy of peace. That they have differences we know, and that these differences may profoundly influence the attitude of the opposing parties towards many domestic questions may also be surmised; but the oratory with which each side proclaims its super-excellence is usually quite beyond our understanding. To most people here the speechifying seems to be best describable technically as "flapdoodle." Of one thing, however, we may be sure, as the Washington correspondent of the *Times* tells us, the American policy towards the war, that is to say the public policy, "will continue to be purely American," otherwise in the main a matter of dollars. But it would be unjust to the best type of Americans to accuse them of sordidness, for they have throughout given a never-failing proof of their loyalty to all that is good and civilising in the purposes animating the Allies, who have been compelled to draw together in self-defence and to wage against a degraded enemy this

horrible war. The pity of it is that it is the self-seeker, the "hyphenated," the "logroller," and the man with no mind or character of his own who "makes the running" in the eye of the public.

A consistent and well-reasoned opposition continues to be shown by the New York *Financial Chronicle* to the behaviour of the Federal Reserve Banks. For long its contention has been that these banks are defying the law by issuing unsecured notes contrary to its provisions. As originally framed, the law gave power to the Reserve Banks to emit their own notes only against bills rediscounted. Had that provision been adhered to there would have been no continuous danger of any inflation of the currency, for the greatest Reserve Bank of all, that of New York, has rarely had as much as \$1,000,000 of rediscounts to deal with. Often it has had only been between \$200,000 and \$300,000. That same bank, however, issues paper money by the million dollars, and all the Reserve Banks together in one week recently increased their outstanding Federal Reserve notes by \$15,000,000 to a total of \$194,645,000. How is that managed? In the same way, says the writer in the *Chronicle*, as the liquor dealers in Coney Island circumvent the law on Sundays. That law forbids liquor to be sold at bars on Sundays, but permits it to be served with meals at hotels and restaurants; so the liquor sellers always keep a sandwich on the table to give an appearance of a meal, and drinking goes on as usual. The Federal Reserve Banks make use of a similar subterfuge. In the week ending September 10 the total amount of Federal Reserve notes outstanding was increased by \$4,400,000 to \$83,560,000, or on an average of \$750,000 a day. At that time the New York Reserve Bank held only \$275,000 of rediscounts available for note issue, and as \$140,000 of that amount appears to have been constantly on deposit with a reserve agent, the free sum available was really no more than \$135,000. This would be utilised first thing in the morning to obtain the power to issue, say, \$100,000 Federal Reserve notes, then, immediately after, by the misuse of the law an identical amount of gold, or gold certificates, would be tendered to the bank authorities for the ostensible purpose of redeeming these notes which were not redeemed, and the rediscounted bills would be withdrawn. A few minutes later the same bills would be brought back and power to issue another \$100,000 of paper money demanded and granted upon them. The same farce would be repeated as fast as feet and tongue could do it, and by using diligence, and allowing merely a brief interval of time between each operation, by the end of the day there might be some millions of new Federal Reserve notes put into circulation on no security whatever. If this thing goes on very much longer, there will be such a glut of paper money as may produce serious consequences when the reaction sets in, as it one day must; for these notes appear to be taking the place of silver and legal tenders, or "greenbacks" as they used to be called, in the circulation, and the security behind them looks non-existent.

A very prosperous year was enjoyed by the Norfolk and Western Railway in 1915-16. It is only 2,059 miles long, but is one of the busiest and has long been one of the most prosperous roads in the Republic. Last year its gross receipts from working the line increased no less than \$14,200,000, or 33.43 per cent. to \$56,684,000, while the increase in working expenses was only \$4,350,000, or 15.63 per cent., raising the total to \$32,181,000. The ratio of expenses to receipts, in fact, fell no less than 8.58 per cent. to 56.16 per cent., and the nett revenue was, at \$25,123,000, 65.77 per cent., or \$9,968,000, larger than that of the preceding year. Gross revenue was slightly down for 1914-15, but working expenses were then economised upon so that the nett revenue remained unaffected. Consequently for the past year there is a clean gain of about £2,000,000 in nett income, or deducting sundry charges and adding in the revenue from outside sources, which was \$83,000 better at \$2,127,000, we get a revenue of \$25,181,000, which was \$9,863,000 more than that of the previous year, and after deducting all charges, including interest on the bonded debt,

which, including that on equipment obligations, was nearly \$400,000 less, there was \$19,704,000 left as shareholders' profit, an increase of \$10,214,000, or 107.63 per cent. on the total of the preceding year. Out of this \$9,053,000 was taken to put into the property, or \$7,519,000 more than for 1914-15. The dividend on the common stock was raised to $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the year as compared with 4 per cent. paid for the previous year, an extra 1 per cent. having been distributed with the June quarter payment, which itself was $1\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., as against $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. paid for each of the preceding three quarters. Even so the credit balance left, including the amount brought forward, is \$2,607,000 larger at \$16,991,000. This dry summary gives an appetising view of the remarkable prosperity of this excellent little property.

If the latest estimate of the United States grain harvest is correct, then, outside Berlin, there is no chance of cheap bread in Europe this coming winter unless the Allies are able to force the Turks to open the Dardanelles by their campaigns in the Balkans and in Asia Minor. An estimate of 455,000,000 is given for winter wheat in the United States, which is just 200,000,000 bushels less than the final guess for the preceding year and 60,000,000 bushels below the figure for 1913, the last mean year. There is a still more severe reduction in spring wheat, which at 156,000,000 bushels is 201,000,000 bushels down, and the decline in Indian corn is 309,000,000 bushels. Altogether the cereal crop of the Republic for 1916 is put at 4,778,000,000 bushels, as compared with 5,893,000,000 bushels in the preceding year, and is only 227,000,000 bushels above the miserable crop of 1913. It is 1,115,000,000 bushels below the final estimate for the previous year. Add to this a poor crop in Canada, where the yield is now reckoned at little more than 200,000,000 bushels compared with the bumper 336,000,000 of last year, and it is obvious that we shall have to look elsewhere for much of our grain. What are our home landowners and their farmers doing to help to protect us in future from this kind of calamity? Cannot they go into partnership and set to work?

The Week in Mines.

In the absence of much support from Johannesburg the South African market has shown a languishing tendency. There have been a few exceptions to the general trend, Eastern Rand descriptions being in good demand, and also Simmer Deeps and Jupiters on amalgamation rumours. Copper shares have shown strength, particularly the American descriptions, which were in demand for exchange purchases on this side, while Burma Corporations established a new record price, rising above £4 for the first time. Alaska shares fell heavily on the publication of extracts from the committee's report showing that the position at the mines is anything but favourable. The full report, however, has not yet been received on this side.

SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

The South African market has not been very active except as regards a few specialities. The latter include City Deeps, which were in good demand and rose $\frac{1}{8}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$, New Modderfonteins, which advanced $\frac{1}{8}$ to $19\frac{1}{8}$, and Goertz, which are 1s. higher at 14s. 6d. Modder Leases improved to 48s. 6d., and Central Minings have been in request at 7. Rand Mines, however, have relapsed $\frac{1}{8}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ on the publication of an estimate giving £7,500,000 as the market value of the company's assets, as against a value of £8,000,000 at which the shares of the company stand in the market. Randfontein Extensions rose 1s. 4d. to 3s. 10d., and Modder "B's" at 6 27-32, Modder Deeps at $7\frac{1}{2}$, and Coal Trusts at 3 25-32 are higher on the week. There has been marked activity in Jupiters and Simmer Deeps, which are 3d. and 6d. higher at 8s. 3d. and 3s. 6d. respectively. Diamond shares, after showing weakness, recovered, De Beers deferred rising $\frac{1}{8}$ to $12\frac{1}{8}$. The principal movement in the Rhodesian market has been a rise of 3-32 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ in Globes. Apart from a little support given to Abossos and Ashanti Goldfields at 9s. 6d. and 17s. 9d. respectively, the West African market has been uninteresting.

COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

One of the principal movements in Copper shares has been a rise of 2s. to 37s. 6d. in the price of Hampden Cloncurrys on news that a dense body of iron and copper pyrites had been struck in the Hampden mine, which the manager considers to be a very important development. A further rise in the price of the metal has stimulated buying of other descriptions, and the American shares have been largely bought in New York and also in London, the latter purchases having been made for

exchange purposes. Anacondas have risen $\frac{7}{8}$ to $19\frac{1}{8}$, and Utahs $\frac{1}{4}$ to $18\frac{1}{8}$, but Rio Tintos are $\frac{3}{4}$ lower at $61\frac{1}{2}$. Tin shares have been supported owing to a further rise in the price of the metal. Renongs have been especially prominent on the issue of the report, and have risen $\frac{1}{4}$ to $17\frac{1}{2}$. The Broken Hill group has been quiet and rather dull, with Zinc preferences 1s. 3d. lower at 44s. 9d. Burmas, however, have been in strong demand, and have changed hands up to 81s. 3d. for the first time.

The Alaska group was marked down heavily on a report that the amalgamation committee had made some gloomy remarks in its statement to the companies regarding the mining position. Not many shares have changed hands, but Treadwells have fallen a point to 4s, Uniteds $\frac{3}{4}$ to 2s, and Mexicans $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{3}{8}$. Mexicans have weakened, except Mexico of El Oros, which have risen $\frac{1}{8}$ to $3\frac{1}{8}$. Russians have been fairly firm owing to a slight appreciation in the value of the rouble. Balagaths have been supported in the Indian group, the price being 6d. higher at 5s. 3d. Lake View and Oroyas have been actively dealt in up to 12s. 6d. in view of the company's interest in Burma Corporations.

MINING NEWS.

RANDFONTEIN ESTATES.—With reference to the recently acquired claims on the Far Eastern Rand, the company now announces that Johannesburg financiers approached the board with a scheme to amalgamate the claims with an adjoining property, but the terms offered were not considered good enough. A preliminary proposal has recently been put forward by an American syndicate to find the capital to develop and equip the claims, and the company's agent has now proceeded to New York to discuss the project. This proposal recalls the big scheme initiated by Mr. Isaac Lewis to enlist American capital for the development of the dormant properties on the Far Eastern Rand controlled by the East Rand Mining Estates. This scheme, which contemplated the introduction of several millions of capital, has, it is reported, been complicated by the question of the Union Government's taxation, but a completion of the scheme is looked for shortly.

NEW MODDERFONTEIN ORE RESERVES.—The recent persistent rise in New Modderfonteins is to be attributed to intelligent anticipation of what the report for the year ended June 30 last will show. It is stated that during the past twelve months $1\frac{1}{2}$ million tons of payable ore have been developed, carrying a value of 11 dwts. After deducting ore crushed meanwhile, the total payable reserves will amount to 8,000,000 tons, with the value slightly higher than a year ago. These figures are inclusive of one million tons in the circular shaft, the quantity and value of which were not previously determined. At the end of June, 1915, the total reserves were 6,010,800 tons, valued at 8.15 dwts., or 34s. 7d. per ton.

ALASKA GROUP POSITION.—For some unexplained reason the full report of the committee which drew up the proposals for the fusion of the three Alaska companies—the Treadwell, United, and Mexican—has not been received on this side up to the time of writing. But certain extracts from it have been published in the San Francisco Press, which are rather startling, and makes the omission to issue it on this side seem very extraordinary. The committee's report, according to these extracts, draws attention to the declining value of the ore treated, while working costs have increased. As a result, of the combined ore reserves, amounting to about 16,000,000 tons, less than one-half is regarded as workable. It is suggested that if a new plant were erected, estimated to cost about \$1,400,000, greater efficiency might be obtained, which would increase the quantity that might be treated at a profit. But this proposal is complicated by the unsatisfactory position underground. In the past the companies have been very unsuccessful, and therefore there is every reason to push on with development and exploration work. This can best be done over a large area instead of within limits fixed by ownership, and this is apparently the explanation of the committee's recommendation, as we indicated last week.

Critical Index to New Investments.

CONSOLIDATED GAS, ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER CO. OF BALTIMORE.—Permission has been granted by the Public Service Commission to issue \$3,697,912 additional common stock at the rate of one new share for every five preferred and common shares held by stockholders on October 9 next. The list will close on December 1, and the price is payable in instalments of 20 per cent. on December 1, 15 per cent. each on January 15, March 15, May 15, and July 16, and 20 per cent. on October 1. Stockholders may surrender their subscription warrants by December 1, and receive in exchange an option certificate entitling the holder to the option of subscribing at 105 by September 14, 1917, payment to be made in full by October 1, 1917. Holders on this side are debarred by the Treasury regulations from subscribing, but application will be made in due course for permission to deal in the rights on the Stock Exchange, so that the advantage of any premium quoted may be secured.

The Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd., has opened a branch at Singapore.

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ESTABLISHED 1824.

FUNDS OVER £10,500,000.

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ESTABLISHED 1782.

Head Office: PHENIX HOUSE, KING WILLIAM STREET, LONDON, E.C.

Total Assets Exceed £16,000,000.

Claims Paid Exceed £94,000,000.

Chairman—Rt. Hon. LORD GEORGE HAMILTON, P.C., G.C.S.I.

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General Manager - SIR GERALD H. RYAN.

ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE.

Incorporated A.D. 1720.

Governor: Vivian Hugh Smith, Esq.

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N. P. I.

WAR LEAFLETS.

1. Dividend Saving.
2. Farmers and the Budget.
3. Private Investment and Depreciation.

Copies of any of these leaflets will be sent post free to readers of the INVESTORS' REVIEW on application to the

NATIONAL PROVIDENT INSTITUTION,

48 GRACECHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.

PRUDENTIAL

ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED,

HOLBORN BARS, LONDON.

Invested Funds exceed - £94,000,000.

CLAIMS PAID £126,000,000.

The Investors' Review.

Money and Credit Notes.

BANK RATE 6 PER CENT. (Increased from 5 per cent. on Thursday, July 13.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

Off and on money has been wanted this week, and day to day advances have often cost 5 per cent. in the morning—in fact $4\frac{3}{4}$ to 5 per cent. may be called the ruling quotations for the week—and business was mostly limited to the financing of Government requirements—our own and others. There is a batch of French Treasury bills falling due on the 5th of next month, which will have to be provided for, and Russian paper has also been taken by the market. At the beginning of the week a call of £750,000 had to be paid on the New South Wales $5\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. loan, against which, however, £1,275,000 of matured Metropolitan Water Board bills fell to be paid off.

Discount was, as usual, governed by the rates for Government bills. In the middle of the week October "Treasuries" changed hands at $5\frac{3}{16}$ per cent., and end-of-November paper was quoted at $5\frac{7}{16}$ per cent. Also some Russian three months' credit bills were placed at $5\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. A steady demand has been experienced for the new French yearling Treasury bills, and we hope there will be no difficulty in renewing those falling due—believe, indeed, that there will be none, because more and more the Allies must "pool" their financial resources as well as their resources in men and implements of destruction. Yesterday there was a strong demand for December British Treasury bills, and that caused money to be in good demand all day, but loan rates were simply firm at the quotations given above, and discounts steady as in the appended table. Some October "Treasuries" were, however, sold at $5\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.

Why the Other Securities held by the Bank should have risen £1,643,000 during its week closed on Wednesday afternoon, making the total now

£96,103,000, is more than we can say, but the money was required by some Government, perhaps, for the market itself was never short. The increase was nominally added to the market's resources, and as it also got £6,154,000 from the Government, that being the amount by which public deposits have fallen off, Other Deposits show an increase of £7,802,000, and now stand at £104,185,000, which is £14,540,000 more than the figure of twelve months ago. The reserve shows an increase of about £32,000 odd. That, however, is entirely owing to a contraction of £149,000 in the active note circulation, gold having decreased by £117,000 during the week. The total of £54,570,000 is now £8,321,000 less than it was at this time last year, a wonderfully insignificant reduction, considering the enormous amounts of banking credit which war necessities have called into existence. Owing to the slight nett increase in the liabilities, the proportion has shrunk $\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. to $23\frac{3}{8}$ per cent.

At a general court of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, held on Thursday in the Bank Parlour, the Governor (Lord Cunliffe) stated that the profits of the half-year ended the 31st ult., after making provision for all contingencies, were £561,130, making the amount of the "rest" on that day £3,566,402, and that after providing a dividend of 5 per cent., less tax, the "rest" would be £3,020,065. Dividend warrants would be delivered and paid on the 5th prox. The same rate, viz., 10 per cent. per annum, was paid a year ago, and after deducting the amount it took, the "rest" stood at £3,000,421. So its position is now fully £20,000 better.

In the official Gazette of France the conditions attached to the coming new loan have been made public. It is a 5 per cent. loan, but the price of issue is 88.75 frs. per cent. Interest is to be reckoned from the 16th ult., and the first quarter's dividend will be due almost immediately after the closing of the lists; consequently the nett issue price is really 87.50 frs. Instalments are spread over six months in four practically equal payments, the last falling due on April 16, 1917. Foreign subscriptions will be accepted at the ruling rates of exchange, and the lists will open on October 5.

It is reported from Petrograd that a war loan of three milliard roubles, say £300,000,000, is to be issued towards the end of October. It will be an internal loan bearing $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. interest, and is to be repayable in

10 years. The issue price is said to be 95, and we do not know whether any part of it will be offered here.

From Basle we have the news that some leading German financiers, including two directors of the Deutsche Bank, have gone to Zurich in order to try and cozen or coerce Switzerland to lend Germany money. They are not asking much, it seems, only 50,000,000 marks, or on a gold basis, say £2,500,000, but they want Germany to be put on the same footing as France, French merchants having arranged a loan in Switzerland with the help of a guarantee from the Bank of France. What guarantee can the German bankers offer Switzerland? That of the Reichsbank, that of the Deutsche and other banks, the personal bond of the Kaiser, or what? We shall be curious to see, and only curious. Nothing the financiers of Germany can now do will materially assist in even temporarily raising, still less sustaining, the exchange value of the mark. Germany has invited ruin, financial ostracism—and has got what was asked for.

Probably the City Editor of the *Morning Post* is right in his surmise that the figures of the Imperial Bank of Germany, published this week, will bear traces of the robbery of Belgian banks. At any rate, while the "bills discounted" have risen to about £378,000,000, or £20,592,000 on the week, the notes in circulation have slipped back £14,831,000, to £343,941,000, and it is a fair guess that the total has been pulled down by the transfer of German paper money lodged in Belgian banks to the Reichsbank. Probably, also, the increase in bills discounted represents advances by the Reichsbank to the Government in anticipation of its new loan. We are really much in the dark, however, and for our part have no faith in the genuineness of the Reichsbank figures. They are concocted to deceive. Certainly the return does not reveal anything like all the paper money in circulation, as we have again and again pointed out, and we do not believe in the genuineness of the gold exhibit—never have. But desperate straits demand an unrestrained licence to cheat and lie.

SILVER.

A demand from India and better advices from the Far East brought about a recovery to 32½d. per oz. in the price of silver. The improvement was followed by a slight reaction to 32½d. per oz. on Tuesday; but the market rallied again under the stimulus of a more general inquiry, and the quotation improved to 32¾d., which is the highest point touched since the beginning of June.

Applications for the Rs. 30,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 2,15,00,000. Of these Rs. 96,000 were allotted in bills, Rs. 25,41,000 in deferred transfers, and Rs. 3,63,000 in immediate transfers, tenders for bills and deferred transfers at rs. 4 3/32d., and for immediate transfers at rs. 4½d., receiving about 24 per cent. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is again Rs. 30,00,000. Between April 1 and September 19 the total sales were Rs. 9,68,175,97, realising £6,403,624.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, September 20, 1916.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued	£	Government Debt..	£
71,259,190		11,015,100	
		Other Securities ..	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	52,809,190
		Silver Bullion ..	—
£71,259,190		£71,259,190	

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors Capital	£	Government Securities ..	£
14,553,000		42,187,627	
Rest ..	3,595,467	Other Securities ..	95,120,911
Public Deposits (including		Notes ..	35,286,320
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,770,180
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	52,992,848		
Other Deposits ..	104,185,085		
Seven Day and other Bills	20,638		
£175,947,038		£175,947,038	

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year.

Last year. Sept. 22.		Sept. 13, 1916.	Sept. 20, 1916.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,757,424	Rest ..	3,566,962	3,595,467	28,505	—
108,738,385	Pub. Deposits ..	59,146,391	52,992,848	—	6,153,743
89,645,537	Other do.	96,383,386	104,185,085	7,801,699	—
23,057	7 Day Bills ..	22,423	20,638	—	1,785
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
31,313,057	Gov. Securities ..	42,187,596	42,187,627	—	81
135,676,805	Other do.	94,460,298	96,102,911	—	1,642,613
49,727,541	Total Reserve ..	37,024,518	37,056,500	—	31,922
				7,830,204	7,830,204
				Increase.	Decrease.
£	Note Circulation	£	£	£	£
30,754,590	36,121,435	35,972,870	—	—	143,565
62,900,176	Coin and Bullion	54,695,953	54,579,370	—	116,583
25 p.c.	Proportion ..	23.8 p.c.	23.6 p.c.	—	.2 p.c.
5 "	Bank Rate ..	6 "	6 "	—	—

SHORT TERM GOVERNMENT LOANS.

	Sales Last Week.	Sales This Week.	Total Outstanding.
Treasury Bills ..	29,292,000	20,602,000	979,372,000
Exchequer Bonds, 1919 ..	486,000	543,000	33,830,000
Do. 1920 ..	350,000	400,000	236,108,500
Do. 1921 ..	1,682,000	2,066,000	59,078,000
War Expenditure Certificates	388,300	456,200	20,993,400
War Savings Certificates ..	1,500,000	1,700,000	27,300,000

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1916.	1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
January	1,071,948,000	918,685,000	153,263,000	—
February	1,107,655,000	960,743,000	146,912,000	—
March	1,364,599,000	1,231,392,000	133,207,000	—
April	1,090,356,000	976,264,000	114,092,000	—
May	1,447,416,000	1,164,194,000	283,222,000	—
June	1,147,630,000	960,209,000	187,421,000	—
July	1,239,193,000	1,316,695,000	—	77,502,000
August	1,364,782,000	1,352,519,000	12,263,000	—
September 6	298,577,000	255,092,000	43,485,000	—
" 13	273,357,000	254,607,000	18,750,000	—
" 20	285,301,000	239,471,000	45,830,000	—
Total ..	10,690,814,000	9,629,871,000	1,060,963,000	—

CURRENCY NOTES.

Return of Currency Notes for the week ended September 20, 1916.

	Issued.	Cancelled.	Outstanding.
£1 notes ..	2,725,993	3,239,749	91,389,613
10s. notes ..	1,016,352	1,086,474	28,507,306
Note certificates ..	200,000	—	10,710,000
Previous total ..	426,649,500	295,688,613	—
	430,621,755	300,014,836	130,606,919

Ratio of gold held against notes: this week, 23.77 p.c.; last week, 23.67 p.c.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For 7 days ended Sept. 16.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE
Customs ..	National Debt Service ..
Excise ..	Interest, &c., on War Debt ..
Estate, &c., Duties ..	Development & Road Impet.
Stamps ..	Payments to Local Taxation
Land Tax and House Duty	Other Consolidated Fund
Property and Income Tax ..	Charges ..
Excess Profits Tax ..	Supply Services ..
Land Values ..	Bullion Advances ..
Post Office ..	For Advance for Interest
Crown Lands ..	on Exchequer Bonds under
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	Capital Expenditure
Miscellaneous ..	(Money) Act, 1904 ..
Bullion advances repaid ..	For Treasury Bills (net amt.)
For Treasury Bills (net amt.)	For Exchequer Bonds issued
War Loan, 1925-8 ..	under the War Loan Re-
War Loan, 1925-45 ..	demption Act, 1910 ..
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919 ..	Issues under Section 1 of
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920 ..	War Loan Act, 1915 ..
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1921 ..	Under Telegraph (Money)
War Expenditure Certificates	Act, 1913 ..
War Savings Certificates ..	Under Post Office (Lon-
Other Debts created under	don) Railway Act, 1913 ..
War Loan Act, 1915 ..	Under Housing Act ..
Telegraph Money Act, 1913	Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8 ..
Under Post Office Rly. Act,	Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11 ..
1913 ..	E. Africa Protectorate Loan
Under Military Works Acts,	Cunard Loan repayment is-
1897-1903 ..	ued to reduce debt under
Under Housing Act ..	the Cunard Agreement ..
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920	Deficiency advances repaid
East Africa Protectorate	China Indemnity issued to
Loan repayments ..	reduce debt under Finance
Cunard Loan—repayment on	Act, 1903 ..
account of principal ..	Ways and Means Advances
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	repaid ..
China Indemnity ..	increase in Exchequer
Ways and Means Advances	balances ..
Decrease in Exchequer	
balances ..	
£48,019,862	£48,019,862

Dated Sept. 21, 1916.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	Sept. 1, 1916.	Aug. 25, 1916.	Sept. 3, 1915.
Gold coin and certificates ..	£ 49,071,600	£ 51,959,800	£ 41,873,800
Gold Redemption Fund ..	368,400	327,420	232,400
Gold Settlement Fund ..	20,920,200	22,190,200	11,576,000
Legal tender notes, silver, &c.	2,721,000	2,455,000	3,854,800
Total reserves ..	73,075,200	76,930,400	59,537,000
5% redemption fund against F.R. bank notes ..	100,000	100,000	—
10-day bills and loans ..	3,146,600	2,591,000	977,800
30-day bills and loans ..	4,734,200	5,501,400	2,283,600
60-day bills and loans ..	8,534,800	8,556,200	3,352,000
90-day bills and loans ..	4,250,000	4,709,600	1,698,800
Maturities over 90 days ..	468,400	477,400	279,000
Total ..	21,134,000	21,935,600	8,591,200
Investments—			
U.S. Bonds ..	9,364,200	9,359,200	—
One year U.S. Treasury notes ..	1,641,000	1,641,000	1,168,600
Municipal Warrants ..	4,260,400	5,572,600	4,802,600
Federal Reserve notes—nett.	4,778,000	4,244,400	1,552,200
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—nett.	7,121,400	4,330,800	2,588,200
All other assets ..	606,200	708,200	815,000
Total assets ..	121,480,400	124,722,200	77,654,800
Paid-up capital ..	11,078,000	11,072,600	10,952,400
Government Deposits ..	10,183,600	10,010,800	—
Reserve deposits—nett.	96,939,400	100,484,200	62,463,200
Note circulation—nett.	2,883,200	2,746,600	3,534,000
Fed. Res. notes in circulation	338,000	338,000	—
All other liabilities ..	58,200	61,000	705,200
Total liabilities ..	121,480,400	124,722,200	77,654,800
Gold reserve against nett liabilities ..	68.4 %	68.4 %	83.3 %
Cash reserve against nett liabilities ..	71.0 %	70.6 %	80.3 %

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	Sept. 16, 1916	Sept. 9, 1916	Sept. 2, 1916	Sept. 18, 1915
Loans ..	£ 661,274,000	£ 661,392,000	£ 650,040,000	£ 539,768,000
Reserve held in own Vaults ..	82,270,000	82,062,000	89,280,000	105,764,000
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk.	33,610,000	32,898,000	32,980,000	29,788,000
Reserve held in Other Depos.	10,752,000	10,820,000	10,742,000	5,862,000
Nett Demand Deposits ..	648,108,000	647,828,000	643,654,000	549,926,000
Nett Time Deposits ..	33,956,000	33,940,000	34,634,000	27,608,000
Circulation ..	6,256,000	6,279,000	6,238,000	7,348,000
Excess Lawful Reserve ..	14,988,000	14,212,000	22,674,000	43,400,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits.

NEW YORK STATE BANKS & TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.).

	Sept. 16, 1916.	Sept. 9, 1916.	Sept. 2, 1916.	Sept. 18, 1915.
Loans ..	£ 144,526,000	£ 145,140,000	£ 142,938,000	£ 117,274,000
Specie ..	12,052,000	12,078,000	11,896,000	9,975,000
Deposits ..	152,920,000	153,496,000	150,956,000	121,292,000
Legal Tenders ..	1,920,000	1,882,000	1,788,000	1,726,000

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Sept. 21, 1916.	Sept. 14, 1916.	Sept. 7, 1916.	Sept. 23, 1915.
Gold in hand ..	£ 193,068,920	£ 192,864,000	£ 192,692,800	£ 180,002,960
Silver in hand ..	13,521,600	13,531,120	13,499,880	14,640,240
Bills discounted ..	14,851,520	15,252,200	15,512,720	9,982,960
Advances ..	47,001,760	46,878,280	46,942,280	23,494,680
Note circulation ..	666,138,040	664,106,360	663,954,480	532,383,246
Public deposits ..	4,927,640	8,277,520	6,853,480	4,725,120
Private deposits ..	87,224,600	85,854,320	84,589,600	103,504,720
Foreign Bills ..	89,800	69,480	86,640	52,400

Proportion between bullion and circulation 31.01 per cent., against 31.05 per cent. last week. Advances to the State £340,000,000, unchanged. The adjourned payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium, figures doubtful, and at the branches amounted to £30,285,080, decrease £88,800.

IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Sept. 14, 1916.	Sept. 5, 1916.	Aug. 29, 1916.	Sept. 14, 1915.
Notes in reserve ..	£ 9,770,000	£ 7,840,000	£ 9,400,000	£ 10,016,400
Gold ..	155,210,000	155,160,000	155,090,000	158,884,300
Gold in reserve abroad ..	205,491,000	205,720,000	205,700,000	5,220,800
Treasury Bonds ..	442,030,000	391,310,000	389,460,000	—
Circulation note issue ..	712,230,000	702,150,000	696,090,000	432,000,000
Treasury deposits ..	20,720,000	20,270,000	20,210,000	21,229,100

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Sept. 15, 1916.	Sept. 7, 1916.	Aug. 31, 1916.	Sept. 15, 1915.
Total Coin & Bullion ..	£ 124,620,100	£ 124,673,200	£ 124,715,450	£ 122,860,400
Treasury Notes ..	14,372,200	18,693,650	16,681,300	10,287,950
Bills discounted ..	377,702,750	357,111,000	353,874,250	257,622,100
Advances ..	603,750	526,900	634,350	699,600
Note circulation ..	343,940,860	358,771,800	355,892,700	278,533,700
Deposits ..	173,340,400	143,894,800	141,776,450	100,465,850

Clearing House returns during Aug. £266,331,160 against £273,378,015 in July.

NETHERLANDS BANK (12 Florins to the £).

	Sept. 16, 1916	Sept. 9, 1916	Sept. 2, 1916	Sept. 18, 1915
Gold and Silver ..	£ 49,531,063	£ 49,253,250	£ 49,360,417	£ 32,244,897
Bills and Advances ..	15,858,583	15,801,666	15,305,500	12,640,678
Note circulation ..	56,884,333	56,437,000	56,811,250	43,326,466
Deposits ..	11,835,750	12,065,166	11,059,500	2,341,070

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	Aug. 10, 1916	July 31, 1916	July 20, 1916	Aug. 10, 1915
Total cash ..	£ 43,982,200	£ 44,602,440	£ 44,965,240	£ 57,603,480
Inland Bills ..	19,415,200	19,505,320	19,317,520	27,922,000
Foreign Bills ..	883,160	832,760	832,840	832,240
Advances ..	7,422,560	7,934,040	7,740,320	9,143,640
Government securities ..	8,737,760	8,778,620	8,793,080	7,903,400
Circulation ..	136,371,840	136,752,640	134,594,280	111,891,000
Deposits at notice ..	13,837,640	13,081,800	13,555,960	11,068,760
Current accounts ..	14,942,960	15,360,610	15,246,800	17,250,760

BANK OF NORWAY.

	Aug. 31, 1916.	Aug. 22, 1916.	Aug. 15, 1916.	Aug. 31, 1915.
Gold ..	£ 6,327,000	£ 6,328,000	£ 6,328,000	£ 3,519,000
Balance abroad ..	6,107,000	6,250,000	6,471,000	3,698,000
Foreign Bills ..	767,000	767,000	767,000	784,000
Gov't Securities ..	5,677,000	5,534,000	5,146,000	4,136,000
Discounts & Loans ..	12,989,000	12,120,000	12,012,000	7,937,000
Notes in Circulation ..	3,994,000	4,079,000	4,161,000	1,766,000
Deposits at notice ..	—	—	—	—

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Sept. 9, 1916	Sept. 4, 1916	Aug. 26, 1916	Sept. 11, 1915
Gold ..	£ 46,355,734	£ 46,017,421	£ 45,704,353	£ 29,355,495
Silver ..	30,163,942	30,324,487	30,384,003	29,480,475
Foreign Bills ..	3,803,874	3,809,310	3,867,520	4,767,085
Discounts and Short Bills ..	23,689,807	23,697,472	23,598,123	26,355,941
Treasury Account, &c. ..	29,853,988	29,425,952	30,343,934	29,555,373
Notes in Circulation ..	89,881,092	82,325,490	88,890,328	80,856,270
Current Accounts, Deposits ..	30,787,686	31,058,042	32,023,674	26,059,975
Dividends, Interests, &c. ..	1,579,148	1,763,987	1,656,289	1,330,404
Government Securities ..	2,355,952	2,194,485	1,722,880	2,723,695

SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	Sept. 7, 1916.	Aug. 31, 1916.	Aug. 23, 1916.	Sept. 7, 1915.
Gold and silver ..	£ 13,682,535	£ 13,190,966	£ 13,257,476	£ 12,031,567
Bills ..	6,996,084	8,051,790	7,230,140	5,344,538
Note circulation ..	17,145,760	17,266,596	16,178,596	16,169,794
Current and deposit accounts ..	5,568,124	6,083,038	6,349,404	3,473,302

BANK OF SWEDEN.

	Sept. 9, 1916.	Sept. 2, 1916.	Aug. 26, 1916.	Sept. 11, 1915.
Gold ..	£ 9,250,000	£ 9,207,000	£ 9,210,000	£ 6,299,000
Balance abroad ..	9,369,000	9,443,000	9,462,000	5,627,000
Foreign Bills ..	3,787,000	3,795,000	3,801,000	2,673,000
Swedish and Foreign Govt. Securities ..	3,787,000	3,746,000	2,955,000	4,905,000
Discounts and Loans ..	19,230,000	19,650,000	18,094,000	15,709,000
Notes in circulation ..	5,712,000	5,258,000	5,984,000	3,455,000
Deposits at notice ..	—	—	—	—

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.
Paris	chqs.	27.89	27.87½	Antwerp	short	—	—
Brussels	chqs.	—	—	Italy	sight	30.70	30.80
Amsterdam ..	sight	11.68½	11.67½	Constantinople	3 mths.	—	—
Christiania ..	—	17.15	17.11½	Rio de Janeiro.	90 dys	124½ d.	124½ d.
Stockholm ..	—	16.52½	16.85	Buenos Aires ..	90 dys	49½ d.	49½ d.
Copenhagen ..	—	17.25	17.40	Calcutta	T.T.	1/4½ d.	1/4½ d.
Petrograd	3 mths	156½	147½	Bombay	T.T.	1/4½ d.	1/4½ d.
New York	cable	4.76½	4.76½	Hong Kong	T.T.	2/1½ d.	2/1½ d.
Lisbon	sight	35	34½	Shanghai	T.T.	3/1½ d.	3/1½ d.
Madrid	sight	23.70½	23.77½	Singapore	T.T.	2/4½ d.	2/4½ d.
				Yokohama	4 mths	2/1½ d.	2/1½ d.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Sept. 19, 1916.		Sept. 21, 1916.	
		Sellers.	Buyers.	Buyers.	Sellers.
Amsterdam	Cable transfers	11.66	11.69	11.67	11.69
"	Three months' bills	11.82	11.86	11.83	11.86
Paris	Cable transfers	27.88	27.93	27.85	27.90
"	Three months' bills	28.25	28.30	28.25	28.30
Marseilles	Three months' bills	28.25	28.30	28.25	28.30
Switzerland	Cable transfers	25.38	25.45	25.38	25.45
"	Three months' bills	25.75	25.85	25.70	25.85
Petrograd	Cable transfers	145	146	147½	148½
Genoa, &c.	Cable transfers	30.70	30.80	30.70	30.80
"	Three months' bills	31.15	31.25	31.15	31.25
Spain	Cable transfers	23.65	23.75	23.70	23.80
"	Three months' bills	48	48½	47½	48½
Lisbon and Oporto	Cable transfers	34½	35½	34½	35½
"	Three months' bills	Nom.	Nom.	Nom.	Nom.
Scandinavia	Cable transfers	17.10	17.25	17.05	17.15

TREASURY BILLS.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months ..	5½	5½
Six months ..	(£98 12 7) .. (£98 12 7)	5½
Nine months ..	(£97 2 11½) .. (£97 2 11½)	5½
Twelve months ..	6	6
	(£94 0 0) .. (£94 0 0)	

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

			Last week.	This week
			Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted	..	..	5½-5½	5½-5½
Three months	..	..	5½-5½	5½-5½
Four months	..	..	5½-5½	5½-5½
Six months	..	..	5½-5½	5½-5½
Three months fine inland bills	..	..	6-6½	6-6½
Four months	..	..	6-6½	6-6½
Six months	..	..	6½-6½	6½-6½

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

			Last week	This week
			Per cent.	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	..	..	6	6
" " short loan rates	..	..	6½	6½
Bankers' rate on deposits	..	..	4	4
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	..	..	4½	4½
" 7 and 14 days' notice	..	..	4½	4½
Current rates for 7 day loans	..	..	4½-5	4½-5
" for call loans	..	..	4½-5	4½-5

The Week's Stock Markets.

Apart from a smart revival of activity in the Rubber section, Home Railways have attracted most attention recently. But it has been of a rather painful sort, and although there was a modest rally when the men's representatives and the managers came to terms on the wages question, the market has a very depressed appearance. It is estimated that the doubling of the war bonus (making it 10s. per week) and other concessions will cost £7,500,000 a year, equal to about one-third of the amount available for ordinary dividends. Presumably the Government will make this good while the railways are under its control, but stockbrokers and dealers are wondering what is to happen afterwards. It is quite certain that the war bonus or its equivalent in a higher standard of wages cannot be withdrawn when peace is achieved, and the companies will have to shoulder the burden themselves until their final status is settled by nationalisation. Meantime, maintenance and renewals are being almost completely neglected except where the work is of the most urgent character, and very heavy sums will have to be spent to restore the lines to good condition. Further ahead, but still insistent, lies the problem of electrification, especially for suburban lines and where the traffic is exceptionally dense. It is little wonder, therefore, that prices drag, and that Home Railway stocks, which would have been among the best securities in the world if the companies had been properly managed, have scarcely a friend or supporter, and it is just as well for the market that holders, as a body, have not yet taken fright, for buyers are scarce even for the small amounts of stock now being offered. Americans after their recent rapid advance have begun to show signs of boiling over, but that was only to be expected. Foreign Railways have been dull and neglected, and among Foreign Government securities Japanese issues alone have displayed any strength on the announcement of further bond redemptions. The new French loan is to be issued at 88½, but as a full quarter's interest is payable in November the nett price works out at 87½. It is significant of the prevailing conditions that a petition is being extensively signed in the House for more Saturday holidays. Staffs have been still further depleted by the calling up of clerks of military age, while office work (relative to the actual amount of business) is heavier than ever in connection with Scheme B and the Emergency Rules under which dealings have to be conducted. The Saturday holidays have proved a welcome break both to members and clerks, and there seems to be no particular reason why they should not be continued.

Considerably less attention has been paid to gilt-edged stocks during the past week, partly no doubt because of the shadow of the French Loan, and in most of these sections the tone has been dull, but there has been a fair amount of activity in Iron and Steel and Rubber shares. Consols have been exceptionally firm, and have risen to 60½, and the 3½ per cent. War Loan recovered an early loss of ½, but the 4½ per cent. issue lost ¾. Business in Colonial Government issues was on a very small scale, but Australian 5½ per cent. improved to 101, and several New South Wales and Western Australian issues hardened. Foreign Government stocks were heavy, but the French War Loan, after falling to 84½, remained steady at that figure. Argentine 5 per cent. of 1886 fell 1, Buenos Ayres Waterworks Loan 1½, and the 4 per cent. of 1889 2½. Brazilian stocks were also lower in several instances, the old Funding dropping 1½ and the 4 per cent. of 1911 1, and one or two Chilean things gave way. Japanese loans were offered, and the 4 per cents. of

1899 and 1905 lost ¼ each, while the 5 per cent. of 1907 fell 1. Several Chinese loans were easier, and amongst Russian issues the 5 per cent. of 1906, the 4 per cent. of 1909, and one or two railway loans were ½ lower.

In the Home Railway market there was again a little selling on the labour question, and prices dwindled, but a slight rally followed the settlement of the dispute. North-Western dropped

	Last Week	This Week		Last Week	This Week
Consols.....	59½	60½	N.S.W. 4½% 1922-7	94½	94½
War Loan 3½%.....	86½	86½	" 5% 1921-3	99	99
" 4½%.....	96½	96½	New Zealand 4%	88½	89
India 3%.....	60½	60	Queensland 4%	84½	84½
" 3½%.....	70½	70	" 4½% new.....	95	95
Australian 5½% 1920-22	100½	101	Union of S. Africa 4½%	94½	94½
Canada 4%, 1910-60	85	84	1920-5	94	94
" 4½% 1920-5	96	96	Victoria 4½% 1920-5	94	94
N.S.W. 4%.....	86½	86½	Westn. Aus. 4%	83½	83½
" 4½% 5 yr. bds.....	96	96			
Belgian 3%.....	63½	63½	French War Loan, 5% ..	85½	84½
Brazil, 1913.....	68	62½	Japan 4½% (1st)	95	95
" New Funding.....	82	81½	" (2nd)	94½	95
Chinese 1896	93	93	Russia 4%	70½	70½
" 1912	79½	79	" 4½%	81½	81
Egypt Unified 4%.....	81½	81½	" 5%	90	90
Brighton defd.	67½	67½	London and S.-W. dfd. ..	25½	25½
Caledonian defd.	94	94	Do. new pf.	98	98
Chatham ord.	94	94	Metropolitan	24½	24½
Gt. Central pf.	16	16	Do. 5% New pf.	90	90
" dfd.	8	8	Met. District	18½	18
Gt. Eastern	38½	38	Midland dfd.	60½	60½
Gt. Northern dfd.	38½	38½	Nth. British dfd.	14½	15½
Gt. Western	95½	95½	Nth.-Eastern	105½	105½
Lancs. and Yorks.	71½	70½	Nth.-Western	101½	101½
			Sth.-Eastern dfd.	28½	28½
Canadian Pacific	186½	186½	Chesapeake	64½	66½
Do. 6% Notes	106½	106	Erie	39½	41½
E. Indian Guar. 4½% debts.	92½	92½	Milwaukee	97½	97½
Grand Trunk ord.	12	11½	N. Y. Central	116½	112
Do. 3rd pf.	28	28	Southern	25½	26½
Do. 5½% 3-yr. Notes ..	97½	97½	Southern Pacific	103½	105
Do. 5½% 5-yr. " ..	97	97	Union Pacific	149½	153½
Atchison	108½	108½	U. S. Steel	111½	113½
Baltimore	90½	92½			
Antofagasta dfd.	130	130	Cent. Argentine ord.	79½	79
Do. 6% Notes	100½	101	Do. 5% Notes ..	96½	96½
Brazil Common	7	6½	Do. 6% " ..	100½	100½
B. A. & Pacific	47	46½	Leopoldina	37½	37
B. A. Gt. Southern	86½	86	Mexican ord.	19½	19½
B. A. Western	89½	89	San Paulo (Brazilian) ..	194	194½
			United of Havana	85½	85½
Pank of Australasia.....	115½	115½	London City & Midland ..	71½	71½
Barclay & Co. "A"	7½	7½	London County & West. ..	15½	15½
Do. "B"	11½	11½	London Joint Stock	22½	22½
Capital & Counties	22½	22½	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (£10 pf)	28	27
Chartered of India	58½	58½	Do. (£12 pf) ..	30	30½
Hongkong & Shanghai ..	76	75½	Parr's	30½	30½
Lloyds	24	24	Standard of S.A.	10½	10½
London & Provincial ..	16½	16½	Union & Smiths.....	23½	24
London & S.W.	11½	11½			
Apollinaris ord.	1½	1½	Forestal Land	52½	52½
Armstrong, Whitworth ..	40½	41½	Furness, Withy	49½	51½
Associated Cement	3½	3½	Hudson's Bay	7½	7½
Birmingham Small Arms	46½	46	Imperial Tobacco 'B' pf.	22½	22½
Borax dfd.	35½	35½	Do. 'C' pf.	36½	35½
Bovril	20½	20½	Kynochs	20½	20½
Brazil Tractor	61½	60½	Lever Bros. "C" pf.	21½	21½
British Amer. Tobacco ..	95½	95½	Lyons, J.	4½	4½
Brown (John), & Co.	34½	35½	Marconi	33½	33½
Brunner, Mond	47½	47½	Maypole Dairy dfd.	23½	23½
Cammell-Laird	6½	6½	Mond Nickel ord.	38	38
Castner-Kellner	35½	35½	National Steam Car ..	20½	20½
Coats	6½	6½	Pears, A. & F.	14½	14½
Cunard	84½	89½	P. & O. dfd.	33½	34
Dennis Bros.	38½	37½	Royal Mail	125	125
Dorman, Long	34½	34½	South Durham Steel ..	36½	37½
Eastmans	8½	8½	Underground Inc. Bds. ..	89½	89½
English Sewing Cotton ..	45½	45½	Vickers	37½	38½
Fine Cotton Spinners ..	31½	30½			
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	8½	9½	Mexican Eagle pf.	37½	37½
Baku (ros.)	37½	36	North Caucasian	27½	26½
Burmah	4½	4½	Roumanian Cons.	18½	17½
Lobitos	43½	41½	Royal Dutch (100 gulden)	45	45½
Maikop Combine (ros.) ..	31	31	Shell	57½	58
Maikop Pipeline	41½	41½	Spies (10/-)	15½	15½
Mexican Eagle	36½	36½	Ural Caspian	36½	36
Anglo-Java Rub. (2/-) ..	6½	6½	Merlimau 2/-	5½	5½
Anglo-Malay 2/-	11½	12½	Pataling 2/-	34½	34½
Ayer Kuning £1	36½	36½	Port Dickson 2/-	34	35
bukit Mertajam 2/-	5½	5½	Rubber Trust £1	24½	25½
Bukit Sembawang 2/- ..	36½	31½	Sapumalkande £1	22½	22½
Carey United £1	34½	35½	Selangor United 2/- ..	21½	21½
Grand Central £1	25½	25½	Sialang £1	66½	67½
Gula Kalumpung £1	28½	30½	Singapore Para 2/- ..	31½	31½
Highlands £1	54½	55½	Singapore United 2/- ..	31½	31½
Java Para £1	32½	32½	Taiping 2/-	38½	39
Johore Rubber Lands £1 ..	32½	33½	Tanjong £1	79½	83½
Langen Java £1	51½	51½	Tanjong Malim £1 ..	25½	27½
Linggi 2/-	21½	21½	Tebrau £1	67½	75½
London Asiatic 2/-	74½	71½	United Serdang 2/- ..	12½	12½
Malacca £1	87½	86½	United Temiang 2/- ..	34	36
Malayan £1	35½	35½	Vallambrosa 2/-	18½	19½
Abbottiakoon (10/-)	6½	6½	De Beers dfd. (£2 ros.) ..	12½	12½
Brakpan	4½	4½	East Rand	16½	17½
Broken Hill Prop. (8/-) ..	58½	58½	Gt. Boulder (2/-)	12½	13½
Cam & Motor	11½	11½	Meyer & Charlton ..	5½	5½
Central Mining (£12) ..	7	7½	Modder "B"	6½	6½
Chartered	13½	12½	Do. Deep	7½	7½
City Deep	4½	4½	New Modder (£4)	18½	19½
Cons. Gold Fields	14½	14½	Rand Mines (5/-)	37½	38½
Cons. Langlaagte	14½	15½	Rio Tinto (£5)	61½	61½
Crown Mines (10/-)	24½	24½	Van Ryn Deep	37½	37½

to 101, but recovered to 101½, and Great Northern deferred and preferred, Great Eastern, and North-Eastern were all lower. Hull and Barnsley was marked down ½, and Lancashire and Yorkshire 1. Brighton and South-Eastern and North-Western deferred all showed a drooping tendency, but Scotch stocks, after being heavy, rallied a little. Canadian Pacific shares were lifted to 188½, mainly on New York impulses, but relapsed to 187, and several Grand Trunk stocks were lower. American Railroad shares were lifted in a substantial fashion by Wall Street in the beginning of the week, but a sharp re-

action followed on profit-taking, which, however, left prices still up on balance. United States Steel fluctuated between 111½ and 113½, closing at the top, but International Mercantile Marine have relapsed. Argentine Rails have been inclined to be dull on dividend prospects, but the changes in the ordinary stocks were comparatively light, while a little investment demand sprang up for the preference and debenture stocks. Mexican first and second preferences relapsed 1 each, and Leopoldina dropped ½.

Bank shares were not much dealt in, but were firm, with gains of ½ in National Provincial £12 paid, ½ in London Joint Stock, and ½ in Capital and Counties and Lloyds, and ½ in Barclay "A" and London Provincial and Union of London. National Provincial £10½ paid exceptionally fell 1. Chartered of India improved ½, but Hongkong and Shanghai lost that fraction, and several Colonial issues were ½ or so lower. Amongst Shipping shares, P. and O. deferred improved to 340, but Royal Mail was unchanged at 125, after touching 125½. Prince Line rose to 4½ on the dividend, but fell back to 4½ on profit-taking. Cunard were in demand at 5s. higher at 89s., and there was some inquiry for Ellerman Lines 5½ per cent. preference and preferred ordinary, and Houlder Lines, but African Steamship relapsed to 31½. Brazilian Traction was offered, and fell to 60½, but City Services common was marked up to 330, while amongst motor shares, Charron came into prominence on an inquiry from Paris, and hardened to 19s. Hudson's Buys gave way slightly, and Forestal Land ordinary and preference were dull, but Niger, after being offered down to 37s. 6d., rallied to 39s. 6d. on the report. Associated Cement continued to lose ground on the report, and finished 7½ and ¾ lower respectively, while British Cement preference declined ½ in sympathy. Magadi Soda were actively dealt in on the prospect of the company soon being able to use the Uganda Railway. Munitions and Engineering things were wanted and generally harder, Kynochs being prominent with a rise to 32s., while Birmingham Small Arms came into demand on the declaration of a second interim dividend. British Oil and Cake Mills again met with a good inquiry, and further hardened to 31s., and Salt Union ordinary and preference both improved. Coats were a shade harder, but other Textiles were dull. Lake Superior were marked up 1, and the incomes 4.

The Oil share market has been very quiet, and inclined to be easier. "Shell," however, hardened 7½, and Royal Dutch, after touching 44½, improved to 45½. North Caucasian fell to 25s. 6d. on the report, but recovered to 26s. 3d., while New Caucasian and Baku were both a shade lower, and Rumanian Consols, after fluctuating between 18s. 3d. and 17s. 6d., finished at the lowest. Lobitos were offered, and declined to 41s. 6d., but Kern River were inquired for on the report, and Santa Maria and California preference also hardened. An improvement in the price of rubber was given as the reason for an active business in the share market, but the demand continued even after the commodity had given way a little. Tebrau were amongst the most prominent, but an active business was also done in Highlands and Lowlands, Jong Landor, Kepitigalla, Bukit Kajang, Sedenak, Tandjong, and Vallambrosa. Johore Rubber Lands, too, were strong, and there was some inquiry for Mendaris, Bah Lias, and Wampoe. Javass were rather unsettled pending definite news of the earthquake, but they too hardened before the close. Kawies were offered, and fell to 63s. 6d., but good support was forthcoming, and they recovered to 68s., while Kasintoe, Djasinga, and Langen Java all improved. A fair business was done in Trust company shares, Rubber Trusts rising to 25s. 9d., and Eastern International to 20s. 6d.

LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

SUGAR.—No change was made in quotations, and demand continues in excess of the small available supply. The lower descriptions of cane sorts now move off more freely owing to the restricted quantities of better grocery imports. Stocks in the three chief ports of the U.K. amount to 62,300 tons, against 44,500 same time last year. Cuban production to the end of August totals 2,963,300 tons, against 2,489,600 last season.

COFFEE.—General quietness governed this market, business being of retail proportions, though rates remained mostly unaltered as importers do not press. The terminal market keeps generally slow. December, sold, 48s. 6d. to 48s. 3d.; March, 50s. 3d.

COCOA.—The liberal quantity of 12,520 bags was offered in auction, of which 7,600 bags comprised Colonial imports. With buyers very reticent, only a limited part was disposed of at mostly previous rates. Fine Trinidad reached 85s.; Grenada, 80s.; Cameroon, 81s.

TEA.—Competition, as a rule, marked a slight falling off, and medium to common parcels eased, though really fine liquoring grades cleared at steady prices. During the week 45,000 packages Indian, 43,000 packages Ceylon, and 5,000 packages Java were catalogued.

SPICE.—Business moved slowly, but quotations as regards pepper proved steady. Black Singapore, afloat, sold, 7½d.; white ditto, September-November, 9½d.; Muntok, 9½d. Fair Zanzibar cloves, on spot, sold, 7d. Tapioca in fair request, and market disclosed firmness. Fair flake, on spot, sold, 3½d. to 3¾d.

RICE.—Market firm. Japan, spot, sold, 21s.; Rangoon, spot, 17s.; ditto, September-October, 16s. 6d.; No. 1 garden Siam, afloat, 17s.; and Japan ditto, 19s. 9d. Beans continue very firm, and Rangoon, spot, sold, £23 10s.; November-December, £25 10s. to £26 10s. Japan peas further hardened. August-September, sold, £37 5s.

FIBRES.—Very quiet all round, but without much change in values. Of Manila hemp, fair, October-December, sold, £51 10s.; coarse, September-November, £49; brown, August-October, £48 10s. Jute, native first marks, September steamer, Dundee, sold, £34.

SHELLAC.—Fair spot sales occurred on the basis of 133s. 6d. to 132s. for fair second orange. Future delivery market unsettled and weaker. T.N., October, sold, 134s. to 125s. and 126s. 6d.; December, 136s. 6d., 127s., and 130s.

Rubber dearer and a fair trade ensued. Plantation, spot, crepe, sold 2s. 4½d., 2s. 6d., 2s. 5½d.; November-December, 2s. 5½d., 2s. 6½d., and 2s. 6d. Ribbed smoked sheet, spot, sold 2s. 4½d., 2s. 5½d., and 2s. 5d. Fine hard Para, spot, done, 3s. 3½d.

CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 22, 1916.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
Sugar —per cwt. duty 14½, 98% polarisation	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Wool —per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tate's Cubes No. 1	2 7 1½	2 7 1½	Australian	6½ 3 1½	2 1½ 3 10
Ditto, H.T.S.	2 6 7½	2 6 7½	Scoured Merino	0½ 2 7 1	1 1½ 2 9½
Fine granulated	nom.	nom.	Scoured Cr'ssbr'd	1 3½ 2 4½	1 1½ 2 1½
Lyle's granulated	1 7½ 42 1½	1 7½ 42 1½	Greasy Merino	0½ 1 10½	1 5 2 3½
Foreign granulated, first marks	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	2 9½ 3 7	3 0 3 6
f.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	New Zealand (scoured) Merino	1 1½ 1 10½	1 1 1 9½
German Cubes f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	1 2 9½	2 1½ 3 4
French Cube	nom.	nom.	Cape snow white	0 2 4½	0 2 4½
prompt	nom.	nom.	Indiarubber —per lb.		
Crystallised, West India	nom.	nom.	Plantation, Spot		
Beet, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Crepe	0 2 4½	0 2 4½
Tea —per lb., duty 1½ lb.	s. d. s. d. s. d. s. d.		Coal —per ton		
Indian Pekoe	0 9½ 1 6 0 9 1 1½		Durham, best	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 10 2 6½ 0 9 1 4		Seconds	nom.	nom.
Orange	0 11 1 1½ 0 9 1 3½		East Hartlepool	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 11 1 10 0 10 1 9½		Seconds	nom.	nom.
Pekoe Souchong	0 9½ 1 0 0 9 1 0		Lead —per ton	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Ceylon Pekoe	0 9½ 1 0 0 9 1 0		English Pig	31 5 0	32 5 0
Broken	0 9½ 1 1½ 0 9 1 0½		Foreign soft	30 10 0	30 10 0
Orange	0 9½ 1 1½ 0 9 1 1		Quicksilver —per bottle firsthand	£ 17½	£ 17½
Broken	0 10 1 2½ 0 10 1 1½		Tin —per ton		
Pekoe Souchong	0 9½ 1 0 0 9 1 0		English Ingots	£ 172 1½	£ 172 1½
Cocoa —per cwt. duty 6d. per lb.	s. s. s.		Do. bars	£ 175 1½	£ 175 1½
Trinidad—per cwt.	79 0 84 0 81 0 86 0		Standard cash	£ 172 1½	£ 172 1½
Grenada	73 0 82 0 73 0 82 0		Tin Plates, per box	34½ upds.	34½ upds.
West Africa	70 0 74 0 70 0 74 0		Copper —per ton		
Ceylon Plantation	72 0 91 0 72 0 91 0		English, Tough	nom.	nom.
Guayaquil Arriba	96 0 100 0 96 0 98 0		per ton	nom.	nom.
Coffee —per cwt. duty 42½ per cwt.			Best Selected	£ 131 1½	£ 131 1½
East India	67 0 95 0 67 0 95 0		Sheets	£ 150	£ 150
Jamaica	62 0 120 0 62 0 120 0		Standard	£ 116 0 0	£ 116 10 0
Costa Rica	62 0 84 0 62 0 84 0		Jute —per ton		
Provisions			Native firsts for shipment Oct.	£ 34 0 0	£ 33 15 0
Butter , per cwt.			Oils		
Australian finest	nom.	nom.	Linseed, per ton	£ 36½ 1½	£ 36½ 1½
Irish Creameries	184½ 190½	188½ 192½	Kape, ref., English, barrels	£ 46 1½	£ 48 1½
Dutch ditto	180½ 184½	186½ 190½	Brown English , naked	nom.	nom.
Russian finest	nom.	nom.	Cott'n Seed, crude	£ 34 10 0	£ 35 0 0
Normandy baskets	nom.	nom.	Ditto, refined	£ 40 1½	£ 40 1½
Danish finest	196½ 200½	200½ 204½	Petroleum Oil, per 8 lbs.	1½ 1½	1½ 1½
Brittany rolls—doz. lb.	16½ 19½	17½ 20½	Water White	1½ 1½	1½ 1½
Bacon —per cwt.			Oil Seeds, Linseed	—	—
Irish	111 0 118 0	110 0 118 0	Calcutta—per 40 lbs., Sep-Oct.	3 26 6	3 19
Continental	102 0 109 0	104 0 110 0	Rape, Toria	6½ 6	6½ 6
Canadian	112 0 114 0	108 0 114 0	Iron —per ton	nom.	nom.
American	96 0 101 0	96 0 101 0	Cleveland Cash	nom.	nom.
Hams —per cwt.			Tobacco —duty, manufactured		
Irish	136½ 150½	136½ 150½	5/6 to 6/2½ per lb.		
Canadian	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	Maryland & Ohio		
American	68 0 103 0	68 0 106 0	per lb. bond	0 6 0 10	0 6 0 10
Cheese —per cwt.			Virginia leaf	0 6 0 10	0 6 0 10
Edam	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	Kentucky leaf	0 6 0 10	0 6 0 10
Canadian	105 0 117 0	104 0 118 0	Latakia	1 0 3 0	1 0 3 0
Gouda	nom.	nom.	Havana	1 0 0 0	1 0 0 0
English Cheddar	104 0 116 0	104 0 116 0	Manila	0 6 2 0	0 6 2 0
Wilt's loaf	nom.	nom.	Cigars, duty 10/6		
New Zealand	104 0 106 0	104 0 106 0	per lb.	2½ upds.	2½ upds.
Rice —per cwt.	s. d. s. d. s. d. s. d.		Timber —Wood		
Garden Siam	17 9	17 9	Pitch Pine	25 1½ 27 0	25 0 27 0
spot	17 9	17 9	Indian Teak	40 1½ 50 0	40 0 50 0
Rangoon 2 stars	17 0	17 0	Furpentine		
Eggs —per 120.			American Spot	2 2 7½	2 3 0
English	23 6 24 4	22 6 24 6	Copra		
Irish	21 6 22 0	20 0 21 0	Malabar, London		
Danish	23 0 25 0	22 0 24 0	Sept. after	32 10 0	nom.
Spelter			Ceylon, London	30 15 0	31 0 0
G.O.B. as to position	£ 54 1½	£ 55 1½	South Sea	23 10 0	20 10 0
Flour —per sack.			F.M.S.	23 10 0	30 5 0
Town Households	56½	55½			
Official	56½	55½			
American First	53½ upds.	53½ upds.			
Patents					

COPRA.—Market steady to Marseilles, but London remained quiet at nominally unaltered rates.

CORN (Mark Lane).—Inadequate inquiries and less reserved sellers are responsible for an easier range of prices in many directions this week. Dry qualities of English wheat command their value, but inferior sorts are neglected. Oats firmer on smaller arrivals. Wheat: English, both whites and reds, range up to 66s. 6d.—exceptionally 67s.—per qr. (504 lbs.), delivered; imported, No. 1 Northern Manitoba, 71s. 6d., ex ship. Flour: American first spring patents, 54s. upwards, and Canadian patents, 53s. to 54s., both landed. Oats: La Plata, new, 32s. 9d. to 33s. 9d., and old ditto, 31s. 9d. upwards, both landed. Grinding barley: American, on sample, 45s. to 45s. 6d., and La Plata, 46s. 6d.

upwards, both ex quay. Maize, new La Plata (sound), 47s. 6d. ex ship, and 48s. 6d. landed.

METALS.—Copper: The standard market has remained in an idle state since last Monday, but there has been no pressure to sell, and forward dates maintained. Until the middle of the week the small business done showed cash at the close £116 10s., and three months £114. At Thursday's session values of these dates left off at £116 10s. and £114 respectively. Tin has been a rising market, while irregular at intervals, and a steady general inquiry prevailed. Standard cash by Wednesday settled down at £172 7s. 6d., and three months at £173. A quiet tone prevailed at Thursday's meeting, but values further hardened, cash closing £172 15s., and three months at £173 7s. 6d. Lead firmer. Foreign, September, £30 10s.; December, £29 10s. Spelter, near, dearer. G.O.B., September, £58; December, £48. Quicksilver unaltered at £17 15s.

COTTON (from our Manchester Correspondent).—The firm tone of the market has been well maintained during the past week, and although no particular development in the amount of business passing can be recorded, sufficient orders have been booked to maintain the position of spinners and manufacturers. In some quarters there is a tendency for producers to rather strengthen themselves. High prices continue to prevail in the raw material, and on certain days values have hardened as a result of freer buying by the trade. A feature of interest has been the application of the operatives in the weaving department for an advance in wages of 10 per cent., but in view of the agreement signed last November fixing rates of pay until after the end of the war the employers are expected to refuse to deal with the matter. It is expected, however, that the trade union officials will ask the Board of Trade to intervene. A fairly healthy inquiry has again been experienced in cloth for export, and although many of our customers are scarcely prepared to pay to-day's rates for lots of quantity the turnover in one way and another has been of moderate extent. Bleaching and printing cloths have again moved off fairly freely for India, and rather longer delivery has now to be given. There has been business about in dhooties, but most of the offers have been too low. We are still waiting for increased limits from the other side in grey shirtings. China shippers are slow to move, but a little improvement has been reported in the inquiry for white goods. The all-round demand for most of the minor outlets has not been important. In small lots, however, something has been done for Egypt and South America. Rather varied reports are being received from the home trade, and heavy goods are not doing so well as fancies and specialities. In American yarns for home consumption prices have been very firmly held, and, without many large lines being put through, the total sales have been fairly encouraging. Certain fine counts are not attracting quite so much attention as a little time ago. In shipping bundles for India offers have been dealt with, but not much has been done. Bolton spinnings are again dearer, and the position in this section is very strong. Here and there substantial contracts have been arranged, but most of the buying has been in sorting up lots.

Insurance News.

The Britannic Assurance Co. has issued a new prospectus, which although relating to its ordinary branch is essentially one that will appeal to its industrial connection. A complete revision of the premium rates has been effected, and there has been elimination as well as addition. Besides whole-life and endowment, the prospectus contains rates for various kinds of joint life assurances, and rates for all the usual forms of children's policies are also given. The most important changes are the reductions made in nearly all the premiums, with and without profit, these being in some cases considerable. Half-yearly and quarterly rates are given in every instance, and single premiums are now quoted for endowment assurances as well as whole life. Immediate annuity business is now transacted, based upon the increased earning power of capital.

It appears that the losses falling on British insurance companies as the result of the destruction by fire of munition consignments at Black Tom Island, New York, on July 30, to which reference was made in these columns on September 9, amount to £240,000, a smaller total than at one time seemed probable in view of the fact that the quantity of explosives alone destroyed is put at £1,400,000, apart from the damage to property. The amounts to be paid by the leading offices are moderate, that of the North British and Mercantile, which heads the list, being £60,000, the Liverpool and London and Globe coming second with £50,000. The Scottish Union and National with £20,000, the Phoenix with £14,500, the Commercial Union with £14,000, the Royal with £12,400, and the London with £11,400 are the other leading offices concerned.

Tea, Oil and Rubber.

A terrible sensation will be created by the announcement that Mr. C. A. Lampard, the leading spirit in Harrisons and Crosfield, Ltd., has committed suicide. He was the biggest figure in the rubber market, not only from his unique personality, but also from the wonderful grasp he displayed with regard to all problems relating to the rubber industry. It is scarcely conceivable that a man of this extraordinary ability and knowledge should have suddenly disappeared from the arena in which he has played so conspicuous a part, but we have heard the sad news so late that we cannot do more at the moment than record our sorrow at the tragedy.

In these days nothing in the way of higher prices ought to surprise us, and yet the advance in raw rubber to 2s. 6d. per lb. must be regarded as in a class by itself. Apparently the ordinary rules of supply and demand do not apply in this case. Stocks are relatively large, and production, so far as can be judged, is more than keeping pace with consumption. At the meeting of the Rubber Plantations Investment Trust the chairman, Mr. George Croll, stated that the world's output of rubber in 1915 was approximately 150,000 tons, an increase of 30,000 tons over the previous year. To that total plantation rubber contributed 104,000 tons against 71,000 tons in 1914, and for the current year the plantation output is estimated at 140,000 tons, while wild rubber is likely to show only a comparatively small decline. Mr. Croll also stated that in 1915 the United States imported 65 per cent. of the total production against 50 per cent. in 1914, and he anticipated that the States would absorb fully 65 per cent. of the 1916 crop. Unfortunately for this assumption, we showed from official figures a fortnight ago (September 9) that the value of rubber imports for the nine months to March 31 last was only \$97,561,000 against \$99,905,000 for the corresponding period, although the price per lb. was 35 per cent. higher in March, 1916, than in 1915. We do not know what the average for the nine months works out at, but there cannot be any doubt that it was substantially higher than in the earlier period for which figures are given. In that case the decline in the weight of imports would be considerable, both actually and relatively, and we cannot believe that with German and Austrian consumption practically eliminated the rest of the world—England, France, Russia, and Italy—can have made good the difference. Certainly the English statistics of imports and deliveries give no indication of such an increased demand as would fill the gap. It is ridiculous to suppose that the trade—the consumers—are not perfectly acquainted with the statistical position in all its bearings, and would rush the price up against themselves in face of a largely increased output and (apparently) smaller world consumption. Nor can there be any question of buying largely ahead of requirements. Rubber is not like copper, for instance; it cannot be stowed away for use at some future period, because its value depreciates comparatively rapidly, and at the end of six or twelve months there would be a heavy loss both of interest and in the quality of the article. In these circumstances we can only conclude that the recent rise has been the result of manipulation, but it has helped to stimulate activity in the share market, and perhaps that was its primary object.

AUSTRALIAN MUTUAL PROVIDENT

Estd. SOCIETY. 1849.

The Largest Mutual Life Office in the Empire.

Funds, £34,000,000.

Annual Income £4,000,000.

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Every Year a Bonus Year. Whole-life Policies, 20 years in force, show average increase of the sum assured by Bonus exceeding 50 per cent.

ENDOWMENT ASSURANCE RESULTS ALSO UNSURPASSED.

37, Threadneedle Street, London, E.C.

Apart from the rubber position, Mr. Croll had some very interesting remarks to make at the Rubber Trust meeting about the progress of tea planting in Sumatra, where the company has its principal interests. If the results obtained in the early years of the plantations are maintained when the estates reach maturity, the Trust has, indeed, been most fortunate in its selection of ground for development. When the land was selected in the Siantar district very little work had been done. It was 30 miles from the nearest railway station, and the only road at certain seasons was practically impassable, while the town of Siantar consisted of only a few huts. Now a railway passes through the estates, the Government has built an excellent road, and Siantar town is a rapidly growing centre of activity. About 8,000 acres have been opened up, and the phenomenal yield of 1,102 lbs. of tea per acre has been obtained in the fourth year. The average was 710 lbs. over 1,847 acres in partial bearing, and the estimate is for a crop of 3,000,000 lbs. this year, of 5,250,000 lbs. next year, and of 10 to 11 million lbs. subsequently when the whole of the 8,000 acres are in full bearing. That is taking credit for a crop of 1,200 to 1,400 lbs. per acre, whereas in India the average is only 650 lbs. and in Ceylon 530 lbs. per acre for estates in full bearing, although occasionally 1,100 lbs. per acre is reached. It remains to be seen whether these very sanguine estimates will be realised, but, at any rate, it must be admitted from the results already obtained that the soil and climate of Sumatra have proved most eminently suitable for tea cultivation, and if the "all-in" cost can be reduced to 6½d. per lb., as anticipated, there need be no anxiety about the future prosperity of the Trust's plantations and investments.

Steady progress is being made by the Batak Rabbit Rubber Estate, the crop for the year ended June 30 showing an increase of 56,857 lbs. at 259,177 lbs. The gross price realised was 3.15d. better at 2s. 4.37d., and the "all-in" cost, exclusive of .63d. for war risk insurance, was reduced by .56d. to 1s. 1.99d., with the result that the nett profit rose by £6,480 to £15,278. Adding £1,298 more at £3,870 brought in, the available total was £7,778 up at £19,148, but the directors only increase the dividend from 10 per cent. to 12½, and after transferring £2,500, against nothing a year ago, to development reserve, they carry forward £7,273, or £3,403 more, subject to excess profits duty. The crop for 1916-17 is estimated at 292,000 lbs.

Shareholders in the North Caucasian Oil Fields deserve sympathetic consideration with regard to the excess profits duty, and we have no doubt they will get it if their case is properly presented. At any rate, they will not get bloatedly prosperous on the results to December 31, 1915 (o/s). So far as the operations of the company itself were concerned, they were remarkably good, the gross output being 356,000 tons, a decrease of only 2,000 tons, and the sales were 315,190 tons, a decrease of nearly 13,000 tons, but the average price was 3.8 copecks higher at 38.86 copecks per pood. Loss on exchange, however, cost the company over £145,000, including £20,000 reserved for this purpose a year ago, and the profit is £130,000 less at £418,760. There was a small increase in London expenses, but a saving of about £5,000 in debenture interest (now extinguished), and interest brought in £4,200 more, while the £36,360 written off Berekei expenditure last year has not to be repeated. Nett profit, therefore, comes out £86,000 lower at £411,076, out of which interim dividends were paid on the 7 per cent. preference shares and 1s., or 10 per cent., on the ordinary. These absorb £69,930, and there is to be no further distribution even on the preference. Russian taxes absorb £132,600, an increase of £15,000, and although £73,000 less at £99,300 is set aside for depreciation difference on exchange requires £125,000, and there is a balance of only £3,710 to be carried forward against £19,580 brought in. A year ago the ordinary received altogether 25 per cent., and the Treasury has made a claim of £85,000 against the company in respect of excess profits duty for 1914, but at the worst it is

entitled to set off the results of last year against those of 1914, and no doubt the claim will be modified. Sundry creditors are down £8,000, debtors £13,600, and cash balances £35,000, while capital expenditure, after allowing for depreciation reserve (£346,275), is also £35,000 lower at £603,360. For the first half of the current year sales amounted to 197,000 tons at an average price of 41.87 copecks per pood, so that the company should be doing well, especially as the exchange is now more favourable. New lands also are opening up favourably, and the prospects look promising for the future.

Everyone is so familiar with the greatly increased price of oil and petrol that shareholders in the Kern River Oilfields of California, Ltd., may be disappointed with the results for the year to May 31, and that there is to be no increase in the dividend of 8 per cent. which was paid for the previous twelve months. All things considered, however, the company has done fairly well, especially when it is remembered that it has been working off an old contract at 40 cents per barrel, and that the balance of over 500,000 barrels starting with the current month will be delivered at 45 cents. The combined nett production of this company and of the St. Helens Petroleum Co., Ltd. (which it controls), was 1,810,000 barrels, an increase of 37,000 barrels, while for the first three months of the current year it was 486,685 barrels, or at the rate of 1,946,000 barrels per annum. Gross profits of the two companies amounted to £134,900, an increase of £19,000, and the nett profits were £15,000 higher at £77,788, but £12,000 more at £26,910 is placed to suspense for profits derived from the McLeod Lease, and the balance available is only £2,750 higher at £50,878. After paying the dividend of 8 per cent. and again placing £7,500 to reserve the carry forward is increased by £1,600 to £2,418. Property account in the Kern River balance-sheet has been reduced by £2,500 to £299,710, and cash is £17,000 lower at £5,270, but advances to the St. Helens Co. have increased £27,000 to £49,700, and investments are £5,500 higher at £72,120. A storm of exceptional severity occurred in January last, when damage to the extent of £3,320 was done to derricks and other plant, but in other respects progress appears to have been satisfactory, and several fresh wells are being opened up or deepened. The company also owns an orange plantation of 25 acres, which appears to be doing well. Reference is made to the recent arrangement entered into with the Tampico Co. (of which we have already given particulars), but nothing can be done with the Mexican interests until conditions in the country are more settled.

NEW KALI SELOGIRI (JAVA) PLANTATIONS.—Crops harvested to end of June last are as follows:—Coffee Robusta, 46 piculs, compared with 28 piculs same period last year; rubber, 24,083 lbs., compared with 14,801 lbs. same period last year. The estimate for coffee robusta for the current year has been increased to 2,500 piculs. Weather has been favourable.

JAVA PARA RUBBER ESTATES.—In answer to inquiries received, the directors desire to state that the following cablegram has been received from the company's agent in Java:—"Estates undamaged by earthquake."

BATAVIA PLANTATION INVESTMENTS.—July rubber crop, 76,689 lbs.; increase, 2,597 lbs.; seven months, 414,371 lbs.; increase, 33,502 lbs.

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What Balance Sheets Tell.

QUEENSLAND NATIONAL BANK, LTD.

Gross profits for the six months ended June 30, after making the usual provision for rebate, interest on deposits, &c., were £9,507 better at £128,945, but expenses rose by £9,855 to £77,547, leaving the nett profits £348 down at £51,398. Of this £39,398 is transferred to the private depositors' repayment fund, and £12,000 is again added to the reserve. The repayment fund now amounts to £64,145, and a further repayment of 9d. in the £ on the amount written off the original deposit receipts will be made simultaneously with the half-yearly interest payments. Deposits of the Queensland Government have been reduced by £999,429 to £872,558, but those of the Commonwealth have risen by £200,218 to £212,858, while private deposits are £160,664 lower at £5,546,402. Liabilities on bills, &c., are £219,455 up at £596,921. On the other hand, cash assets show a reduction of £1,236,935 at £3,931,230, decreases of £933,332 to £1,094,602 in coin, bullion and cash at bankers, £520,247 to £907,201 in Australian notes, £158,816 to £288,094 in cash balances, and £225,900 to £175,900 in money in London at call and short notice being only offset to a very small extent by investments of £300,000 in Commonwealth War Loan, £150,000 in British War Loan, and £270,000 in British Treasury bills. Advances, bills discounted, &c., show an increase of £594,333 at £6,782,920.

AUSTRALIAN BANK OF COMMERCE, LTD.

Profits for the half-year ended June 30 showed a further increase of £1,412 at £69,977, while interest paid on inscribed deposits took £785 less at £31,509. Land and income taxes were again rather heavier, but the nett balance was £1,882 up at £29,124, and after repeating the dividend at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum and the transfer of £10,000 to reserve, £5,242, or £2,692 more, was left to be carried forward. Customers' deposits and other liabilities have risen by £170,767 to £3,112,090. Government deposits are £5,000 up at £80,000, and balances due to other banks have increased by £159,421 to £190,539. On the other hand, coin and bullion come to £91,564 more at £665,065, but Australian notes are £109,625 down at £201,739, and money in London has been reduced by £12,134 to £204,661. Investments, however, are £94,920 up at £241,468, balances due by other banks £28,669 up at £116,799, and bills in London and remittances in transit £61,315 up at £348,099, so that the total cash assets have only been reduced by £128,580 to £1,778,008, and represent 9s. 7d. in the £ on the total liabilities to customers. Bills discounted, loans, &c., show an increase of £454,221 at £4,434,808, which is due in large measure to substantial advances made in respect of the wheat harvest, and to the accommodation granted to customers in connection with heavy taxation payments which fell due just before the close of the half-year. With regard to the last-mentioned, the directors make the very sensible suggestion that the Government should spread its demands over different periods of the year, so as to minimise as much as possible the restriction of funds available for ordinary commercial purposes, which is inevitable under the present system.

DALMELLINGTON IRON CO., LTD.

Evidently this company did extremely well in the year to June 30, but we are not allowed to know the exact results. The blast furnace department was declared a controlled establishment on January 1, and "after providing for excess profits duty, controlled profit and income-tax," the nett profits are £18,000 higher at £52,100. About £3,000 more at £16,050 is set aside for depreciation and redemption, and the directors then gaily double the dividend at 15 per cent., leaving a trifle more at £6,160 to be carried forward. Nothing is placed to reserve, although the fund stands at only £20,000, against a paid-up capital of £325,000, and common prudence might have suggested that part of the exceptional profits of the past year should be set aside for the rainy days that are pretty sure to come after the war. Sundry credit balances (probably including amounts owing to the Government) are £93,000 higher at £143,280, while sundry debtors have increased £22,000 to £57,770, cash is up £4,700 at £28,790, and investments amount to £169,000, against £44,000. On the other hand, properties have been written down £26,000 to £233,000 and stocks are £23,000 lower at £38,100. It is a gorgeous record from several points of view.

PEARSON AND KNOWLES COAL AND IRON CO., LTD.

Owing to certain departments having been taken over by the Minister of Munitions as "controlled establishments," several complicated adjustments of the accounts will be necessary, and the directors have therefore decided to defer the publication of the annual balance-sheet until such time as all matters are settled. For the present, therefore, they content themselves with stating that the accounts show a balance of profit for the year, after making all necessary provisions, sufficient to warrant the payment of a dividend on the ordinary shares of 6½ per cent., less tax, together with a bonus of 5s. per share, tax free. Appropriations to reserve, &c., and the ultimate distribution of the year's profits will be deferred until the accounts have been finally agreed with the Minister of Munitions.

PARTINGTON STEEL AND IRON CO., LTD.

This is an offshoot of the Pearson and Knowles Coal and Iron Co., and, like its parent, has been under Government control. No balance-sheet therefore will be published until the necessary adjustment of the accounts has been made, but in the meantime the directors propose to repeat last year's dividend of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares.

J. BROCKHOUSE AND CO., LTD.

Apparently this company did not do quite so well in the year to June 30 as in the previous twelve months, but exact comparisons are impossible, as no profit and loss account is furnished. The Hill Top Works became a controlled establishment on November 1 last, and an unspecified amount is set aside for excess profits duty. Nett profits, including £9,815 brought forward, are stated at £32,817, a decrease of £5,000, and the total distribution on the ordinary shares is reduced from 10s. to 4s., but during the year the ordinary capital has been raised from £30,000 to £57,000. Only £4,000 against £10,000 is placed to reserve, which will then stand at £15,000. Nothing is said about it in the report, but we take it that part of the reserve, which last year was made up to £30,000, has been capitalised. To provide for excess profits duty the carry forward is increased by £6,400 to £16,200. Creditors are up £23,000 at £55,192, and debtors are £15,000 higher at £62,530, but while cash is £4,600 lower at £21,500, investments have increased £13,600 to £19,880. So far as can be judged, the company is in a strong position, and is moderately capitalised.

CLYDE VALLEY ELECTRICAL POWER CO.

Being in the heart of a big industrial district this company naturally did a big business in the half-year ended June 30, and its revenue showed an increase of £21,394 at £112,437. Unfortunately, however, the cost of fuel was much heavier, so that expenses rose by £23,632 to £72,115, with the result that the nett revenue was £2,238 smaller at £40,322. Adding £12,613, or £1,077 more, brought in, the balance, after adjusting interest and transferring £17,500 to contingency fund for depreciation, &c., compared with £18,710 a year ago, was a trifle of £85 up at £35,792. Nothing is written off this time compared with £10,000 from cost of Acts of 1901, 1904, and 1912 a year ago, and after transferring £3,836, or £440 less, to the special reserve, the ordinary shares receive a dividend of 1¼ per cent., tax free, against nothing, and £15,456, or £3,026 more, is carried forward. Expenditure on capital account amounted to £45,145, and the debit balance is now £89,217, against which there is a contingency fund of £167,500 and a special reserve of £21,933.

ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO. OF VICTORIA, LTD.

War conditions again affected the results of this company in the year ended March 31, especially in the tramway departments, where the number of passengers carried fell off by 300,000. In the electricity departments, however, matters were rather better, and altogether the nett revenue showed an increase of £753 at £28,944, but as the balance brought forward was £1,626 smaller at £2,000, the available surplus, after providing for debenture interest, was £868 down at £16,655. Nothing is written off compared with £865 for discount, &c., on debenture stock, and the payment on account of arrears of preference dividend is reduced by £4,436 to £10,222, leaving £6,433, or £4,433 more, to be carried forward. The issued capital was increased by £4,625 to £300,000, but the debenture debt was reduced by £6,900 to £149,666, while, on the other hand, £4,697 was spent on the property, increasing the amount to £491,836. The debenture stock redemption account, which was increased by £6,547 to £46,195, represents the only provision for depreciation.

MANAOS TRAMWAYS AND LIGHT CO., LTD.

For the year to April 30 the gross receipts were almost exactly the same as those for the previous twelve months at £110,524, but the operating expenses were £6,200 less at £76,170, and the nett revenue shows an increase of £8,200 at £34,350. Unfortunately loss on exchange amounted to £13,100, an increase of £6,900, and after meeting fixed charges there is a balance of only £1,160 to add to the surplus, raising it to £5,660. It is stated that the reduction in operating expenses has in no wise interfered with the efficiency of the service or the maintenance of the property, which is in an excellent physical condition. During the year the indebtedness of the State Government has been slightly reduced, and every effort is being made to avoid a further accumulation of unpaid bills for public lighting. Debentures for £3,000 were paid off, and loans were reduced by £4,000, but creditors are £1,400 up. Stores are £2,800 lower, and debtors have been reduced £4,600, while cash is up £6,400 at £14,540. It may be mentioned that in 1914-15 gross receipts fell £22,450, and operating expenses were reduced by £12,610.

EGYPTIAN HOTELS, LTD.

The ordinary business of this company was, of course, completely at a standstill in the year ended April 30, but one of the hotels was requisitioned by the military authorities, and used as a hospital from May, 1915, to March 15 last, and the other was taken as a residence for the nursing staff from November to March. The amount of compensation to be paid has yet to be fixed by an arbitration board, but something has been received on account, and with a "modest profit" on the special charges for food and accommodation made to members of the military force, the results for the 12 months were almost up to the level of the pre-war year. Profits amounted to £29,001, as compared with £6,285 last year and £30,652 in 1913-14, and after providing for charges in London and Cairo, the nett balance was £23,059 better at £27,024. No dividend was paid on either the preference or ordinary shares last time, but one year's preference dividend is now paid, completing the payment to 1915. Reserve gets £10,000, and depreciation of plant £5,344, as against nothing, and the balance carried forward is increased by £1,802 to £4,351. Property and plant accounts have been reduced by £6,684 to £292,293, and shares in and

advances to the Schweizerisch Egyptische Hotel-Gesellschaft by £7,144 to £7,321, but with regard to the latter item, the directors point out that, owing to the war, this asset is at present unrealisable, and its ultimate value cannot be maintained. Debtors owe £1,004 less at £4,281, but stocks of wine, &c., are £1,725 larger at £8,138, and cash has risen by £3,048 to £15,401, while against these bank loans are £13,505 down at £2,126, and sundry creditors £4,387 down at £10,134.

WESTERN AND HAWAIIAN INVESTMENT CO., LTD.

With conditions in the United States of America favourable during the year ended June 30, this company's nett revenue reached the highest point in its history. Including £1,706 brought in, the available surplus was £31,274, or £3,768 more, out of which the ordinary stock again gets 14 per cent., subject to tax, £7,730 is added to reserve, compared with £6,250 written off investments a year ago, and the balance carried forward is increased by £2,288 to £3,995. A reduction of £23,649 to £546,632 is shown in the loans on mortgage and other securities, as the directors, acting on the Treasury suggestion, withdrew a portion of the company's money from abroad, and have invested £26,000 in British Treasury bills. Liabilities on debentures have been increased by £4,720 to £220,948, but deposits are £17,381 lower at £12,834. On the other hand, investments in bonds, stocks, &c., have been reduced by £8,923 to £28,613, but agency balances are £4,314 up at £5,550 and bank balances have risen by £2,882 to £8,124.

CROSSWELL'S CARDIFF BREWERY, LTD.

Results for the year to July 1 show very little variation from those of the previous 12 months. After allowing for the increased licence duty the nett profits were £500 higher at £11,518, and the amount brought forward, after deducting a dividend of 2 per cent. on the preference shares, was practically the same at £7,065. After providing £9,000 for interest on the first mortgage debenture stock there is a balance of £9,582, or £2,520 more, which it is proposed to carry forward. Changes in the balance-sheet do not call for remark. The report mainly consists of growls against the licensing restrictions. It is stated that the business of the company has been carried on under the greatest difficulties owing to the restriction of hours, and to the fact that the prices of brewing materials were far in excess of anything previously known. On top of heavy increases in taxation an Act came into force on April 1 compelling a decrease of 15 per cent. in the output. This was not only burdensome to the company, but it was the cause of a considerable increase in the cost of production. But we seem to remember that several other breweries have managed to rub along somehow.

SAN FRANCISCO BREWERIES, LTD.

Very little grounds for optimism can be found in the report for the year ended April 30, although the sales of beer did show an increase of 6,305 barrels. The gross profits only rose by £274 to £43,069, but this tiny gain did not go far towards meeting the larger provision for bad and doubtful debts which it was considered necessary to make, and the nett balance, after providing for other charges, was £2,318 smaller at £11,060. This was before providing for interest, which took £815 more, and the nett outcome after writing off £7,958, or £1,699 less, for rent losses in respect of old leases and £3,706 for subscription to Panama Exposition was a loss of £35,278 to be added to the debit balance of £40,383 brought forward. The assets taken over from the Fredericksburg Bottling Co. are still carried in the books at £33,608, although it is admitted that, apart from goodwill, their value is considerably less than this figure, and the whole balance-sheet is in need of a thorough overhaul. In September last the debenture-holders agreed to accept deferred interest warrants in satisfaction of interest then outstanding or accruing up to April 30, 1917, and warrants for £59,794 have been issued in respect of two years' interest up to April 30 last.

ALLIANCE AND DUBLIN CONSUMERS' GAS CO.

The Sinn Fein disturbances at the end of April and the beginning of May had a marked effect on the results of this company for the half-year ended June 30, the sale of gas having fallen off by £11,425 to £104,197. There was, however, a substantial improvement in the receipts from residual products, and the total income was £3,799 up at £169,323. Most of the expenses in connection with the disturbances have been charged to the special purposes fund, but general expenses, owing to the heavier cost of coal, rose by £20,302, and the nett profits, after providing for debenture and other interest, were £15,769 smaller at £34,703. Nothing is written off, compared with £4,083 in reduction of ordinary and prepayment meters a year ago, and the contribution to the special purposes fund is only for six months as compared with a full year, so that the nett balance, including £11,987 brought in, was only £7,492 down at £42,938. Out of this the maximum statutory dividend on the consolidated ordinary stock at the rate of £5 2s. 6d. per cent. per annum, less tax, is again paid, and £3,171 is carried forward. The debit balance on capital account is £15,972 lower at £34,974, against which there are various reserves aggregating £88,882, and liabilities for bank overdrafts have been reduced by £20,019 to £22,174, but sundry creditors have risen by £13,892 to £41,894.

Cheleken.—Output for fortnight ended September 9, 505 tons. Bank clearings from 11 cities in Canada show an aggregate increase of 24 per cent., as compared with the corresponding week a year ago.

BALANCE SHEET FACTS.

SMEDLEY'S HYDROPATHIC CO., LTD., MATLOCK.—The closing of the favourite Continental spas has caused many invalids and semi-invalids to try home mineral springs, and amongst others Matlock has seen a big influx of visitors. Both in numbers and in receipts this company did better in the 12 months ended July 31 than in any previous year of its existence. The gross receipts amounted to £60,363, or an increase of £6,551, but the directors did not take advantage of the opportunity to raise their charges, and all benefit from the larger receipts was swept away by the higher cost of food and increased establishment expenses, &c. Nett profits, after writing £1,000 off investments, consequently showed a decrease of £2,572 at £8,344, and with £3,435 brought in the disposable total was £1,530 smaller at £11,779. Although the ordinary shares again get a dividend of 12½ per cent., there is no bonus of 10s. per share this time, but the balance carried forward is increased by £970 to £4,404.

LAWES CHEMICAL MANURE CO., LTD.—Business was good in the year ended June 30, partly, it would seem, because the Barking factory was taken over by the Ministry of Munitions, and the profits rose by £9,492 to £24,640. Although the profit and loss account for 1914-15 was debited with directors' and auditors' fees, the present statement shows a charge under these heads for the two years 1914-15 and 1915-16, but there is not a word of explanation for this apparently double charge in the report. After providing for these and other outgoings, the nett balance, including £529 brought forward, is £8,228 better at £19,649, and the dividend on the ordinary shares is increased from 2s. to 5s. per share, or 2½ per cent. Last year's appropriation of £2,500 to plant depreciation is repeated, and in addition a like amount is set aside for special depreciation, while an extra £100 at £600 is reserved for bad and doubtful debts, leaving £2,378, or £1,840 more, to be carried forward.

United British of Trinidad.—Output for week ended September 13, 659 tons.

Messrs. Boulton Brothers and Co. announce that the coupon of the State of Rio de Janeiro 5 per cent. loan of £3,000,000, due 1st proximo, should be presented for payment on and after the 2nd proximo at their offices, 39, Old Broad Street, E.C., or at the offices of Messrs. Samuel Montagu and Co., 60, Old Broad Street, E.C. Coupons must be left three clear days for examination.

The number of War Savings certificates reported sold during the week ended September 9 was 2,150,439, making a total of 33,121,224 sold to date. During the same week Post Office Exchequer bonds numbering 13,000 and £400,000 in value were applied for, these bringing the total number of applications to 956,000 for bonds of the value of £30,500,000.

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Telegrams:
"Finantimo, London."

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

A. Darracq.—At the rate of 7 per cent. per annum on the preferred ordinary for half-year ending Sept. 30, 1916, payable Oct. 2, less tax.

Anglo-Malay Rubber.—Interim of 15 per cent. (actual), less tax, payable Oct. 12, against 8 per cent.

Batu Tiga (Selangor) Rubber.—Interim in respect of year ending Dec. 31, 1916, of 2s. per share, less tax at 4s. 6d., payable Sept. 29, same as a year ago.

Bikam Rubber.—Interim of 7½ per cent. (actual) in respect of year ended Dec. 31, 1916, payable Oct. 7, less tax at 4s. 6d., against 5 per cent.

Birmingham Small Arms.—Further interim on the ordinary of 15 per cent., free tax, in addition to the interim of 5 per cent. paid in April last. For the whole of the preceding year the distribution was 20 per cent., including a bonus of 10 per cent.

British Aluminium.—At the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, less tax, on the ordinary for six months ended June 30, payable Oct. 1.

British Insulated and Helsby Cables.—Interim of 5 per cent., less tax.

Bujong Rubber.—Interim of 5 per cent., payable Oct. 2.

Bukit Rajah Rubber.—First interim of 10 per cent., less tax, on account of year ending March 31, 1917, payable Oct. 18, against 6 per cent.

Canadian Northern Prairie Land.—5 per cent. for half-year ended June 30 last, being at rate of 10 per cent. per annum, payable Oct. 1, same as last year.

Chersonese (F.M.S.) Estates.—Interim of 6½ per cent., equal to 1½d. per share, less tax, payable Oct. 26, against 5 per cent.

City Offices.—Interim of 6s. per share, less tax, on the ordinary for half-year ended June 30 last, payable Oct. 14, same as a year ago.

D. H. Evans and Co.—Interim of 3½ per cent. on the ordinary, being at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, payable Oct. 21, same as a year ago.

Dennistown (Krian F.M.S.) Rubber.—Interim of 6 per cent., less tax, payable Oct. 16.

Direct Spanish Telegraph.—Interim at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, free tax, on the ordinary for half-year ended June 30, payable Oct. 2, same as a year ago.

Ederapolla Tea of Ceylon.—Interim on account of half-year to June 30 of 2½ per cent., less tax, against 7½ per cent.

Ferreira Deep.—16½ per cent. (3s. 3d. per share) for period ending Sept. 30, against 17½ per cent.

Gopeng Consolidated.—8d. per share, less tax, payable Sept. 30.

H. Holdron, Peckham.—Interim on the ordinary at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, payable October 2.

Imperial Tobacco of Canada.—Interim of 1½ per cent. on the ordinary, payable Sept. 28, same as a year ago.

James W. Cook.—Interim on the ordinary for half-year ended June 30 at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, less tax, same as a year ago.

Kamunting Tin Dredging.—First interim of 1s. per share (5 per cent.), free tax, on account of year ending June 30, 1917, payable Sept. 29, same as a year ago.

Kinnell, Cannel, and Coking Coal.—Final of 7½ per cent., free tax, making 10 per cent. for year, against 2½ per cent.

Klabang Rubber.—Interim of 4 per cent., less tax, payable Oct. 5.

Lower Perak Rubber.—Interim of 10 per cent. (actual), less tax, in respect of year ending Dec. 31, 1916. For the whole of 1915 15 per cent. was paid.

Millar and Lang.—The dividend due on the preference shares on Oct. 1 will not be paid at present.

National and Foreign Securities Trust.—Final at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, tax free, making 5 per cent. for year to Aug. 31, same as a year ago.

National Trust (Toronto).—Quarterly at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum.

Ogilvie Flour Mills.—The directors announce that for the year to Aug. 31 they will pay a bonus of 4 per cent. on Oct. 2 in addition to the usual quarterly of 8 per cent. per annum.

Philadelphia Company.—Quarterly of 1½ per cent. on the common, payable Nov. 1, against 1½ per cent.

Rubber Estates of Johore.—Interim (actual) in respect of year ending Dec. 31, payable Oct. 11, less tax, at 4s. 6d., same as a year ago.

Samana and Santiago Railway.—Interim for half-year to June 30 at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum on the ordinary, same as a year ago.

Smithfield and Argentine Meat.—Interim of 1s. per share, being at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, free tax, payable Oct. 2, same as a year ago.

Sungei Buaya (Sumatra) Rubber.—Final of 12½ per cent. (actual), less tax at 3s. 10½d., in respect of year ended June 30 last, making 22½ per cent. for the year, against 15 per cent., £6,000 to reserve, forward approximately £5,600, against £2,492 brought in.

Sungei Buloh Rubber.—Interim at rate of 15 per cent., less tax at 4s. 6d., on account of year to Dec. 31, 1916, against 10 per cent.

Tempus Shipping.—Interim of 10 per cent. (actual), being £1 per share, free tax, payable 30th inst., same as a year ago.

Transvaal Gold Mining Estates.—7½ per cent. (1s. 6d. per share) for the period ending Sept. 30, against 10 per cent.

Woodend (Kelani Valley, Ceylon) Rubber and Tea.—Interim of 6 per cent., against 5 per cent.

Dunlop Rubber Co.—We are informed that the recent offer of 200,000 six per cent. cumulative preference shares has been largely over-subscribed.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1916, and September 16, 1916:—

	Estimate for the Year 1916-1917. (See note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1916, to Sept. 16, 1916.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1915, to Sept. 18, 1915.
Balances in Exchequer on April 1—	£	£	£
Bank of England	—	25,111,065	81,898,728
Bank of Ireland	—	463,941	1,552,224
REVENUE.		25,575,006	83,450,952
Customs	71,000,000	29,218,000	18,861,000
Excise	65,000,000	22,130,000	26,821,000
Estate, &c., Duties	30,000,000	13,972,000	16,018,000
Stamps	7,000,000	3,331,000	2,803,000
Land Tax and House Duty	2,650,000	320,000	330,000
Property and Income Tax and Super Tax	195,000,000	32,150,000	15,574,000
Excess Profits Duty	86,000,000	25,998,000	—
Land Value Duties	475,000	111,000	51,000
Post Office	36,100,000	15,200,000	13,500,000
Crown Lands	550,000	220,000	200,000
Receipts from Suez Canal Shares and Sundry Loans	5,000,000	518,087	359,475
Miscellaneous	3,500,000	2,695,859	1,636,537
Revenue	502,275,000	145,863,946	96,154,012
Total, including Balance		171,438,952	179,604,964
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion		1,890,000	480,000
For Treasury Bills (net amount)		233,641,000	—
For War Loan, 1925-1928		—	35,798,408
For 3½ Exchequer Bonds, 1920		—	242,345
For War Loan, 1925-1945		424	498,000,000
For 5½ Exchequer Bonds, 1919		33,830,000	—
For 5½ Exchequer Bonds, 1920		82,414,500	—
For 5½ Exchequer Bonds, 1921		59,978,000	—
For War Expenditure Certificates		20,993,500	—
For War Savings Certificates		26,050,000	—
For other Debt created under the War Loan Act, 1915		10,003,000	—
Temporary Advances—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £345,000,000 in 1916-1917 and £231,150,000 in 1915-1916)		409,396,500	232,150,000
Total		1,049,632,876	946,275,717
EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Estimate for the Year 1916-17. (See note.)	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1916, to Sept. 16, 1916.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1915, to Sept. 18, 1915.
EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£
Permanent Charge of Debt ..	12,818,000	11,476,191	12,474,277
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	114,436,000	52,048,225	4,322,812
Road Improvement Fund	—	—	691,395
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c.	9,500,000	3,183,375	3,480,947
Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,700,000	702,468	806,370
Supply Services	1,637,529,000	751,445,156	597,464,142
Expenditure	1,825,983,000	818,855,415	619,242,943
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion		2,190,000	775,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		60,914	60,914
For Treasury Bills (net amount)		—	15,994,000
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan (Redemption) Act, 1910		—	16,395,500
For Issues under Section 1 (5) of the War Loan Act, 1915		—	170,143,313
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913		180,000	980,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913		135,000	60,000
Under Housing Act, 1914		18,900	500,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8, issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1903		38,000	50,000
Old Sinking Fund—1910-1911: Issued under the Finance Act, 1911—			
Section 16 (1) (b)		23,160	80,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1911-1912—Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Co. (Acquisition of Capital) Act, 1914		—	250,000
Temporary Advances repaid—Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £165,735,000 in 1916-17 and £55,104,000 in 1915-16)		202,131,500	55,104,000
		1,023,632,899	879,635,670
Balances in Exchequer—	1916. Sept. 16.	1915. Sept. 18.	
Bank of England	24,514,094	65,590,160	
Bank of Ireland	1,485,893	1,049,887	
Total			1,049,632,876

MEMO.—Treasury Bills outstanding on Sept. 16, 1916 *£979,872,000.

* Includes £998,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the Account.

NOTE.—Estimate as in House of Commons Paper No. 50 of 1916, and Supplementary Grants.

Treasury, September 18, 1916.

The Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd., London, announces the purchase on behalf of the Imperial Japanese Government of a further half-million pounds of 4½ per cent. sterling bonds, £125,000 of the first series and £375,000 of the second series. During the past three weeks the Japanese Government have announced purchases of these bonds to the extent of £1,000,000.

AUGUST RUBBER OUTPUTS.

Company.	Current Estimate.	Last All-in Cost.	July. lbs.	(+) or (-) lbs.	Months.	Aggregate lbs.	(+) or (-) lbs.
Aboyme Clyde	302,629	1/10.26	76,691	-	425	64,318	2,17
Allagar	312,000	1/12.05	24,600	-	1,000	177,200	6,100
Alliance	161,716	-	14,911	+ 1,346	8	81,773	144
Alor Pongsu	270,000	1/0.88	21,845	+ 384	8	163,220	25,247
Ampat	130,000	1/3.30	14,300	+ 5,420	11	140,190	62,620
Anglo-Java	1,697,000	-	121,800	+ 67,300	8	1,042,720	592,432
Anglo-Johore	270,000	1/4.20	21,713	+ 2,580	8	99,656	5,454
Anglo-Malay	1,660,600	1/1	140,871	+ 422	8	1,107,084	172,172
Anglo-Sum.	840,704	1/11.25	71,726	+ 14,088	3	217,431	34,083
Asahan	257,151	1/4.13	28,871	+ 11,476	1	28,871	14,476
As. T. Ceylon	211,116	1/0.50	16,918	+ 1,180	2	32,007	3,129
Ayer Kuning	595,000	1/2.98	69,000	+ 26,100	8	411,922	175,978
Bagan Serai.	348,550	1/0.28	31,000	+ 6,681	8	215,613	41,150
Bah Lias	-	-	10,638	+ 1,021	10	76,617	34,173
Bayee Kidool.	110,000	1/9.12	10,000	+ 2,634	5	66,361	14,360
Bakap.	337,150	1/4.88	25,500	+ 2,582	2	52,800	7,701
Bambakelly	260,000	1/1.43	19,489	+ 4,800	5	76,462	13,957
Bandar Sum.	290,550	1/8.45	20,140	+ 8,999	1	29,120	8,999
Bandjarsarie	213,000	-	15,500	+ 1,080	8	158,400	54,107
Bandarapola	300,000	-	20,000	+ 1,000	8	109,800	41,000
Bandardawa	220,000	1/7	15,200	+ 400	2	33,480	370
Bantam	495,000	1/1.80	30,030	+ 7,280	4	707,231	-
Banteng	286,220	1/1.94	29,000	+ 5,344	2	117,350	38,640
Batak Rabit	292,000	1/1.99	29,000	+ 5,344	2	117,350	38,640
Batang Mal.	300,000	1/2.60	25,600	+ 6,953	8	172,760	37,282
Batu Caves	600,000	1/1.04	63,783	+ 6,310	8	422,475	31,580
" Matang	113,160	1/1.04	12,625	+ 1,377	2	25,535	3,010
" Rita	366,820	1/1.61	31,000	+ 13,850	2	71,740	20,790
" Tiga	750,000	1/0.39	65,000	+ 286	8	487,504	76,175
Beuf'n B'm'o	231,510	1/5.75	21,500	+ 3,100	4	78,500	-
Bekoh	299,715	1/2.61	32,300	+ 9,066	2	65,300	13,645
Bentota	210,000	1/0.33	33,613	+ 6,425	8	128,278	21,644
Beranang	208,700	1/7.95	23,666	+ 6,421	2	50,935	19,100
Bernam-Perk	222,400	1/2.41	23,000	+ 5,400	2	46,500	17,200
Bidor	-	1/1.83	31,150	+ 5,900	8	257,150	82,428
Bikam	310,000	1/4.24	31,400	+ 4,200	5	104,900	12,000
Bode	100,360	1/6.98	31,150	+ 5,900	8	257,150	82,428
Bradwell	400,000	1/5.08	40,927	+ 10,550	8	118,014	57,144
Brannston	360,000	1/1.10	19,812	+ 8,884	8	228,532	60,505
Brit Born Para	260,000	1/1	35,000	+ 5,884	11	330,400	51,106
British Malay	280,000	-	22,800	+ 2,800	4	84,800	10,800
Brooklands	397,000	1/11.26	48,075	+ 20,132	7	122,147	-
Broom	249,490	1/3.77	33,044	+ 12,894	2	94,744	39,313
Bukit Cloh	290,000	1/10.39	24,000	+ 1,000	8	146,000	27,059
" Ijok	280,000	1/0.74	28,500	+ 5,500	8	204,500	65,500
" Kajang	738,805	1/0.82	76,250	+ 13,250	2	104,250	41,200
" Lintang	279,121	1/0.36	23,600	+ 60	2	50,900	2,960
" Mert'um	780,000	1/1.08	57,744	+ 12,241	5	281,840	67,440
" Pan'ing	455,000	1/0.7	46,000	+ 6,000	8	371,500	88,740
" Semb.	877,000	1/11.83	89,327	+ 21,319	8	378,159	105,047
Carey United	283,000	-	63,500	+ 10,400	8	448,300	122,000
Castlefield	475,161	1/10.70	25,173	+ 6,213	11	205,707	10,011
Cent. Trav.	240,000	1/3.08	45,380	+ 1,443	2	98,495	7,774
Ceylon Para	682,031	1/4.23	22,353	+ 5,129	8	106,566	25,965
Ceylon T. & R.	260,000	1/3.92	78,834	+ 7,232	8	492,026	101,126
Changkat-Sal.	630,000	1/1.39	19,833	+ 3,009	8	140,914	3,738
Chemb Malay	385,000	1/1.32	49,500	+ 19,700	8	495,000	200,000
Cheras	170,000	1/6.62	24,103	+ 3,079	8	146,103	45,720
Chersonese	720,000	1/11.44	100,800	+ 8,268	8	100,800	48,255
Cherviot	370,000	1/3.48	64,837	+ 2,735	8	434,059	32,330
Chimpul	150,000	1/1.75	30,023	+ 3,805	8	204,720	57,675
Chota	190,000	1/2.34	14,117	+ 2,190	5	70,666	16,040
Cicely	345,000	1/1.08	18,405	+ 4,110	8	134,911	41,539
Cluny	225,000	1/3.01	14,544	+ 18,740	8	145,444	18,740
Cons. Malay	809,000	1/11.93	145,923	+ 29,661	8	145,923	29,661
Dalketh	400,000	1/0.79	68,058	+ 6,818	8	468,058	68,818
Damansara	650,000	1/11.95	267,079	+ 3,201	8	501,675	38,397
Dangan	183,808	1/2	72,653	+ 19,123	8	108,794	108,794
Dennistoun	580,500	1/1.13	19,875	+ 5,027	2	37,536	9,430
Devitaur	320,000	1/0.27	56,000	+ 5,280	8	369,000	6,180
Dimbula	340,000	1/10.36	33,680	+ 5,230	8	179,030	3,690
Djasinga	242,120	1/4.51	18,732	+ 4,442	8	187,632	7,225
Djember	80,000	-	22,000	+ 13,619	2	51,000	27,333
Doranakande	210,000	1/2.30	10,500	+ 6,000	8	99,500	5,124
Duff Develop.	400,400	1/7.40	19,900	+ 1,393	8	95,842	5,124
Dusun Durian	520,000	1/11.47	54,000	+ 12,000	8	380,000	148,000
E. Ind. & Cey.	175,540	1/3.36	70,488	+ 37,726	8	448,801	216,611
Edinburgh	327,000	1/0.71	15,200	+ 2,990	8	100,875	3,285
Elphill	170,000	1/8.21	39,500	+ 13,500	8	264,000	81,500
Emerald	320,000	1/2	14,669	+ 4,056	8	116,246	47,478
Eow Seng	170,000	1/1.20	35,000	+ 14,500	7	179,900	67,012
Escot	180,000	1/2.32	14,580	+ 1,280	8	100,078	3,663
Fed. Malay S.	1,538,982	1/9.50	167,000	+ 40,000	3	474,000	113,468
Fed. Selangor	345,000	1/0.01	31,854	+ 1,213	5	124,450	31,549
Galaba	103,144	-	11,350	+ 161	8	61,580	6,922
Galang Besar	388,730	1/8.24	38,500	+ 4,800	1	65,500	4,800
Gan Kee	135,100	1/5.37	14,133	+ 3,137	2	28,210	6,114
Garing	150,000	1/3.49	14,500	+ 2,800	11	144,030	31,145
Gedong	184,000	1/0.68	17,755	+ 4,486	8	149,374	49,714
Gen. Ceylon	835,000	1/10.10	89,500	+ 1,111	8	498,690	80,880
Glen Bervie	220,000	1/2.57	22,840	+ 3,717	11	213,740	30,161
Glendon	240,000	1/1.66	27,177	+ 4,483	11	208,590	18,541
Glenshiel	295,600	1/3.06	33,150	+ 13,355	2	227,050	92,221
Golconda	498,000	1/11.86	54,767	+ 12,787	8	369,779	70,960
Golden Hope	225,000	1/2.04	26,067	+ 10,325	8	158,665	32,627
Grand Cent.	4,000,000	1/0.72	391,499	+ 27,951	8	2,377,686	387,155
Gula Kal'p'g.	1,269,000	1/11.8	110,000	+ 12,530	8	718,099	90,305
Harpender	432,000	1/11.23	52,200	+ 16,700	8	324,350	69,605
Hayoep	451,000	1/4.59	35,964	+ 5,163	8	325,304	127,186
Heawood	200,000	1/3.28	19,179	+ 7,114	8	121,044	11,420
Hewagum	650,000	1/2.80	64,500	+ 7,000	8	337,000	37,100
Hid. Streams	190,000	-	20,500	+ 5,500	8	148,700	46,700
Highlands	1,233,000	1/11.24	120,119	+ 8,235	8	831,642	103,437
Inch-Kenneth	286,380	1/2.46	35,000	+ 13,150	3	101,150	36,100
Insulinde	175,140	1/8.92	19,300	+ 8,360	2	36,760	13,460
Java Amal.	450,000	-	31,200	+ 7,500	8	322,870	102,600
Java R. & P.	240,000	-	17,900	+ 7,800	8	194,433	-
Java Para	250,000	1/1.20	19,900	+ 10,720	8	154,259	58,949
Jeram	-	-	21,855	+ 1,548	2	98,173	15,468
Johore Para.	167,100	1/1.80	16,000	+ 1,700	5	28,600	100
" Rub. Ld.	1,026,000	1/0.6	84,000	+ 42,701	8	486,000	256,423
Jong Landoi	551,715	1/8.27	59,036	+ 19,731	2	112,467	32,694
Jukra Estate	350,000	1/0.60	30,910	+ 3,022	5	143,425	41,837
Jugra Land	1,090,000	1/11.35	96,016	+ 32,308	4	134,876	103,576
Kajang	160,000	1/1.95	28,400	+ 19,700	8	142,775	74,838
Kali Gagah.	200,000	-	13,000	+ 7,500	5	65,300	18,847
Kamp Kua't'n	350,000	1/10.93	31,700	+ 4,200	8	229,200	24,700
Kamuning	725,050	1/1.93	76,640	+ 12,620	2	143,230	19,800
Kapar Para	762,800	1/0.62	76,184	+ 20,714	8	492,952	1,603
Karak	138,201	2/1.88	18,466	+ 7,024	8	121,480	38,527
Kasintoe	260,000	-	20,000	+ 14,774	8	148,715	109,000
Kawit Java	450,000	-	20,100	+ 10,800	5	185,000	36,003
Kepit'galla	59,000	1/4	55,824	+ 7,250	5	230,539	34,868
Kepong	300,000	1/9.53	26,000	+ 5,500	8	188,500	16,000
Kerala	215,000	-	25,440	+ 12,131	8	100,096	37,690
Khota Tampin	200,000	1/3.30	17,000	+ 500	7	103,000	22,750
Killinghall	220,879	1/2.12	23,957	+ 5,851	8	146,951	12,031
Kuanan	263,000	2/1.39	25,000	+ 14,080	8	146,000	87,830
Kinta Kellas.	445,000	1/2.81	44,343	+ 17,943	5	199,358	88,358
Klabang	220,000	1/4.15	20,502	+ 5,487	8	136,846	28,569
Klangang	-	1/0.91	36,427	+ 10,935	8	257,081	5,009
Kombok	419,000	1/1.59	41,150	+ 5,150	8	332,980	132,180
Kuala Klang	175,000	1/11.57	14,666	+ 592	11	172,586	25,465
" Kubu	129,921	2/2.35	12,086	+ 2,715	2	24,416	6,230
" Lumpur	1,409,230	1/0.55	144,540	+ 16,400	2	277,200	24,750
" Nal	210,000	1/2.36	20,300	+ 8,650	8	117,800	43,497
" Pali	160,000	-	15,993	+ 6,493	8	98,697	37,199
" Selangor	600,000	1/9.2	55,192	+ 6,778	8	411,494	62,090
Kurau	330,000	1/11.98	29,100	+ 374	8	204,100	27,997
Labu	600,000	1/0.49	-	-	7	294,599	36,510
Lanadron							

Tanj. Malim	761,806a	1/3.76	82,170	+ 23,070	2	157,410	+ 44,135
Tandjong	1,206,536a	1/2.28	121,103	+ 40,497	2	242,589	+ 80,366
Tangoel	222,825a	1/4.85	15,510	+ 11,995	2	28,930	+ 14,105
Tebrau	933,041a	1/1.95	92,653	+ 18,375	2	170,932	+ 25,402
Teekoy	222,170a	1/5	22,006	+ 8,494	2	22,906	+ 8,494
Telagoredjo	237,000	—	24,800	+ 18,127	8	209,176	+ 174,318
Tenomb'neio	530,000	1/11.93	50,250	+ 14,250	8	357,950	+ 77,550
Third Mile	425,000	1/0.30	37,885	+ 10,465	8	286,441	+ 90,963
Tremelbye	528,500a	1/0.38	58,000	+ 12,900	2	116,000	+ 26,150
Trolak	225,000	1/3	25,675	+ 7,371	11	242,447	+ 71,674
Ulu Rantau	227,048a	1/2.49	25,257	+ 8,209	8	156,261	+ 15,666
U. Sua Betong	800,000	1/2.77	60,830	+ 14,680	8	469,561	+ 236,840
U. Serdang	2,913,800	1/11.79	243,230	+ 32,222	12	3,024,454	+ 549,482
U. Sumatra	800,000	1/0.7	72,978	+ 20,321	8	509,819	+ 111,750
U. Temiang	387,830a	1/3.28	43,730	+ 16,150	1	43,730	+ 16,150
Uva	154,450a	—	12,637	+ 724	8	116,135	+ 14,190
Val d'Or	250,000	1/3	30,282	+ 11,282	10	233,631	+ 102,879
Victoria	—	—	11,965	+ 9,985	2	22,945	+ 19,060
Windsor	253,000a	1/4.21	25,900	+ 9,000	8	161,860	+ 79,836
Woodend	180,000	—	19,213	+ 3,873	11	99,952	+ 19,707
Yam Seng	300,000	1/2.75	32,385	+ 6,223	11	288,873	+ 92,618
Yatiantota	—	—	41,527	+ 10,067	8	228,236	+ 19,493

a Last year's crop.

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down	Sept. 15	£ 4,313	+ 460	†	£ 140,135	+ 4,113
Grand Canal	.. ..	.. 15	932	—	.. 12,006	— 938
Great Northern	.. ..	.. 15	26,535	+ 1,485	.. 888,588	+ 26,688
Gt. Southern and Western	.. ..	.. 15	37,078	+ 2,879	.. 1,210,266	+ 32,978
Midland Great Western	.. ..	.. 15	16,101	+ 1,903	.. 475,412	+ 2,360

* From Jan. 1. † From July 1.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

Assam Bengal	Aug. 12	Rs. 1,14,000	+ 10,091	†	Rs. 23,79,411	+ 1,60,463
Bengal & N.-W.	.. ..	.. 12	3,82,690	+ 1,21,710	.. 82,86,282	+ 11,63,837
Bengal Nagpur	.. ..	.. 12	8,12,000	+ 1,58,000	.. 1,81,89,905	+ 30,89,248
Bombay, Baroda	Sept. 9	10,63,000	+ 2,59,000	†	3,00,22,000	+ 26,48,000
Burma	Aug. 12	3,53,491	+ 52,426	†	74,92,862	+ 1,62,858
Delhi Umballa	Sept. 9	75,700	+ 17,658	†	15,81,478	+ 1,34,311
East Indian	.. ..	.. 16	22,53,000	+ 3,05,000	.. 5,23,13,000	+ 27,45,000
Gt. Indian Penin.	.. ..	.. 9	16,15,400	+ 2,16,300	.. 4,40,96,774	+ 78,44,575
Lucknow-Bareilly	Aug. 12	39,046	+ 9,083	†	8,45,569	+ 87,326
Madras and S.	.. ..	.. 19	8,75,000	+ 99,841	.. 1,99,58,992	+ 14,46,912
Mahratta	.. ..	.. 19	1,07,602	+ 6,550	.. 25,69,174	+ 1,48,168
Nizam's Gd. (Broad)	(Metre)	.. 19	56,550	+ 3,681	.. 14,48,671	+ 39,293
Robilkund and	.. ..	.. 12	32,521	+ 5,739	.. 8,10,283	+ 1,00,058
Kumaon	.. ..	.. 19	5,75,489	+ 46,707	.. 1,23,26,419	+ 9,04,374
South Indian	.. ..	.. 19	5,75,489	+ 46,707	.. 1,23,26,419	+ 9,04,374

a 13 days. † April 1. ‡ October 1.

COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

Beira	July *	£ 34,763	+ 439	†	£ 34,763	+ 439
Canadian Northern	Sept. 14	£ 608,000	+ 77,100	†	£ 8,690,000	+ 390,300
Canadian Pacific	.. ..	.. 14	2,728,000	+ 554,000	.. 30,534,000	+ 962,000
Gr. Trk. Main Line	.. ..	.. 14	205,582	+ 34,529	.. 6,553,136	+ 908,498
Gr. Trk. Western	.. ..	.. 14	353,030	+ 73,977	.. 1,365,520	+ 318,434
Detroit G. H. & M.	.. ..	.. 14	13,383	+ 932	.. 481,139	+ 103,380
Gr Trk Pac Prairie	.. ..	.. 14	13,918	+ 189	.. 170,968	+ 42,686
Mashonaland	June *	59,685	+ 6,011	3	805,097	+ 88,804
Mid. of Westn. Aus.	July *	4,902	+ 367	1	4,902	+ 367
New Cape Central	Aug. 19	1,405	+ 190	†	51,855	+ 7,590
Rhodesia	.. ..	.. 19	87,807	+ 522	.. 170,230	+ 7,241

a 9 days. * Months. † July 1. ‡ Jan. 1. c From Oct. 1.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Chesapeake & Ohio	Sept. 7	\$ 755,000	+ 53,000	†	\$ 8,951,000	+ 527,000
Chicago G.W.	.. ..	.. 7	311,000	+ 35,000	.. 2,195,000	+ 243,000
Colorado & South'n	Aug. 21	303,000	+ 9,000	†	2,167,000	+ 208,000
Denver & Rio Gran.	Sept. 7	536,000	+ 9,000	†	4,988,000	+ 213,000
Louisville & Nashville	.. ..	.. 7	1,02,000	+ 12,000	.. 11,720,000	+ 1,54,000
Minn. S.P. (Soo)	Aug. 21	644,000	+ 60,000	†	5,027,000	+ 1,098,000
Missouri Pacific	.. ..	.. 7	719,000	+ 146,000	.. 6,984,000	+ 1,239,000
Northern Kansas	.. ..	.. 21	1,043,000	+ 267,000	.. 9,745,000	+ 1,683,000
Southern	.. ..	.. 7	1,412,000	+ 135,000	.. 13,206,000	+ 1,233,000

§ Includes Wisconsin Central. † From July 1.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—HOME.

Bristol	Sept. 15	£ 11,026	+ 857	†	£ 372,705	+ 16,369
Dublin United	.. ..	.. 8	6,739	+ 178	.. 216,424	+ 3,072
Hastings and Dist.	.. ..	.. 15	1,551	+ 163	.. 39,718	+ 2,423
Isle of Thanet	.. ..	.. 16	642	+ 93	.. 18,845	+ 3,112
Lancashire United	.. ..	.. 13	2,020	+ 91	.. 67,116	+ 2,516
Provincial	.. ..	.. 16	2,951	+ 357	.. 116,337	+ 6,642
Yorks. (Wst. Rdng.)	.. ..	.. 17	1,805	+ 198	.. 66,706	+ 6,100

* From Oct. 1. † From Jan. 1.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.

Anglo-Argentine	Sept. 16	£ 51,992	+ 4,366	†	£ 1,876,799	+ 3,768
Auckland Electric	Aug. 25b	20,467	+ 591	a	41,974	+ 55
Brazilian Traction	.. ..	.. 8	4,050,000	+ 1,500,000	.. 26,688,000	+ 844,580
Brisbane Elec. Inv.	.. ..	.. 7	37,900	+ 2,836	.. 265,130	+ 20,416
British Columbia	July §	\$ 538,293	+ \$ 7,570	†	\$ 538,293	+ \$ 7,570
B.A. Lacrosse	.. ..	.. Aug.	30,431	+ 5,037	.. 74,870	+ 6,058
Burmah Electric	.. ..	.. b	Rs. 24,412	+ Rs. 747	.. —	+ Rs. 747
Calcutta	Sept. 16	Rs. 74,403	+ Rs. 7,105	†	Rs. 24,11,512	+ 1,16,893
Cordoba Light	.. ..	.. July	14,263	+ 112	.. 57,313	+ 776
Hongkong	.. ..	.. Aug. 12	\$ 18,822	+ \$ 7,233	.. \$ 458,667	+ \$ 100,834
La Plata	.. ..	.. b	3,792	+ 373	.. 33,627	+ 358
Lima	.. ..	.. May §	15,693	+ 69	.. 78,913	+ 1,440
Madras Electric	Sept. 15c	Rs. 34,512	+ Rs. 3,707	†	Rs. 37,998	+ Rs. 3,241
Mexico	.. ..	.. Nov. §	\$ 215,255	+ \$ 108,669	.. \$ 3,193,106	+ \$ 197,227
Puebla	.. ..	.. Dec.	\$ 40,000	+ \$ 25,000	.. \$ 669,500	+ \$ 44,500
Rangoon	.. ..	.. Aug.	\$ 4,253	+ \$ 257	.. 32,342	+ 1,693
Singapore Electric	.. ..	.. May	\$ 438,997	+ \$ 65,935	.. \$ 358,597	+ \$ 44,324
Toronto	.. ..	.. Aug.	\$ 26,044	+ \$ 440	.. \$ 1,693,709	+ \$ 19,986
United of Monte V.	.. ..	.. Apl.	\$ 83,500	+ \$ 39,090	.. 292,332	+ 13,986
Vera Cruz	.. ..	.. July §	\$ 74,587	+ \$ 4,966	.. \$ 287,400	+ \$ 142,000
Winnipeg	.. ..	.. July §	\$ 74,587	+ \$ 4,966	.. \$ 705,095	+ \$ 5,598

b 28 days. * From Jan. 1. § Net. a From July 1. c Two weeks.

MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

NAME.	Month.	NET EARNINGS FOR MONTH.		No. of Mths.	NET EARNINGS TO DATE.	
		Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year		Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year
Atholston T. & S. Fé	July	Dols. 4,069,000	+ 720,000	1	Dols. 4,069,000	+ 720,000
Atlantic Coast Line	.. ..	.. 460,000	+ 222,000	1	.. 460,000	+ 222,000
Baltimore & Ohio	.. ..	.. 3,087,000	+ 10,000	1	.. 3,087,000	+ 10,000
Canadian Northern	.. ..	.. 1,197,400	+ 711,000	1	.. 1,197,400	+ 711,000
Canadian Pacific	.. ..	.. 4,017,000	+ 1,217,000	1	.. 4,017,000	+ 1,217,000
Chesapeake & Ohio	.. ..	.. 1,355,000	+ 213,000	1	.. 1,355,000	+ 213,000
Chicago & N.W.	.. ..	.. 2,448,000	+ 800,000	1	.. 2,448,000	+ 800,000
Chicago Burl. & Q.	May	2,869,000	+ 1,230,000	11	37,764,500	+ 9,266,000
Chicago G.W.	July	913,000	+ 25,000	1	913,000	+ 25,000
Chicago Mil. & S.P.	.. ..	.. 1,389,000	+ 378,000	1	.. 1,389,000	+ 378,000
Chicago, Rock I. & P.	June	1,473,000	+ 419,000	12	16,811,000	+ 2,771,000
Colorado & Southern	May	447,000	+ 227,000	11	5,317,000	+ 1,457,000
Cuba	.. ..	.. 604,000	+ 147,000	12	6,815,000	+ 1,609,000
Do.	.. ..	.. 261,131	+ 482	11	2,314,953	+ 626,709
Delaware & Hud.	.. ..	.. 719,000	+ 19,000	6	4,205,000	+ 583,000
Denver & Rio Gran.	.. ..	.. 1,847,000	+ 171,000	12	10,151,000	+ 2,611,000
Erie	.. ..	.. 1,737,000	+ 222,000	7	12,388,000	+ 2,908,000
Gr. Tr. Main Line	.. ..	.. £ 262,200	+ £ 35,100	7	£ 1,425,850	+ £ 167,000
Grand Trunk Western	.. ..	.. £ 49,400	+ £ 24,000	7	£ 288,900	+ £ 243,800
Detroit G. H. & Mil.	.. ..	.. £ 11,150	+ £ 1,350	7	£ 32,250	+ £ 39,850
Gt. Northern	June	2,912,000	+ 821,000	12	37,370,000	+ 7,035,000
Illinois Central	.. ..	.. 1,023,000	+ 491,000	1	1,023,000	+ 491,000
Kansas City Southn.	.. ..	.. 534,000	+ 68,000	1	534,000	+ 68,000
Lehigh Valley	.. ..	.. 1,222,000	+ 194,000	1	1,222,000	+ 194,000
Louisville & Nashv.	.. ..	.. 1,433,000	+ 250,000	1	1,433,000	+ 250,000
Minn. S.P. (Soo)	June	1,043,000	+ 493,000	1	1,043,000	+ 493,000
Miss. K. & Texas	July	617,000	+ 145,000	1	617,000	+ 145,000
Missouri Pacific	.. ..	.. 601,000	+ 491,000	1	601,000	+ 491,000
New York Cent. & H.	July	5,720,000	+ 1,319,000	7	35,358,000	+ 12,600,000
N.Y. N. Haven & H.	June	2,130,000	+ 752,000	12	22,382,000	+ 3,647,000
New York Ont. & W.	July	406,000	+ 24,000	1	406,000	+ 24,000
Norfolk & Western	.. ..	.. 1,816,000	+ 128,000	1	1,816,000	+ 128,000
Northern Pacific	.. ..	.. 2,592,000	+ 430,000	12	31,032,000	+ 9,482,000
Pennsylvania East and West Lines	July	11,330,000	+ 1,575,000	7	62,097,000	+ 23,634,000
St. Louis & San F.	May	1,201,000	+ 310,000	11	12,343,000	+ 1,747,000
Seaboard Air Line	June	467,000	+ 74,000	12	4,670,000	+ 74,000
Southern	.. ..	.. 1,282,000	+ 83,000	1	1,282,000	+ 83,000
Southern Pacific	.. ..	.. 5,048,000	+ 456,000	1	5,048,000	+ 456,000
Union Pacific	.. ..	.. 3,454,000	+ 605,000	1	3,454,000	+ 605,000
Wabash	.. ..	.. 1,016,000	+ 512,000	1	1,016,000	+ 512,000

§ Includes Wisconsin Central. * Gross earnings. † Surplus.

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.				Wks.	GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.	
	Week ending	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	Amount		In. or dec. on last year.	
		£	£		£	£	
Alcoy and Gandia..	Sept. 16	Ps. 10,000	—	Ps. 1,000	+	Ps. 491,600	+ Ps. 38,900
Antofagasta (Chili)	" 17	35,370	+	8,920	+	1,245,390	+ 359,885
Arauco	July	8,100	+	1,350	+	152,330	+ 17,666
Argentine N.E.	Sept. 16	6,700	—	334	—	74,602	— 2,240
Bilbao R. and Canta	Aug. *	6,457	+	1,236	+	36,518	+ 2,366
Bolivar	" *	8,500	+	1,111	+	15,500	+ 968
Brazil	July *	M3,357,000	+	M7,935	+	M246,600	+ M219,720
Brazil Gt. Southern	June *	M18,35,800	—	M7,350	—	M214,690	+ M5,400
B. Ayres & Pacific	Sept. 16	82,000	+	12,000	+	939,000	+ 8,000
Do. Gt. Southern	" 17	99,000	+	15,000	+	1,064,254	+ 134,346
Do. Western	" 17	56,000	+	19,000	+	556,000	+ 63,000
Central Argentine.	" 16	117,000	—	8,000	—	1,263,100	— 20,700
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte V.	" 16	11,192	+	1,764	+	121,017	— 230
Do. East'n Ex.	" 16	3,548	—	598	—	39,819	+ 1,343
Do. North'n Ex.	" 16	1,884	—	503	—	20,249	— 294
Do. West'n Ex.	" 16	1,693	—	123	—	17,071	— 97
Colombian National	Aug. *	13,760	+	1,062	+	90,940	+ 8,600
Cordoba Central ..	Sept. 16	30,300	—	535	—	381,100	+ 4,735
Costa Rica	July 1	6,499	—	1,867	—	928	— 1,051
Cuban Central ..	Sept. 16	9,621	—	1,740	—	103,472	+ 16,760
Dorada Extension..	Aug *	9,500	—	400	—	64,000	+ 1,100
Egyptian Delta ..	20a	4,922	+	943	+	65,442	+ 12,615
Entre Rios	Sept. 16	11,300	+	2,000	+	132,800	+ 29,000
French Sante Fé ..	July	90,932	—	15,010	—	619,079	+ 91,801
Gt. South. of Spain	Sept. 9	Ps. 75,420	—	Ps. 12,118	—	Ps. 532,973	+ Ps. 406,728
Gt. West. of Brazil.	" 16	10,300	—	3,300	—	328,600	+ 27,800
Havana Central ..	" 2	6,594	—	1,649	—	53,980	+ 5,089
Inter. of C. Amer..	Aug. c*	15,411	—	3,052	—	243,104	+ 91,241
La Gualra and Car.	" *	7,590	—	1,750	—	65,000	+ 10,250
Leopoldina	Sept. 16	37,451	—	3,275	—	861,575	+ 209,190
Manilla (Nr. & Stb.)	" 16	—	—	—	+	328,951	+ 9,920
Midland Uruguay ..	"	8,362	—	4,010	—	18,043	+ 4,913
Mogyana	Aug. *	M2,819,000	—	M221,678	—	M160,500	— M108,781
N.W. of Uruguay ..	Aug. *	£20,000	—	£5,148	—	39,250	— £10,813
Nitrate	Sept. 15b	30,040	—	21,031	—	715,187	+ 246,525
Paraguay Central ..	" 2	2,520	—	1,000	—	20,160	+ 6,892
Paulista	July *	M4,000,000	+	M31,867	+	M152,000	+ M98,384
Peruvian Corp'n ..	" *	583,450	—	510,592	—	510,799	+ St. 514,384
Salvador	Sept. 16	£14,150	—	2,150	—	£228,957	+ £17,953
S. Paulo (Brazilian)	" 10	35,198	—	407	—	955,884	+ 79,000
Sorocabana	May *	M1,269,000	—	M23,000	—	M6,960,000	+ M2,000,000
Taital	Aug. *	19,688	—	1,470	—	39,308	+ 12,930
United of Havana..	Sept. 16	32,581	—	8,938	—	330,346	+ 63,704
West'n of Havana..	" 16	5,891	—	1,253	—	67,115	+ 9,554
Zafra and Huelva..	Aug. *	13,099	+	3,488	+	91,505	+ 28,688

BONDS CANCELLED.

IMPERIAL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT 4½
PER CENT. STERLING LOAN OF 1905.

The Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd., London, announces that £125,000 4½ per Cent. Sterling Bonds of the 1st SERIES and £375,000 4½ per Cent. Sterling Bonds of the 2nd SERIES have been PURCHASED on behalf of the Imperial Japanese Government for the purpose of cancellation, and the said BONDS are now CANCELLED.

The NUMBERS of the BONDS so CANCELLED are the following:—

IMPERIAL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT 4½
PER CENT. LOAN.

(FIRST SERIES.)

16 BONDS of £500.

210063 210546 210562 211250 211455 211721 211833 211835/9
211905/8.

306 BONDS of £200.

130082 130623 130942 131135 133306 133999 135233 135391/6
135014 130123 137058 138150 138180/6 138599 138806 138873/5
139346 139533 139683 139986 140480 140553 140567/8 141066/7
141084 142184/5 142195 142275 142551 143596 143842 143989
144078 144330 144883/4 145193 145715/6 145720 147731 148153
148639 148880/1 149113/9 149413 151878 152498 153171 153401
154510 154512 155013/9 157265/7 157768 157910 157914/23 158126
158738/40 158760/6 159191 159246/7 159393 159510 159921
160164/6, 160711/20 160787 160892/3 161269/73 161282 161810
161906 162273/7 163858 164355 164646 164809 164849/51 164953
165384 165493/4 166038/9 166957 167125 168320 168669 168899
169388 169438/9 169642 171442 171783 171900 172014/5 172075/7
172491, 172507/8, 172962 173085/7 173208 173220 173882 173953/4
174317 174351/7 174532/3 175085 175129 175236 175998/700
176913 176943 178537 179125 179188/7 180677 180971 181799
181962 182669 182921 183047/9 183330/1 183548 184091 184102/4
185221 185229 185499/5 185692/5 185771/2 185779 185977
186176/7 186432 187213 187653/60 187832 188032 188577/8
188631 189416 189736/7 190183/4 190304 191544 193040/7
193845/6 193850/1 194429 194730/1 195174 195413/6 195629,
195692 195855 196201 196480/2 197220 198322/3 198779/83 199347
199501 199707/8 201303 202058 202180 203107 206126 206138
206802 206992 207295 207622 208008 208186 208536 209455
209584/6.

558 BONDS OF £100.

649/53 772 1177 1198/9 1304/8 1572 1888/9 2508 2832 3173/4
3381/2 3558/67 3626 3842 3882/4 4329 4602 5475/6 5818/9 5214/5
7400/4 7514/5 7543/4 7780 8389/90 8448 8975 8988 9135 10243/4
10307/8 10321/5 11136 11541/4 11818 12561 13025/8 13170 14772
14775/6 15645/6 16669 17853 18307 18394/5 18398 19216 19702
20185/7 20400 21276 22243 22642/3 22655 22849/50 22889 23147
23165 23316/20 24425 24793/4 26149 26639 26711/22 27127 27403/6
27558 27570/2 27588 28287/9 28303/6 29620/1 30003/7 30338
30376 30619 31181/2 31594 31728/0 32300/1 32330/3 32395 32681
33008 33381 33966 34299/300 35493 36296 36519 38071 38360/15
38725 40288 40326 40437/8 40559 40928 41442 41776 41851/2
42179/80 42322 43799 43941 44212 45475 45602 46870 47242 47596
47598/600 47716 47998 48587 49288/91 49319/21 49497 50493
51265/6 51353 51972 51980/6 52346 52589/90 52826 53576/7 53974
54010 54012/21 54113/4 55271 55500/9 55532 56138 56689 58600/8
59014 59990/3 61636/7 61680/96 61920 62156 62303/4 62938
62946/53 63193 63781 64116/8 64818 66275 66586 68872 69179
70381/2 70695 70785/6 70843 70888/90 72447 73126 73251/3 73380
73646/55 74202 74607 76306 76415 76532 77236/7 77316 77880
78082/3 78504 79452/3 80111 80114 81110/1 81800 82550/2 82679
82683 83511/4 84030/1 85334 85355 85575 85754 85951 87226 87434
87830 88347 88387 89286 89454 90958/9 91328/36 91812 91884/5
92496/7 92575 94012 94031 94375 95117 95732 95760/1 95814
97222/35 97755 98372 98400 98601/10 98660 98804 99450 99521/2
101337 101710 101959/60 102694 103924 103955 104232/46 104522
104682 104806 104814 106023/32 106402 106779 107385/9 107820/7
108052 108456/70 109099 109789 109832 110964 111083 111105
111108 111159 111684 112278/9 113528/9 113579/80 113585/6
115117 115404 115491 115957 115962/4 116018 116895 117248/9
118418 118803/4 118870 119453 120374 120972 121528 121624 122070
123538 123587 124402 126485 126738 127123 127754 12760 128467
128953 129314/5 129873 129943/4.

IMPERIAL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT 4½
PER CENT. LOAN.

(SECOND SERIES.)

1,119 BONDS OF £200.

325776/940 325979/91 326033 326178/9 326858 326962 327006
327449/68 327520 327632/7 327718 327773 327796 328338 328827/9
328803/6 329008 330083 330334/6 330502/3 330779 331059/64
332337 332509 332741/5 332775 332840 333300 333478 333510
333791 333886 334301 334463/5 335317/9 335372/418 335801
336009/10 336646/7 336652/3 336662/4 336715 336941/2 337050
337054/6 337127 337179 337441 337514 337531/3 338218 338670/2
339349 339940 341246 341337 341415 341420 341430 341447 341744
342184/8 342425/6 342454 342863/4 342927/8 342939/40 343208
343355 343556 343906/83 344001/5 344200/7 344374/9 344583
344795/6 344948 345061/2 345476/8 345481/3 345585 345611/2
345618/25 345678 345851/2 345932/6 346080 346082/3 346446/7

347283 347310 347356 347603/5 347608 347843 347857 348190
348194 8 348468 348518/23 348767/1 349130 349161 349335 349432
349523/4 349600/10 349614 349672 350158 350350 350426/9 350657
350685 351051/2 351133 351650/12 351820 352131 352133 352162/4
352178 352182 352591/600 352610 352721 353202/4 353221/35
353240/53 353687/8 354105/6 354126/40 354168 354377 8 354747
354750 355070 355142 355326/7 355541 355705 355720 355770/3
355939 356026/9 356200 356241/4 356391/2 357575 357946 357954
358114 358172 358176/7 358413 358536 359261 359278/81 359896
359905/8 362024/9 362077 362191/2 362242 362405 362346 363953
364186 364237/40 364267/72 364355 364360 364758/61 364871/2
364931 365112 365126/32 365369/73 365621 and 365640 365731
365839 365934 366000/1 366066 366111/26 366251 366537/8 366733/6
366768/9 366908/9 367081/2 367378 367665 368100 368356/7 368720
368922 368946/7 369247 369365/6 369392/5 369449 369584
369634/8 369883/4 370005/11 370178 370940 370960 371009 371039
371598/9 371618 371915 371992 372084/8 372278 372356/60
372372/6 372387/8 372555 372808 372950 372953 372966/8 373135
373148.51 373478 373482 373612/26 373608 373840 373944/6
374046/50 374062 374257/61 374274/6 374328/32 374354/5 374426/7
374452/4 374494/5 374506/10 374554 374626/31 374656/601
374735/49 374914 6 375036 375350/61 375583/4 375600/8 375621
375708/26 375856/7 376003/5 376274/6 376375 376431 376763
376767 377486 377768 378101/4 378903 379393/6 379501 379735/8
379847 379968/77 380262 380347 380474 380490 380995 381117
381122 381371/2 381597 381753/7 381991 382058 382060 382070/2
382079 382085 382091 382093 382095/6 382340 382419/20 382542
382595/6 382634/7 382711 382725 382821 383815/5 383550/5
383559/62 383655 383783 383821 383920 384040 384042 384071
384136 384423 384462 384557 384665 384724 384790/1 384802/8
384853 384881 385407/8 385463/7 385610 385851/2 385962 385963/4
386006/7 386014 386021 386432 386440 386443 386897/8 387020/1
387026 387031/5 387064 387138 387204/9 387230 387233 387239
387247/50 387261 387264 387267 387273 387286 387290 387408/11
387693 387930 387981 388039/40 388047/63 388068/9 388122/6
389015 389150 389198 389904 390383 390463 390551 390656 390700/1
390773 390991/2 391109 391113 391274 391281 391285 6 391261
391353 391408 391650/1 391651 391656 391658 50 391663/4 391663
391675 391770 391846 391854 391778 391816 391812 391816/20
391976 391987 400044 400742 400786 400791/2 401196 401200
401300 401786 401810 401880 402377 402398

1,295 BONDS OF £100.

225013/4 225370 225426/31 225466/75 226124 226637 226692
226756/60 227806 228557 228886 229754 229838/9 230129 230573/84
230710 230799 231153 231941 232051 232445/8 232366 232393
232725 232800/1 232916 232927 232946 234044/5 235034 235185
236125 236733 237249 237259/2 238071 238216 238327 238454 238467
238903/4 238974 239192 239346 239665/79 239707 240307 242391/2
242400 242789/90 242800 242858 243047/9 243164/7 243339/40
243472 244359/60 244537 244635 244545/5 244817 245069 245165
245657 245688 245868 245994 246518 246942 247155/6 247510/1
247817 248027/36 248665 249000 249241 249473 249604 250305
250564 250817 250846 251019 251167 251751 251777 251823
252866/7 252969 253303 253411 254471 255245/8 256018 256116
256294 256614 256787 257606 257849/53 258731 258819 258924
260189 260269/70 261104 261390 261457 261629 261719 262453
262527 263139/208 263824 263836/9 264184/5 264373 264477
265265 265290 265355 265572 265757 265800 265954/5 266016/7
266196 266745 266562 266787 267438 267458 267616 267977 268158
268225/7 268297 268378 268515/6 269297/8 270458 270979/80 271858
272608 272636 273181 273331 274031 274371 274661 275125 275537
276577 277598 277604 277762 277766 277803 277811 279168/9
279329 279463 279675 280204 280333 280362 280747 280988 281221
281492 282211 282278 282517 282524 282555 282582/5 282861
282983 283208 283590/1 283875 283954 284110 284144 284148
284742 284780 284501 284577 284950 285362 285872 286950 287017
287168 287250 287442 287669 288401 288510 289025 289094 290515
290649 290728 290793/4 291547 291581 291676 292198 292378
292651 293000 293152 293177 293272 293317 293494 294002 294301
294345 294487 294658 294666 295063 295110 295289 295702/4
295766 295856 296052 296348 296542 296914 297192 297195 297302
298460 298691 298737 299141 299697 301031 301232 301888 302307
303242 303340 304230/1 304459 304691 304792/5 304828 305312
305610 306343 306730 307029 307056 307091 307415 307594 308366
308791 309939 310042 310076 310273 310660 311045 311677/8
312214 312641 312808 312886 313014 313468 314321 314706/7
314892 315576 315598 315902 316143 316334 317170 317757 318152
318185 318510 319107/8 319167/8 319860 320259 320453 320751
320944 321854 322245 322980 323035 323251 323393 323595 324112
324147 324174 324902.

1,085 BONDS OF £20.

384 460 492 900 1773/4 1779 1998 2223/4 3148/9 4350 4535/6
4774/5 4936 6183 6436/50 7745 7755 9060 9062 9163/6 10045
10419 10476 12887/8 12897 12920 13036/8, 13918 14128/9 14292/5
14306 14883/4 15314 8 15621 15941/2 16793 16741/2 17821 17913
18006 18063 18944/5 19147/58 19938 20937 20952/70 21458/02
21681 22018/9 22494 23918/20 23936/8 24050/2 24101/2 24354/68
25174/7 25300 25378 25620 25681/5 26335/7 26607 27040 27228/8
27823/5 27857.8 28119 28142 29443 30154/8 30179 30214 30471
31085 31284/5 32551/2 32668 32670 32672/3 33047/8 33407
33583/7 33716 33717/2 34127/1 34428 35495 354331/4 357741/82
36274/7 36303/6 36318/22 36523/4 36548 36842 37162/3 37473
37682/4 37722 37982 39028/32 39151/2 39166/8 39172/7 40008
40016 41701/2 41908/8 42178/81 42557/60 42775 8 43003/5
44158/05 44633/5 45203/4 45508 45640 45822 46087 46114 46364/8
46687/90 47430 47971/2 48127 48380 48639/41 48884/6 49105
49573 50356/7 50359/90 50470/4 52083 52085/6 52719 53758
53790 54108 54286 54594/8 54816/9 54860 54918/22 55142, 55181
55310 55327 55957/8 55960/3 56038 56250/60 56182 56366/7 57136
57162 57883/4 58585/6 58700 58855/8 59308/402 59502/4 610001
61085/9 61143/4 61229/30 61435 61453/65 51930 62170 62289/99

62384 62805 63394/7 63795 63960 64291/2 64390/1 64630/1
64715/22 65150/1 65934 66007/10 66014 66139 66750/4 67077/8
67499 67511/15 67540 67559 67838 68060/2 68422/3 68934
68957/61 69780 71033/4 71136/7 71665/7 71888 71963/71 72254/7
72510/12 72558/9 72612 72720 72765 73058 73288/98 73846 73940
75233 75455/6 75872 76260/9 76664/5 77399/400 77437 77561/2
77615 79130/3 79172 80011 80416 80610/11 82159 82453 82579
82883 83558 85419 85557 85630 85870 85958 86154 86170 87241/2
88322/31 89275/6 90198/9 90218/21 90584 91126 91557 92262/3
92275 92808 92843 93079 93084/5 93603 93972 93976 94423/5
94497/500 94650/1 94719 94722/3 94836 95160 95300 95513/7
96745 96867/7 97162/5 97563/4 98084 98112/4 98592/3 98803
98864 98951 99117 99630/2 100436 100452 100843 100873/4 100912
100953 101144 101270/1 101482 101485 101724 101749 102323/4
102368/9 103150 103643 104020 104330 104459 105465 107011
108537 108940/2 109304 110097 110470 111043/8 111252/3 111255
111676/7 111713 111859 112022/4 112045 112581 113308/9
113562/4 114724 114872 115160 115821/4 116038 116294/5
116504/6 116547/53 116863 117218 118030 118094/6 118257 118266
118310/4 119259/60 119285 119826/7 119902 119905 121172/4
122242 123694/7 124100/4 124917/8 124997/8 125045 126137/8
126141 126403 126706 126806/7 127170/1 127234 127734 127822/5
128001/8 128347 128365 129661 130021 131362/4 131546 133592
134508/10 134548 134980 135871 136189 136415 137093 137945
138393/4 138470 138487 139301/2 139329/30 139548 139569
139610 139629 140544 140659/63 141713/4 141784 141827 142103
142643 142671 142728 143837 144494/6 144537 144913/4 145036
145107 145921 146478/81 146918/9 147512/3 147854 148608 148610
148744/6 148773/7 149527 149558/67 150388 150506 150744
151662/6 152019/20 152103 152271 152909 153551 153736 154114
154144/5 154407 154881/2 155115/6 155215/6 155964 156042
156047 156893 157649 158894 159187/8 159196 159498/500 160289
160394 162350 162674/5 162688 163848 164538/40 164660 165758/9
165770 165930 166299 166346/9 166358/66 167107/8 167341/2
167440/2 169029 169366/7 169474 169588/92 170110/1 170237
170897 171517/21 171783/6 171960/3 172796 174023 178324 178360
178414 178520 179376 179565 179567 180071 180742/3 180829/31
180905 180907 180974 182817 182962 184531/4 185120 185802
186803/4 186989 187040 187123 187392/3 187720 187885 187890
188138/9 188261 188707 189118/20 189189/90 189975/8 190854
191608 191620/1 191707 192311 192785 193184 193772/3 193759
194138 194272 194436/8 195045/7 196630 197473/4 197575 198583
198810/2 199215 200786/7 202520/3 207491 207724/5 207814/5
208274 208449 208788 209807/8 211530 211532 211916 213454
215078/9 215576 216960/2 217014 217189 217564 218616/7 220451
220911 221201/3 221397/8 221589 221869/71 222218 222513
224271 224449/50 224468.

London, September 22, 1916

COMPANY MEETINGS.

EUROPEAN OILFIELDS CORPORATION, LTD.

Mr. Herbert Allen, presiding at the annual general meeting of this company, held on Thursday, said it was not an uncommon practice for chairmen of company meetings to look round for troubles that could be attributed to the war, but in their case there was very little beyond the extra cost of materials, the scarcity of labour, and the lower value of the rouble that they could complain of. Against this there were the absence of strikes and the high price of oil; the latter was largely due to the war, and atoned for many drawbacks. But the main point was that the year on the whole had not been a bad one. So far as the operations in Baku were concerned, it was the most prosperous year in the history of the company, the trading profit having been Rs. 890,152, against a previous best of Rs. 711,647 for 1913-14. It was only when they came to take the rouble at its exchange value, for the purposes of the London accounts, that the comparison became unfavourable, and the sterling value of these Rs. 890,152 was reduced from £93,700 to £62,992. The rate of exchange was quite outside the ken and control of the local management, whose sole business was to make as many roubles as possible, and they had nothing to complain of in the local management last year. The gross and nett production were little short of the previous year's, and the average price realised was a trifle better. It used to be a complaint against the Anglo-Baku oil companies that they seldom got the average market price, but in recent years, thanks to the caution displayed in making forward contracts, the average realised had much more often than not been in excess of the market average. They had just concluded a contract under which the whole of their production from November 1, 1916, to May 1, 1919, would be taken at one copeck per pood above average market price, with a guaranteed minimum of 42 copecks. This he believed to be the most favourable contract of its kind ever effected at Baku, and that was precisely what he said at the time of its predecessor. The Government had decreed a maximum selling price of 45 copecks. Their gross income was £56,551, and deducting general charges £3,794, interest and redemption of debenture stock £15,125, and income-tax £2,747, they were left with a nett profit of £34,884, of which £25,000 was appropriated to the reserve. With this addition the reserve would stand at the substantial sum of £135,000, and the reduction of the debenture debt, being effected out of profits, was tantamount to a further provision for depreciation. Of the remaining £9,884 they applied one-fifth, or £1,977, to the redemption of profit-sharing notes, and the balance, amounting to £7,907, added to the sum brought in from previous account, now enabled them to carry forward a total of £50,334. As to the financial position of the company, the balance-sheet spoke for itself, and everything was taken on the most conservative basis, the investments in particular being written down well below both cost and market value. Their interests in Roumania were too insignificant to call for special mention. A small venture in Borneo had been all but cleared up, with results quite satisfactory in their way; the situation in California, where they had a small investment on the Midway field, appeared to be improving. In London at the present time they had ample resources for all prospective requirements, including the full debenture service of interest and redemption in November next, and at Baku their cash resources were now about twice what were shown in the accounts before the meeting, even taking the rouble at its exchange value on London. In short, their finances were what might be described as "comfortable"; so much so that it might be asked why it should be considered necessary to refrain from a distribution of the profits. There were several reasons for this, one being the desirability of accumulating a fair reserve of working capital for the acquisition and development of new lands. In addition to their Baku properties, they had interests at Maikop, Adjikabul, and Grosny, but from whatever quarter their output was to be replenished they ought to feel the benefit of possessing the requisite working capital and of having formed a generous reserve for renewals and depreciation. After the close of the financial year their gross production took a decided turn for the better, with the result that the weekly average for the first five months of the current year had been 101,000 poods, as against 88,000 poods for the corresponding period last year. With a continuance of the present production and present prices the current year's results should compare very well with those of its immediate predecessor, which, on the whole, gave them little cause for complaint. In saying this, however, he made no allowance one way or the other for the military and economic situation here and on the Continent, as that would open up a very wide question and might put a very different complexion on everything. All he could say at the moment was that the company was never in a sounder position than now.

JAMES EADIE, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the TRANSFER BOOKS of the Debenture Stock and Preference Shares of this Company will be CLOSED from September 22nd to October 5th, both inclusive.

By order of the Board,

CHARLES W. INSLEY, Secretary.

Answers to Correspondents.

* A Key to these Answers will be posted early each week for a subscription of ONE GUINEA per annum, 11s. for six months, or 5s. 9d. for three months.

Deposits against future queries may be lodged with the Publisher.

W. G.—The proposed share is a very good security, and as it is entitled to an extra 2 per cent. under certain conditions, there is, perhaps, some rise in the price, but you must not look for a large profit.

Edward.—It has perhaps the best chance of any among these stocks to improve by and by.

Fallow.—Almost the best way, perhaps, would be to sell the stocks as they come. None of them promises to recover much, but Nos. 1 and 2 should be safe enough to keep, and No. 3 is repayable in three years' time. So sell the things you have any profit or the least loss upon. No. 8, for example, should show a profit if you have held it for some time, and so should No. 6, and possibly No. 5. We do not see great scope for growth in No. 4, and No. 7 is a lottery with seemingly dwindling chances.

F. H. J.—Be in no hurry. Dividend anticipations pessimistic, but as a lock-up the stock should be good enough.

Answer by Wire.—Better not. Business a speculation. Not enough facts given.

C. L. J.—The interest is safe, but they are not particularly cheap. No not buy unless you can get them under 19s.

St. Helens.—It is quite a fair price under existing conditions, and we think you should sell. You might get a little more in the market, and you are helping just as much if you sell there.

D. D. D.—They are issued by the Bank of England, run for two years, and can be got at 89 per cent.

W. B. W.—It is a good company of its class, and you may see a further rise. If so, you should take your profit in part at any rate.

Cains.—Three and a-half per Cent. War Stock. Dividends can be automatically invested.

Wrex.—We cannot say that the price will not go lower, but if you are prepared to wait, we think you might buy some now.

L. A. M.—The last report was quite good, and we think you might buy more.

Black Sea Amalgamated.—Output for week ended September 16, 20,129 poods (325 tons).

Maikop Combine.—Output for week ended September 16, 5,186 poods (84 tons).

Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Co.,

(Incorporated in the Transvaal.)

LIMITED.

REPORT OF DIRECTORS to be submitted to the Shareholders at a Meeting to be held in the Board Room, Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, Limited, Consolidated Building, Fox street, Johannesburg, on Tuesday, the 21st day of November, 1916, at 11.30 a.m.

ACCOUNTS.

1. The Directors submit herewith the Company's Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account for the financial year ended 30th June, 1916.

PROFITS.

2. The profits of the Company during the year under review, after providing for depreciation of assets, amounted to £195,826 4s 1d, which, together with £163,017 14s 2d brought forward from last year, results in a total available balance of £358,843 18s 3d.

In view of the fact that the Company had so little opportunity of participating in any new business of importance, this result may be regarded as satisfactory.

DIVIDEND.

3. On the 21st June the Directors declared a dividend of 5 per cent. for the Company's financial year ended the 30th June last, which will be payable to Shareholders registered on that date. The warrants will be posted to Shareholders on the 28th September.

VALUATION OF SHAREHOLDINGS.

4. In accordance with its usual custom, the Company has written down its holdings to their respective market valuation as at the 30th June. The aggregate value of the Company's holdings is largely in excess of the figure at which they stand in the Balance Sheet.

FINANCIAL POSITION.

5. The financial position of the Company is one of exceptional strength. The amount of its liquid assets, largely represented by Government Securities, shows considerable increase, and when normal conditions again prevail the Company is in a most favourable position to extend its operations as opportunities occur.

MINES IN WHICH THE COMPANY IS LARGELY INTERESTED.

6. The principal gold mines under the Company's control continue to show steady progress. The arrangements referred to in the last Annual Report for the disposal of the Company's gold are still in force and operate satisfactorily.

The Consolidated Langlaagte Mines, Limited: The profits of this Company have recently shown a falling off, but its last half-yearly dividend was maintained at the rate of 12½%. In addition to the prescribed debenture redemption of £25,000, further debentures amounting to £20,000 have been purchased, reducing the total now outstanding to £150,000.

The Van Ryn Deep, Limited: The returns from this Mine continue to improve, and the additional profits earned enabled the Company to increase its last half-yearly dividend from 17½% to 20%.

The Witwatersrand Gold Mining Company, Limited (Knights): The operations of this Company continue to be very satisfactory, and dividends on a basis of 50% per annum are maintained.

The Government Gold Mining Areas (Modderfontein) Consolidated, Limited: The returns from this Mine continue to show marked progress. The installation of the additional plant, referred to in the Directors' last Annual Report, is now nearing completion, and is expected to be in full operation about the end

of the year. The high expectations entertained in regard to this property have been fully justified.

GOLD PRODUCTION.

7. The value of the gold produced by the Company's Group of Mines for the year ended 30th June last amounted to £4,060,625, showing an increase of £438,418 as compared with the previous twelve months.

The total amount of dividends distributed during the year under review was £1,070,771, being an increase of £71,311 in comparison with the year ended 30th June, 1915.

INCOME TAX.

8. Your Directors note with satisfaction that the English Finance Act of 1916 affords for the first time some relief to English Shareholders in South African Mining and other Companies in respect of income tax paid by such Companies to the Union Government, and that in assessing such relief the Inland Revenue Authorities have agreed to accept the profits Tax charged on the Mines as equivalent to an income tax.

It is to be hoped that when this matter obtains the full consideration which has been promised the application of the principle of rebate now happily established will be very considerably extended.

ESTATES AND TOWN PROPERTIES.

9. As indicated in the Directors' last Annual Report, the Company's revenue from this class of investment has been adversely affected by the conditions prevailing in Johannesburg in consequence of such a commendably large proportion of its male population having joined the fighting forces of the Empire.

CHAIRMAN'S VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA.

10. Last year your Permanent Chairman, Mr. S. B. Joel, visited South Africa, and presided at the Company's Annual Meeting. He took the opportunity of going thoroughly into all matters affecting the Company's interests, and dealt very fully with them in his speech to the Shareholders. The Board are gratified to state that Mr. Joel will again visit South Africa this autumn on the Company's behalf, when he will be accompanied by Professor J. G. Law, the Company's Consulting Engineer.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS.

11. In terms of the Articles of Association four of the Directors, viz., Sir Robert B. Llewellyn, Charles Marx, John Munro, and H. A. Rogers, retire by rotation and offer themselves for re-election.

ELECTION OF AUDITORS.

12. Messrs. J. P. O'Reilly and Henry Hains, the Auditors of the Company in Johannesburg, and Messrs. Chatteris, Nichols & Co., the Auditors in London, retire from office and offer themselves for re-election.

By Order of the Board,

THOMAS HONEY,

London Secretary.

London, 21st September, 1916.

BALANCE SHEET, 30th June, 1916.

DR.	CAPITAL AND LIABILITIES.	£	s	d
Authorised Capital—(Under Resolution of 23rd November, 1905)	£4,500,000 0 0			
Of which £4,345,000 is Registered Capital.				
Capital Issued	3,950,000 0 0			
Reserve Fund	250,000 0 0			
Sundry Creditors	502,719 16 4			
Dividend (No. 19) of 5% declared 21st June	197,500 0 0			
Profit Appropriation Account—Balance	161,343 18 3			
Contingent Liabilities—Uncalled Capital on Investments, &c.	£37,699 8 1			
		£5,061,563	14	7

CR.	ASSETS.	£	s	d
Stocks and Shares	2,907,860 9 7			
Mining Properties and Advances to Mining Companies	42,451 8 1			
Real Estate and Buildings	627,260 12 9			
Loans on Mortgage and Real Estate	130,928 12 3			
Pre-War Loans against Securities, subject to the Treasury and Stock Exchange Regulations	297,338 0 2			
Loans at Short Call on Market Securities	£379,390 14 4			
British Government Treasury Bills	387,264 18 5			
Sundry Debtors and Dividends Accrued	235,664 15 5			
Cash at Bankers and in hand	47,170 17 6			
	1,049,491 5 8			
Office Furniture, &c.	6,233 6 1			
	£5,061,563	14	7	

S. B. JOEL, Chairman, } Directors.
A. R. STEPHENSON, }

We report that we have examined the above Balance Sheet, dated 30th June, 1916, with the books and vouchers of the Company in Johannesburg and have obtained all the information and explanations we have required as Auditors. In our opinion such Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Company's affairs according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us, and as shown by the books of the Company. We have also verified the securities in South Africa.

J. P. O'REILLY, } Auditors.
HENRY HAINS, }
Incorporated Accountants.

Johannesburg, 5th July, 1916.

THOMAS HONEY, Secretary.
We report to the Shareholders that we have audited the Accounts of the London Office of the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, Limited, dated the 30th June, 1916, and have obtained all the information and explanations we have required. The Audited Accounts of the Johannesburg Office have been properly incorporated in the above Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account, and in our opinion, the Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Company's affairs according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us and as shown by the books of the Company. We have also verified the securities in London.

CHATTERIS, NICHOLS & CO., } Auditors.
London, 2nd August, 1916. Chartered Accountants, }

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT for the Year ended 30 June, 1916.

DR.	£	s	d
To Directors' Fees, Salaries, War Donations and other expenses, less Amounts received from other Companies	33,280	2	4
„ Balance, being realised profit for the year after Appropriation Account	195,826	4	1
	£229,106	6	5

CR.	£	s	d
By Profits realised on Stocks and Shares, Dividends, Commissions and Sundry Receipts, less South African Income-tax and Amounts written off	229,106	6	5
	£229,106	6	5

PROFITS APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT.

DR.	£	s	d
To Dividend No. 19 of 5% declared 21st June, 1916	197,500	0	0
„ Balance carried to Balance Sheet	161,343	18	3
	£358,843	18	3

CR.	£	s	d
By Balance of Profit and Loss Account at 30th June, 1915	163,017	14	2
„ Do. at 30th June, 1916	195,826	4	1
	£358,843	18	3

The Investors' Review

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THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.

(Registered in Japan.)

ESTABLISHED 1880.

Subscribed Capital	Yen 48,000,000
Capital Paid Up	Yen 30,000,000
Reserve Fund	Yen 20,800,000

Head Office: YOKOHAMA.

Branches and Agencies at

Antung-Hsien.	Harbin.	Shanghai.
Bombay.	Nagasaki.	Singapore.
Calcutta.	Honolulu.	Newchang.
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Fengtien (Mukden).	Liaoyang.	Osaka.
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The Bank buys and receives for collection Bills of Exchange, issues Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit on above places and elsewhere, and transacts General Banking Business.

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K. TATSUMI, Manager.

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Head Office: 15, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.

Capital Authorised	£1,500,000
Capital Issued	1,125,000
Capital Paid Up	562,500
Reserve Fund	550,000

Branches:

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CHINA, AND PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS.

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On current accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on daily balances.

THE UNION BANK OF AUSTRALIA

ESTABLISHED 1837.

LIMITED.

INCORPORATED 1880.

Authorised and Issued Capital, £6,000,000.

Paid-up Capital, £2,000,000; Reserve Fund, £1,960,000; together £3,960,000

Reserve Liability of Proprietors 4,000,000

Total Capital and Reserves £7,960,000

HEAD OFFICE - - - 71, CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.

DRAFTS are granted on the Bank's Branches throughout the Australian States and Dominion of New Zealand.

TELEGRAPHIC REMITTANCES are also made.

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Authorised Capital	£4,000,000
Paid-up Capital	1,800,000
Reserve Fund	2,000,000

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SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	£6,194,100
PAID-UP CAPITAL	£1,548,525
RESERVE FUND	£2,000,000
UNCALLED CAPITAL	£4,645,575
	£8,194,100

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Sir David Miller Barbour, K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G.	William Smart, Esq.
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James Fairbairn Finlay, Esq., C.S.I.	H. L. M. Tritton, Esq.

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Branch - 11, Calea Victoriei, Bucarest.

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Chairman:

EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, K.P., C.V.O., C.B.

Vice-Chairman:

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Bankers:

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Head Office—71 Old Broad Street, E.C.

Subscribed Capital	£1,278,747	10	0
Paid up Capital	869,665	0	0
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits	354,791	5	3
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	606,962	10	0

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Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C.

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The Editors cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

Letters from correspondents must, in every case, be authenticated by the name and address of the writer.

The Editors desire it to be understood that a charge is made for the insertion of reports under the heading of Company Meetings, and they cannot accept responsibility for statements made therein.

ANSWERS TO QUERIES.

One Reply to One Question — One Shilling. Any number of questions may be put and will be answered at the rate of **One Shilling** each. The questions should be numbered and a copy kept, as securities cannot be named with comments in the printed replies. Questions to be answered in the current issue should reach us not later than Friday morning.

For a fee of **One Guinea** per annum paid in advance, **Key** to the previous week's replies will be sent early in the following week.

Deposits of "Query Money" may be made in advance, and will be acknowledged in the "Answers" column. Notice of exhaustion will also be given there.

Telegrams advising about new securities cost **Half-a-Crown** each, plus cost of the telegram.

Private Letters in answer to inquiries can be had if desired. The minimum charge for such letters is **Ten Shillings**, but for this three questions will be answered if desired. For every question beyond three replied to in any one letter the charge is **Half-a-Crown per question**.

Correspondents can have their lists of investments overhauled and advised upon by letter on terms varying according to the time taken.

Groups of Five Stocks for investment supplied at the rate of **One Guinea**, each list different.

Passing Events.

Revenue last week was good, no less than £9,892,000, which was £3,528,000 more than in the previous week, and up-to-date the revenue from all sources shows an increase of £55,243,000, being £155,756,000, against £100,513,000 12 months ago. To this larger stream the excess profits tax has so far contributed £25,998,000; last week alone it contributed £3,087,000. But the ordinary income-tax, it should be noted, is also giving more money, and furnished £1,470,000 last week as compared with £444,000. That, however, may be due to the fact that the tax is now collected by instalments instead of in a lump at the beginning of the final quarter of the fiscal year. The revenue, good though it was, left about £35,000,000 of the expenditure to be furnished by borrowing, and as there were £12,797,000 of temporary advances to be repaid, a total of £57,394,000, including £50,000 repaid on bullion advances account, had to be furnished. The Treasury succeeded in finding all the money, and £2,169,000 more, which was added to the Exchequer balances in the Bank. Of the aggregate £35,169,000 was provided by Treasury bills, £2,302,000 by Exchequer bonds, £615,000 by Expenditure certificates, and £1,000,000 by War Saving certificates. Other debt to the amount of £10,495,000 was created, presumably in replacement of debt falling due, and in this way the financing of the war proceeded smoothly enough, but the nett addition of the week to the floating debt in Treasury bills raises its total to £1,003,552,000. The expenditure to date this year has been £1,081,000,000, which compares with only £894,848,000 in the corresponding period of last year. In spite, therefore, of the larger income from taxation, the addition to the public debt caused by the war has been greater this year than last.

In the past week ended September 22, our rate of expenditure reached a higher figure than ever before. Its total was £44,547,000, or an average of £6,364,000 a day. The previous highest total was for July 15, when £43,173,000 was paid out, or £1,374,000 less than last week's outgoings, and only to £6,168,000 per day. Is there any substantial justification for this formidable increase in the war expenditure, for no less than £41,500,000 of the total went to sustain the war? Yes,

there is the obvious fact that on all fronts our expenditure of ammunition, the maintenance of our own and our Allies' armies in active campaign, and the increase in the number of troops engaged, must inevitably involve larger outlays of money. Moreover, the home services, anti-aircraft and other, are calling for additional outlay, our overseas air services too must now be a source of great and growing expense, and the strenuous work done by our Navy, of which we hear only too little, is likewise growing in costliness as the efficiency of our blockade and the perfectioning of our capacity to reduce the scope of the enemy's submarine ravages grow wider in their demands. Large expenditure is, indeed, imperative. It will be a growing expenditure in all probability as long as our offensive in Macedonia and in France continues overwhelming. In East Africa, too, and in Mesopotamia, let us hope to better purpose, considerable sums must often be required, as well as in Egypt. We must then concentrate our hopes upon a speedy realisation of the necessary victory. The faster we can press on, the sooner will the enemy be reduced to impotence. We are happy to think that the speed accelerates now.

And how is our fell enemy getting on with his finance? He takes good care not to tell us anything about his revenue, but possibly the wrangle expected in the Reichstag when it meets may permit some scraps of information to leak out. What we can be sure of is that War Loan No. 5 has not been a success. Every conceivable trick of the disreputable financier and unscrupulous Government official grown desperate has been utilised to try and make the loan look a success, and they have failed. Municipalities are said to have turned their debts into war loan subscriptions, though how that could be done we have not yet discovered. Begging has descended to a scramble after the children's school pence. Belgium has been robbed, as we have already described, and the great Kaiser himself is reported to have risked another £10,000 of his own in the venture. And it has all ended in a miserable fiasco; but it must again be repeated, the failure will not end the war, not yet. It will only increase the difficulty of the enemy in making pretence of any kind to meet his colossal expenditure, and make the enrolment of Prussia's Allies in the Hohenzollern ruin more paralytically complete.

A few particulars about Australian Commonwealth finance were communicated by Mr. Higgs, the Commonwealth Treasurer, in his financial statement delivered on Wednesday last. He told the House of Representatives that the total receipts for the past financial year had been £91,052,000, of which £30,627,000 was ordinary revenue. War loans raised in Australia produced £35,257,000, and the war loan obtained from the British Government came to another £22,400,000, this, we presume, being independent of the British Government's advance to the Commonwealth Government to enable the wheat crop to be secured and financed. That advance amounted to £8,978,000. Outstanding Treasury bills, Mr. Higgs further stated, amounted to £2,768,000. He puts the total receipts for the current financial year at £127,836,000, including £45,931,000 of war loans to be raised in Australia and £13,000,000 to be contributed by the Home Government. The total would be made up by the balance of £17,075,000 unspent out of the borrowings of the preceding year. For the expenditure of the past financial year under all heads and including an ordinary expenditure of £24,065,000, was only £73,978,000, of which revenue provided £3,563,000 and loans £37,632,000. For the current year the expenditure is estimated at a figure exactly balancing the forecast of revenue—that is to say, £127,836,000. Out of this £32,586,000, or fully £8,500,000 more than last year, is put down as ordinary expenditure, including what should be capital outlay on new works and the increased cost of old-age pensions. War expenditure provided from revenue is set down at £6,343,000 and from loans at £78,956,000. Altogether, therefore, in the two years ending June 30 next, the war alone will have cost the Commonwealth about £127,000,000, a cruel exaction imposed upon a peaceful community by the unscrupulous enemy. What is to be done in the way of extra taxes to help the Commonwealth to sustain this great burden? There is to be an amusement tax imposed, estimated to produce £2,000,000, a "war profits" tax set down for £3,000,000, an increase in the ordinary income-tax expected to give another £1,000,000, and, finally, a "levy on wealth," details about which the telegram does not convey, which is expected to yield £3,333,000—per annum, we presume—for the next three years, the money to be devoted to the repatriation of the country's warriors. Will penal legislation be required to keep German goods out of Australia when the war is over?

A summary of the revenues of the six States of Australia for the year closed June 30 last, taken from the July number of the *Australasian Insurance and Banking Record*, may be worth preserving, and we therefore reprint the table here. It shows that all the six States did remarkably well, each giving an increase in the revenue, Victoria leading. A recovery in the railway income, product of the large harvests, as well as additional taxation, contributed to add £2,691,000 to the total income gathered by the six. New South Wales, with a revenue of £19,630,000, showed an increase of £702,000, and Victoria, with £11,070,000 of income, a gain of £821,000. Others follow with vigour, as in the table:—

	1914-15.		1915-16.		Movement.
Total Revenue.	£		£		£
New South Wales	18,927,537	..	19,629,900	..	+ 702,364
Victoria	10,248,761	..	11,069,584	..	+ 820,823
Queensland	7,202,658	..	7,706,365	..	+ 503,707
South Australia ..	3,973,310	..	4,355,408	..	+ 382,098
West Australia....	5,140,725	..	5,356,759	..	+ 216,034
Tasmania	1,225,957	..	1,292,079	..	+ 66,122
Total	46,718,947	..	49,410,095	..	+ 2,691,148

The railways produced in all about £1,170,000 of this increase, and taxation gave £1,136,000 additional. New taxation seems to have been most prolific in Queensland, which gathered in £504,000 more, and when the additional taxation falling to be collected by the overshadowing Commonwealth is added, the

seven Governments of Australia managed in their past fiscal year to raise their tax revenue to nearly £30,000,000, or to about £6 per head of the population, a remarkable performance, for which Governments and people deserve the highest credit.

New Zealand would seem to have done nearly, if not quite, as well as any of the States on the mainland of Australia, which is cheering. We do not nowadays receive that early copy of its Finance Minister's budget speech which used to come to us, but then we should never dream of expecting any such courtesy from Sir Joseph Ward. He need have no fear, however, that in present circumstances we should seek to revive the old controversy or call up memories of his early history as a colonial merchant. The times are far too grave for that. Failing an official statement, we have to fall back in this instance also upon the *Australasian Insurance and Banking Record*, which summarises Sir Joseph Ward's budget speech in its usual efficient way. According to the figure produced, the revenue for the year ended March 31 last was £14,884,000 and the expenditure £12,493,000, exclusive of £255,000 transferred temporarily to the war expenses account. The total expenditure consequently fell in appearance short of the income by £2,166,000, but that should not be regarded as a real surplus, because the statement, as given, as is unfortunately too frequently the case in New Zealand finance, does not embrace the whole account. The income from additional taxation is included in the revenue, but the special war outlays for which that additional taxation was imposed is not included in the exhibit of expenditure. It is thus easy to see that, leaving out of account the war outgoings, the estimated expenditure of a year ago has been made to look small—less, in fact, by £160,000 than the estimate, and it may be admitted that the heads of departments are exercising unusual care in preventing waste. Out of the total increase in revenue, which amounted to £1,750,000, no less than £1,383,000 came from taxation, the balance of £378,000 being the product of the railways. Apparently the reduction in the ordinary expenditure was in reality also a matter of account to some extent, for last year none of the public works expenditure was provided out of income, whereas in the preceding year £350,000 was drawn from that source.

As for the financial year now running its course, revenue was estimated at £17,341,000, or £1,898,000 more than that of the year ended March 31 last, and it might be more even than that if the excess profit tax produces the £2,000,000 expected and the special income-tax also imposed should yield an extra £750,000. Indeed, the revenue on a new basis, taking last year's budget product as being capable of yielding nearly £100,000 more, is put at £17,341,000, in hope of again more, and of that £10,255,000 will be the product of a taxation levy equivalent to about £9 5s. per head, against £6 15s. for 1915-16 and £5 10s. for 1914-15. New Zealand in this respect comes out at the top of the scale with a capacity to endure war ravages and pay heavy taxation that may well make the Mother Country envious. War expenditure, however, will consume all the new money and more, for during the past year it amounted to £5,713,000, making with the previous year's expenditure £7,865,000 laid out since the war began up to March 31. War borrowings up to the beginning of May last, totalled £9,850,000, of which £8,500,000 have been supplied by the Imperial Government and £1,350,000 by the Post Offices in New Zealand. There is still £2,150,000 of unexhausted borrowing powers available, and authority for raising another £12,000,000 has been asked for this year, so that provision for all contingencies in the region of credit would seem to have been made with the customary solicitude to be safe.

Communications often arrive at this office from Australia of a kind that reveals other thoughts burning in the minds of un hypnotised citizens there than those made familiar to us by the average Australian political leader or platform hero of the hour. One such arrived the other day from Sydney, N.S.W., and moved us to reflect. It was simply a contrast in figures between the progress made by the Argentine Republic and the Commonwealth of Australia as revealed in the latest published statistics. Argentina has risen now to be "one of the largest food-exporting countries in the world," and Australia has been left behind almost "in everything except sheep, wool and national debt." The following table sets forth the contrasts handily, and it deserves to be ruminated upon, even by great imperial politicians. We should like them to tell us how they propose to increase the pace in Australia so as to lessen the distance between it and its much more favourably placed rival. Thus far the experiments in Socialism have done nothing to help Australia in the struggle for independent existence. Rather have they worsened its position and dimmed its prospects. For Socialism as understood and interpreted in Australia has meant catering obsequiously for the working classes, and almost that alone. Therefore wages have been elevated to an altogether unreal height, and kept there by help of liberal borrowings in the Old Country. To please the working man also—and to disguise the increasing burden of debt interest he is called upon to shoulder—a system of protection was adopted whose effect has been to neutralise in great measure the benefits secured by excessive wages. How long is this coddling and hothouse process going to continue, and what is the end it will conduct the young State to if it be allowed to remain unmodified? Would the leaders of the people be kind enough to bestow a little well-instructed attention on questions like these, and do it soon, for their turn otherwise may not be long?—

	Australia.	Arg'ntina.	EXPORTS (1914-15).	Australia.	Arg'ntina.
	£	£		£	£
National debt	432,000,000	112,000,000	Wheat	859,000	26,512,000
Population.....	4,932,000	8,000,000	Maize	nil	18,695,000
Paper money.....	41,760,000	87,300,000	Linseed	nil	9,222,000
Gold reserve.....	16,000,000	62,100,000	Oats	509,000	3,990,000
Foreign trade	125,000,000	155,788,000	Flour		2,015,000
Excess of exp'ts over imports for 10 years 1906-15	113,000,000	151,886,000	Chilled and frozen beef	3,595,000	15,235,000
Railways.....	20,558 miles.	22,447 miles.	Frozen mutton and lamb	3,454,000	1,261,400
	83% single track.	Mostly double track.	Wool	22,000,000	11,116,000
	55% 3 ft. 6 in. gauge.	broad gauge.	Bran	nil	396,230
			Sheepskins	1,466,000	1,410,000
			Tallow	1,385,000	1,553,000
			Butter	2,659,000	350,000
			Ox and cow hides	3,522,000	9,181,000

Thursday's Times contained a valuable letter from Mr. Jesse Collings on the land and national waste. He recalls the fact that he did the utmost to expand the tiny "experiment" embodied in the Act to enable the Board of Agriculture to buy 8,000 acres of land and establish thereon three colonies containing in all less than 400 families. The estimated cost of that experiment was put at £334,000 as a beginning, and Mr. Collings says this money will simply be wasted. If applied to general cultivation of land it would go some way to meet the shortage of food, but in the manner proposed it can do no good whatever. He moved an amendment to extend the acquisition of land to 60,000 acres, but the Coalition Government would not permit any such generosity. Landowners will allow no breach in their entrenchments. The Act, Mr. Collings says, professes to be an experiment, but maintains that no experiment is needed. We agree. The Continent is full of examples of what has been and can be done on the land by putting it squarely and honestly in possession of the cultivators or by scientific direction as in Germany. In opposing, therefore, the opening of the land of this country, as they are doing, the great landowners are inviting a repetition here of the experience of French aristocrats in the Revolution of 1789. Of that we have no doubt whatever, and that is why we keep urging them to come down from their pedestal and enter into loyal partnership with their fellow-men on the land, high and low, before it is too late. Mr. Collings went on to point out that there are three

main problems in connection with the war which must be faced, viz., our food supply, the employment of ex-service men, and the war costs. They can only be solved by the utilisation of our land, and he declares that if all our waste, badly cultivated and poor grass lands, amounting to millions of acres, were cultivated in the same manner as the fields on the Continent, and as the best farms and small holdings in our own country are, the result would be, first that we should be self-supporting, or nearly, at home and consequently suffer less danger of violent fluctuations in prices; secondly, that employment would be provided in abundance for disbanded warriors at the end of the war; and, thirdly, that means would in this way be furnished to pay for the war. The last prediction is too sanguine, but that the liberation and thorough cultivation of the soil of this country would do much to lighten for the taxpayer the burdens that threaten to become intolerable is beyond question. When is the gabble of land monopolisers, tariff concocters in furtherance of particular interests, *faineants* who desire to remain the Prussians of British society, going to stop and the minds of all interested be turned towards an earnest endeavour to find a solution for one of the most acute problems any country ever had to face?

Some interesting particulars of the progress of the co-operative movement are given by the Chief Registrar of Industrial and Provident Societies in his report for the year 1914. From this it appears that the total membership of the co-operative societies was approximately 3,500,000, an increase of 177,000, or 5.4 per cent., over the previous year, which in turn showed an increase of 5 per cent. over 1912. In Scotland the membership represented 10 per cent. of the total population, in England and Wales 8 per cent., and in Ireland 2 per cent. Sales or income from business amounted to £238,490,000, an increase of £17,035,000, but the total included £94,185,000 derived from the Co-operative Wholesale banking department. Wholesale societies sold goods to the value of £44,343,000, an increase of just over £4,000,000, and the sales of the distributive trading societies amounted to nearly £90,000,000, an increase of £4,075,000. The surplus resulting from the year's working was £15,500,000, of which £12,000,000 was returned to customers as dividends on their purchases, after providing for approximately £2,000,000 to meet interest on shares. It is a wonderful development from the small beginnings which a handful of enthusiasts started in Lancashire not much more than half a century ago.

With crops in the West Indies good and prices generally high, the Colonial Bank might have been expected to do exceedingly well in the half-year ended June 30th. Its gross profits rose by £3,499 to £70,230, but expenses, including income-tax, were £8,863 heavier at £44,839, so that the nett surplus, including £35,110, or £1,025 less, brought in, was actually £6,389 smaller at £60,501. Nothing, however, is written off, compared with £18,000 for depreciation of securities, and the directors pay a dividend of 3½ per cent., less tax, for the half-year. This is the same as for the preceding six months, and compares with 3 per cent., tax free, a year ago. The balance carried forward is £12,811 up at £43,701. Investments, including £275,500 of War Loans, show a reduction of £207,190 at £907,498, but it is satisfactory to note that, whereas a year ago the book value, after allowing for the depreciation reserve, was in excess of market figures, the amount is now less than the market value after the removal of all minimum prices. Specie has been reduced by £62,685 to £371,889, but cash and money at call and short notice in London is £42,906 up at £234,475, and bills receivable, which apparently include £750,000 of Treasury bills, are £886,179 higher at £1,799,747. Debtors in the colonies on current account owe £158,940 more at £463,064, and bills discounted, advances, &c., are £380,086 up at £1,266,727. On the other hand, notes

in circulation have risen by £67,218 to £496,855, and current and deposit accounts are £1,142,818 higher at £3,346,065. Bills payable show a small reduction of £5,411 at £469,978, but there is a new item on both sides of the account of £202,499 for acceptances on account of customers. During the half-year the Act authorising the bank to carry on business in all parts of the British Empire received the sanction of Parliament, and in addition to opening new premises in New York, a cash and bill department is to be established in London at 51, Threadneedle Street.

A very substantial recovery in gross profits is shown by the Bank of Australasia for the six months ended April 10, the total after providing £5,587, or £6,689 less, for rebate on bills, being £49,284 larger at £459,067. Management charges, however, were decidedly heavier at £173,861, and as rates and taxes absorbed an extra £36,562 at £78,544, the nett surplus was £2,115 down at £206,663. The dividend and bonus at the rate of 17 per cent. per annum, tax free, are repeated, but £30,000, or £10,000 less, is transferred to reserve fund, and the balance carried forward is increased by £8,406 to £121,759. Deposits show a small reduction of £15,179 at £20,684,773, but the note circulation is £45,852 up at £304,645, and bills payable and other liabilities have risen by £972,506 to £4,132,325. Cash and Government notes, &c., are £1,449,988 down at £5,687,677, and loans at call and short notice have been reduced by £525,000 to £95,000, but investments in British Government securities have been increased by £903,688 to £1,969,158, and in other securities by £96,671 to £977,817, while bills receivable, advances, &c., are £2,041,227 up at £21,468,529.

In the September issue of the *Journal des Economistes*, Mr. Arthur Raffalovich prints a diagram which sets forth the position of German efforts to throttle the metal industry before the war broke out. The diagram was constructed by the German geographer, Liefmann, and published in an article by him. It shows that the Metal Bank and Metallurgical Co. of Frankfort-on-the-Maine, with a capital of £2,000,000, was the centre of swaying force of a ramification of linked firms by means of which the metal trade was being brought under the control of German Jews almost everywhere. There was affiliated with it or its creature a Swiss Society, the London firm of Henry R. Merton and Co., Ltd., the Australian Metal Co., the Merton Metallurgical Co., the Brussels Minerals Co., the American Metal Co., the African Metal Co., the American Metallurgical Co., and a company called the Auxiliary Society of Mines. At the foot of the exhibit came the Spanish Co. of Minerals and Metals. All this ramification of interlinked traffickers seems to have been brought into existence and operation by gradual evolution from private Israelitish firms in the metal trade, as Mr. Raffalovich points out, so that, although originating in Germany and controlled from Frankfort, the organisation was essentially Jewish, and exhibited that singular characteristic of the financial Jew which tends to keep him restless, and never satisfied with anything short of complete mastery within the line of business he has entered upon. Herr Liefmann apparently exulted over the marvellous exhibit of German coercive power over a particular trade which his diagram illustrated. The "combine" controlled copper, zinc, tin, mercury, antimony, aluminium, and sprang out of offshoots from the private Jewish firm of Abraham Cohen, of Frankfort. Out of that source came the Mertons in London, and Beer-Sondheimer and Hirsch, the one at Frankfort, the other at Halberstadt. With the assistance of their co-racials in America, Mexico, and Belgium—where the Cahen d'Anver and the Société Générale Belge joined the combine—these monopolisers were rapidly working their way into the control of the whole business throughout the world. Nor have they stopped

there. We allude to this subject in order once more to warn our leading merchants and industrialists here to abate their discussions over tariffs, and to transform their schemes for self-aggrandisement into a loyal confederation of energies designed to keep the trade of each country free and to liberate the worker as well as the producer and consumer from the tyranny of the all-grasping financier. The German-Jewish monopolising combinations and interlinking agencies of monopoly were not in essence evil. They became pernicious only in proportion as the selfish ambitions of their designers were liberated from control. It may be that all the industries of all the Allies will come to be controlled and organised in the people's interest, for the public good.

A correspondence has been running in the newspapers about the utility of electric flashes from tram-cars and railways trains in guiding the Zeppelin monsters in their course over London last Sunday morning. Most of the letters seem to have been written under a misapprehension of the facts. From what we have observed, the course of the airship or ships that attacked a London suburb then must have been determined by map and compass much more than by any lines of illumination visible below. The effort of the inhuman beasts was to try and block certain railway lines, and it completely failed, but in carrying it out the route followed was in the main that of a tramway line, which crossed more than one railway. Possibly flashes from the tramcars running on that line did help the Hun pilot in steering his course, but we doubt it, because the underground conduits containing the current used by the cars do not lend themselves to pyrotechnic displays visible at a distance. It is, however, quite otherwise with electric trains driven by the system introduced on the Brighton Railway by the Allgemeine Elektrizitäts Gesellschaft. Trains run by that system flash their way all along the route often so vividly that in dark nights the air is fitfully lighted up at many hundred yards distant, and that is a defect of a most serious kind in times like these. But there was little indication last week that the maintenance of the pyrotechnic train service was of much help to the Zeppelin fiends. It probably could assist, however, in enabling the bombers to guess where stations lay, and it was more their nervous haste than our good management which led to the failure of last week's excursion to do more than the usual slaughter of civilians and damage to private property. It may, therefore, be necessary for the military authorities to forbid in future the running of these electric trains on the Brighton line when Zeppelins are signalled.

The subjoined letter comes from an old subscriber to THE INVESTORS' REVIEW who dwells in Spain. He appends his name, but we shall not disclose it. Much may be forgiven to a man living in the atmosphere of Spain during these critical times, and we feel not the slightest displeasure at the writer's characterisation of our "War Notes." We can assure him that the writing of them affords no delight to us, and no one will rejoice more than we when the necessity to write comes to an end. May we confess, though, that this is the only sneer about the articles that has ever been flung our way. Now as regards the particular grievances the writer dwells on. One arises purely from a misapprehension. The Government has tried the experiment of buying Winnipeg 4 per cent. bonds outright, but in the official notice it was expressly stated that those who did not accept the offer would not be penalised by having to pay excess income-tax. Consequently the people who think that Winnipeg 4 per cent. bonds are worth more than 80, may keep them with perfect safety. We think 80 a remarkably good price, but that is a mere opinion, and those who refuse to look upon the debts of these young Canadian Provinces as likely for some years to be a drag upon their progress when the war is over, should ignore the offer. The other grievance relates to the terms on which the Government accepts the loan of securities, and we

must confess that we thought and think them fair. If the deposited stocks are sold the Government pledges itself to hand out similar stocks of like value or to pay the price at date of deposit plus 5 per cent. bonus, meantime furnishing the full interest to which the owner is entitled. In dealing thus the Government take no small risk, for after the war prices are more likely to go down than up, so much genuine wealth having meantime been destroyed.

During several years you wrote energetic articles against conscription for the Army and "Prussianising" the nation. The Lloyd George-Asquith Government have now put in force conscription for the securities of investors, with a threat of fining those that dissent. (See INVESTORS' REVIEW, August 19, 1916-233.) Clause 6 of the scheme. It here takes the power to sell any security, and pay the owner at the end of five years the price now quoted on the Stock Exchange, at a time when the securities are much depreciated.

In a late number of THE INVESTORS' REVIEW there is an article, that I cannot now find, stating that the British Government wants to buy one of the Winnipeg 4 per cent. loans, redeemable in 40 years. It offers 80 for it. Owners are advised to accept by a Canadian Bank manager, and McKenna evidently sees a profit on the affair. But what about the owners if they do not want to sell? Under these schemes it can force any investor to sell any security it likes to buy at a depreciated price.

You, of course, retort, "The British Government will do nothing dishonourable." I say Lloyd George, the dissenting Welsh attorney, has robbed the Protestant Church in Wales, with the help of the Irish Nationalists, who he has paid with Home Rule. Gladstone robbed the Protestant Church of Ireland, giving part of the money to the Dissenters and part to the Roman Catholics. With these precedents what trust can investors have in the honesty of the Lloyd George-Asquith Government?

Why should the Government force an investor to sell at a depreciated price, then keep the stock till it is paid off at par, thus making a profit on the deal?

If you could for a week or two shorten your abuse of the disreputable German, on which everyone is agreed, and devote the space to telling us what you and your subscribers think of the schemes, you would help us in our difficulties.

You have done your subscribers a service in publishing the schemes, for which I thank you.

In these times we can never be quite sure about balance-sheet figures compared with those of previous years, but the Steel Co. of Scotland, Ltd., has always been prudently managed, and when we find the dividend increased from $7\frac{1}{2}$ to 10 per cent., we assume that the directors feel well justified in doing so. According to the accounts, however, the manufacturing profits to July 13 were £13,500 less at £135,800, and £5,800 more at £43,150 was expended on reconstruction and additions. On the other hand, £20,250 more was brought forward, interest required £2,000 less, and £15,000 less at £25,000 is placed to reserve, so that the available balance is £17,250 higher at £92,488. After paying the dividend mentioned there is a balance of £51,350, or £10,000 more, to be carried forward. Provision has been made for liabilities under the Finance and Munitions Acts, but we are not allowed to discover what they amount to. No doubt, however, the shareholders will be perfectly satisfied with the results. During the year debentures for £6,500 were redeemed, but sundry creditors increased by £255,000 to £405,000, sundry debtors were about doubled at £505,000, and cash showed an increase of £47,000 at £86,910. The reserve fund now amounts to £300,000, against an issued capital of £500,000, and the position is a very strong one.

The Yorkshire Dyeware and Chemical Co. is another undertaking which has derived considerable advantage from the elimination of German competition. Its progress has not perhaps been so great as that of the United Indigo and Chemical Co., but the improvement of £16,578 in the nett profits for the year ended June 30 follows one of £28,870, and is decidedly satisfactory. Including £4,207 more at £4,676 brought forward, the divisible surplus is £58,678, or an increase of £20,785, the greater part of which is kept in hand. The shareholders get a bonus of 3s. 9d., or 25 per cent., as against 1s. 6d. last year, in addition to their dividend of 10 per cent., so that they have no reason to complain, after which the directors transfer an extra £4,000 at £19,000 to reserve, making that fund £45,000, and also set aside £10,000 as a special

reserve for extensions, leaving £3,822, or £855 less, to be carried forward. Property account shows very little change at £85,653, the outlay for the year having been slightly in excess of the depreciation allowance. Stocks, after making provision for probable fall in market prices, are £61,605 up at £128,679, debtors have risen by £48,513 to £131,590, and there is a new item of £139,687 for cash and 5 per cent. Exchequer bonds, while on the other hand £253,867, or £217,370 more, is due to sundry creditors.

Seldom has a company got itself into such a hopeless tangle as the San Antonio Land and Irrigation Co. appears to have done. It was one of Dr. Pearson's ambitious ventures, and was floated in 1911, with a share capital of \$8,000,000 (all gas and water) and £1,200,000 in 6 per cent. 12-year bonds. The latter were offered here at 99 through the Bank of Scotland with the Empire Trust Co. of New York as trustees. A property of 60,000 acres of agricultural land in Texas was acquired, and magnificent profits were anticipated from irrigating the land and reselling it. But schemes of this sort generally take very much longer to mature than enthusiastic promoters calculate, and the San Antonio was no exception to the rule. Bond interest was not earned, and it had to be paid out of capital or borrowed. Collapse came early, and the company defaulted on the coupon due May 1, 1914. Possibly, but for the outbreak of the European war, some arrangement might have been come to; it is far from certain. At any rate, the bondholders as a body declined to come to the rescue, and since then the company has been plunged into a sea of litigation, which is the despair of the people who are trying to save something from the wreckage. Riparian owners below the dam constructed claimed damages for loss of water, and there are numerous cross suits, which it is hopeless for mere laymen to attempt to follow or unravel. In these circumstances, a meeting of bondholders is summoned for next Wednesday for the purpose of re-

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UNDERGROUND

THE TEMPLE, and MEMORIALS OF LONDON, Naval and Military

Two new illustrated Booklets on London, bearing the above titles, are now ready.

The Temple needs no introduction. The Naval and Military Memorials of London, although especially worthy of attention at the present juncture, are little known to the people of the Metropolis, and few who read this notice could give details of the 57 public monuments coming under that category. The Booklet provides such a list, and has photographs of many of them, with interesting notes on the achievements of the sailors and soldiers they commemorate.

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ceiving reports from Mr. Floyd McGown as receiver and from the Empire Trust Co. as trustee, and of appointing a committee for the protection of the bondholders' interests. The first step recommended is to terminate the complicated litigation at the earliest possible moment, which is sound enough advice, but not too easily followed. Under the most favourable circumstances, we are afraid the bondholders must be prepared to face a very substantial loss, but the assets must have a considerable prospective value if they are properly nursed.

The most interesting passage in the report of the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Co. for the year ended June 30 last is that in which attention is called to the relief afforded, under the Finance Act, 1916, to English shareholders in South African mining and other companies in respect of income-tax paid by such companies to the Union Government. In assessing such relief, the Inland Revenue authorities have agreed to accept the profits tax charged on the mines as equivalent to income-tax. This concession will mean that where an amount in excess of 3s. 6d. in the £ has been paid in income-tax, the English shareholders will be entitled to reclaim the excess from the British Treasury, but if that excess is greater than the amount of the colonial income-tax, then the amount of the colonial tax will be refunded. It has not yet apparently been decided whether the adjustments in respect of the June dividends will be made by the companies in the December dividends or by the Inland Revenue authorities on the annual returns, but the concession is an important one, since the profits tax amounts to about 13 per cent. of the companies' working profits, and rather more of their nett profits available for dividends. After providing for depreciation, the nett profits of the company amounted to £195,992, an increase of £5,832, but £163,018, or £7,507 less, is brought in. The dividend is maintained at 5 per cent., and £161,344, a decrease of £1,674, is carried forward. The balance-sheet shows a marked improvement in the liquid asset position of the company. Pre-war loans against securities show a decrease of £168,319 at £297,338, while various cash assets, including £387,265 of Treasury bills, amount to £1,049,491, show an addition of no less than £216,312. Stocks and shares are valued at £2,907,860, a decrease of £11,250. The value of the gold produced by the Barnato group of mines shows a further increase of £438,418, the total being £4,060,625. In 1914-15 the increase was £603,760, while the amount distributed in dividends was £22,268 larger. In the past year the dividends distributed rose by £71,311 to £1,070,771.

Under the lead of Mr. Alexander McClure, solicitor, Glasgow, shareholders in the Amalgamated Properties of Rhodesia (1913), Ltd., are being invited to combine to demand an independent investigation into the affairs of the company. And certainly they seem to have a strong *prima facie* case for challenging the present management. Prior to the last reconstruction (which, by the way, produced nearly £200,000 in cash, all of which has been spent), the company had a claim against Sir Abe Bailey for the cancellation of certain transactions, and for failure to advance £100,000, which, it is alleged, he promised in order to tide the company over its difficulties. Originally this claim was to be prosecuted in the Courts, and subsequently it was to be submitted to arbitration. But beyond appointing arbitrators apparently nothing has been done, and no reference was made to the matter either in the directors' report or at the annual meeting held on July 17 last. Evidently some further light on the position would be interesting, and the shareholders are entitled to get it, but they must combine to protect their interests if anything useful is to be accomplished. Meantime, the directors have issued a rebutting circular, but apart from attempting to discredit the authors of the agitation and their objects it throws no new light on the position. One point only

need be mentioned. It is stated that not a single member of the present board is in any way responsible for the earlier history of the old company, whose affairs it is desired to investigate. In that case, what is the reason for their being so particularly anxious to crush the efforts of the shareholders to clear up some of the points which are buried in so much obscurity?

The Proposed Finance Bank.

It seems but the other day when the announcement was made that competent gentlemen of the City had been appointed as a committee to inquire into the best means of meeting the needs of British firms after the war in regard to facilities for trade, particularly with reference to the financing of overseas contracts, and already it has reported. It consists of Lord Faringdon (chairman), Mr. Rupert Beckett, Mr. B. P. Blackett, Sir W. H. Clark, Mr. F. Dudley Docker, Mr. Gaspard Farrer, Mr. W. H. N. Goschen, Mr. F. Huth Jackson, Mr. Walter Leaf, Mr. Algernon Mills, Mr. J. H. Simpson, and Mr. R. V. Vassar-Smith, with Mr. Hartley Withers, editor of the *Economist*, acting as secretary, and has been very unusually prompt in making recommendations which it would like to see begun to be carried out forthwith. The task before it was not so particularly difficult, because all the material for forming a judgment may be said to have been at hand, and we have all had so much information bestowed upon us since the war broke out in regard to the German banking system, that it was almost inevitable for our inquirers to fall back upon that as a model. Briefly, their proposal is summarised in the following paragraphs:—

The bank should be called the "British Trade Bank," and should be constituted under Royal Charter.

Its features should be as follows:—

(I.) It should have a capital of £10,000,000. The first issue should be from £2,500,000 to £5,000,000, upon which, in the first instance, only a small amount should be paid up, but which should all be called up within a reasonable time. A further issue should be made afterwards, if possible, at a premium.

(II.) It should not accept deposits at call or short notice.

(III.) It should only open current accounts for parties who are proposing to make use of the overseas facilities which it would afford.

(IV.) It should have a foreign exchange department, where special facilities might be afforded for dealing with bills in foreign currency.

(V.) It should open a credit department for the issue of credits to parties at home and abroad.

We are of opinion that there are strong reasons why the bank should be formed without delay, so that preliminaries may be completed before the war is over. Our enemies are sure to make at the earliest moment strenuous efforts to regain their position in the world of commerce and finance, and it may well be that, when peace comes, unemployment may be rife at home unless new markets are exploited. It seems to us desirable, therefore, to ascertain in advance the requirements of foreign countries and the whereabouts of raw materials for our industries.

We believe that a bank constituted upon the above bases, with efficient management, should not only be a great boon to British trade, but should prove a commercial success.

From these outlines it will be seen that the aim is to carry on a banking and finance business of a kind the daring and most all-grasping German banks were conspicuous in originating, and thus to stand between the old-fashioned British deposit and discount or short-term loan bank and danger of loss through "lock-ups." The foreign system would apparently be followed in having the whole capital paid up, although a beginning is proposed to be made with a quarter to a-half of the proposed £10,000,000, of which only a small amount should be paid up at the start. That there is room for an institution of this kind we think in high degree probable, although it becomes more and more probable that the scope for finance on a great scale may prove to be considerably restricted for a good number of years after the war. Still, we agree that a beginning ought to be made, and the British manufacturer will be quite prepared to take all the help that can be given him. In many ways, indeed, the suggested institution could further British commerce, and it might also be a most valuable pro-

tection to the general investor. All people who have saved money, or tried to, know something of the difficulty of selecting what is sound and honest. That difficulty was increased in many ways, and especially in times of furore, by dishonest finance. If therefore an institution can be started which will neither plunder the country or the enterprise helped nor overreach the investor, it should have a most beneficial influence on the industrial development of an exhausted world.

But should not an institution of this kind be started in co-operation with our Allies? Is there not in it a germ, if harmony is maintained between us, of that control over the manufacturing trades of Germany, for example, which has become more and more imperatively necessary to us if we are to recover from the enemy any substantial portion of the costs the Prussian onslaught has thrown upon us? There are so many enterprises waiting to be initiated and carried through that will need all the financial power left available among the French, the Belgians, the Italians, the Russians and ourselves after the war. As a branch of a mighty international trust or trade and finance bank, the proposed English Traders' and Pioneers' Bank would surely be much stronger than if it stood alone. Look, for example, at what is waiting to be done in Asia Minor. Not only are there railways to be constructed there—notably the Bagdad Railway to be completed with branches in various directions, railways also running from seaports on the Euxine inland towards the Bagdad line and towards trade or possible industrial centres where minerals are known to exist, or where rich land waits tillage, but life and energy to be infused everywhere. Would not our power to carry out these works, to set the world there agoing again, be immeasurably strengthened if everything was undertaken in cordial partnership with kindred institutions organised in allied countries? And would not the restoration and economic deliverance of the larger Serbia by rescued Greece be furthered by the same co-ordinated assistance? There is to be no more land-stealing, recollect. We are out to liberate oppressed and suppressed nationalities, not to plunder and enslave. Therefore let us go hand in hand in the works of peace and re-creation even as we are doing in the war. We throw these suggestions out in no spirit of doubt about or hostility to the proposal of this committee. On the contrary, we entertain the utmost goodwill towards it. The idea is an excellent one, and much practical sense and knowledge of affairs is exhibited in the review of industry and trade embodied in the report. But we want to see something greater still, because it appears to us that the needs of the coming day will be greater, and that a great industrial and commercial bank formed by the Allies working all together, a bank with branches in each country, guided by an international council, may open the way, not only to re-create a civilisation in the dark places of the earth so long oppressed by tyranny, but to that upright and well co-ordinated regulation of trade and industry in every one of the countries banded together to hold the world in peace after the war which should do away with tariffs, wasteful rivalries, wild fluctuations of prices, products of jealous competition between rivals, and establish an enlightened policy of fellowship in man-elevating progress.

The Land as a National Asset.

One of the great problems of our time is to restore and reconstruct the rural life of England. We need a teeming and prosperous country-side as a reservoir of national strength and a source of stability. We need a healthy, contented, and independent peasantry, a race of virile yeoman farmers, enlightened and educated cultivators of the soil, small holders and large, no man on the land without his stake in it. Only thus can the earth be induced bountifully to yield its fruits. Life in the country must be made worth living. It must become more attractive. There must be more houses and better houses, more opportunities for social life and recreation, more security for a higher standard of living. Thoughtful men

of all political parties who have surveyed intelligently and conscientiously the conditions of rural life are in agreement that this vast problem awaits solution. On the causes of our rural decay and on the remedies opinions are as the Poles asunder. Yet had we been prepared, had the lines of our policy and our reforms been firmly laid down, had our advance been marked out, the golden opportunity of settling a large number of persons on the soil of their native country might have been very near at hand. The labour conditions of our industries have experienced a violent upheaval. Hundreds of thousands of men who have led a town life have for the time being exchanged it for the open-air life of the Army. Their muscles have been hardened and their physique improved. Many of them have a hankering after the open life of the country, and doubtless would seek permanent occupation there if their ideas of independence and economic standards could be satisfied.

They could not adapt themselves to rural life without training. That is an important side of the problem, and as the time of demobilisation approaches matters like these must force themselves on the attention of both Government and Parliament; but the prospect of successful action is less hopeful than it would have been if it had been preceded by changes in the law under which land in this country is held, and in the ideas which in the main guide those who are its possessors.

A subtle change has been gradually spreading in men's minds in regard to the cultivation of the soil in this country. The idea is growing and expanding that as a nation we are neglecting the agricultural riches which a more rational system of tenure and organisation would give us. Anyone who knows his rural England can point to innumerable instances where our present régime is responsible for slovenly and unprofitable cultivation. It may be picturesque to have hedgerows growing in luxuriance and breeding innumerable weeds, but it is not good agriculture to tolerate them in proximity to farming land. Nor can the subordination of the interests of husbandry to those of pheasants or partridges be in conformity with the true needs of the nation. There are landowners in this country who are as conscious of these ills as any of those people who pride themselves on their zeal for land reform. You can sometimes mark the boundaries of their estates by the sudden transformation you see there from ill-kept fields and pastures to neat, clean, productive agriculture. But in taking a broad, general survey of the land of England as a whole, we must come to the conclusion that far too much of it is held by men who either do not recognise or do not give effect to the best social conceptions of the use of the soil. Large game preserves are anti-social. The land is withdrawn from yielding its crops. Instead of farmers and cottagers there are a few gamekeepers. It is a pity that the

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possession of land in this country should be looked upon so much in the light of a pastime and a luxury, as a requisite to social consideration.

Land is an economic asset, an asset which ought in the national interests to be developed with as much zeal and transferred with as much ease as any other economic assets, commercial or industrial. If its sale had been freer, if its ownership had been less bound up with the custom of charging it, and settling it, and encumbering it after the manner of the past, there might have been less land agitation in this country, and fewer of those political demands which trouble the imagination of the unprogressive landlord, without stirring him to self-examination and a desire to revise his methods and his ideas.

As a rule we have no patience with policies made in Germany, but as regards the use of the soil as a wealth-evolving asset, we have something to learn from our enemies. There is a most instructive official brochure written by Mr. T. H. Middleton, assistant secretary to the Board of Agriculture, on "The Recent Development of German Agriculture." It tells us that Great Britain has 32 millions acres of cultivated land and Germany 82 million, and the author calculates that 100 acres of land in Germany feed some 25 persons more on an average than the same surface in this country. The broad impression which this study of German agriculture leaves upon one is that there agriculture has been pursued all round in the earnest spirit of a business enterprise. "The German landowner," says Mr. Middleton, "holds land not only as an investment, but for carrying on the business of an agriculturist. Capital must be freely available for developing his estate. In times of depression, when money is difficult to raise, the reputation of a landowner as a business man may secure him an advance when otherwise he would fail. The estate of the German, unlike the home farm of most English landowners, is managed on business principles. Its function is to maintain the commercial credit of the owner, and its merit depends mainly upon the balance-sheet not upon the number of prizes collected at local live-stock shows." This question is given to emphasise the idea of the land as an economic asset, a never-failing source of wealth, which ought to be developed on economic lines. Doubtless, a German in possession of a sound and fruitful idea will frequently develop it with a relentless brutality. Rural life, even in those parts of the country where peasant proprietorship prevails, shows many instances of this spirit, and in our own observation of the Hessian and Franconian peasantry we have seen, particularly amongst the women, lives of hard, brutalising toil such as we hope would never be tolerated here. We must develop on our own lines, inspired by a higher ideal, but there must be no delay in setting about the work.

This country of ours is a fertile land. We want to see its fertility utilised fully. How are we to achieve that end? We must pursue the economic idea that the land should be put to the best advantage. We must bring to its cultivation good labour, skilled labour, and well-paid labour. Industries do not thrive on the listless efforts of sweated workers, but we are afraid that the notion is only too widespread amongst landlords and farmers that the profitable conduct of farming depends on a supply of underpaid sweated labourers. New opinions on the subject of wages have been spreading through the ranks of agricultural labourers, since the war separation allowances began to be paid to wives and dependents of soldiers. That spirit will have to be met. These people will work all the better if they are given a new outlook and a higher standard of life to aim for. The prospect of attaining to a small holding of their own would be an immense incentive to the best of this class. In some parts of the country small holdings have already proved successful. In other the conditions of soil and other things are less favourable to them. But the extension of them is bound up with the adoption of improved methods of cultivation, and with co-operation. Certainly for the farmer there ought to come greater security of tenure, real protec-

tion against the ravages of game, and therefore more inducement to put capital and energy into his enterprise. These things import the rooting up of old ideas. Where is the capital to come from that is to be used in transforming the country side? It may be said with truth that the landlord often cannot provide it. He has not got it. Yet he clings to his estate and his traditional mode of life. If he had not the capital to equip his business in any other industry so as to make it fully productive, the fate which awaits the impecunious man of business would await him. Competition would force him to sell out. It is an unpleasant operation. But landowning and farming on uneconomic lines are things which no well-governed State will be able to tolerate on any wide scale in the future, and it ought to be made as easy as possible for the landlord who has not the capital to equip his estate efficiently, to sell it in part or in whole. Ideas as well as laws have to be defeudalised if the land of England is to support the contented and prosperous population of which it is capable. It must be treated as the greatest source of wealth and well-being the nation possesses, and to the faineant retort of the landlords who say, "We have no capital else we might do this and that," the true, the only answer is, unlock the land, set it free for labour, and that labour itself will soon furnish you with capital in abundance. What, after all, is capital?

American Business Notes.

Official figures are now available for the overseas trade of the United States covering the first seven months of the present year. They show that both exports and imports continue to increase. For the month of July alone imports were nearly \$20,000,000 higher, and for the seven months the increase is \$459,000,000. Exports rose in July from \$268,469,000 last year to \$445,472,000 this year, and for the seven months the jump has been no less than \$956,000,000 to a total of \$2,926,000,000. Coming to details, we find in the classified summary no confirmation of the statements made by those sensational newspapers whose principal source of prosperity seems to lie in finding pretexts for discrediting the Government. The exports of the Republic to the United Kingdom and France, as also in smaller degree to Russia in Europe, have gone up this year in quite a phenomenal manner. France, for example, took about \$81,000,000 worth of American goods last July, compared with \$42,638,000 worth in July, 1915, and the total imports of France for the first seven months of the current year were valued at \$472,285,000, which compares with \$304,129,000 in the first seven months of last year. But the Netherlands have taken only \$60,961,000 worth, as compared with \$101,957,000 worth last year, and Germany is credited with no more than \$1,118,000 worth this year, compared with \$11,650,000 worth in 1915. Denmark has bought only \$30,867,000 worth, against \$49,326,000 worth, and imports of Sweden have fallen in value from \$57,445,000 in 1915 up to the end of July to \$23,048,000 this year. Norway alone amongst the countries in a position to assist Germany shows an increase, the value of its purchases this year having risen to \$35,733,000, whereas a year ago it was \$26,222,000, but our Blockade Ministry officials have already explained why that should be, and the fact has no bearing upon the controversy, nor does it affect the conclusion arrived at that the stoppage of German supplies by our Fleet is steadily increasing in effectiveness. The howls of the Germans themselves are the strongest corroborative proof of that.

Quite a number of interesting statements about the restoration of order in Mexico have been laid before the American-Mexican Commission, which has been meeting at New London, Conn., in order to try and thrash out a *modus vivendi* between the two Republics. If we may believe all that the Mexican Commissioners put forward—and there does not seem to be any reason why we should throw doubts upon their good faith—General Carranza is gradually re-

storing something like order in his harassed country. That he means to act justly and to carry out much-needed reforms may be taken as certain, and already he has made beneficial changes in the condition of the railways.

Mr. Pani, the Director-General of the railway lines in Mexico, told the Commission that when the brigand Villa was at the height of his power, the Carranza Government controlled less than 2,000 out of the 13,000 miles of railway then existing in Mexico, but when the Carranza Government was recognised in October of last year, the mileage under its control had risen to about 10,000, and much effort was being expended to repair the lines, and make them available for regular operation. At the present moment the Carranza Government is in control, and is working the entire 8,000 miles of Government lines, as well as about 2,000 miles belonging to private companies. It has, moreover, as already intimated, turned the old Mexican Railway Co. and the Southern Pacific lines over to their respective owners, so that in all about 12,000 out of the total of 13,000 miles of line are to-day worked either directly under Government control or by the private companies owning them. In January, 1915, it is added, the total income of the Government lines was 647,000 pesos paper, and it was in August last 25,000,000 pesos paper, the receipts having risen steadily from the time when the Carranza Government got control. That is all encouraging news.

And the attitude of the United States Commissioners seems to be helpful to the Mexican Government, just as American people can be helpful if they adhere to the self-denying resolution to make no attempt whatever upon the liberties of Mexico, nor to execute any financial coup which might throw portions of its people under the heel of the Yankee financial boss or tyrant. Mr. Cabrera, who is the chief representative of the Mexican Government in the United States, says that General Carranza is busily occupied with a revision of the present Constitution, and that, as soon as conditions permit, a constitutional convention will be called for the purpose of making the necessary changes. After all has been settled, elections within the several States of the Union, to be followed by a Presidential election, will be arranged for. The General and his colleagues hope to establish the Government on a civil basis, and to give Mexican citizens a wider measure of liberty, as well as the guarantee of "equality of opportunity" in the industrial life of the Republic. The Mexican Commissioners have been cross-examined about the attempts to force a depreciated currency upon creditors of the Republic at a false exchange valuation, and have sought to exculpate the Carranza Government by pointing out that as yet it has comparatively feeble control over the behaviour of Governors of individual States, but that its own purpose is to deal fairly with everybody. The depreciated currency trouble is certain to last for some time yet, whatever happens, but should the present Government succeed in restoring public order, in simplifying and cheapening the means of redress, and in bestowing liberty upon the starving population, now vegetating in misery in so many parts of the country, a new era may dawn upon it. "The purpose of the Carranza Government with reference to the administration of the law is so to simplify the procedure that the courts of justice will be open to all, and that the *personnel* of the judiciary will be so carefully selected that corruption and bribery will be completely eliminated." That represents a noble ideal, towards the attainment of which we hope to see good progress made. There is, however, still much to be done, and order has not yet been restored throughout the whole country, not by a long way.

Bibi Eibat Oil.—Production for week ending September 17, 59,933 poods, or 967 tons.

A controlling interest in the Odessa Merchants' Bank has been acquired by a group of English capitalists who intend to use the bank for the development of Anglo-Russian trade. The head office of the bank will shortly be transferred to Petrograd, and branch offices will be opened in due course in London and Liverpool.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1916, and September 23, 1916:—

	Estimate for the Year 1916-1917. (See note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1916, to Sept. 23, 1916.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1915, to Sept. 25, 1915.
Balances in Exchequer on April 1—			
Bank of England	—	25,111,065	81,898,728
Bank of Ireland	—	463,941	1,552,224
REVENUE.		25,575,006	83,450,952
Customs	71,000,000	30,939,000	19,896,000
Excise	65,000,000	24,429,000	27,577,000
Estate, &c., Duties	30,000,000	14,349,000	16,442,000
Stamps	7,000,000	3,354,000	2,804,000
Land Tax and House Duty	2,650,000	320,000	340,000
Property and Income Tax and Super Tax	195,000,000	33,620,000	16,261,000
Excess Profits Duty	86,000,000	29,085,000	—
Land Value Duties	475,000	111,000	51,000
Post Office	36,100,000	15,950,000	14,550,000
Crown Lands	550,000	220,000	210,000
Receipts from Suez Canal	—	—	—
Shares and Sundry Loans	5,000,000	518,087	603,771
Miscellaneous	3,500,000	2,860,860	1,777,901
Revenue	502,275,000	155,755,947	100,512,672
Total, including Balance	—	181,330,953	183,963,624
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion	—	1,980,000	560,000
For Treasury Bills (net amount)	—	268,810,000	—
For War Loan, 1925-1928	—	—	35,798,408
For 3% Exchequer Bonds, 1920	—	—	242,345
For War Loan, 1925-1945	—	424	505,000,000
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919	—	34,150,000	—
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920	—	82,864,500	—
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1921	—	61,501,000	—
For War Expenditure Certificates	—	21,608,200	—
For War Savings Certificates	—	27,050,000	—
For other Debt created under the War Loan Act, 1915, and Finance Act, 1916	—	20,494,556	—
East Africa Protectorate Loan Repayments on account of Principal and Interest	—	—	2,385
Temporary Advances—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £345,000,000 in 1916-1917 and £231,150,000 in 1915-1916)	—	409,396,500	232,150,000
Total	—	1,109,195,133	957,716,762
EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.			
EXPENDITURE.			
Permanent Charge of Debt ..	12,818,000	11,476,191	12,481,986
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	114,436,000	54,800,151	4,795,866
Road Improvement Fund	—	—	694,395
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c.	9,500,000	3,183,375	3,480,947
Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,700,000	956,218	860,120
Supply Services	1,637,529,000	792,986,156	619,664,908
Expenditure	1,825,983,000	863,402,091	641,978,222
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion	—	2,240,000	875,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	—	60,914	60,914
For Treasury Bills (net amount)	—	—	7,908,000
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan (Redemption) Act, 1910	—	—	16,395,500
For Issues under Section 1 (5) of the War Loan Act, 1915	—	—	170,143,313
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913	—	180,000	1,130,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913	—	135,000	60,000
Under Housing Act, 1914	—	18,900	500,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8, issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1905	—	38,000	50,000
Old Sinking Fund—1910-1911: Issued under the Finance Act, 1911—			
Section 16 (1) (b)	—	23,160	80,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1911-1912—Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Co. (Acquisition of Capital) Act, 1914	—	—	250,000
Temporary Advances repaid—Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £177,032,000 in 1916-17 and £55,417,000 in 1915-16)	—	214,926,500	55,417,000
Total	—	1,081,026,565	894,847,949
Balances in Exchequer—	1916. Sept. 23.	1915. Sept. 25.	
Bank of England	26,451,675	61,940,426	
Bank of Ireland	1,706,893	928,387	
Total	28,158,568	62,868,813	
Total	1,109,195,133	957,716,762	

MEMO.—Treasury Bills outstanding on Sept. 23, 1916 *£1,003,552,000.

* Includes £808,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the Account.

NOTE.—Estimate as in House of Commons Paper No. 50 of 1916, and Supplementary Grants.

Treasury, September 25, 1916.

The Right Hon. Charles Hobhouse, M.P., has been appointed a director of the General Life Assurance Co.

The Bank of Montreal has received the following cable from their head office:—Crop yield Lethbridge district very good; Alberta, generally prosperous conditions; Saskatchewan, better yield than anticipated.

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The Investors' Review.

Money and Credit Notes.

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Thursday, July 13.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

One may say that this has been a kind of disturbed week in the Money market, although nothing extraordinary has really occurred. The strain of the war, however, cannot fail to be reflected in a sensitive region like the City, even when no extraordinary incidents occur, and this week money has hardened up, although ordinary business seems to have been quiet enough. Yesterday the market had even to take some of its short-dated paper to the Bank in order to raise funds, although the ordinary discount business transacted was insignificant, but a strong demand was in evidence for three months' Treasury bills, which, bought this week, fall due conveniently before the end of the year. There has also been a considerable amount of financing required both for Russia and France, and the Russian exchange rose in the middle of the week to 150, which is, we believe, almost, if not quite, the highest depreciation of the rouble yet recorded. The Paris rate also went further against France, but at the end of the week both rates improved a little, until Paris closed at 27.85, while the Petrograd rate came down to 147.

These are all minor incidents, however, and it was only when the Bank of England announced that an issue of three-year Exchequer bonds, bearing 6 per cent. interest, was about to be made that the market really became in a manner stirred up. For one thing, it seemed unusually costly borrowing, and the prices of the Government fixed debts naturally went down. For the Money market, too, the 5 per cent. Exchequer bonds already in existence became an undesirable-looking security, and people wondered also what would happen to the Treasury bill market. If the 6 per cent. Exchequer bond draws away the deposits of the banks, may not the banks have to curtail or cease their purchases of Treasury bills? This is only a reflex of current gossip, but it is not impossible that the new Treasury expedient for procuring the means with which to win the war may, as it were, compel the Chancellor of the Exchequer before long to formulate an all-embracing debt consolidation scheme. We are not going to be dogmatic on points like these, but it does seem likely that in the variety of instruments of credit now being employed there may lurk danger of embarrassment. Treasury bills of all dates are now to be sold at $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., it seems, whereas up to now the rate has varied with the usance of the bill.

Another hardening element in the Money market was the withdrawal of gold. According to the Bank return, the stock of coin and bullion has fallen off by £1,027,000, bringing down the total to £53,552,000, which is $22\frac{2}{3}$ per cent. of the liabilities, or $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.

less than a week ago, and $1\frac{1}{8}$ less than a year ago. As the note circulation at the same time increased £563,000, and as £379,000 has been added to the public deposits, it follows that the other deposits containing the resources of the market have shrunk £2,702,000 to £100,483,000, a figure, however, which is nearly £25,000,000 larger than that of 12 months back. We make no comment upon these changes, because all comment is futile. We only know in a general way that the Government has to pay, and pay heavily, for what it is buying abroad; and although our foreign trade keeps remarkably elastic, and although we are assisted, on terms, by the United States and by Canada, as also, in other than money ways, by Australia and New Zealand, as all the free nations in the Empire, in short, are straining every expedient and utilising every resource in order to sustain us in this conflict, it is nevertheless impossible always to square the account without drawing upon our gold. To us the marvel always is that we have got so far on towards the final victory with so little real strain to our Money market.

It has been obvious for some time that the Exchequer bond form of Government debt had ceased to draw in supplies freely. The advance in the Bank of England rate to 6 per cent. made a 5 per cent. bond unattractive, and the wonder is that the sales continued to run into millions week by week. Since the beginning of July, however, the sale no single week has reached as much as £10,000,000. The highest figure was for the week ended July 8, £9,311,000, and since the middle of August the weekly sales have ranged from £3,400,000 to £2,300,000. It was, therefore, quite time a change was made, and the Treasury announcement, through the Bank of England, that subscriptions will soon be invited for three-year Exchequer bonds, bearing 6 per cent. interest, comes not a moment too soon. For a considerable time back the Government has been paying $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for money raised on six months' Treasury bills, and its yearlings have only been placeable at 6 per cent. discount. Will the change now made materially increase the flow of money into the Treasury through Exchequer bonds? It should, and there should likewise be an attraction to most people in the limitation of the currency of these bonds to three years. The *Times*, indeed, says that the Government cannot extend their currency to a longer term, because of the limitation fixed by an old statute, but whether or not everybody is satisfied that the war will end within three years from now, and all look forward to new and more remunerative uses for their money.

Canada is to be congratulated on the success of its second War Loan. The amount asked for was \$100,000,000, or say £20,000,000, and more than twice that sum has been offered. Since the lists closed, indeed, the Finance Minister announces that further applications, amounting to \$24,000,000, have reached him. Most of the money has been subscribed by the Canadian people themselves, and it is declared that sympathetic financiers in the United States have provided no more than 5 per cent. of the total. The testimony such a subscription list bears to the wealth of Canadian people and the confidence of intelligent strangers in the country's resources is none the less eminently satisfactory.

A group of American bankers has, it seems, spontaneously offered, through the medium of the French Government, to issue a loan of £10,000,000 on behalf of the Municipality of Paris, redeemable in five years. This offer has been accepted by the Paris Municipal Council, and it will take practical shape as soon as the Chamber has passed the law now under discussion sanctioning credits for the fourth quarter of the present year. The money will be handed over by the city to the National Treasury for State purposes. Have we in this transaction an illustration of what German municipalities have been trying to do for the Kaiser's Loan No. 5? Perhaps, only Paris obtains cash by pledging its credit; what does the German Treasury gain by the *hocus pocus* of creating wealth out of nothing in the lands beyond the Rhine? Ah, what!

SILVER.

A good demand was experienced for silver for coinage purposes, and as supplies from America are still very much restricted, the price rose to 32½d. per oz. Selling of sycee from China was resumed, but the amount offered was readily absorbed, and the quotation only gave way 1d. to 32¼d. per oz.

Applications for the Rs. 30,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 2,86,00,000. Of these Rs. 1,57,00,000 were allotted in bills, Rs. 11,06,000 in deferred transfers, and Rs. 17,37,000 in immediate transfers, tenders for bills and deferred transfers at rs. 4 3-32d., and for immediate transfers at rs. 4½d., receiving about 10 per cent. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is again Rs. 30,00,000. Between April 1 and September 26 the total sales were Rs. 9,99,17,597, realising £6,701,575.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, September 27, 1916.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued	£ 70,198,665	Government Debt	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	51,748,665
		Silver Bullion	—
	£70,198,665		£70,198,665

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 42,187,627
Reserve	3,614,926	Other Securities	95,386,643
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts) ..	53,371,842	Notes	33,663,110
Other Deposits	101,483,434	Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,803,583
Seven Day and other Bills ..	17,761		
	£173,040,963		£173,040,963

Dated Sept. 28, 1916.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year.

Last year, Sept. 29.		Sept. 20, 1916.	Sept. 27, 1916.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,777,147	Rest	3,595,457	3,614,926	19,459	—
116,216,656	Pub. Deposits ..	52,902,848	53,371,842	378,994	—
76,688,867	Other do. ..	104,185,085	101,483,434	—	2,701,651
24,502	7 Day Bills ..	20,638	17,761	—	2,877
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
31,286,742	Gov. Securities ..	42,187,627	42,187,627	—	—
132,314,524	Other do. ..	96,102,911	95,386,643	716,268	—
47,658,906	Total Reserve ..	37,956,500	35,466,093	1,589,807	—
				2,704,528	2,704,528
				Increase.	Decrease.
£	Note Circulation ..	£ 35,974,870	£ 36,535,555	£ 562,685	£
32,799,985	Coin and Bullion ..	54,579,370	53,552,248	—	1,027,122
62,003,891	Proportion	23.6 p.c.	22.9 p.c.	—	.7 p.c.
24.7 p.c.	Bank Rate	6 ..	6 ..	—	—

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1916.	1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
January	1,071,948,000	918,685,000	153,263,000	—
February	1,107,655,000	960,743,000	146,912,000	—
March	1,354,590,000	1,231,392,000	123,207,000	—
April	1,096,356,000	976,264,200	119,092,000	—
May	1,447,416,000	1,164,194,000	283,222,000	—
June	1,147,630,000	960,209,000	187,421,000	—
July	1,239,193,000	1,316,665,000	—	77,502,000
August	1,364,782,000	1,352,519,000	12,263,000	—
September 6	294,577,000	255,092,000	43,485,000	—
" 13	275,357,000	254,607,000	18,750,000	—
" 20	285,301,000	239,471,000	45,830,000	—
" 27	279,355,000	250,838,000	28,517,000	—
Total ..	10,970,169,000	9,880,709,000	1,089,480,000	—

CURRENCY NOTES.

Return of Currency Notes for the week ended September 27, 1916.

	Issued.	Cancelled.	Outstanding.
	£	£	£
£1 notes	3,601,112	2,90,050	92,092,675
10s. notes	2,277,247	1,091,748	28,692,805
Note certificates ..	30,000	—	10,740,000
Previous total	430,621,755	300,244,836	—
	435,533,114	304,007,634	131,525,480

Ratio of gold held against notes: this week, 23.59 p.c.; last week, 23.77 p.c.

SHORT TERM GOVERNMENT LOANS.

	Sales Last Week.	Sales This Week.	Total Outstanding.
	£	£	£
Treasury Bill's	20,602,000	23,686,000	1,003,552,000
Exchequer Bonds, 1919 ..	543,000	329,000	34,159,000
Do. 1920	400,000	450,000	236,558,500
Do. 1921	2,066,000	1,523,000	61,801,000
War Expenditure Certificates ..	456,200	614,700	21,608,100
War Savings Certificates ..	1,700,000	1,000,000	28,300,000

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For 7 days ended Sept. 23.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE
	£
Customs	1,721,000
Excise	2,299,000
Estate, &c., Duties	377,000
Stamps	23,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	1,470,000
Excess Profits Tax	3,087,000
Land Values	—
Post Office	756,000
Crown Lands	—
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares ..	—
Miscellaneous	165,001
Bullion advances repaid	90,000
For Treasury Bills (nett amt.) ..	35,169,000
War Loan, 1925-8	—
War Loan, 1925-45	—
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919 ..	329,000
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920 ..	450,000
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1921 ..	1,523,000
War Expenditure Certificates ..	614,700
War Savings Certificates ..	1,000,000
Other Debts created under ..	—
War Loan Act, 1915	10,494,556
Telegraph Money Act, 1913 ..	—
Under Post Office Rly. Act, 1913 ..	—
Under Military Works Acts, 1897-1903	—
Under Housing Act	—
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920 ..	—
East Africa Protectorate ..	—
Loan repayments	—
Cunard Loan—repayment on account of principal ..	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	—
China Indemnity	—
Ways and Means Advances ..	—
Decrease in Exchequer balances	—
	£59,562,257
National Debt Service	—
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	2,751,926
Development & Road Impt. ..	—
Payments to Local Taxation ..	—
Other Consolidated Fund ..	—
Charges	253,750
Supply Services	41,541,000
Bullion Advances	50,000
For Advance for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	—
For Treasury Bills (nett amt.) ..	—
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan Redemption Act, 1910	—
Issues under Section 1 of War Loan Act, 1915	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913	—
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 ..	—
Under Housing Act, 1913 ..	—
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8 ..	—
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11 ..	—
E. Africa Protectorate Loan ..	—
Cunard Loan repayment issued to reduce debt under the Cunard Agreement ..	—
Deficiency advances repaid ..	—
China Indemnity issued to reduce debt under Finance Act, 1903	—
Ways and Means Advances repaid	12,797,000
Increase in Exchequer balances	2,168,581
	£59,562,257

FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	Sept. 8, 1916.	Sept. 1, 1916.	Sept. 10, 1915.
	£	£	£
Gold coin and certificates ..	49,769,200	49,071,600	42,426,000
Gold Redemption Fund ..	376,800	362,400	237,400
Gold Settlement Fund ..	23,790,000	20,920,200	13,738,000
Legal tender notes, silver, &c.	5,497,400	2,721,000	4,047,000
Total reserves	79,433,400	73,075,200	60,448,400
5% redemption fund against F.R. bank notes	118,200	100,000	—
10-day bills and loans	2,863,600	3,146,600	946,800
30-day bills and loans	6,447,200	4,734,200	2,417,000
60-day bills and loans	7,925,000	8,534,800	3,306,400
90-day bills and loans	3,866,600	4,250,000	1,730,400
Maturities over 90 days ..	364,600	468,100	251,000
Total	21,467,000	21,134,000	8,651,600
Investments—			
U.S. Bonds	9,190,800	9,364,200	—
One year U.S. Treasury notes	1,811,000	1,641,000	1,770,400
Municipal Warrants	4,233,200	4,260,400	4,742,000
Federal Reserve notes—nett. Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—nett.	3,864,800	4,178,000	2,675,000
All other assets	5,741,200	7,121,400	1,628,400
Total assets	69,200	606,200	768,200
Total liabilities	126,518,800	121,183,400	80,684,000
Paid-up capital	11,081,200	11,078,000	10,954,400
Government Deposits	8,847,200	10,183,600	—
Reserve deposits—nett. ..	102,845,000	96,939,400	65,610,600
Note circulation—nett. ..	3,215,200	2,841,200	3,505,400
Fed. Res. notes in circulation ..	466,800	338,000	—
All other liabilities	61,400	58,200	613,600
Total liabilities	126,518,800	121,183,400	80,684,000
Gold reserve against nett liabilities	67.7%	68.4%	83.6%
Cash reserve against nett liabilities	72.8%	71.0%	89.6%

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	Sept. 23, 1916	Sept. 16, 1916	Sept. 9, 1916	Sept. 23, 1915
	£	£	£	£
Loans	661,418,000	661,274,000	661,302,000	546,876,000
Reserve held in own Vaults ..	87,526,000	82,270,000	82,662,000	103,672,000
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk. ..	35,095,000	33,610,000	32,898,000	28,720,000
Reserve held in Other Depos. ..	10,828,000	10,752,000	10,820,000	5,505,000
Nett Demand Deposits	654,164,000	648,108,000	647,828,000	557,354,000
Nett Time Deposits	33,624,000	33,956,000	33,043,000	26,698,000
Circulation	6,242,000	6,256,000	6,249,000	7,328,000
Excess Lawful Reserve	20,738,000	14,985,000	14,212,000	41,752,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits.

NEW YORK STATE BANKS & TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.)

	Sept. 23, 1916.	Sept. 16, 1916.	Sept. 9, 1916.	Sept. 23, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Loans	144,349,000	144,526,000	145,140,000	116,678,000
Specie	12,058,000	12,052,000	12,078,000	9,942,000
Deposits	153,490,000	152,920,000	153,496,000	121,376,000
Legal Tenders ..	1,804,000	1,920,000	1,882,000	1,784,000

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Sept. 28, 1916.	Sept. 21, 1916.	Sept. 14, 1916.	Sept. 30, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold in hand ..	193,310,040	193,068,920	192,864,000	182,005,680
Silver in hand ..	13,473,600	13,521,600	13,531,120	14,565,840
Bills discounted ..	16,438,320	14,851,520	15,252,200	11,189,040
Advances	47,072,200	47,001,760	46,878,280	23,427,000
Note circulation ..	668,562,520	666,138,040	664,106,360	538,332,160
Public deposits ..	1,452,880	4,927,640	8,277,520	2,568,280
Private deposits ..	89,922,240	87,224,600	85,854,320	107,839,600
Foreign Bills ..	93,360	89,800	69,480	66,160

Proportion between bullion and circulation 39.91 per cent., against 31.01 per cent. last week. Advances to the State £340,000,000, unchanged. The adjourned payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium, £25,251,080, decrease £76,280, and at the branches £30,196,360, decrease £88,720.

IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Sept. 21, 1916.	Sept. 14, 1916.	Sept. 5, 1916.	Sept. 21, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Notes in reserve ..	12,630,000	9,770,000	7,840,000	5,845,900
Gold	155,330,000	155,210,000	155,160,000	158,842,600
Gold in reserve abroad ..	205,490,000	205,490,000	205,720,000	3,870,200
Treasury Bonds ..	463,710,000	442,030,000	391,310,000	—
Circulation note issue ..	722,370,000	712,230,000	702,150,000	452,000,000
Treasury deposits ..	26,800,000	20,720,000	20,270,000	30,125,000

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Sept. 23, 1916.	Sept. 15, 1916.	Sept. 7, 1916.	Sept. 23, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Total Coin & Bullion ..	124,629,350	124,620,100	124,673,200	122,870,100
Treasury Notes ..	10,601,950	14,372,200	18,693,650	9,194,150
Bills discounted ..	378,895,900	377,704,750	357,111,000	266,343,350
Advances	482,200	603,750	526,900	618,900
Note circulation ..	343,418,900	343,940,860	358,771,800	277,433,050
Deposits	183,987,050	173,340,400	143,894,800	112,461,700

Clearing House returns during Aug., £466,331,160 against £273,378,015 in July.

NETHERLANDS BANK (12 florins to the £).

	Sept. 23, 1916.	Sept. 16, 1916.	Sept. 9, 1916.	Sept. 25, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold and Silver ..	49,524,916	49,531,083	49,253,250	32,291,595
Bills and Advances ..	15,594,166	15,858,583	15,801,666	12,831,347
Note circulation ..	56,728,750	56,882,333	56,437,000	43,504,702
Deposits	11,776,083	11,835,750	12,065,166	2,440,483

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	Aug. 20, 1916.	Aug. 10, 1916.	July 20, 1916.	Aug. 20, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Total cash	43,806,400	43,982,200	44,905,240	57,730,440
Inland Bills	18,980,880	19,415,160	19,317,520	26,441,080
Foreign Bills	833,160	833,160	833,840	833,000
Advances	7,518,640	7,422,560	7,740,320	8,640,720
Government securities ..	8,866,920	8,737,760	8,793,080	7,735,440
Circulation	135,192,360	136,371,840	134,594,280	110,494,520
Deposits at notice ..	13,865,680	13,837,640	13,555,960	11,506,680
Current accounts ..	15,514,680	14,942,360	15,236,800	17,064,040

BANK OF NORWAY.

	Sept. 15, 1916.	Sept. 7, 1916.	Aug. 31, 1916.	Sept. 15, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	6,282,000	6,282,000	6,327,000	3,446,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	6,162,000	6,003,000	6,107,000	3,753,000
Gov't Securities ..	767,000	767,000	767,000	782,000
Discounts & Loans ..	6,034,000	5,524,000	5,677,000	3,956,000
Notes in Circulation ..	12,369,000	12,292,000	12,389,000	7,889,000
Deposits at notice ..	4,307,000	3,748,000	3,994,000	1,486,000

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Sept. 17, 1916.	Sept. 9, 1916.	Sept. 4, 1916.	Sept. 18, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	46,500,273	46,355,734	46,017,421	29,638,163
Silver	30,182,659	30,103,942	30,324,487	29,528,899
Foreign Bills	3,804,559	3,803,874	3,809,310	4,675,071
Discounts and Short Bills ..	24,031,086	23,689,807	23,697,472	26,186,338
Treasury Account, &c. ..	29,778,093	29,853,988	29,425,952	29,309,164
Notes in Circulation ..	89,645,053	89,883,062	89,323,490	80,863,718
Current Accounts, Deposits ..	30,665,857	30,787,686	31,058,042	25,330,781
Dividends, Interests, &c. ..	1,548,196	1,579,148	1,763,987	1,143,621
Government Securities ..	2,539,941	2,355,952	2,194,485	3,147,703

SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	Sept. 15, 1916.	Sept. 7, 1916.	Aug. 31, 1916.	Sept. 15, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold and silver ..	13,857,112	13,682,535	13,190,966	12,112,108
Bills	7,192,556	6,996,084	8,051,790	4,979,713
Note circulation ..	17,238,584	17,145,760	17,266,596	16,224,085
Current and deposit accounts ..	5,973,932	5,568,124	6,083,038	3,077,313

BANK OF SWEDEN.

	Sept. 16, 1916.	Sept. 9, 1916.	Sept. 2, 1916.	Sept. 18, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	9,527,000	9,250,000	9,207,000	6,300,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	8,909,000	9,369,000	9,443,000	5,834,000
Swedish and Foreign Gov't Securities ..	3,765,000	3,787,000	3,795,000	2,651,000
Discounts and Loans ..	3,740,000	3,987,000	3,746,000	4,882,000
Notes in circulation ..	19,399,000	19,230,000	19,630,000	15,590,000
Deposits at notice ..	5,536,000	5,712,000	5,258,000	3,666,000

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.
Paris	cbqs.	27.87½	27.83½	Antwerp	short sight	—	—
Brussels	cbqs.	—	—	Italy	sight	30.80	30.80
Amsterdam	sight	11.68½	11.66½	Constantinople ..	3 mths	—	—
Christiania	—	17.11½	17.15	Rio de Janeiro ..	90 days	12½d.	12½d.
Stockholm	—	16.85	16.85	Buenos Aires	90 days	49½d.	49½d.
Copenhagen	—	17.40	17.40½	Calcutta	T.T.	1/4½d.	1/4½d.
Petrograd	3 mths	147½	150	Bombay	T.T.	1/4½d.	1/4½d.
New York	cable	4.76½	4.76½	Hong Kong	T.T.	2/2½d.	2/2½d.
Lisbon	sight	34½	34½	Shanghai	T.T.	3/1½d.	3/1½d.
Madrid	sight	23.77½	23.77½	Singapore	T.T.	2/4½d.	2/4½d.
				Yokohama	4 mths	2/2½d.	2/1½d.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Sept. 26, 1916.		Sept. 28, 1916.	
		Sellers.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Buyers.
Amsterdam ..	Cable transfers ..	11.65½	11.68½	11.65	11.68
"	Three months' bills ..	11.80	11.85	11.80	11.85
Paris	Cable transfers ..	27.85	27.90	27.80	27.85
"	Three months' bills ..	28.25	28.30	28.20	28.30
Marseilles ..	Three months' bills ..	28.25	28.30	28.20	28.30
Switzerland ..	Cable transfers ..	25.28	25.38	25.28	25.38
"	Three months' bills ..	25.63	25.73	25.63	25.73
Petrograd ..	Cable transfers ..	149	152	148	150
Genoa, &c. ..	Cable transfers ..	30.73	30.83	30.75	30.85
"	Three months' bills ..	31.15	31.25	31.20	31.30
Spain	Cable transfers ..	23.73	23.83	23.73	23.83
"	Three months' bills ..	47½	48½	47½	48
Lisbon and Oporto ..	Cable transfers ..	34½	35½	34½	35½
"	Three months' bills ..	Nom.	Nom.	Nom.	Nom.
Scandinavia ..	Cable transfers ..	17.08	17.18	17.08	17.20

TREASURY BILLS.

						Last week.	This week.
						Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months ..	..	..	..	..	..	.. (58 12 7)	.. (58 12 7)
Six months ..	..	..	..	..	..	.. (52)	.. (52)
Nine months ..	..	..	..	..	..	.. (57 2 11½)	.. (57 5 5½)
Twelve months ..	..	..	..	..	..	.. 6	.. 5½
						.. (59 4 0)	.. (59 10 0)

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

						Last week.	This week.
						Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted ..	..	..	..	..	..	.. 5½	.. 5½
Three months ..	..	..	..	..	..	.. 5½	.. 5½
Four months ..	..	..	..	..	..	.. 5½	.. 5½
Six months ..	..	..	..	..	..	.. 5½	.. 5½
Three months fine inland bills ..	..	..	..	..	..	.. 6	.. 6
Four months ..	..	..	..	..	..	.. 6	.. 6
Six months ..	..	..	..	..	..	.. 6½	.. 6½

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

						Last week.	This week.
						Per cent.	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate ..	..	..	..	..	..	.. 6	.. 6
" .. short loan rates ..	..	..	..	..	..	.. 6½	.. 6½
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	..	..	..	..	..	.. 4	.. 4
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call) ..	..	..	..	..	..	.. 4½	.. 4½
" .. 7 and 14 days' notice ..	..	..	..	..	..	.. 4½	.. 4½
Current rates for 7 day loans ..	..	..	..	..	..	.. 4½	.. 5
" .. for call loans ..	..	..	..	..	..	.. 4½	.. 5

The Week's Stock Markets.

Nothing can give the Stock Markets a real stimulus under present conditions, and even the most inspring war news was without appreciable effect. On the other hand, the decision of the Government to issue 6 per cent. three-year Exchequer bonds had a very depressing influence on gilt-edged securities, as it necessarily alters the basis of their valuation. It was an unexpected step, although the fact that the amount of Treasury bills outstanding now exceeds £1,000,000,000 made it very desirable that further borrowing should be for a longer period than three to twelve months. Consequently the rate on Treasuries has been reduced, and that on Exchequers raised. There has been a good deal of criticism of the Government's methods of financing the war, and there are plenty of people who seem to think that the subscribers to the 4½ per cent. War Loan have been badly treated. When another big funded loan is issued, as it must be some day, the holders of the 4½ per cents. will have the right of conversion at par, and the Stock

Exchange is rather inclined to think that the opportunity for such an issue should have been taken some time ago. But it is a very thorny problem, not to be settled offhand by the man in the street, and no doubt the Treasury has been guided by the best financial opinion obtainable. All the same, neither dealers nor holders like to see dwindling prices in face of the magnificent victories in the field. They must have patience; the Hunzollern is not abolished yet, but his end approaches, and the country must get the funds necessary to finish the fight on the most economical terms that can be devised. Americans have given a fine firework display under the lead of Steels on the assumption that when the war orders are finished there will be a great deal of reconstruction and maintenance work, which has been neglected for the past two years, to take their place. It may be hinted, however, that there will also be considerable difficulty in raising the capital required for these purposes. Argentine Railways have not benefited much from the dividend declarations, which are of a mixed character. The Buenos Ayres Great Southern provided a welcome surprise with a distribution of 2½ per cent. (actual), making 4½ per cent. for the year against 4 per cent. On the other hand, the Central Argentine pays 2½ per cent., making 4 per cent. for the year, against 5 per cent., but this was anticipated. Buenos Ayres Western pays a final dividend of 3 per cent., making 5 per cent. for the year, or the same as last time, which was up to expectations. An indication of the state of business generally is provided by the decision of the Committee to close the House on this and the following four Saturdays, in response to the largely-signed petition presented last week.

Although business in the Stock Exchange has been only moderately active outside the miscellaneous sections, the war news helped to make the tone very cheerful in the early part of the week. In the gilt-edged market, Consols touched 60¾, but the announcement by the Bank of the reduction in the rate for Treasury bills and of a forthcoming new issue of bonds caused a sharp setback to 60, while the 3½ per cent War Loan fell to 85½ and the 4½ per cent. issue declined to 95. The 5 per cent. Exchequer bonds suffered even more severely, the 1919 and 1921 series both dropping to 96½ and the 1920 to 97. Colonial Government stocks were dull, and mostly lower in sympathy. In Foreign Government bonds, French War Loan receded ¼ to 84½, Russian 4 per cent. of 1889 relapsed to 69, and Armavir Touapse bonds fell 1. Greek 4 per cent. Rentes dropped to 43½ and Egyptian Unified to 81. A few Chinese and Japanese issues gave way, and some of the South American loans closed ¼ to ½ down.

Home Railway ordinary stocks were quiet, but gave way with the gilt-edged section. North-Western after touching 102 closed ¾ lower, North-Eastern also lost that fraction, Great Western fell 1 and Midland deferred and South-Eastern deferred relapsed ¾ each. Scotch stocks were weak. Canadian Pacific shares fluctuated between 186½ and 187¾, closing at the top, and Grand Trunk stocks were helped by the dividend, the ordinary rising ½, the first and second preferences 1 each, and the third preference ½. American Railroad shares began the week in a buoyant fashion, but interest in them died down, and the changes from day to day were small. During the last day or two, however, there has been a renewal of the activity. Speculative dealings in United States Steel common lifted the price to 123½, but profit-taking followed, and it dropped to 121. International Mercantile Marine also went down on realisations, but the common, after touching 46, recovered to 49, and the preference went up from 123 to 129. Argentine Railways were quiet, but brightened up on the dividend announcements. The Buenos Ayres Great Southern distribution came as a pleasant surprise to the market, and was followed by a rise of ¾ to 86¾, while Buenos Ayres Western was also that fraction better at 89½. Central Argentine improved ½ and Buenos Ayres and Pacific gained ¼. A little inquiry for International of Central America issues caused a rise to 16½ in the common and to 60 in the preferred.

There was a quiet demand for Bank shares, and in the London group London County and Westminster improved ½, and National Provincial £10½ paid also put on that fraction, and the £12½ paid rose ¾, while Lloyds were ¾ better. In the foreign and colonial group, Bank of Australasia gained ½, London of Australia ¼, and Hongkong and Shanghai ¼, but Union of Australia were ¼ down. Shipping things were quiet and Royal Mail fell 2. There was a fair amount of support for Prince Lines, but after fluctuating within narrow limits they finished unchanged at 45. Furness, Withy were bought, and rose to 53s., and there was a good demand for Cairn Line, which is said to be due to buying for control, and lifted the price to 70s. Brazilian Traction shares were sold, and relapsed to 59½.

A little more activity was noticeable in motor shares, and Dennis Bros. and De Dion both improved. Among land shares, Hudson's Bay were offered and declined to 6½, but Niger improved to 40s. on the report. British Aluminium shares came into demand on the dividend, and Associated Cement recovered slightly, but British Cement preference again gave way. Salt Union were sold and fell to 57s., but British Oil and Cake Mills

	Last Week	This Week		Last Week	This Week
Consols.....	60 1/4	60	N.S.W. 4 1/2% 1922-7	94 1/2	94 1/2
War Loan 3 1/2%.....	86 1/2	85 1/2	" 5% 1921-3	99	99
India 3%.....	60	59 1/2	New Zealand 4%.....	89	88 1/2
" 3 1/2%.....	70	69 1/2	Queensland 4%.....	84 1/2	84 1/2
Australian 5 1/2%, 1920-22	101	100 1/2	" 4 1/2% new.....	95	94 1/2
Canada 4%, 1910-60	84	82	Union of S. Africa 4 1/2%.....	94 1/2	94
" 4 1/2%, 1920-5	96	95 1/2	Victoria 4 1/2%, 1920-5	94	93 1/2
N.S.W. 4%.....	86 1/2	85 1/2	Westn. Aus. 4%.....	83 1/2	83 1/2
" 4 1/2% 5 yr. bds.....	96	96			
Belgian 3%.....	63 1/2	63	French War Loan, 5%	84 1/2	84 1/2
Brazil, 1913.....	62 1/2	62	Japan 4 1/2% (1st).....	95	95
" New Funding.....	81 1/2	81 1/2	" (2nd).....	95	95
Chinese 1896	93	93	Russia 4%.....	81	81
" 1912	79	78 1/2	" 4 1/2%.....	90	89 1/2
Egypt Unified 4%.....	81 1/2	81	" 5%.....	25 1/2	24 1/2
Brighton defd.....	67 1/2	67 1/2	London and S.-W. defd.....	98	98
Caledonian defd.....	94	94	" Do. new pf.....	24 1/2	24 1/2
Chatham ord.....	98	98	Metropolitan	90	90
Gt. Central pf.....	10	15 1/2	" Do. 5% New pf.....	18	18
" dfd.....	8	7 1/2	Met. District	60 1/2	60 1/2
Gt. Eastern	38	37 1/2	Midland defd.....	15 1/2	14 1/2
Gt. Northern defd.....	38 1/2	38 1/2	Nth. British defd.....	105 1/2	104 1/2
Gt. Western	95 1/2	94 1/2	Nth.-Eastern	105 1/2	104 1/2
Lancs. and Yorks.	70 1/2	69 1/2	Nth.-Western.....	28 1/2	28 1/2
			Sth.-Eastern defd.....	66 1/2	71
Canadian Pacific	186 1/2	187 1/2	Chesapeake.....	41 1/2	43
Do. 6% Notes	106	106 1/2	Erie.....	99 1/2	102
E. Indian Guar. 4 1/2% debts.....	92 1/2	93	Milwaukee	112	115
Grand Trunk ord.....	11 1/2	12	N. Y. Central	26 1/2	27 1/2
" Do. 3rd pf.....	28	28 1/2	Southern	105	108
" Do. 5 1/2% 3-yr. Notes	97 1/2	97 1/2	Southern Pacific	153 1/2	159
" Do. 5 1/2% 5-yr.	97	97	Union Pacific	113 1/2	120 1/2
Atchison	109 1/2	111 1/2	U. S. Steel	79	79 1/2
Baltimore	92 1/2	93 1/2	" Do. 5% Notes	96 1/2	96
Antofagasta defd.....	130	130	" Do. 6%	100 1/2	100 1/2
" Do. 6% Notes	101	101	Leopoldina	37	37 1/2
Brazil Common.....	64	64	Mexican ord.....	19 1/2	19 1/2
B. A. & Pacific	46 1/2	46 1/2	San Paulo (Brazilian).....	194 1/2	194
B. A. Gt. Southern	86	86 1/2	United of Havana.....	85 1/2	85 1/2
B. A. Western	89	89 1/2			
Bank of Australasia.....	115 1/2	115 1/2	London City & Midland.....	7 1/2	7 1/2
Barclay & Co. "A"	7 1/2	7 1/2	London County & West.....	15 1/2	15 1/2
" " "B"	11 1/2	11 1/2	London Joint Stock.....	22 1/2	22 1/2
Capital & Counties	22 1/2	23	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (£100 pf)	27	27 1/2
Chartered of India	58 1/2	58 1/2	" Do. (£12 pf)	30 1/2	31 1/2
Hongkong & Shanghai	75 1/2	76	Parr's	30 1/2	30 1/2
Lloyds	24 1/2	24 1/2	Standard of S.A.	10 1/2	10 1/2
London & Provincial	16 1/2	16 1/2	Union & Smiths.....	24	24
London & S.W.	11 1/2	12			
Apollinaris ord.....	1 1/2	1 1/2	Forestal Land.....	52/	52/
Armstrong, Whitworth	41 1/2	42 1/2	Furness, Withy.....	51 1/3	51 1/3
Associated Cement	31	32	Hudson's Bay	7 1/2	6 1/2
Birmingham Small Arms	48 1/2	49	Imperial Tobacco 'B' pf.....	22 1/2	22 1/2
Borax defd.....	35/	35/	" " "C" pf.....	35 1/2	36 1/2
Bovril	20 1/2	20 1/2	Kynochs	32/	30 1/2
Brazil Traction	60 1/2	59 1/2	Lever Bros. "C" pf.....	21 1/2	20 1/2
British Amer. Tobacco	96/	96/	Lyons, J.	4 1/2	4 1/2
Brown (John), & Co.	35/	36/	Marconi	38	37 1/2
Brunner, Mond	47 1/2	47 1/2	Maypole Dairy defd.....	23 1/2	22 1/2
Cammell-Laird	62	62	Mond Nickel ord.....	38	38
Cannell-Kellner	33 1/2	33 1/2	National Steam Car.....	20/	20/
Coats	64 1/2	64 1/2	Pears, A. & F.	14 1/2	14 1/2
Cunard	89/	89/	P. & O. defd.....	340	340
Dennis Bros.	37 1/2	38/	Royal Mail	125	123
Dorman, Long	34 1/2	34 1/2	South Durham Steel	37 1/2	37 1/2
Eastmans	8/	8/	Underground Inc. Bds.....	89 1/2	89 1/2
English Sewing Cotton	45 1/2	44 1/2	Vickers.....	38 1/2	39/
Fine Cotton Spinners	30/	29 1/2			
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	9/9	10/6	Mexican Eagle pf.....	37/	37/
Baku (ros.)	3/6	3/6	North Caucasian	26 1/3	27/
Burmah	4 1/2	4 1/2	Romanian Cons.....	17 1/2	17 1/3
Lobitos	41 1/2	40 1/2	Royal Dutch (100 gulden)	45 1/2	45
Maikop Combine (ros.)	3/	3/	Shell	58	58
Maikop Pipeline	4/9	4/9	Spies (10/-)	15 1/3	15/
Mexican Eagle	36 1/2	36 1/2	Ural Caspian	36/	33/
Anglo-Java Rub. (2/-)	61 1/2	61 1/2	Malayalam £1.....	35/	35/
Anglo-Malay 2/-	12 1/2	12 1/2	Merlimau 2/-	5/6	6 1/2
Ayer Kuning £1.....	36 1/2	37/	Pataling 2/-	34 1/2	35 1/2
Bukit Mertajam 2/-	5/	5/	Port Dickson 2/-	3/5	3/5
Bukit Sembawang 2/-	3/10	4/	Rubber Trust £1	25 1/2	25 1/2
Carey United £1	35 1/2	42/	Sapumalkande £1	22 1/2	22 1/2
Grand Central £1	25 1/2	25 1/2	Sialang £1	67 1/2	71 1/2
Gula Kalumpung £1.....	30/	31 1/3	Singapore Para 2/-	3/10 1/2	3/10 1/2
Highlands £1	55 1/3	55 1/2	Singapore United 2/-	3/1	3/4 1/2
Java Para £1	32 1/2	33/	Taipung 2/-	3/9	3/9
Johore Rubber Lands £1.....	33 1/2	33 1/2	Tandjong £1	83 1/2	86 1/3
Langen Java £1	51/	51/	Tandjong Malim £1.....	27 1/2	28/
Linggi 2/-	21 1/2	21 1/2	Tebrau £1	75/	77/
London Asiatic 2/-	7/10 1/2	8/	United Serdang 2/-	12/	12/
Malacca £1	86/	88/	Vallambrosa 2/-	19/	18 1/2
Abbottiakoon (10/-).....	6/6	6/6	De Beers defd. (£2 ros.)	12 1/2	12 1/2
Brakpan	47 1/2	47 1/2	East Rand	17/	17/
Croken Hill Prop. (8/-)	58 1/2	57 1/2	Gt. Boulder (2/-)	13/	13/
Bam & Motor	11/	11 1/3	Meyer & Charlton	5 1/2	5 1/2
Central Mining (£12)	7 1/2	6 1/2	Modder "B"	6 1/2	6 1/2
Chartered	12 1/2	12 1/2	Do. Deep	7 1/2	7 1/2
City Deep	4 1/2	4 1/2	New Modder (£4)	19 1/2	19
Cons. Gold Fields	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Mines (5/-)	3 1/2	3 1/2
Cons. Langlaagte.....	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rio Tinto (£5)	6 1/2	6 1/2
Crown Mines (10/-)	2 1/2	2 1/2	Van Ryn Deep	3 1/2	3 1/2

were firm at 31s. Engineering and munition shares began the week well, but business slackened, and closing prices were a little below the best. Meat and catering shares were steady, but British American Tobacco again came into favour, and were lifted to £5. Textiles were quiet and dull, with slight losses in Bradford Dyers, Coats, Calico Printers, and English Cotton. Business in the Oil share market was restricted, and the tendency on the whole was dull. "Shells" were supported at first, but finished unchanged, while Royal Dutch, after rising ¼ to 45½, fell back to 45. North Caucasian were dealt in between 27s. 3d. and 26s. 3d., and closed at 27s. Ural Caspian and

Spices were both easier. Lobitos dropped to 40s. 9d. and Santa Maria of California preference, after touching 10s., fell back to 9s. 6d. The Rubber share market has been good on the whole, although towards the end there were signs of profit taking. The demand was mainly for the higher-priced shares, and Tandjong, Bukit Rajah, Highlands and Cicely all showed fair gains, while Carey United, Sialang, Labu and Tebrau were also active. Java things were quiet, but there was a steadily increasing demand for Ceylon. Trust companies' shares also came in for a fair amount of support.

SECURITIES WITHDRAWN FROM TREASURY LISTS.

The Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury announce that the undermentioned securities have been withdrawn from the lists of securities acceptable for deposit under the terms of Schemes A and B, as sufficient of these securities have been obtained for the present requirements of the Treasury:—

Buenos Ayres Great Southern Railway Company 5 per Cent. Preference Stock.

Canadian Northern Pacific Railway Company 4 per Cent. 1st Mortgage Debenture Stock (Guaranteed by British Columbia), 1950.

Central Argentine Railway Company 4½ per Cent. Preference Stock.

Grand Trunk Railway Company Perpetual 4 per Cent. Consolidated Debenture Stock.

Grand Trunk Railway Company Perpetual 5 per Cent. Debenture Stock.

Grand Trunk Great Western Railway Company Perpetual 5 per Cent. Debenture Stock.

Japanese Government 4 per Cent. Sterling Loan (1899).

Japanese Government 4 per Cent. Sterling Loan (1905).

Japanese Government 4½ per Cent. Sterling Loan (1905), 1st Series.

Japanese Government 4½ per Cent. Sterling Loan (1905), 2nd Series.

Japanese Government 5 per Cent. Sterling Loan (1907).

Any tenders of these securities which are at present before the Treasury will, as far as possible, be accepted, but no further applications will be received.

LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

SUGAR.—No alteration occurred in prices during the week, and demands were only partially satisfied, as supplies remained inadequate. Stocks of raw descriptions at the three chief ports of the United Kingdom total 56,100 tons, against 40,700 same time last year.

COFFEE.—Actual business was of retail proportions, but as importers do not press, prices remained steady. In auction, bold washed Dumont sold, 66s. The terminal market eased on depressing foreign advices, and trade proved slow. December, sold, 47s. 9d. to 47s. 4½d.; March, 49s. 6d. to 49s. 3d.

COCOA.—A steady tone resulted, and no public sales were held. Ariba, sold, 96s., 98s.; Trinidad, 84s., 85s.

TEA.—Fair competition predominated, but while all the finer liquoring qualities realised steady prices, common and low medium were again a trifle weaker. During the week, 50,000 packages Indian, 33,600 packages Ceylon, and 4,000 packages Java were catalogued.

SPICE continued quiet in all directions, though steady. Of pepper, Singapore, black, October-December steamer, sold, 7½d.; white, 9½d.; and Muntok, 9½d. Fair Zanzibar, cloves, spot, sold, 7d. Tapioca quiet. Fair flake, October-November, London, 3½d. Ordinary small sago, in auction, sold, 20s. 6d.

FRUIT.—New currants to hand this week showed good condition, and Amalias sold, 67s. to 70s.; Patras, 70s. to 75s.; Panarit, up to 80s. There was a steady inquiry for both Valencia raisins and sultanas.

RICE keeps firm, though quiet. Bran firmly held. Beans again dearer. Rangoon, spot, sold, £25 2s. 6d. to £25 15s.; October-November, £26 10s. to £26 15s. Of bran, September-October and October-November, sold, 212s. 6d., ex ship, London.

FIBRES.—Manila hemp steadier, and business was on a moderate scale. Fair October-December sold, £51; ditto, January-March, £49 10s. to £50; coarse, January-March, £46 15s. New Zealand nominally unchanged. Jute met with little support, and the general situation proved somewhat nominal. Native first marks, afloat, steamer, sold, £34 15s.; October-November, £33 10s.; August-September, London, at £32 10s., c.f. and i.

SHELLAC receded under pressure to sell and lack of buying power. Fair second orange, spot, sold, 125s. to 122s. 6d.; October, 125s. to 119s.; December, 127s. to 121s.

RUBBER somewhat unsettled, but a fair amount of trade resulted. Plantation, spot, crepe, sold, 2s. 4½d., 2s. 3½d., 2s. 4½d., and 2s. 4d.; November-December, 2s. 5d. to 2s. 4½d.; January-March, 2s. 5d., 2s. 5½d., and 2s. 5d. Ribbed smoked sheet, spot, sold, 2s. 4½d., 2s. 3½d., 2s. 4½d., and 2s. 4d. Fine hard Para, spot and near, quoted 3s. 3d.

COPRA quietly steady during the greater part of the week, and general position without new feature.

CORN (Mark Lane).—Requirements were well met during the early part of the week, and, as a whole, the tendency of prices manifested steadiness, while in a few cases rates moved in an upward direction. Looking at the situation all round, it seems as though in the immediate future we shall be very much less dependent on North America for supplies, irrespective of the possibility of obtaining Black Sea wheat during the current season. Wheat:

English whites and reds, delivered up, ranged to 67s. per qr. (504 lbs.). Imported grades: No. 1 Northern Manitoba, 74s. 6d., landed. Flour: American first spring patents, 54s. upwards, landed. Oats: La Plata, landed, ranges up to 34s. Grinding Barley: American (44 lbs.), 46s. 6d., ex quay. Maize: La Plata (sound), 50s. 6d., landed.

METALS.—Copper: The standard market advanced since last Monday, but only a small business has been done after a firmer opening, when cash stood at £115 10s., and three months £113. The tendency strengthened by Thursday when values of these dates were finally fixed at £118 and £115 respectively. Tin: Irregular and on balance dearer. Cash standard at the week commence-

CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 29, 1916.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
Sugar —per cwt. duty 14½, 98% polarisation	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Wool —per lb. Australian	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tate's Cubes No. 1	2 7 1½	2 7 1½	Scoured Merino	2 1½-3 10	2 1½-3 10
Ditto, H.T.S.	2 6 7½	2 6 7½	Scoured Cr. Sahr'd	1 8-2 9½	1 8-2 9½
Fine granulated	nom.	nom.	Greasy Merino	1 3½-2 4½	1 3½-2 4½
Lyle's granulated	41 7½-42 1½	41 7½-42 1½	Greasy Crossbred	1 5-2 3½	1 5-2 3½
Foreign granulated, first marks	nom.	nom.	New Zealand (scoured) Merino	3 0-3 6	3 0-3 6
f.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	1 1-1 9½	1 1-1 9½
German Cubes f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Cape snow white	2 1½-3 4	2 1½-3 4
French Cube	nom.	nom.	Indiarubber p. lb.		
prompt	nom.	nom.	Plantation, Spot		
Crystallised, West India	nom.	nom.	Crepe	0 2 4½	0 2 4
Best, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Coal —per ton		
Tea —per lb., duty 1/- lb.	d. s. d.	d. s. d.	Durham, best	nom.	nom.
Indian Pekoe	9 1-1 1½	8½-1 2	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Broken	9½-1 4	9½-1 4½	East Hartlepool	nom.	nom.
Orange	9 1-1 3½	9½-1 2½	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Broken	9½-1 3½	9½-1 8	Steamers, best	35/ 40/	37/6 40/
Pekoe Souchong	9 1-1 0	8½-1 0	Seconds	30/	30/
Ceylon Pekoe	8½-1 1½	8½-1 1½	Lead —per ton	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Broken	9½-1 0½	8½-1 1½	English Pig.	32 5 0	32 5 0
Orange	9½-1 1	9½ 1 1	Foreign soft.	30 10 0	30 10 0
Broken	9½-1 1½	10-1 1½	Quicksilver —per bottle firsthand	£17½	£17½
Pekoe Souchong	8½-1 0½	8½-1 1½	Lin —per ton		
Cocoa —per cwt. duty 6d. per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	English Ingots	£172-£173	£177-£178
Trinidad—per cwt.	81 0-86 0	81 0-85 0	Do. bars	£173-£174	£178-£179
Grenada	73 0-82 6	73 0-82 6	Standard cash	£171 5 0	£175 15 0
West Africa	70 0-74 0	70 0-74 0	Tin Plates, per box	34/ upds.	nom.
Cayuan Plantation	72 0-91 6	72 0-91 6	Copper —per ton		
Guayaquil Ariba	96 0-98 0	96 0-98 0	English, Tough	nom.	nom.
Coffee —per cwt. duty 42½ per cwt.			per ton	nom.	nom.
East India	57 1-95 0	57 0-95 0	Best Selected	£135-£132	£141-£138
Jamaica	62 0-120 6	62 0-120 6	Sheets	£157	£161
Costa Rica	62 0-84 0	62 0-84 0	Standard	£116 10 0	£118½-119
Provisions			Jute —per ton		
Butter, per cwt.			Native firsts for shipment	Oct. £33 15 0	£33 10 0
Australian finest	nom.	nom.	Oils —		
Irish Creameries	188/192/	194/202/	Linseed, per ton	£38½-£39½	£38½-£39½
Dutch dkio	156/190/	190/191/	Rape, ref. English, barrels	£48-£50	£48-£50
Russian finest	nom.	nom.	Brown English, naked	nom.	nom.
Normandy baskets	nom.	nom.	Cott'n Seed, crude	£35 0 0	£35 0 0
Danish finest	200/204/	208/210/	Ditto, refined	£40-£51½	£40-£51½
Brittany rolls—doz. lb.	17/6-20/6	17/6-20/6	Petroleum Oil, per 8 lbs.	1/1½	1/1½
Bacon —per cwt.			Water White	1/2½	1/2½
Irish	110 0-118 0	108 0-117 0	Oil Seeds, Linseed	—	—
Continental	104 0-119 6	98 0-117 0	Calcutta—per 4½ lbs., Sep-Oct	3 19 0	4 0 0
Canadian	108 0-114 0	100 0-112 0	Rape, Toria	69/6	69/6
American	96 0-100 0	96 0-100 0	Iron —per ton		
Hams —per cwt.			Cleveland Cash	nom.	nom.
Irish	136/150/	136/150/	Tobacco —duty, unmanufactured		
Canadian	3 0 0	0 0 0	5/6 to 6/2½ per lb.		
American	68 0-106 0	68 0-114	Maryland & Ohio	0 6 0-10	0 6 0-10
Cheese —per cwt.			per lb. bond	0 8 1-6	0 8 1-6
Dutch	0 0 0-0	70 0-98 0	Virginia leaf	0 6½-10	0 6½-10
Canadian	104 0-108 0	106 0-110 0	Latakia	1 0 3 0	1 0 3 0
English Cheddar	112 0-116 0	112 0-116 0	Havana	1 0 0 0	1 0 0 0
Wilts loaf	nom.	nom.	Manila	0 6 2 0	0 6 2 0
New Zealand	104 0-106 0	106 0-108 0	Cigars, duty 10/ per lb.	1/ upds.	2/ upds.
Rice —per cwt.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Timber —Wood.		
Garden Siam	17 9	17 9	Pitch Pine	250/1-270/	250/1-270/
spot	17 9	17 9	Indian Teak	400/1-600/	400/1-600/
Rangoon 2 stars	17 0	17 0	Turpentine —American Spot	2 3 0	2 3 0
Eggs —per 120.			Copra —		
English	22 6-24 6	22 6-24 6	Malabar, London	nom.	nom.
Irish	20 0-21 0	21 0-22 0	Sept-Oct.	nom.	nom.
Danish	22 0-24 0	22 0-25 0	Ceylon, London	31 0 0	31 15 0
Spelter —G.O.B. as to position	£55-£48	£52-£46	South Sea	29 10 0	30 5 0
Flour —per sack. Town Households			F.M.S.	30 5 0	30 15 0
Official	55/	55/			
American First	53/6 upds.	54/ upds.			
Patents					

ment settled down at £172, and three months at £172 10s., and after a slight relapse, rallied by Thursday to £174 10s. and £174 15s. respectively. Dealings were on a moderate scale. Spelter firm, but quiet. G.O.B., October, £52; December, £46. Lead steady. Soft foreign, October, £30 10s.; and December, £29 10s. Quicksilver, £17 15s.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—The market during the past week has presented a strong appearance, and buyers have met with few opportunities of purchasing except by paying full rates. A larger business in both yarn and cloth has been done during the last few weeks, and the position of producers has been strengthened thereby. Supplies upon the market are getting more limited as the labour shortage becomes more acute. Not much change has occurred in the outlook for supplies in the

raw material. The American Government will publish two important reports relating to the crop on Monday next. Some advices as to the Egyptian growth are not quite so encouraging. The all-round inquiry in piece goods has been healthy, but buying continues sectional. If only producers of grey staples could obtain definite relief the piece goods section would be distinctly strengthened. Manufacturers as a body are more deeply sold than a month ago, and buyers are finding the market more difficult to operate in. Steady buying has occurred for India in a variety of goods, printing and bleaching cloths again attracting chief attention. The monsoon in our Dependency for this season may be described as successful. Some special transactions have been reported in shirtings and sheetings for China, but we have not yet reached the point when it can be said that shippers to the Far East are more prepared to give general support. Egypt has plenty of goods on order, and demand now seems to be tapering off somewhat. The inquiry for certain of the South American outlets keeps up well. All kinds of dyed and coloured materials are very firm in quotation, and finishing works are finding it increasingly difficult to cope with the business coming round. Certain styles of heavy materials still lag behind. There is not much to complain about with regard to the general situation in the home trade, and now and again extraordinary prices are paid for fine fabrics, such as voiles. American yarns for home use have been stiff in quotation, especially the finer counts, and an encouraging trade has been done from day to day. Offers in shipping yarns are still rather poor, but some of the bids for India are not quite so impracticable as a few days ago. In Bolton, yarns prices have again gone against buyers, and a distinctly strong tone has prevailed. This section has recently been strengthened by a substantial business, and quite remarkable prices are now and again paid for special sorts.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

RAILWAYS.

Buenos Ayres Great Southern.—After providing for interest on debenture and preference stocks and all other charges, the available balance is £729,289, out of which the board have transferred £60,000 to the general reserve fund. Balance dividend of 2½ per cent. (less tax) on ordinary, making, with interim paid in April last, 4½ per cent. for the whole year ended June 30, carrying forward £83,853.

Buenos Ayres Western.—Balance on ordinary stock of 3 per cent., less tax, making 5 per cent. for year ended June 30, forward £54,513.

Central Argentine.—2½ per cent. on the ordinary, against 3 per cent., making 4 per cent. for the year, against 5 per cent.

Demegara Railway.—For the half-year ended June 30 at the full rate on the 4 per cent. extension preference and 7 per cent. perpetual preference stocks, and at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum on the preferred ordinary stock, the same as a year ago.

Grand Trunk of Canada.—Interim for half-year ended June 30 of 2 per cent. on 4 per cent. guaranteed stock and 2½ per cent. on first preference stock, payable Nov. 2.

San Paulo.—Interim of 5 per cent., tax free, same as a year ago. Venezuela Central.—Coupon No. 14, due Oct. 1, on first debentures, will be paid Oct. 2 at rate of 3 per cent. per annum at offices of the company, 123, Dashwood House, E.C.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Atlas Assurance.—Interim on account of 1916 of 3s. per share, less tax, payable Oct. 28. This interim is the same as in 1913, 1914, and 1915.

Banco del Peru y Londres.—The Anglo-South American Bank are now receiving for payment Coupon No. 33 of this bank, payable Oct. 2 next, at the rate of 6s. per share, less income-tax at 5s. in the pound.

Bode Rubber Estates (1914).—Interim on the paid-up capital as at the 30th inst. of 5 per cent. (actual), less tax at 4s. 6d., in respect of the year 1916, to be paid Oct. 12.

Bukit Panjong Syndicate.—Interim on account of current year at 10 per cent., free of tax, payable Oct. 2.

Ceylon Tea Plantations.—Interim of 16 per cent., less tax, on ordinary, on account of the year 1916, payable Oct. 30, against 20 per cent.

Cheviot Rubber.—Interim of 5 per cent. (actual) in respect of year ending Dec. 31, equivalent to 11-5d. per share. Tax will be deducted at rate of 4s. 6d. in the pound. This compares with 4 per cent.

Coltness Iron.—Dividend on ordinary of 8 per cent. per annum, together with a bonus of 7 per cent., making total distribution 15 per cent. for the year, against 10 per cent. for the preceding year.

Consolidated Malay Rubber.—Interim of 6d. per share, payable Oct. 19, against 4d. per share a year ago.

Canadian Mining.—Interim of 9d. per share, less tax, payable Oct. 10.

Dobson and Barlow.—On ordinary of 6 per cent., carrying forward £9,652. The previous ordinary share dividend was 2½ per cent., paid as interim in 1914.

Golden Hope Rubber Estate.—Interim of 5 per cent. (actual) in respect of year ending Dec. 31. Tax will be deducted at the rate of 4s. 6d., a year ago the dividend was the same.

Hidden Streams Rubber Syndicate.—Interim of 7½ per cent., less tax, at 4s. 6d., payable Oct. 7, a year ago 5 per cent.

Higgoda Rubber.—Interim of 4 per cent., less tax, payable Oct. 12, the same as a year ago.

John Barker and Co.—Interim at the rate of 8d. per share on ordinary, less tax for six months ended Aug. 31, the same as last year.

Kalgoorlie Electric Power and Lighting.—On preference shares at rate of 4 per cent. per annum for six months ending Sept. 30, payable Oct. 19.

Labu (F.M.S.) Rubber.—Interim of 10 per cent. (actual) in respect of year ending Dec. 31, equivalent to 2 2-5d. per share. Tax will be deducted at rate of 4s. 6d. in the £. A year ago 7½ per cent.

Lambert Brothers.—Balance of 6 per cent., less tax, together with a bonus of 15 per cent., free of tax, for year to June 30, making a total distribution for the year of 25 per cent., against 20 per cent. for the preceding year.

London and Brazilian Bank.—Interim for half-year ended July 31 of 14s. per share, less tax, being at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, payable Oct. 13, the same as a year ago.

Pataling Rubber Estates Syndicate.—Second interim of 40 per cent. (actual) in respect of year ending Dec. 31, payable Oct. 23. Tax will be deducted at the rate of 4s. 6d. in the £. A year ago the dividend was 30 per cent.

Phoenix Assurance.—Interim of 3s. 6d. per share (less tax) in respect of the year 1916, payable Nov. 1. A year ago the dividend was the same.

Rangalla Tea of Ceylon.—Interim of 4 per cent. (less tax) on account of year ending Dec. 31, payable Oct. 2, against 5 per cent.

Rio de Janeiro City Improvements.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, less tax, payable Oct. 16, the same as a year ago.

Rubber Estates of Bentota.—Interim of 5 per cent., less tax, payable Oct. 2, the same as a year ago.

Selangor Rubber.—Further interim of 7d. per share. A similar distribution was made in July.

Segamat (Johore) Rubber.—Interim of 5 per cent., less tax, payable Oct. 13. For the whole of the preceding year the dividend was 10 per cent.

South African Lighting.—Interim of 3 per cent. (6 per cent. per annum), less tax at 4s., same as a year ago.

Straits Rubber.—Second interim of 10 per cent. (actual), less tax, in respect of year ending Dec. 31, 1916, against 7½ per cent. a year ago.

Sungei Batu (Malaya) Rubber.—Interim of 5 per cent. (actual), less tax, in respect of year ending Dec. 31, same as a year ago.

United States and South American Investment Trust.—Interim at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on ordinary, for half-year ended Oct. 4, same as a year ago.

United Sumatra Rubber Estates.—Interim of 2d. per share, less tax, at 4s. 6d. in the £, in respect of year ending Dec. 31, 1916, payable Oct. 6, the same as a year ago.

Windsor (F.M.S.) Rubber.—Interim of 5 per cent. (actual), less tax, in respect of year ending Dec. 31, against 2½ per cent.

Answers to Correspondents.

"A Key to these Answers will be posted early each week for a subscription of ONE GUINEA per annum, 11s. for six months, or 5s. 9d. for three months."

Deposits against future queries may be lodged with the Publisher.

East Coast.—We think the shares will go higher.

Scotia.—(1) Excellent. (2) May go higher, but good. Keep in any case. (3) Not much of an outlook here, but shares cannot be sold at present, must therefore wait and hope. (4) These should be all right, shop vigorously managed. (5) Has been hustled aside a bit lately by the newer stores, but it is a fine old business, and these shares should be all right. (6) Speculative rather, but might be held a while for higher prices. (7) We do not think much of this company's future, and think you should sell these if you could.

Pensioned.—It is impossible to give you advice in a satisfactory way publicly. But why not put the money into the new 6 per cent. Exchequer bonds about to be issued?

Growing Poorer.—There is really nothing else to be done unless you have stock the Government will take. Nothing is to be gained by trying to sell now.

Zero.—Why not look at some of our home businesses, things that have to do with eating and clothing, as well as with "smokes" and "drinks." The concerns which seek to meet the permanent needs of communities must always survive.

J. U.—We see little chance of any rise at present, though the business seems to be conducted with skill and resource. You can only hold on.

J. R. A.—Unless forbidden by your deed, we see no objection; on the contrary, the income would be improved.

D. L. L.—His position is in no way affected.

C. B. H.—It seems a pity to do so now. The company has interests in several properties which are beginning to do well, and we think you might hold on.

C. J. N.—Sell; the price is a very full one.

Twining.—(1) Yes, if you are prepared to wait until the exchange is more normal. (2) This also has good properties, but they have had a sharp rise recently, and may slip back a bit.

R. W.—We cannot advise you to sell. There has been a little improvement in traffics, and we hope this company is past the worst, but the recovery will be long and slow. (1) Might be purchased to average, we think.

The board of the British Mannesmann Tube Co., Ltd., has been reconstituted, and the directors are now Mr. Richard S. Guinness (chairman), Sir Robert Balfour, M.P., Sir Hugh Bell, and Mr. G. Hethey (managing director).

By-the-Way War Notes.

Many people seemed to rejoice overmuch in the beginning of the week on learning that two Zeppelins had been brought down, and one of them completely wrecked by having been set on fire in the same way as the first airship destroyed three weeks before. They imagined that the enemy would be frightened on learning that these catastrophes had taken place, but that was to misjudge the German type of mind. Moulded by its lash-wielders, theologians, professors, and journalists, it is a mind which continues to regard as heroism the destruction of women and children. All German papers, therefore, threaten dire retribution upon us for the destruction of their airships. That we should dare to defend ourselves against the sneak assassin is a crime unforgivable. In regard to these successes of ours, and as also in regard to the havoc played by our "tanks," engines of war that have proved so helpful, the German mind is impervious, not only to any sense of humour, but to any consideration whatsoever common to ordinary humanity. It has not been confirmed that the Berlin master of legions has petitioned the Geneva Red Cross Board against the use of these armed motor-cars, but the story is likely enough to be true, for the German Press has been raging furiously about our "brutality," and because the German mind is so attuned as to regard everything done to deprive the Hohenzollern of victory as a sin against the German pet god. We are criminals in daring to drive back German troops on the Somme and the Aisne. It is an abominable infamy for us to counter and overcome the submarine piracy, and we are only plunging deeper still in degradation by daring to smash the cowardly and Kaiser-worshipped Zeppelins and destroy them.

Nothing can be done with a national soul thus twisted out of all recognition, thus inhuman, and we must be under no illusions. The war has to pound on and on its gory way until the governors of the German Empire have neither pawns nor powder and shot with which to continue fighting. There is no spirit of liberty to appeal to in Germany—none of that sense of human fellowship which might inspire the deluded people with a horror of their infamous misleaders, and prompt them to rise in revolt, to say, "We will have no more of this carnage." Instead of that, the masses now hate England to order with the insane fury of the wild beast foiled of his quarry.

Up to now we have had about 40 of these Zeppelin skulk raids, and they have killed some 426 of our people, nearly all civilians, a majority women and children, besides wounding 950. Altogether, nearly 1,400 of our fellow-citizens have been killed or maimed by these cowardly monsters, who steal over in the darkness, and try to work havoc at random, and what have they got by it? Their very hatred tells us that they feel they have got nothing but loathing and shame. No military gain has been attained, there is no trace of intimidation of this country, and the weird pictures of damage and fright and horror which their journals present to the people are only additional evidence that those in Germany who mislead the people know the truth. Their lies grow in audacity. We have said the crews of the Zeppelins were cowards, and sottish cowards they are, with the cowardice of slaves. Men would not stoop to do the infamies they have done. Contrast their furtive sailings over here in the darkness, when no moonlight can interfere with them, and their sneaking off again before the daylight becomes strong enough to put them in danger, with the heroism every hour displayed by French, British, Italian, and Russian airmen. Behold the boldness with which they attack in open day fortified places, military depots, railway junctions, aerodromes, ammunition factories, and other strategic points in pursuit of the legitimate purposes of war, then say what we are to think of German courage. It is the courage of the Paraguayan, something fatalistic, servile, obscure. It is well that this time there was no attempt to glorify

by a military parade of any sort the burial of the bones even of such wretches destroyed. Happily, last Sunday the burnt Zeppelin fell in the district of a sensible coroner, just as the crew caught alive encountered a sensible vicar.

Things are beginning everywhere to look brighter for an early abatement, if not end, of the war than they did during the wet weather, and not least on the Western front. The French and our own advance in Picardy becomes vigorous, one may say, in proportion as the roads dry up, and the extent of ground gained during the fighting of this week is in the highest degree satisfactory. We have won our way onward, too, at comparatively little loss in killed and wounded, while the Germans have been so punished that their boar's courage begins to ooze away, and they either take to their heels as soon as they see their position menaced, or else surrender in droves. This shows that their morale is less than it was in the early weeks of "the great push." But the French and British generals have now got the enemy well in hand; the troops they lead are free men, not slaves. We hope operations will be favoured by decent weather throughout October, for the commanders are following the wise tactics of giving the invaders no respite night or day. Pressure thus unrelenting and severe would break the nerve and destroy the resisting power of the finest troops in the world if resolutely applied, as it is being. All, therefore, looks cheerful for those who long for the war to end.

Perhaps, however, at the moment the most fascinating point in all the wild agony on the long war fronts is Greece. M. Venizelos has gone to Crete to rally the Greek nation and to lead it, we hope, to take its place amongst those who are fighting for the deliverance of mankind from a great peril and an abominable cruelty. King Constantine has played the game of his brother-in-law too long and too clumsily. Greece is arousing herself, and although the nation's leader has generously given the man a last chance to do his duty, we begin to hope that he may be the first of the parasite monarchs dumped upon that part of the world by reactionary and anti-democratic intrigue, to be sent about his business. The best solution of the Constantinian effort to sway a nation's fate by the aid of traitors would be the Proclamation of the Greek Republic.

We cannot help being somewhat amused at the behaviour of German lie manufacturers over the Rumanian campaign. The mockery of facts by which it tries to hide the truth was led off by the Kaiser with his telegram proclaiming a "decisive victory" of his Turko-Bulgarian and German hordes in the Dobrudja. There was no such victory. Mackensen, on the contrary, has had to retreat, and will probably get beaten. We hope he and his nondescript bands of assassins will not be forced to surrender without conditions. In like manner the movements of the Rumanian armies in Transylvania have been systematically misrepresented to the German and Austro-Hungarian peoples who are being duped in a way that sometimes even excites pity in the minds of their enemies. But lie as they may, the doomed patricians in the two empires cannot much longer avert the revelations which should mark the beginning of the end of their power.

The Allied forces advancing from Salonika are also making progress, and the difficulties of the country to be gone over taken into account, that progress is a presage of the destruction of Bulgaria as a traitor State in the Balkan Peninsula. Greek Macedonia has for one may say 40 years been preyed upon by the lawless bands organised in Bulgaria, and now the day of retribution is at hand.

In view of swift coming events, it is well to keep track of the Kaiser's outbursts. The world is surely tired of this "inspired" mendacious fustian. The message addressed to a gathering of the Union of Veterans' Societies, which met in Munich last week, is the Kaiser's reply to its wallow of "loyalty," and is interesting as another example of the persistence with which "Wilhelm" sticks to the lie that the

Allies were the aggressors in this war. How does the man reconcile his lie with the facts? "Ours was an offensive undertaken in self-defence," is the quibble, and it is a lie more monstrous, if possible, than the other:—

I heartily thank the Union for their friendly greetings and the renewal of their oath of allegiance. What this means to a German soldier and how it is obeyed with imperturbable loyalty are proved by the unparalleled heroic deeds with which the German nation in arms for more than two years has withstood the assault of numerous enemies directed towards our destruction, heroic deeds by which, with God's assistance, final victory and a safe and happy future will be gained for our Fatherland. In fostering this spirit of loyalty towards Kaiser and Empire, towards Prince and Fatherland, the German Veteran Unions have contributed a praiseworthy share. May they in future also be the shield of patriotism, ready for all sacrifices, and offer our brave heroes after their happy return a place of true comradeship and mutual support in memory of the common dangers and victories of the greatest war of all times.—Wilhelm.

Here is an illuminating sidelight on the mental condition into which the Allied offensive is bringing the population of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. It is furnished by the Budapest correspondent of the *Morning Post*:—

One often comes across opinions in the Press to the effect that the Entente Powers are trying to force a decision before the winter, and curiously enough this seems to be received with great satisfaction, although the nature of the decision which the Entente Powers are trying to force is well understood. One gains the impression that the people—even those who are not directly concerned in the war or are not personally inconvenienced by it—would like to see a decision of any kind. The general offensive which is raging all round us at present is greeted with joy and satisfaction, for it creates hopes of a speedy termination of the war, and this is the only thing which keeps the people alive here.

The week now ending has been full of encouragement for the armies of civilisation. East, west, north, south, everywhere the enemy has been contained and beaten back. The victory in the Dobrudja has been Rumanian, not Hunnish, and the gallant Serbs are pressing on in Macedonia, keen to be ever in the forefront of the battle. Italy continues to make progress, and to punish and push back the perfidious Austrian, and the week in the Somme gives no scope for pessimism. And of all the news from our headquarters, none is sweeter than the following, from the message dated 2.55 p.m. on Thursday:—"The fighting during the past few days has been singularly economical. Our losses are small, not only relatively to the importance of our gains, but absolutely. Our total casualties are not more than twice the number of enemy prisoners taken. One division which had a specially difficult task allotted to it took as many prisoners as it suffered casualties."

Not least in its consolation to those at home who suffer and behold their sons perish in the titanic struggle is this good news. It cheers in other ways, because testifying that the leadership of the Allied armies is of the very best—sagacious, humane, far-seeing—and because results so great compared with the sacrifices made prove that the Kaiser's hordes have met their masters. Not only in the manliness of the French and British soldiers, but in the superiority of their armaments and in the skill with which every available device is utilised for the destruction of the traitorous aggressor do the Allies now proclaim themselves supreme. The ingenious German, materialist to the core, pinned his faith in his weapons, and we have now destroyed his boasted superiority in death-dealing implements of every kind. His devilishness in invention has contributed to his own undoing. We do not sink to his level in making war on the defenceless, but, adapting and improving upon his weapons, we turn them to higher ends. We prey upon his lines of communication, blow up his ammunition and supplies depots, and in all possible ways endeavour to reduce his power to do us mischief. After each Zeppelin raid a clamour is raised for reprisals on places like Hamburg, Bremen, Cologne, Düsseldorf, or Frankfort-on-Maine, but we hope our punishment will continue to fall upon everything and every being engaged in carrying on, in sustaining, the war, and that no deliberate effort will ever be made to slaughter the helpless civil population. A bomb in the middle of the Reichstag

while it orated does, to be sure, open a luring prospect, but it is becoming explosive "on its own," and may be left to wallow amid the lies it has fathered, countenanced, believed.

Wholly admirable and timely is the publication of Mr. Lloyd George's interview with an American journalist. Peace whines are in the air, and are traitorously "pro-German," whatever their motive or origin. "We will have none of them," said the War Minister. "Will France, will Russia stand true for a fight to the finish?" the interviewer queried, and the question gave Mr. George the opportunity to extol with discernment and cordial admiration the heroic steadfastness of both our Allies. To us there falls the loathsome but necessary task of ridding the world of a pestilence, and "there will be no quittance among the Allies," said the Minister. "'Never again' has become our battle cry. At home the suffering and the sorrow is great, and is growing. As to the war zone, its terrors are indescribable. I have just visited the battlefields of France. I stood, as it were, at the door of Hell, and saw myriads marching into the furnace. I saw some coming out of it scorched and mutilated. This ghastliness must never be re-enacted on this earth, and one method at least of ensuring that end is the infliction of such punishment upon the perpetrators of this outrage against humanity that the temptation to emulate their exploits will be eliminated from the hearts of the evil-minded among the rulers of men. That is the meaning of Britain's resolve."

Insurance News.

The special mode of assurance of the tontine variety—that is assurance which provides additional benefits or profits in the shape of bonuses for those who survive long enough to become themselves a source of profit to the office—has always been popular with the public, especially with individuals who estimated their own chances of longevity as particularly good. Many find in this principle the fairest application of the insurance system to common needs. Hitherto, however, this system has not been available except on a bonus basis, and the disadvantage of such a limitation is that the assured is dependent upon the scale of profits to be allotted in a distant future, while having no means of judging for many years as to the results which he will obtain in return for his annual premiums. There should therefore be an opening for a scheme such as the one now devised by the Clerical, Medical, and General Life Assurance Society, which preserves the advantages of the tontine bonus system while giving the assured a fixed contract. The new policy fixes and guarantees from the outset the exact benefits to be received. On attainment of a certain age which, broadly speaking, represents the point at which the annual premiums accumulated at 4 per cent. compound interest equal the sum assured, the amount payable at death will be at once increased by 20 per cent. for every £100 originally assured, and thereafter on each subsequent birthday of the assured there will be a further annual addition of 30s. per cent. The society's ordinary whole-life non-profit rates are low, and those of the new table are based upon them with the addition needed for the tontine element. The scale of cash surrender values is definitely fixed, and the terms are embodied in the contract itself. Further, a generous scale of cash surrender values is definitely guaranteed.

Particulars have now been obtained as to the volume of business transacted in Germany last year, and the figures show that, whereas the amount of new assurances in 1913 reached a total of 1,734,000,000 marks, for 1914 the figures were 1,260,000,000 marks, and for 1915 only 527,000,000 marks. A very large proportion of the total amount assured at the end of 1915 consisted of endowment assurances.

The *Australasian Insurance and Banking Record*, in its annual review of Australasian life insurance business in 1915, points out that nearly the whole of the increase in claims by death was due to war claims. The total paid last year, including bonus additions, was £2,458,200, an increase of £554,400 over the figures

for 1914, or 28½ per cent. Five offices state their figures separately, and show that almost the whole of the extra mortality was due to the war. The new business completed during the year showed a small decline of about 8 per cent., one-half the ratio of decline in the United Kingdom—so that apparently the artificial prosperity arising from the war prevented anything like a considerable decline in new insurance business.

Tea, Oil and Rubber.

It is not surprising that the effort to hoist the price of rubber to 2s. 6d. or beyond has met with little success, and the quotation is again back to the region of 2s. 4½d. Neither this, however, nor the tragic death of Mr. C. A. Lampard has sensibly restricted interest in the share market, which continues the most active section in the Stock Exchange, although the tendency has been duller during the last day or two. Mr. Lampard was at one time on the boards of between 20 and 30 companies, but latterly he had divested himself of a good many of these responsibilities, and at the time of his death his directorships numbered a baker's dozen. However, his influence in connection with the rubber industry was far more extensive than even these figures would imply, and he will be greatly missed for a long time to come, although modern conditions tend to make the individual, however eminent, less indispensable than used to be the case. Therefore the market merely expressed its sorrow, and went about its business. Prices have only flinched a trifle with the reaction in the raw material, and it is evident that the attraction of high dividends can still conjure a great deal of money out of the pockets of investors. In some cases they are bound to lose, but we hope on the whole they will not be too seriously disappointed.

We hope the East Malay Coconut Co., Ltd., is getting to the end of its troubles, but the new directors, who only assumed control in May last, will have a stiff job to pull the concern round. At March 31 last there was less than £300 cash in hand, no realisable assets, preliminary expenses amounting to £2,240 to be written off and a debit balance of £1,987. But they are evidently courageous, and may win through. They have purchased a property of 1,590 acres from the Kelantan Coconut Estates, Ltd., for £17,500 payable in £1 shares, besides assuming liability for a loan of £6,000 also to be discharged in shares four years hence subject to 7 per cent. interest meantime. Better still, they have arranged with the Batavia Plantations Investments, Ltd., for an advance of £24,000 at 7 per cent. spread over four years, and they reckon that the funds thus provided will enable them to see both the coconut plantations in bearing, and 400 acres of rubber in tapping. It looks a rather hazardous enterprise, but the people with money in it already show their faith in the future, and we wish them all success because with clean hands they are the type of adventurers on which the Empire has been built up.

KIFULU RUBBER.—The directors have decided to convene a general meeting, which will be held on October 6, for the purpose of receiving a report upon the present position of the company. They state that soon after the outbreak of war communication with German East Africa ceased, and the last letter received from the manager was dated August 20, 1914. Every effort has since been made to communicate with the manager, but has proved futile, and no figures have been received from the estate since June 30, 1914.

The Week in Mines.

Business in the Mining markets has not been quite so active this week, but the tone has been firm, though profit-taking has caused a slight relapse in prices here and there. The outstanding incident has been the buoyant strength of Copper shares, particularly the American descriptions, which have advanced substantially on American buying stimulated by higher dividends, and still higher prices for the metal. Tanganyikas and Zambesias have advanced in view of their copper interests, and Tin shares have attracted considerable attention.

SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

Movements in the South African market have been rather irregular, but the tone has remained firm. The issue of the Johnnies report, showing a strong cash position, brought in buyers of the shares, which rose 10½d. to 20s. 4½d. The reference in the report to the Inland Revenue Board's decision to regard the profits tax as an income-tax for the purposes of assessing the relief afforded under the Finance Act in respect of colonial income-tax, does not seem to have been properly appreciated in the market yet. It will mean that the tax deducted from dividends will be 3s. 6d., and not 5s., in future, and that the next dividend warrants will probably only be taxed at 2s. in the £. Gedulds have been in good demand, and have risen 2s. 3d. to 46s.; Springs have advanced 3-32 to 3 11-32, Simmer Deeps 6d. to 4s., Primroses 1s. to 6s., Modder Deeps 7½ to 7½, Knights Centrals 9d. to 13s., Consolidated Main Reefs 1s. to 19s., and City and Suburbans 1½ to 2. Profit-taking, however, has caused New Modders to relapse 1½ to 19, Gold Fields 1½ to 1 21-32, Bantjes 2s. to 14s. 6d., and New Kleinfontains 1s. 6d. to 30s. In the Rhodesian market considerable interest has been taken in Tanganyikas, which have been in good demand, and have risen 7-32 to 2¾, while Zambesia Explorings, the stable companion, have spurred 1s. 6d. to 18s. 3d. The only movement of interest in the West African section has been a slight improvement in Ashanti Goldfields to 18s. Diamond shares have been firmer.

COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Heavy buying of copper shares, chiefly American descriptions on New York account, has been effected this week, and prices show some spectacular advances. Thus Anacondas have risen 1½d. to 20½, and Utahs 2½ to 20½. Rio Tintos have risen ¾ to 62½, and Mons Cupri 1s. to 7s., but Hampdens are 1s. lower at 36s. 6d. on realisations. Tin has risen ¾ further to £173½ per ton. Dolcoaths are 1s. 9d. higher at 11s. 6d., after having been above 13s.; East Pools have risen 1½ to 1¾, Renongs 1½ to 1½, and Bauchi Prefs. 1s. to 6s. 9d. Broken Hills have been on the dull side, with Proprietaries 1s. lower at 57s. 9d. and Zinc prefs. 1s. lower at 43s. 9d. Among West Australian shares Golden Horse Shoes have been inquired for, and are ¾ to the good at 1½.

Russian shares have moved slightly against holders owing to a fresh depreciation in the value of the rouble. The Alaska group has weakened further on adverse reports regarding the caving-in of part of the Treadwell Mine. Treadwells have fallen ½ to 4½, and Uniteds, on a poor return, have lost ½ at 2½. Oroville and Nechi prefs. at 17s. and 13s. 3d. respectively have been in request, and Burma Corporations have reached the new high level of 4½, on news that the boring of the Tiger Tunnel has been completed. Waihis have relapsed 3-32 to 1½.

MINING NEWS.

RHODESIAN MINERAL OUTPUT.—The production of gold in Southern Rhodesia in August amounted to £338,001, a decrease of £6,492 on August, 1915. The following table shows the production since January, 1912:—

MONTH.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
	£	£	£	£	£
January	214,918	220,776	249,032	293,133	317,586
February	209,744	208,744	259,888	286,789	313,799
March	215,102	257,797	271,236	299,686	331,368
April	221,476	241,098	295,907	315,541	319,386
May	234,407	242,452	290,062	318,898	323,783
June	226,867	241,303	306,421	322,473	313,070
July	240,514	249,301	320,670	336,505	322,365
August	239,077	250,576	316,972	344,493	338,001
September	230,573	250,429	309,398	321,085	—
October	230,072	247,068	337,241	339,967	—
November	225,957	239,036	311,711	313,160	—
December	218,661	251,687	309,669	331,376	—
Totals ..	2,707,368	2,903,267	3,580,207	3,823,166	2,624,338

The number of producers was 247, or 33 more than in July; and the output of other metals was 18,326 ounces of silver, 48,818 tons of coal, 351 tons of copper, 18,551 tons of chrome ore, 675 tons of asbestos, and 128 carats of diamonds.

WEST AFRICAN GOLD OUTPUT.—The production of gold in August amounted to £125,143, a decrease of £14,221 as compared with August last year. The following table shows the monthly production January, 1912:—

MONTH.	1916.	1915.	1914.	1913.	1912.
	£	£	£	£	£
Jan. ..	140,579	143,649	123,862	144,262	107,262
Feb. ..	137,739	144,034	123,169	137,038	102,470
Mar. ..	150,987	153,770	131,392	150,060	111,376
April ..	135,976	149,978	131,697	146,220	114,796
May ..	132,976	142,123	145,227	142,617	115,678
June ..	127,107	135,289	147,289	125,764	114,697
July ..	128,574	140,290	151,923	132,936	127,800
Aug. ..	125,143	139,364	150,386	126,090	146,407
Sept. ..	—	135,744	154,316	132,394	142,397
Oct. ..	—	141,771	159,410	137,153	142,414
Nov. ..	—	122,138	154,674	132,694	137,700
Dec. ..	—	158,323	147,699	127,472	144,382
Totals ..	1,079,081	1,706,473	1,717,044	1,634,700	1,497,179

FRONTINO AND BOLIVIA.—The report of this South American gold mining company for the six months ended June 30 states that 12,513 tons were crushed, yielding £59,138, inclusive of

£8,911 from tributors and streamers. Development expenditure amounted to £6,324. No figures of the total expenditure are given, nor is any estimate of profits made, an omission which detracts considerably from the value of the report. Reserves of ore at the end of June were estimated at 42,200 tons, valued at 20 dwts. per ton. Satisfaction is expressed at the regularity of the output, secured without any strain on the resources of the mine. Prospects for the current six months are regarded as bright; a regular output is assured, and development should yield important results in the deeper workings.

EILEEN ALANNAH.—The accounts for the year ended December 31 last show, including the balance brought in, a credit of £52,832. Of this £40,000 is placed to a machinery reserve account, leaving £12,832 to be carried forward. The policy of the board has been to make the mine finance itself, in order to provide the additional capital required for the erection of the new plant, the total cost of which was estimated at about £75,000. The actual cost of the new plant was, to the end of December, £73,446. During 1915, 45,978 tons were treated, realising £97,101. A further 169 claims have been acquired, and the ore reserves are estimated at 255,324 tons. The amount of ore treated in the present year down to the end of June was 31,238 tons, for a working profit of £21,252. In view of this marked improvement, an interim dividend, the first distribution to be made, of 5 per cent. is declared on account of the current year.

What Balance Sheets Tell.

BIRMINGHAM SMALL ARMS CO., LTD.

Like other big undertakings engaged on munitions, this company is unable to make up its accounts for the year ended July 31 until the liabilities for excess profits duty, and for munitions levy under the Munitions of War Act have been determined. That it has done exceedingly well, however, is evident from the announcement of a second interim dividend of 15 per cent., tax free, on the ordinary shares, making, with the payment of 5 per cent. in April last, a total of 20 per cent. on account. Last year the distribution for the year was 20 per cent., but as a bonus of one new share for every two held was paid out of the reserve and the undivided profits, the present distribution represents a considerable increase in the divisible surplus.

COPE BROS. AND CO., LTD.

Like other tobacco manufacturers, this company shows a further big expansion in business for the year ended June 30, and the nett profits, including £8,880, or £7,449 more, brought in, were £50,974 up at £78,095. After providing for debenture interest and other charges, and setting aside £45,000 for excess profits duty, income-tax, and other contingencies, against nothing, the disposable surplus is £5,974 larger at £29,854. Out of this a dividend of 6s. per share is paid, compared with 4s. a year ago, but this time the distribution is less tax instead of tax free, so that the advantage is not quite so great as it looks. The balance carried forward is £2,412 up at £11,291. Owing to the purchase of new premises in London, property account has risen by £3,589 to £88,435, but plant, trade marks, &c., have been reduced by £3,627 to £63,443. Goodwill remains at £44,968, against which the reserve only amounts to £4,072. Stocks are £60,323 larger at £234,258, debtors owe £24,963 more at £110,250, and cash and bills are £2,215 higher at £20,569. On the other hand, current liabilities have only been increased by £4,287 to £32,144, but the large addition to stocks has necessitated borrowing, and a new item appears in the balance-sheet of £32,203 for bank advances secured by a lien on tobacco in bond.

BUXTON LIME FIRMS CO., LTD.

Why this company should have done so much better in the year ended June 30 we do not know, but the nett profits after writing off £16,094, or £2,574 more, for depreciation, were £8,914 up at £27,888. Adding £7,507 brought forward, the amount available for distribution was £6,838 larger at £35,395, out of which the dividend is increased from 4½ per cent. to 5, and £12,006, or £4,499 more, is carried forward. Property account has been reduced on balance by £11,986 to £682,459, against which there is a reserve of £86,025. Cash has risen by £9,015 to £14,605, stocks are valued at £30,304, or £2,092 more, and debtors and shares in other companies are £1,814 up at £82,730, while, on the other hand, creditors have been reduced by £3,612 to £65,958.

NEW HUDSON CYCLE CO., LTD.

This company became a controlled establishment on February 1 last, and the report to August 31 shows that it has prospered wonderfully. In the year to August 31, 1915, the profits increased £24,000, and this has been followed by a further advance of £44,000 to £82,955. After writing £5,210 (new) off plant, &c., and spending £3,100 more on professional charges the nett profit is £33,500 higher at £61,315. It is proposed, however, to retain the dividend at 10 per cent. meantime, and to carry forward £54,410 against £4,140 brought in until it is settled what the company has to pay under the Finance and Munitions Acts. So soon as this liability is ascertained the directors will consider the advisability of a further distribution. Sundry creditors have been reduced £25,000 to £26,000, while cash is up £8,600 at £53,020, and stock £7,300 at £58,230, otherwise the changes in the balance-sheet are unimportant. We hope the company will not drop back into its former sad position when it is finished with Government work.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

JOHN BROWN AND CO.

Lord Aberconway, presiding on Tuesday, at Sheffield, at the annual meeting of John Brown and Co., Ltd., observed that it was impossible to discuss the details of their great undertaking, but the shareholders could rest assured that during the past two years the company had done work which, if it could be described, would form a most remarkable chapter in the history of British undertakings. All that had been done without increasing their share capital or debenture capital, and without adding to their technical staff. In that connection he would like to say how much they appreciated the great work which had been done, and was being done, by the company's technical staff. They had had greatly increased calls on their time and attention, and had given ungrudging work to all developments of the company. In regard to the workmen, also, he desired to say a word of high praise. They had done excellently, both in Sheffield and Clydebank. Certainly, at the outset of the war there was a feeling—they could all understand how it arose—that trade union rules were going to be set aside and that the men were to be, as the phrase went, more or less exploited. Well, all that feeling had disappeared amongst the best class of men, and they were now animated by a patriotic desire to win the war, and they were conscious that their work was as valuable, if not as self-sacrificing, as the work which their brothers were doing at the front. The output of which he spoke had been maintained by much extra exertions, because it would be remembered that 10,000 out of the company's 55,000 workmen were now soldiers. The directors had, therefore, in a large number of cases given relief to the dependents of those who had gone away, whose places, of course, had in every case been kept open. There would be, he believed, a very great demand for merchant tonnage when the war was over, and the company's combination of shipyards was fully prepared to undertake all that work. They did not expect that they would have to go begging for orders. "We believe that we can fill our shipyards and engine works for some years to come at fair prices. We are in touch with a large number of great shipping companies, and we never stood better than we stand to-day." He was rather glad to say that the armament side of their business became every year of relatively less importance to them, and that their concern was getting more and more fitted to cope with work which might be described as of a civil character; and even after their war departments had become less fully employed, there was a great deal of work to be done in other directions. Some of the shareholders might be surprised in view of all these circumstances that the profits of the company were not greater. Personally, he was glad that they were not greater. While they wanted to see their concern maintained at full efficiency, and while they wanted to see a fair return on their capital, such as they enjoyed before the war, they disliked the idea of making money in a time of national emergency. When they reflected on the sacrifices the men at the front were making, on their courage and devotion, and on the misery they endured, and all that they had given up in fighting for their country, it must be distasteful to everybody to feel that those who were staying at home were making money. He believed that if there had been no war the profits of the company would probably have been just as great this year. They had been, as the shareholders knew, for a great many years improving the general position of the company, its plant, its financial position, &c., and they were at the point of reaping a very great harvest from their pre-war exertions when the war broke out. During the last 16 years the company had set aside, in addition to ordinary depreciation, something like three-quarters of a million for special depreciation in their different departments. If it had not been for that he thought it was not likely that they would have been able to declare any dividend at all that day. At Sheffield and Clydebank and at their collieries wages had largely increased. They had paid during the year half a million more in wages—an average of 10s. per week for every man and boy more than in the previous year. They did not grudge these high payments to men who were in many cases working under most strenuous conditions. He had, however, on the other side, to regret that there were so many absentees from the collieries. They found there that high wages did not produce more work, and the large percentage of men who did not turn up at their work accounted to some extent for the high price of coal. Their reserve fund had increased by £75,000, while on the assets side they would see an increase of £130,000. Most of that was represented by plant intended before the war for their ordinary peace civil work. Stocks showed relatively a decrease of £100,000; they were less than for the past three years, owing to the fact that the company had had payments on account of work in progress. Their main business must be in shipbuilding, marine engine building, making railway material, and the making of high-class steel products. He believed there would be a great demand for all this class of work, especially railway material and ships. The financial position of the company was never so good as it was at the present time, and they could look forward with a fair amount of confidence to the future. He noticed that a great deal more interest was being taken in their shares and securities on the London Stock Exchange.

Colonel B. A. Firth, in seconding the motion, emphatically denied the allegations that there was anything in the nature of an armament ring or combine.

The resolution was carried, and the payment of dividends, representing a total of 12½ per cent. for the year, less income-tax, was confirmed.

SHEEPBRIDGE COAL AND IRON.

REPORT OF ANNUAL MEETING.

The 52nd annual meeting of shareholders of the Sheepbridge Coal and Iron Co., Ltd., was held at Sheffield on Monday, Mr. Frederick Fowler presiding, the other directors present being Rt. Hon. Lord Aberconway, Mr. W. H. McConnel, Mr. M. Deacon, Mr. W. B. M. Jackson, with the secretary, Mr. T. E. Haslam.

The Chairman, in proposing the adoption of the directors' report, said that a dividend of 15 per cent. for the year, free of the heavy income-tax that now ruled, and a considerable amount added to reserve was a satisfactory result. Coal prices had ruled high during the year, and so had the rate of wages for workmen. The cost of materials, especially timber, had also been very high. The output of coal continued to decrease, mainly owing to the loss of men who had joined the forces.

The iron works department of the company was now a controlled establishment, and the price of coal was also controlled to a considerable extent. Large supplies of coal were being sent to France, chiefly owing to the occupation of the colliery districts of that country by the enemy.

The company had taken a lease of the lower seams of coal at Glapwell. For over 30 years they had been working the hard coal, there and at Langwith, and they were hopeful that the lower seams would also prove satisfactory.

The condition of things that was likely to arise after the war was a serious matter, which would require most careful handling. A great disturbance of the labour market had been caused by the war. The high wages which the workmen had been receiving—quite properly—and the high profits which in most cases the colliery companies had been earning had brought about a state of things very different from the normal, and there would be great difficulty in reconciling these matters and bringing them back to a fair and reasonable condition. Unless a conciliatory and fair spirit was shown by both employers and workmen when that time arrived the consequences would be disastrous. If strikes or great disturbances took place when the war was over the Germans would inevitably step in and capture our trade instead of our capturing theirs. The end of the war might come upon us much sooner than some people expected, and unless capital and labour generally were prepared, when that time arrived, to meet the difficulties which to his mind would then arise, he thought the consequences might be very serious indeed.

Lord Aberconway seconded the resolution, and dealt at some length with the balance-sheet. The capital had been increased by £122,000, due to the further calls on the new shares. There was an increase in creditors of £125,000, due to an increase in trade creditors and the reservation made for war taxes. Loans, investments, and cash amounted to £620,000, which gave them an idea of the financial strength of the company.

This position had been reached partly owing to the issue of new shares which was made just before the war broke out, the object of the issue being to provide cash to meet the calls from Rossington and Firbeck, and for the sinking of the lower seams at Glapwell. The amount received for the new shares at the end of the financial year was £400,000, and the balance due, £29,000, had practically all come in since June 30. The company owned 884,000 shares of £1 each in its subsidiary companies, some of which were not fully paid, but the majority of the shares stood at a high premium. Coal had dropped by 20 per cent. below its former level, showing what an enormous difference was made by the absence of colliers who had gone to the war, and also by the slack time being worked by so many who stayed at home. In spite of the reduced output, the amount paid in wages was practically the same. They did not at all grudge the workman the wages he earned. All they asked was that he should put his back into his job just as valiantly as the soldier who was fighting at the front. He should like all to feel a sense of patriotic responsibility and abandon the habit of knocking off work one or two days a week, because every ton of coal that the output fell below the normal meant a loss to the country, and to some extent it hampered the operations of the Army.

He wished he could say something about the future of the coal trade. If the war should come to an end they had no idea what would be the demand for coal and for finished articles of every kind. The war had caused an enormous reduction in our exports of coal, and they could only hope that, when it was over, those exports would be resumed. If they were resumed—and if coal fell, as he hoped it would, to a more reasonable price, they would probably be able to resume them—then he did not think the future of the coal trade would be very bad. But they must not forget they would have a largely increased output, caused by the return to work of miners who were now serving at the front, and they would have to find some way of disposing of it. These were matters which he supposed even the wisest man could not see through. Let them hope that the prosperity which the company had enjoyed might be continued under happier peace conditions.

The resolution was carried, and the payment of a dividend, making a total of 15 per cent. for the year, was agreed to.

Mr. Frederick Fowler and Sir Henry Norman, Bart., M.P., were re-elected directors, and Messrs. Alfred Tongue and Co. were reappointed auditors.

NIGER CO.

The 36th ordinary general meeting of the Niger Co., Ltd., was held on Wednesday, at the Cannon Street Hotel, the Right Hon. the Earl of Scarborough, the chairman of the Company, presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. W. G. Rand) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: At our last annual meeting we had to report a nett loss for the year 1914 of a little over £31,000, which reduced the profit and loss account, roughly, to £29,000, out of which the preference dividend for the last half of 1914 was paid, leaving a carry-forward of £14,061. For the past twelve months the profit and loss account shows a trade profit of £154,895, and an increase of about £11,000 in the profits of tin working. After deducting directors' fees, income-tax, debenture interest, and depreciation, the amount at our disposal is £163,174. Out of this the preference dividend for 1915 was paid in March last, £40,000 has been added to the general reserve account, and from the balance it is proposed to pay 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares for 1915. The first half of the current year's dividend on the preference shares will be paid at the same time. Last year I told you it was our policy, in the interests of the company and of Nigeria, to do our utmost to maintain the trade even under conditions for the time being unprofitable, and in our circular to the shareholders in January of this year it was a great satisfaction to be able to announce that a gratifying recovery had set in, which fully justified that policy. Although prices for produce in Europe were low during the first half of the year, they rose rapidly during the latter half. We experienced a very good river, and were, consequently, able to get our produce down cheaply and quickly, and this, coupled with a considerable reduction in working expenses, brought about a much more satisfactory state of affairs. As regards the mining industry, the general conditions improved during the year; several mines have been further opened up and new ground discovered. The actual shipments of tin concentrates were 6,060 tons, as against 5,011 tons the year before, and the royalties received from the Government rose to £27,162, as against £23,683. The output on the properties worked on our own account was 184½ tons, which realised £19,427. In the summer of last year the Government appointed a Committee on Edible and Oil-producing Nuts and Seeds, with a view to devising means for diverting the trade from Germany to this country. The report and evidence attracted much general attention, and practical results have already been obtained. The demand for nut-butters is increasing, and this article is becoming a great standby to householders at a time when prices for dairy produce have reached such a high level. Farmers are also turning their attention to kernel cake, which is a by-product of the kernel nut, and to the value of which as cattle food I can testify from my own experience. Regarding the general outlook for the current year, it is difficult to attempt any forecast. Before the war Germany provided a market for 44 per cent. of the produce of Nigeria, and fresh outlets have to be found for the same. With free markets elsewhere, we should welcome this opportunity of recovering this trade for the Empire, but for the time being we are hampered by the still more drastic restrictions imposed by the Government since January last, which are tantamount to an entire prohibition of shipment from this country of all fats and oilseeds. Although the necessities of the war must, of course, be paramount, we are of opinion that the Government will be well advised, in the interests of Colonial trade and for the purpose of strengthening the after-war position in this country, to relax these restrictions at the earliest possible moment.

Sir John Kirk, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

RENONG TIN DREDGING.

The third annual general meeting of the Renong Tin Dredging Co., Ltd., was held on Thursday at the registered offices of the company, 5, Whittington Avenue, E.C., Captain F. B. Lawson (Chairman of the company) presiding.

Mr. J. H. Jennings, F.C.I.S., representing the secretaries (Messrs. Guthrie and Co., Ltd.), having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: In addressing you last year, I said we "might with confidence look forward to a greatly improved position in the future, including the current year." It is satisfactory, meeting you here to-day, to be able to show that that confidence was not misplaced. We have had a good year, and the company is to-day in a strong financial position. The average cost works out at 8.09d. per cubic yard, or per ton of tin ore to just over £74. These figures are, I think, reasonably low, and compare very favourably with those for previous years. The average selling price of the ore was £111 per ton, equivalent to about £175 for metallic tin. The assay value of 71.65 per cent., as shown by the statement appended to the accounts, is about normal. The costs for the year include over £14,000 for repairs to the dredges. It is as well to point out that included in this sum is not only the expense of necessary repair work which has been done in the ordinary course of operations, but also of certain vital alterations, which have materially improved their working value. The duty on tin payable to the Siamese Government amounted to £10,909 8s 4d, equivalent to 11½ per cent. on the ore yield of £111 per ton. This is a very heavy item and a great burden to the company, but I fear there is no hope of any amelioration being obtained from the Siamese Government. After allowing for interest on debentures, the

total profit for the year amounted to £30,745 7s. 11d. We have had, however, to liquidate a debit balance of £6,875 14s. from the previous year, as well as £3,750 outstanding on preference dividend from that year. Taking these sums into consideration, and allowing for the preference dividend for the year under review, the available profit is reduced to £16,369 13s. 11d. Out of this the board recommend a dividend of 12½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, leaving a substantial balance to carry forward into the next account. The question as to this company's position with regard to excess profits duty will doubtless be exercising your minds. You will be glad to know that as far as we can see at present we are not liable for this duty in respect of the year covered by these accounts, nor does there seem much likelihood of any payment having to be made for the current year. There is one part of our property to which much attention has not yet been given. I refer to the 1,000 acres of land adjoining our concession over which we were given an exclusive prospecting licence. Now that we have all three dredges in good running order, and all showing profits, we propose to take up the systematic prospecting of this block, and I hope to be able to tell you when we meet next year that we have met with results which will considerably widen our sphere of operations. We have begun the new year well. For the first two and a-half months the amount of tin ore recovered was 207½ tons, notwithstanding the fact that No. 3 dredge was closed down for over a fortnight and No. 1 was stopped on the 4th of this month. The dredges are all on good paying ground, and the price of tin is a profitable one. We have commenced the new period with an absolutely clean slate. There is a credit instead of a debit balance to bring forward, all arrears of preference dividend are paid off, and within a few weeks there will be no outstanding debentures. I think, therefore, that we are fully justified in looking forward to results in the current year with increased confidence.

Mr. A. F. Nicol seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

EAST MALAY COCONUT CO.

The fourth ordinary general meeting of the members of the East Malay Coconut Co., Ltd., was held on Friday at the registered offices, 23, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall, S.W., Mr. George St. Lawrence Mowbray, chairman of the company, presiding.

The representative of the Secretaries (the Indo-Malay and Colonial Agency, Ltd.) having read the notice calling the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—You have heard the report of the auditors read to you, and as the report and accounts have been in your hands for over a week past, I propose to follow the usual course and treat them as having been read. As the shareholders are aware, the present board and secretaries are not responsible for the period of 12 months ending March 31 last, which is dealt with in the balance-sheet presented to you to-day. The present board, as you are aware, only took office at the commencement of May, and what they have done since has been mainly in the nature of reorganisation. I am sure that, following the disheartening statement as to the condition of the plantation and the lack of funds to continue the work, it will be a matter of very great satisfaction to all the shareholders to read the statement contained in this report to-day, which shows that we have been able not only to provide the company with a sufficient amount of funds to carry on and to bring the existing plantation to the bearing stage, but that we have also concluded negotiations which will add to our property the Cherang Tuli estate, which comprises amongst other things over 800 acres of coconuts already planted, some of them four or five years of age. I do not propose to deal with these accounts in detail, but I shall be very happy to answer any inquiries from any shareholder, but I think we may take it from the very small attendance to-day that our shareholders are extremely well satisfied with what we have done, and that is further borne out by the fact that out of some 32,000 shares issued we have received proxies from the holders of over 20,000. A report was made on the Cherang Tuli estate, which we have just purchased, by Mr. James Agar, which was of a very satisfactory nature, and since acquiring the estate it has been decided to appoint Mr. Agar as visiting agent for both properties. We are hoping he will make his first inspection in the course of the next few weeks, after which we anticipate receiving from him a detailed statement as to the position and prospects on both properties. As stated in our report, we purpose to plant up a minimum of 400 acres with rubber, and to give up to the Government a certain portion of the land they now had at Semarak, taking in exchange for it other land in another locality, which may be even more suitable for the production of rubber. It is not proposed to extend the area under coconuts, but by a combination of the two products we hope in the course of time to bring the company to a position to pay a very satisfactory dividend. I do not propose to detain you by any lengthy remarks to-day; perhaps the most important business which we shall have to transact is to be dealt with at an extraordinary general meeting which has been fixed to immediately follow this annual meeting. I will now formally move the adoption of the directors' report and accounts, and I will call upon Mr. Hubback to second it.

Mr. Joseph Guy Hubback: Seconding the adoption of the report and accounts, there are one or two small items referred to in

the chairman's speech which I should like to draw your attention to; firstly, the surrendering of land which has been found unsuitable for coconut growing in the Cherang Tuli district, and I may say I visited that estate some four years ago, when the coconuts were newly planted, and everything appeared to be in favour of growing coconuts down there. Unfortunately, parts of it have not turned out so well. The fact is that we are going to exchange a certain amount of this land, if the Government will permit, for growing rubber. I may also say I have had planting experience on both sides of the Peninsula; firstly, on the west coast in one of the very biggest companies there; and, secondly, in Kelantan itself, and I can assure you that the soil of Kelantan is second to none, and that the growth is extraordinary. The future of this company, therefore, should be very rosy with a combination of coconuts and rubber. I do not propose to say anything further, but I have much pleasure in seconding the adoption of the report and accounts.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Chairman: The next business before the meeting is the election of a director. The director retiring on this occasion by rotation is our colleague, Mr. Ivan Fraser, who has been connected with the company from its inception, and to whom the shareholders are, I think I may fairly say, considerably indebted for the fact that we are able to-day to present to you a much more satisfactory statement of affairs than most of us anticipated some few months ago. Mr. Fraser has done a great deal of hard work in connection with this reorganisation, and I have the very greatest pleasure in proposing that he be re-elected. I am going to ask Mr. Savory to be good enough to second that.

Mr. H. R. Savory seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted, and Mr. Fraser returned thanks.

The auditors, Messrs. Edmonds, Clover and Cook were reappointed.

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING.

An extraordinary general meeting was then held for the purpose of considering and, if deemed fit, passing the following resolution:—"That this meeting of the members of the East Malay Coconut Co., Ltd., hereby ratifies and confirms the terms arranged by the board for the purchase of the Cherang Tuli Estate, and the provision of further working capital for the development of the company's properties."

The representative of the secretaries having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said: This meeting has been convened for the purpose of considering the resolution which has just been read to us as part of the notice. As you are aware from the annual report which has been sent out, your board have done two things which they ask you by this resolution to ratify and confirm. The first thing that we have done is to make a contract with the Kelantan Coconut Estates, Ltd., under which they sell to us their Cherang Tuli Estate, and they take as their purchase price 17,500 shares of this company, which are to be allotted to them as fully paid. The second thing which you are asked to approve is an arrangement which has been made with the Batavia Plantation Investments, Ltd., for the provision of working capital. The Batavia Co. is advancing to us a sum of £24,000 by instalments of £6,000 per annum, of which the first has already been received, and that loan is made in consideration of the payment of interest at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum until September, 1920, when it is to be absolutely converted into shares of this company. There is no question of repaying it. It is a question of the money having been put up by the lenders with the full intention of it remaining for the benefit of the company and for the development of its property. Another loan which has been made to the vendors of the Cherang Tuli of £6,000 also remains, and is to be converted into shares in the same manner. Although, gentlemen, our borrowed capital may seem somewhat high, I think you will agree with me that the conditions on which we have obtained it are exceedingly advantageous to this company. We are not in the position that a great many companies have been in when they have borrowed money upon debentures which mature in from five to ten years, and they have at the end of that time found themselves in circumstances of extreme difficulty because they have been unable, owing to market and general conditions, to obtain money to repay their loans. We have no fear here that the lenders will foreclose and seize our properties, and that the shareholders will be frozen out. The gentlemen who have put up this money are quite content to take their chance with the general body of shareholders by lending their money upon such terms that they cannot withdraw it even if they afterwards would. I do not think, gentlemen, that I need say anything more to you to commend this resolution to your attention. I will ask Mr. Ivon Fraser to be good enough formally to second it.

Mr. I. C. Fraser seconded the motion.

Mr. Cork: If I may say so, these gentlemen who are putting up the money are showing an enormous amount of confidence. Practically, they are putting up money for nothing. They are taking paper, and in order to make that paper valuable they have got to put in the best of their brains and the best of their energies, and practically all the work they can possibly do to turn that paper into money. It is most extraordinary—splendid. I quite see that it gives you confidence at once. It gives the shareholders confidence, at any rate.

The Chairman: For those congratulatory remarks from the shareholder I am sure my colleagues and myself are exceedingly grateful.

The resolution was then submitted to the meeting and unanimously adopted, and the proceedings terminated.

IRISH RAILWAYS.

	Sept. 22	£	+	£	168	£	+	£	4,281
Belfast and County Down ..	Sept. 22	3,643	+	168		143,773	+	4,281	
Grand Canal ..	" 22	985	+	154		12,091	+	1,152	
Great Northern ..	" 22	25,085	+	1,835		914,573	+	28,523	
Gt. Southern and Western ..	" 22	35,895	+	3,331		1,246,161	+	29,647	
Midland Great Western ..	" 15	16,101	+	1,903		475,412	+	2,360	

* From Jan. 1. † From July 1.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

	Aug. 19	Rs.	+	Rs.	1	Rs.	+	Rs.	1,41,515
Assam Bengal ..	Aug. 19	1,20,000	+	18,948	1	24,99,411	+	1,41,515	
Bengal & N.W. ..	" 19	3,33,620	+	75,412	1	86,19,902	+	12,39,249	
Bengal Nagpur ..	" 26	7,79,000	+	1,03,000	1	1,99,44,425	+	35,09,410	
Bombay, Baroda ..	Sept. 16	10,47,000	+	2,81,000	1	3,16,41,000	+	29,39,000	
Burma ..	Aug. 19	3,48,679	+	12,260	1	78,42,344	+	1,75,921	
Delhi Umballa ..	Sept. 16	74,900	+	18,633	1	16,33,771	+	1,32,337	
East Indian ..	" 23	19,94,000	+	22,000	1	5,43,07,000	+	27,23,000	
Gt. Indian Penin. ..	" 23	17,56,300	+	13,180	1	4,74,68,474	+	50,67,455	
Lucknow-Bareilly ..	Aug. 19	31,999	+	169	1	8,74,911	+	84,938	
Madras and S. ..	" 26	8,70,000	+	94,205	1	2,08,28,992	+	15,41,117	
Mahratta ..	" 19	1,07,602	+	6,550	1	25,69,171	+	1,48,168	
Nizam's Gd. (Broad) ..	" 19	56,550	+	3,681	1	14,48,674	+	39,293	
North Indian ..	" 19	30,598	+	2,194	1	8,62,458	+	1,23,829	
South Indian ..	" 26	5,80,467	+	56,244	1	1,29,06,886	+	9,60,618	

a 13 days. † April 1. ‡ October 1.

COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

	July 21	£	+	£	439	£	+	£	439
Beira ..	July 21	34,768	+	439	1	34,768	+	439	
Canadian Northern ..	Sept. 21	\$726,000	+	\$71,300	1	\$9,622,000	+	\$3974,600	
Canadian Pacific ..	" 21	\$2,779,000	+	\$371,000	1	\$33,313,000	+	\$9992,000	
Gr. Trk. Main Line ..	" 21	223,364	+	54,623	1	6,776,500	+	961,121	
Gr. Trk. Western ..	" 21	33,288	+	411	1	1,396,808	+	318,845	
Detroit G. H. & M. ..	" 21	12,664	+	202	1	493,803	+	103,582	
Gr. Trk. Pac. Prairie Sc. ..	" 21	16,983	+	5,201	1	187,951	+	37,485	
Mashonaland ..	June *	59,685	+	6,011	3	803,079	+	88,804	
Mid. of Westn. Aus. ..	July *	4,902	+	367	1	4,902	+	367	
New Cape Central ..	Aug. 19	1,405	+	190	1	51,855	+	7,590	
Rhodesia ..	July *	87,807	+	522	2	170,230	+	7,241	

a 9 days. * Months. † July 1. ‡ Jan. 1. c From Oct. 1.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

		£	+	£	£	+	£	
Chesapeake & Ohio	Sept. 14	976,000	+	59,000	1	9,927,000	+	586,000
Chicago G.W.	" 14	390,000	+	32,000	1	2,485,000	+	275,000
Colorado & South'n	Aug. 21	461,000	+	65,000	1	2,628,000	+	273,000
Denver & Rio Gran.	Sept. 14	548,000	+	1,000	1	5,530,000	+	212,000
Louisv'e & Nashv'e	" 14	1,256,000	+	103,000	1	12,976,000	+	1,616,000
Minn. S.P. (Soo)	Aug. 21	644,000	+	60,000	1	5,027,000	+	1,098,000
Missouri Kansas	Sept. 14	718,000	+	119,000	1	7,702,000	+	1,38,000
Northern Pacific	Aug. 21	1,643,000	+	267,000	1	9,745,000	+	1,683,000
Southern	Sept. 14	1,427,000	+	110,000	1	14,633,000	+	1,343,000

§ Includes Wisconsin Central. † From July 1.

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
	Week ending	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	Wks.	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.
Alcoy and Gandia ..	Sept. 23	Ps. 7,500	— Ps. 4,500	†	Ps. 499,100	+ Ps. 34,400
Antofagasta (Chili) ..	" 24	28,385	+ 2,890	†	1,276,775	+ 362,875
Arauco ..	Aug. 10	10,500	+ 6,750	†	162,738	+ 24,416
Argentine N.E. ..	Sept. 23	7,700	+ 466	†	82,302	+ 1,783
Bilbao R. and Canta ..	Aug. *	6,457	+ 1,236	7	365,802	+ 2,366
Bolivar ..	" *	8,500	+ 1,111	2	15,500	+ 968
Brazil ..	July *	M3,357,000	+ M78,935	1	M2,466,600	+ M212,720
Brazil Gt. Southern ..	June *	M18,35,800	+ M7,350	1	M21,4,690	+ M5,640
B. Ayres & Pacific ..	Sept. 23	77,000	+ 10,000	†	1,016,000	+ 18,000
Do. Gt. South'n ..	" 24	93,000	+ 4,000	†	1,157,254	+ 143,346
Do. Western ..	" 24	57,000	+ 16,000	†	613,000	+ 79,000
Central Argentine ..	" 23	106,000	+ 6,600	†	1,369,100	+ 27,300
C. Ur'g'ay of Mts V. ..	" 23	10,537	+ 659	†	131,554	+ 429
Do. East'n Ex. ..	" 23	3,375	+ 254	†	43,194	+ 1,577
Do. North'n Ex. ..	" 23	1,795	+ 244	†	22,044	+ 50
Do. West'n Ex. ..	" 23	1,885	+ 288	†	18,936	+ 191
Colombian National ..	Aug. *	13,760	+ 1,062	8	90,940	+ 8,650
Cordoba Central ..	Sept. 23	25,900	+ 1,815	†	417,000	+ 6,550
Costa Rica ..	July 1	6,499	+ 1,867	†	928	+ 1,057
Cuban Central ..	Sept. 23	10,564	+ 2,305	†	114,036	+ 19,065
Dorada Extension ..	Aug. *	9,500	+ 400	†	64,000	+ 1,160
Egyptian Delta ..	" 31a	5,559	+ 661	3	74,001	+ 13,277
Entre Rios ..	Sept. 23	11,100	+ 2,000	†	143,900	+ 31,000
French Santa Fé ..	July *	90,992	+ 15,010	7	619,079	+ 91,201
Gt. South. of Spain ..	Sept. 16	Ps. 92,157	+ Ps. 27,478	†	Ps. 624,230	+ Ps. 43,206
Gt. West. of Brazil ..	" 23	11,700	+ 4,200	†	340,300	+ 23,600
Havana Central ..	" 2	6,594	+ 1,649	†	53,980	+ 5,089
Inter. of C. Amer. ..	Aug. *	15,411	+ 3,052	†	243,164	+ 91,241
La Guaira and Car. ..	" *	7,500	+ 1,750	†	65,000	+ 10,250
Leopoldina ..	Sept. 23	32,423	+ 1,151	†	893,998	+ 207,957
Manila (N. & Sth.) ..	" 23	7,574	+ 795	†	359,525	+ 10,715
Midland Uruguay ..	Aug. 8	8,362	+ 4,010	2	18,043	+ 4,913
Mogiana ..	July *	M2,819,000	+ M221,678	7	M11,605,000	+ M107,815
N.W. of Uruguay ..	Aug. *	20,000	+ 8,148	2	39,250	+ 10,813
Nitrate ..	Sept. 15b	30,940	+ 11,031	1	715,187	+ 245,325
Paraguay Central ..	July *	550	+ 1,800	1	26,710	+ 4,770
Paulista ..	July *	M4,000,000	+ M81,867	6	M152,500	+ M68,566
Peruvian Corp'n ..	" 17	\$835,430	+ \$110,592	10	\$10,798,927	+ \$1,513,844
Salvador ..	Sept. 23	15,400	+ 350	†	244,355	+ 11,603
S. Paulo (Brazilian) ..	" 17	35,166	+ 1,259	†	990,970	+ 73,299
Sorocabana ..	May *	M1,269,000	+ M23,000	5	M6,960,000	+ M294,000
Taitai ..	Aug. *	19,688	+ 1,470	2	39,308	+ 12,930
United of Havana ..	Sept. 23	30,261	+ 6,451	†	336,607	+ 70,159
West'n of Havana ..	" 16	5,891	+ 1,253	†	67,115	+ 9,554
Zafra and Huelva ..	Aug. *	13,099	+ 3,488	†	91,505	+ 28,688

* Months. † From Jan. 1. ‡ From July 1. c Nett. d 15 days. a 10 days.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—HOME.

		£		£		£		£
Bristol ..	Sept. 23	10,516	+	755	†	383,221	+	17,124
Dublin United ..	" 22	6,268	+	200	†	229,496	+	3,184
Hastings and Dist. ..	" 22	1,329	+	56	†	41,047	+	2,479
Ile of Thanet ..	" 23	494	+	42	†	10,339	+	3,154
Lancashire United..	" 20	1,898	—	9	†	69,038	+	2,482
Provincial ..	" 23	2,547	+	127	†	118,884	+	6,716
Yorks. (Wat. Rdng.) ..	" 24	1,894	+	328	†	68,600	+	6,428

* From Oct. 1. † From Jan. 1.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.

	Sept. 23	£	+	£	234	£	+	£	1,926,886
Anglo-Argentine ..	Sept. 23	50,087	+	234	1	1,926,886	+	4,000	
Angland Electric ..	Aug. 25b	20,467	+	591	4	41,974	+	55	
Brazilian Traction ..	" 1	M3,982,000	+	M175,000	8	M30,670,000	+	M1019,586	
Brisbane Elec. Inv. ..	July *	37,900	+	2,836	1	265,130	+	20,416	
British Columbia ..	Aug. *	538,293	+	27,570	1	538,293	+	27,570	
B.A. Lacroze ..	" 6	36,431	+	5,037	2	74,870	+	6,058	
Burmah Electric ..	Sept. 23	Rs. 24,412	+	Rs. 747	1	Rs. 24,412	+	Rs. 747	
Calcutta ..	" 23	Rs. 67,862	+	Rs. 3,252	1	Rs. 24,79,374	+	1,20,145	
Cordoba Light ..	July *	14,263	+	112	3	57,313	+	776	
P. & T. ..	Aug. 25b	15,115	+	3,708	8	491,805	+	120,362	
Hongkong ..	" 5	3,792	+	373	4	33,627	+	3,423	
La Plata ..	" 5	14,996	+	240	4	125,565	+	3,423	
Madras ..	Sept. 15c	Rs. 34,552	+	Rs. 3,707	1	Rs. 37,998	+	Rs. 3,741	
Mexico Electric ..	Nov. 1	215,256	+	108,669	1	3,193,106	+	197,427	
Puebla ..	Dec. 1	40,000	+	25,600	1	669,500	+	44,500	
Rangoon ..	Aug. 1	4,253	+	257	1	38,342	+	1,693	
Singapore Electric ..	May 5	14,223	+	1,169	3	38,597	+	81,324	
Toronto ..	Aug. 1	438,997	+	65,935	10	1,693,709	+	198,311	
United of Monte V. ..	Aug. 1	26,044	+	449	10	287,400	+	142,000	
Vera Cruz ..	July 1	85,502	+	39,600	1	705,095	+	3,898	
Winnipeg ..	" 1	74,587	+	4,956	1	705,095	+	3,898	

b 28 days. * From Jan. 1. † Nett. a From July 1. c Two weeks.

MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

NAME.	NETT EARNINGS FOR MONTH.			NETT EARNINGS TO DATE.		
	Month.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year.	No. of Mths.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year.
		Dols.	Dols.		Dols.	Dols.
Atcholson T. & S. Fé	July	4,669,000	+ 720,000	1	4,669,000	+ 720,000
Atlantic Coast Line	"	460,000	+ 222,000	1	460,000	+ 222,000
Baltimore & Ohio ..	"	3,087,000	+ 10,000	1	3,087,000	+ 10,000
Canadian Northern	Aug.	1,072,400	+ 614,300	2	2,269,400	+ 1,345,300
Canadian Pacific ..	July	4,017,000	+ 1,217,000	1	4,017,000	+ 1,217,000
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	"	1,355,000	+ 213,000	1	1,355,000	+ 213,000
Chicago & N.W. ..	"	2,448,000	+ 800,000	1	2,448,000	+ 800,000
Chicago Burl. & Q. ..	May	2,869,000	+ 1,230,000	11	37,764,500	+ 9,266,000
Chicago & W. ..	"	913,000	+ 25,000	1	913,000	+ 25,000
Chicago Mil. & S.P.	"	1,389,000	+ 378,000	1	1,389,000	+ 378,000
Chicago, Rock I.&P.	June	1,473,000	+ 419,000	12	16,811,000	+ 2,771,000
Colorado & Southern	May	447,000	+ 227,000	11	5,317,000	+ 1,457,000
Cuba	June	604,000	+ 147,000	12	6,815,000	+ 1,600,000
Do.	May	261,131	+ 482	11	2,314,953	+ 626,709
Delaware & Hud. ..	June	719,000	+ 19,000	6	4,205,000	+ 583,000
Denver & Rio Gran.	"	1,847,000	+ 171,000	12	10,151,000	+ 2,611,000
Erie	July	1,737,000	+ 222,000	7	10,388,000	+ 2,908,000
Gr. Tr. Main Line ..	"	£262,200	+ £35,100	7	£1,425,850	+ £167,000
Grand Trunk Westn	"	£494,400	+ £24,000	7	£2,888,000	+ £243,800
Detroit G.H. & Mil..	"	£11,150	+ £1,350	7	£32,250	+ £39,850
Gt. Northern ..	June	2,912,000	+ 821,000	12	37,370,000	+ 7,035,000
Illinois Central ..	July	1,023,000	+ 491,000	1	1,023,000	+ 491,000
Kansas City Southn.	"	534,000	+ 68,000	1	534,000	+ 68,000
Lehigh Valley ..	"	1,222,000	+ 194,000	1	1,222,000	+ 194,000
Louisville & Nashvl.	"	1,433,000	+ 250,000	1	1,433,000	+ 250,000
Minn. S.P. (Soo) ..	July	1,043,000	+ 493,000	1	1,043,000	+ 493,000
Miss. K. & Texas ..	June	617,000	+ 145,000	1	617,000	+ 145,000
Missouri Pacific ..	June	601,000	+ 491,000	1	601,000	+ 491,000
New York Cent.&H.	July	5,720,000	+ 1,319,000	7	35,358,000	+ 12600,000
N. Y. N. Haven & H.	June	2,130,000	+ 752,000	12	22,382,000	+ 3,647,000
New York Ont. & W.	July	406,000	+ 24,000	1	406,000	+ 24,000
Norfolk & Western.	"	1,816,000	+ 128,000	1	1,816,000	+ 128,000
Northern Pacific ..	June	2,592,000	+ 430,000	12	31,032,000	+ 9,482,000
Pennsylvania East						
and West Lines ..	July	11,330,000	+ 1,575,000	7	62,097,000	+ 23634,000
St. Louis & San F.	May	1,201,000	+ 310,000	11	12,343,000	+ 1,747,000
Seaboard Air Line ..	June	467,000	+ 74,000	12	4,670,000	+ 74,000
Southern	July	1,282,000	+ 83,000	1	1,282,000	+ 83,000
Southern Pacific ..	"	5,048,000	+ 456,000	1	5,048,000	+ 456,000
Union Pacific ..	"	3,454,000	+ 605,000	1	3,454,000	+ 605,000
Wabash	"	1,016,000	+ 512,000	1	1,016,000	+ 512,000

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THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.

(Registered in Japan.)

ESTABLISHED 1880.

Subscribed Capital	Yen 48,000,000
Capital Paid Up	.. ..	Yen 30,000,000
Reserve Fund	.. ..	Yen 4,800,000

Head Office: YOKOHAMA.

Branches and Agencies at

Antung-Hsien.	Harbin.	Nagasaki.	Shanghai.
Bombay.	Honolulu.	Newchang.	Singapore.
Calcutta.	Hong Kong.	New York.	Sydney.
Changchun.	Kobe.	Osaka.	Tientsin.
Dairen (Dalny).	Liaoyang.	Peking.	Tokyo.
Fongtien (Mukden).	Los Angeles.	Ryjoon (Port Arthur)	Tsinanfu.
Hankow.	Lyons.	San Francisco.	Tsingtau.

The Bank buys and receives for collection Bills of Exchange, issues Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit on above places and elsewhere, and transacts General Banking Business.

Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be obtained on application.

London Office: 7, BISHOPSGATE, E.C.

K. TATSUMI, Manager.

THE LONDON & RIVER PLATE BANK (LIMITED).

ESTABLISHED 1862.

Authorised Capital	£4,000,000
Paid-up Capital	1,800,000
Reserve Fund	2,000,000

BRANCHES—

ARGENTINE.—Buenos Aires, Rosario, Mendoza, Concordia, Bahia Blanca, Cordoba, Tucuman, Parana, Barracas (Buenos Aires), Once (Buenos Aires), Boca (Buenos Aires), Calle Santa Fe (Buenos Aires), Calle B de Irigoyen (Buenos Aires). URUGUAY.—Montevideo, Montevideo Agency (Calle Rio Negro), Paysandu (Agency), Salto (Agency). BRAZIL.—Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Santos, Pernambuco, Para, Bahia, Victoria, Curitiba, Manaos (Agency). CHILI—Valparaiso. FRANCE—Paris (16 Rue Halévy). Agency in New York and Agents throughout the world.

Letters of Credit, Drafts, and Cable Transfers issued. Bills negotiated, advanced upon or sent for collection.—7, Princes Street, E.C.

CANADA.

THE DOMINION BANK.

Head Office, TORONTO.

Total Assets - - \$88,890,000.

SIR EDMUND B. OSLER, M.P., President.

W. D. MATTHEWS, Vice-President.

C. A. BOGERT, General Manager.

London Branch, 73, CORNHILL, E.C.

J. HAYDN HORSEY, Manager.

Dealers in Canadian and American Exchange.
General Banking business transacted. Information furnished regarding Canadian matters.

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND.

Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1727.

CAPITAL PAID UP	£2,000,000
REST & UNDIVIDED PROFITS	£800,986

Head Office: ST. ANDREW SQUARE, EDINBURGH.

ADAM TAIT, Cashier and General Manager
A. K. WRIGHT, Secretary.

London Office: 3, BISHOPSGATE, E.C.

WILLIAM WALLACE, Manager.

166 Branch Offices throughout Scotland.

Banking Business of every description transacted. Accounts opened for Foreign and Colonial Correspondents. Bills, Cheques, and other documents collected. Deposit received at interest repayable at call or at notice

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

Capital (all paid up)	£15,000,000
Sterling Reserve, held in London at exchange of 2s. per \$ = £1,500,000	\$15,000,000
Silver Reserve	\$18,000,000

Reserve Liability of Proprietors.. \$15,000,000

HEAD OFFICE—HONGKONG. Chief Manager—N. J. STABB.

BRANCHES AND AGENCIES:—Amoy, Bangkok, Batavia, Bombay, Calcutta, Canton, Colombo, Foochow, Hankow, Harbin, Hongkew (Shanghai), Ipoh, Johore, Kobe (Hiogo), Kuala, Lumjur, London, Lyons, Malacca, Manila, Nagasaki, New York, Peking, Penang, Rangoon, Saigon, San Francisco, Shanghai, Singapore, Sourabaya, Tientsin, Tsingtau, Yloilo, Yokohama.

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H. D. C. JONES, | W. M. BLACKIE, Accountant.

BANKS.

STANDARD BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA, LTD.

Bankers to the Government of the Union of South Africa in Cape Province, to the Imperial Government in South Africa, and to the Administration of Rhodesia.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	£6,194,100
PAID-UP CAPITAL	£1,548,525
RESERVE FUND	£2,000,000
UNCALLED CAPITAL	£4,645,575
	£8,194,100

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

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EVERY DESCRIPTION OF BANKING BUSINESS transacted with the Cape Province, Natal, Orange Free State, Transvaal, Rhodesia, Nyasaland, East Africa Protectorate, Uganda, Zanzibar, Portuguese East Africa, South-West Africa Protectorate and the Belgian Congo, and with the Bank's Agencies in New York, and elsewhere.

CURRENT ACCOUNTS are opened on the usual terms.

DEPOSITS RECEIVED for fixed periods at rates which may be ascertained on application.

BILLS NEGOTIATED and COLLECTED.

MAIL and TELEGRAPHIC REMITTANCES made.

LETTERS OF CREDIT and DRAFTS granted on the Branches and Agencies of the Bank.

THE BANK issues CIRCULAR LETTERS OF CREDIT available in all parts of the world.

COMMERCIAL LETTERS OF CREDIT issued.

PURCHASE and SALE of Stocks and Shares effected.

DIVIDENDS, ANNUITIES, Etc., received.

EXECUTOR and TRUSTEE BUSINESS undertaken.

The Officers of the Bank are bound not to disclose the transaction of any of its customers.

FRANCIS SHIPTON, London Manager.

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LTD.

Head Office: 15, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.

Capital Authorised	£1,500,000
Capital Issued	1,125,000
Capital Paid Up	562,500
Reserve Fund	550,000

Branches:

INDIA, BURMAH, CEYLON, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, CHINA, AND PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS.

The Bank buys and sells Bills of Exchange, issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, and transacts banking and agency business in connection with the East, on terms to be had on application.

DEPOSITS received for one year at 5 per cent. per annum. Rates for other periods on application.

On current accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on daily balances.

BANK OF NEW ZEALAND.

(Incorporated July 29th, 1861.)

BANKERS TO THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT.

London Office: 1, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL £5,500,000

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL.

Four per Cent. Guaranteed Stock	£529,988
"A" Preference Shares issued to New Zealand Government	500,000
"B" Preference Shares issued to New Zealand Government	250,000
Ordinary Shares	1,500,000

Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits	£2,779,988
	£2,118,605

Negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange.

Grants drafts on its Offices in New Zealand, Australia, Fiji and Samoa. Remittances made by telegraphic transfer.

ALEXANDER KAY, Manager.

ENGLISH, SCOTTISH, AND AUSTRALIAN BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office—38, Lombard Street, E.C.

Subscribed Capital	£1,078,875 0 0
Paid-up Capital	539,437 10 0
Further Liability of Proprietors	539,437 10 0
Reserve Fund	400,000 0 0

LETTERS OF CREDIT and DRAFTS on the Branches and Agencies of the Bank in Australia can be obtained at the Head Office, or through the Agents of the Bank, in the chief Provincial towns throughout the United Kingdom.

REMITTANCES made by TELEGRAPHIC TRANSFER.

BILLS NEGOTIATED or forwarded for COLLECTION.

BANKING and EXCHANGE Business of every description transacted with Australia.

E. M. JANION, Manager.

THE BANK OF ADELAIDE.

(Incorporated by Act of Parliament, 1865.)

Authorised Capital	£1,000,000.	Subscribed Capital	£225,000
Paid-up Capital	£500,000		
Reserve Fund	510,000		
	£1,010,000		
Uncalled Capital	125,000		
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	625,000		
	£1,760,000		

London Office—11, Leadenhall Street, E.C.

BILLS on Australasia purchased or collected.

DRAFTS issued and REMITTANCES cabled.

DEPOSITS received for fixed periods at rates to be ascertained on application.

PERCY ARNOLD, Manager.

BANKS.

BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Established 1817.



Paid up Capital	£3,500,000
Reserve Fund	2,675,000
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	3,500,000
	£9,675,000

Head Office: SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES.

London Directors:

Sir FREDERICK GREEN, Chairman.

H. L. M. TRITTON, Esq. WALTER S. M. BURNS, Esq.

DAVID GEORGE, Manager.

J. S. CAMPBELL, Secretary.

HALKERSTONE MELDREUM,

DAVID GEDDIE,

Assistant Manager.

Accountant.

The Bank has 341 Branches and Agencies in the Australian States, New Zealand, Fiji, Papua (New Guinea), and London, and Agents and Correspondents all over the World, on whom the London Office grants Circular Letters of Credit and Circular Notes. Also issues Drafts on demand. Makes Mail and Cable Transfers. Negotiates and Collects Bills of Exchange. Receives Deposits for Fixed Periods on terms which may be known on application, and transacts every description of Australian Banking business.

London Office: 29, THREADNEEDLE STREET, E.C.

BANK OF ROUMANIA, LIMITED.

Head Office - 27, Throgmorton Street, London, E.C.

Branch - 11, Calea Victoriei, Bucarest.

CAPITAL (fully paid), £300,000. RESERVE FUNDS, £200,359

Chairman:

EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, K.P., C.V.O., C.B.

Vice-Chairman:

E. W. H. BARRY, Esq.

Bankers:

BANK OF ENGLAND.

GLYN, MILLS, CURRIE & Co.

The Bank was originally incorporated in 1866 under Roumanian Law, and in 1903 was transformed into an English Company under the Companies Act.

A General Banking business with Roumania is conducted, and correspondence from those having interests in that country is invited.

THE LONDON BANK OF AUSTRALIA, LIMITED.

Head Office—71, Old Broad Street, E.C.

Subscribed Capital	£1,278,747 10 0
Paid up Capital	669,665 0 0
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits	354,791 5 3
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	606,962 10 0

REMITTANCES made by CABLE.

DRAFTS, LETTERS OF CREDIT and CIRCULAR NOTES issued upon Branches and Agents.

BILLS on Australasia NEGOTIATED or sent for collection.

DEPOSITS RECEIVED for periods and at rates which may be ascertained on application, and Banking Business of every description conducted with Australia.

THE UNION BANK OF AUSTRALIA

ESTABLISHED 1837.

LIMITED.

INCORPORATED 1880.

Authorised and Issued Capital, £6,000,000.

Paid-up Capital, £2,000,000; Reserve Fund, £1,960,000; together £3,960,000

Reserve Liability of Proprietors 4,000,000

Total Capital and Reserves £7,960,000

HEAD OFFICE - - - 71, CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.

DRAFTS are granted on the Bank's Branches throughout the Australian States and Dominion of New Zealand.

TELEGRAPHIC REMITTANCES are also made.

BILLS are purchased or sent for Collection.

DEPOSITS are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application.

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BANK.

Established 1841.

Paid-up Capital .. £250,000 0 0 (25,000 Shares of £10 each.)

Reserve Fund .. £260,000 0 0 Reserve Profits .. £34,087 0 0

Reserve Liability of Shareholders £250,000.

Drafts issued, Remittances cabled, Bills negotiated or collected, Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be ascertained on application, and all banking and exchange business connected with Western Australia conducted through the London Agents, The Bank of Adelaide, 11, Leadenhall St., E.C.

Owing to the restrictions placed upon paper supplies we cannot guarantee to provide newsagents with copies for chance sales. Would regular readers of the "Investors' Review," therefore, kindly place an order with their local newsagents or, better still, subscribe direct to the publisher?

The Investors' Review.

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New Series.

(Registered as a Newspaper.) Price 6d.

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Telephone No.:
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Letters from correspondents must, in every case, be authenticated by the name and address of the writer.

The Editors desire it to be understood that a charge is made for the insertion of reports under the heading of Company Meetings, and they cannot accept responsibility for statements made therein.

ANSWERS TO QUERIES.

One Reply to One Question — One Shilling. Any number of questions may be put and will be answered at the rate of **One Shilling** each. The questions should be numbered and a copy kept, as securities cannot be named with comments in the printed replies. Questions to be answered in the current issue should reach us not later than Friday morning.

For a fee of **One Guinea** per annum paid in advance, **Key** to the previous week's replies will be sent early in the following week.

Deposits of "Query Money" may be made in advance, and will be acknowledged in the "Answers" column. Notice exhaustion will also be given there.

Telegrams advising about new securities cost **Half-a-Crown** each, plus cost of the telegram.

Private Letters in answer to inquiries can be had if desired. The minimum charge for such letters is **Ten Shillings**, but for this three questions will be answered if desired. For every question beyond three replied to in any one letter the charge is **Half-a-Crown per question**.

Correspondents can have their lists of investments overhauled and advised upon by letter on terms varying according to the time taken.

Groups of Five Stocks for investment supplied at the rate of **One Guinea**, each list different.

Passing Events.

Last week's Exchequer receipts, which were fully included in the half-year's returns dealt with elsewhere, are interesting because they show that the revenue keeps coming in with fair elasticity. Altogether the receipts last week amounted to £8,167,000. Gross expenditure, however, was no less than £75,173,000, but the actual expenditure of the week was barely £41,400,000, or £5,914,000 a day, of which £38,730,000, or nearly £5,733,000 per day, was in satisfaction of war requirements alone. The Government, in addition, had to repay £33,373,000 of temporary advances, a form of debt financing which will show an ever-enlarging volume as time goes on. Most of the new money and some part of the renewal of the due obligations would seem to have been provided by Treasury bills, the nett emission of which was £37,977,000, for only £1,745,000 was received from the sale of Saving certificates and £1,379,000 from Exchequer bonds, but no less than £22,500,000 had to be provided by what are called "temporary advances," and even then the account was not squared, for Exchequer balances were brought down by £1,520,000, and on the 30th ult. stood at £26,648,000 compared with £64,187,000 a year back. No doubt the sale of Exchequer bonds fell to the lowest figure yet recorded because of the announcement that the 5 per cent. form is no longer to be on sale. Henceforth money will come in on 6 per cent. bonds, and we hope to an extent so much increased as to reduce in sensible degree the strain upon our banks and finance houses. The total amount of Treasury bills outstanding appears to be now £1,041,488,000, or thereby.

A Treasury return has been issued showing the total revenue of the United Kingdom for the year ended March 31 last. It was £319,256,000, an increase of £105,660,500 on the preceding year. Customs gave £55,655,000, or almost £20,000,000 more, Excise £52,977,000 as compared with £36,059,000, and estate duties £29,850,000 compared with £27,472,000, and stamps £6,469,000 against £7,131,000. Other minor imposts such as land and house taxes and assessed duties gave £2,655,000 against £2,548,000, and property and income-tax produced £126,249,000 compared with £67,975,000. Excess profits duty gave only

£187,000, and the return from land values fell from £412,000 to £366,000, but the taxation revenue altogether was £274,408,000 compared with £177,569,000 for 1914-15, the total mentioned above having been attained by including the postal, telegraph, and telephone services, as well as the Crown lands revenue and the miscellaneous income, which included fee stamps. Altogether £44,848,000 came in from these sources, compared with £36,265,000 for 1914-15. The great increase in Customs revenue arose as follows:—Spirits gave £4,812,000 against £4,514,000, motor spirit £1,729,000 against £929,000, tea £13,305,000 compared with £8,169,000, tobacco £23,288,000 against £17,190,000, sugar £8,681,000 against £3,127,000, and wine £993,000 against £932,000. Other miscellaneous duties increased from £1,111,000 to £2,847,000. The Excise return from spirits rose £1,688,000 to £17,922,000. These figures will be interesting when the time comes to compare them with the returns for the present year. Also they would be valuable for comparison with the figures for the Hohenzollern Empire. It has not ventured to publish its accounts, and its efforts to wring a larger revenue out of its victims have been significantly eloquent of its essential feebleness.

Circulars have now been sent out by the Inland Revenue Board to colonial companies relating to the relief allowed in respect of colonial income-tax under the Finance Act, 1916. Instructions are given to the companies as to the procedure to be followed by them, and the information that they must furnish the Inland Revenue before they can be granted the power to deduct tax from dividends at a lower rate than 5s. Only those with an income of £1,000 and more, and therefore subject to a higher rate of tax than 3s. 6d. in the £, will receive any real benefit under the Act. According to the Act the relief will be allowed only in cases where more than 3s. 6d. in the £ is paid in English income-tax, and the amount of the relief will be the amount of the colonial tax, but not more than 1s. 6d. in the £. South African mining companies which pay about 12½ per cent in profits tax to the Union Government will be able to claim the full extent of the relief, 1s. 6d., so that dividends will be subject to 3s. 6d. in the £ instead of 5s. On the June dividends 5s. has already been paid, and the Inland Revenue states that the adjustment

can be made on the final dividend, which therefore will be subject to a tax of only 2s. in the £. Those shareholders whose income renders them liable to a rate of tax not exceeding 3s. 6d. will receive no relief, since they would in any case be able to claim a refund on their dividend tax. This arrangement is one which manifestly benefits the rich and not the poor. But we doubt whether that was Parliament's intention.

What some of the newspapers describe as Sir William Robertson's "clarion call" is, in fact, a sermon on the text, "We must prepare for the worst while we hope for the best." More men are wanted, the Chief of the Imperial Staff told the country in his vivid speech. The Army is thoroughly confident of winning, but Sir William warned his hearers that "there must be no delusions entertained as to the end or to the probable duration of this great struggle." We must prepare to continue it for a time which could not at present be estimated; therefore more men must come forward to the colours in steady stream. This is what he demanded, and we have no doubt at all that he had good reasons for speaking; but why is it, now when we have got conscription in full swing, that there should be any difficulty in finding the necessary men? Is there incompetence amongst the recruiting agents, or corruption, or what? Either more young men must come forward, the public mentors assure us, or the age limit must be extended after the fashion set by Germany in her agony. Surely we are not yet reduced to such a pass. Our Army is not being denuded at the speed shown by the German losses. What is wrong then? The streets swarm with men in khaki; are they not all soldiers? We want more, is the answer. Great numbers of eligible men have dived into mining pits to escape the call to arms, one story is. Another proclaims that in all munition workshops there are men hidden who should be preparing to fight at the front, and amongst the youths of our great cities numbers still dodge the authorities, move from locality to locality leaving no trace behind them. How far these statements are true, exaggerated or false we cannot say, but more men Sir William Robertson says must be had, and the Recruiting Department will have to be overhauled and reorganised to find them. Are there many men in the Civil Services, especially in the newer branches thereof, capable of fighting and now confined to desks and corridors? We do not know, but the nation will become threateningly impatient unless the mystery of this apparent scarcity of fighting men amid such an abundance of troops and of serviceable males not yet enrolled is elucidated. The Recruiting Department would seem to be overwhelmed by the mass of its duties, and therefore in a state of more or less helpless disorganisation. We know of young married men who have "joined up," as the phrase is, and after joining have been declared unfit for active service by the medical board, but fit apparently for garrison duty abroad when required. They do not know whether they will be called upon to serve this week or this month, or six months hence, or ever. Meantime, it is not clear whether their families are a burden upon the National Debt or whether they can remain in employment and earn the money with which to keep a roof over head and sufficient food in the house. How does this sort of muddle arise? There must be inefficiency, incompetence or worse, somewhere, and the Chief of the Imperial Staff must use his unrivalled energies and ability to put an end to a state of affairs that is not only scandalous, but of evil omen for the speedy end of the war.

An old subscriber has sent us a copy of the *Manchester Guardian* of the 30th ult. containing a letter by Mr. F. T. T. Reynolds, of Manchester, on the freight question. We do not know the writer of the letter, but our correspondent vouches for his character and responsibility, and therefore we accept his statements as those of a man deserving to be listened to. They

are of such a serious character as to make it advisable to give them in his own words:—

The question might well be asked whether it would be tolerated if the railway companies increased their freightage rates by 300 or 800 per cent. Yet that is a mild way of putting the increase in ocean freights. The writer saw recently a defence from a leading steamship company wherein it was contended that the rate charged was only 300 per cent. increase, and not 800 per cent. increase, as alleged. Upon investigation, the facts appear to be that both increases are correctly stated. The difference is simply in the points of comparison. The 800 per cent. increase applies to the rate charged as compared with the pre-war rate. The 300 per cent. increase arises from the fact that a quotation was given at 65s. per ton measurement, or 3 per cent. *ad valorem*, both plus 25 per cent. war surtax, and 10 per cent. primage, shippers' option. The shipowners declined to declare their option until the goods were aboard, and then charged *ad valorem*, which made an admitted difference of 300 per cent. against the consignors, and actually more than wiped out the gross profit on the sale of the goods. The total freight charges on the *ad valorem* scale charged by this line from Manchester to Tunis have reached over 4d. per lb., against a total pre-war charge of less than ½d. per lb., which is an increase of fully 1,500 per cent. In response to remonstrances the shipowners reply that "they have no option but to charge conference rates." Some shipowners have certainly now introduced the objectionable—but for them highly profitable—innovation of charging *ad valorem* rates upon high-priced articles, such as chemicals and colours, and there are many instances quotable of large consignments of goods even outward bound being so treated, the aggregate charges reaching fabulous figures. Instances can be given of dyes sent upon steamers from Manchester to Canadian consumers for Government work being so charged.

It is admitted that whether goods cost 2s. per lb. or 20s. per lb., the space occupied and the services rendered are just the same. The only excuse (it can hardly be called a reason) for such a levy is that shipowners are liable for the value of the ship arrives at its destination and the goods are not delivered. Surely this is very unconvincing. The bills of lading issued free the shipowners from almost every conceivable responsibility. If the ship arrives and the goods are not delivered, the shipowners either have the goods or have the right to recover them from whomsoever they have been wrongfully delivered to. Mr. Stoker, at the annual meeting of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, asserted that in these days some people were more concerned in making paltry profits than in promoting national interests. Just before that a well-known Manchester shipping firm had carried eight empty iron oil drums back from Montreal to Manchester, and charged a freightage of £20 9s. 8d. The cost price of the drums as charged to the Canadian consumer was 40s. per drum, making a total value when new of £16. Moreover, the same line had previously carried the goods to Canada at a full freight.

I could cite many similar cases of excessive freight charges which must inevitably effect a severe restraint upon trade; indeed, the effect has already been to stop valuable developments. The policy of levying excessive freights, especially *ad valorem* freights, is questionable wisdom from the shipowners' standpoint, unless the view taken is that "paltry profits" are reprehensible, whilst huge profits are commendable. Whatever altitude freights upon foodstuffs have attained, it is a mere mound compared with the mountain heights reached by these *ad valorem* charges. The whole position would seem to be worth the serious and urgent attention locally of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce and the Manchester Association of Importers and Exporters, and, nationally, of the Board of Trade.

If these things are true and if shipowners are thus ravenous after monstrous profits, then the Government will before long be forced to take control of the nation's mercantile navy, whether it likes to or not. Either that or the example set in Australia will be followed, and the whole of the excess profits over and above a fixed minimum and a fixed rate of dividend determinable by an average, say of five pre-war years' experience, will be declared the property of the Exchequer. In Australia all the war-time profits, less £200, beyond 7 per cent. on the capital of companies and 8 per cent. allowed to owners of private businesses, are taken by the Commonwealth Treasurer, and in addition, as we explained some weeks ago, a levy of 1½ per cent. is to be made on the capital value of all estates worth more than £500. Unless we can stand together and be helpful to each other instead of preying upon each other, we may come to measures more thoroughly wealth-stripping here even than this.

We are sorry that our railway director correspondent has marked his appended letter to us "private," because it is both an able and an illuminating letter, frank too, and, from the point of view of the writer, reasonable enough, one that does him credit. Had

not the railways all along been privileged to possess individuals of this man's stamp here and there on their boards their condition would probably have been financially far more embarrassed to-day than it actually is. But on some of our lines the proportion of good and capable men to the other sorts has never been great enough to avert trouble or to remedy abuses. And the atmosphere of boards has been anti-democratic almost always.

There is something in what your friend in Spain says. Lloyd George's spiteful fiscal policy drives people into foreign investments, and now a penal income-tax is imposed on dividends from America.

The present Chancellor of the Exchequer stated plainly that the excess profits clauses in his Finance Bill were put in to please the trades union officials! A strange basis of fiscal policy. Suppose he had said to the "working man" that his wages were to be regulated by his earnings between 1912 and 1914, notwithstanding an increased output, I wonder what the result would have been? I am as much against excessive profits out of the war as any Cabinet Minister or trade union secretary can be, but anything more illogical than Mr. McKenna's method is hardly conceivable. And a rational method would have been so easy to devise and carry out instead of the present meddling and muddling system.

No wonder all the clubs and hotels are required for clerks.

As for nationalising the railways. Good heavens! Where are the administrators to come from? Trade union hacks, probably. The head man of the Insurance scheme in ——— is a ci-divant letter-carrier, I believe. Now he lifts £1,800 a year, and climbs no more fourteen-storey tenements.

Is anybody pleased with telephone management under Government, or even the Post Office, lucrative and all as it is? If it were not for privately owned ships, railways, mail-carts, &c., &c., where would it be?

I suppose the P.O. owns the bicycles; they had better not go farther in adding to plant.

The Chairman of the Railway Board I know best is an expert in railway management. He is a very wealthy man, has no business of his own except looking after his property and investments, but works at the railway business as if his bread and butter depended on his diligence. The deputy is a duke, and a pretty clear-headed man for all that, with a good knowledge of finance. I fail to see why his being a landowner on a large scale disqualifies him or makes him an object of suspicion.

We know coalmasters whose expert knowledge is often very useful, a civil engineer and a contractor for railway work, both retired from business, whose experience is at our disposal. Other directors have been chosen for us by men of business in different parts of the country, and represent local interests. I am convener of the committee which does most of the spending, and do my best to protect capital from misapplication. My fees amount to about £230 per annum, and my passes are worth, perhaps, £50 per annum. No relative, servant, or friend gets one farthing of advantage in railway fares, neither do I ever commandeer a compartment unless I am going to fill it. I believe my services are worth all I get.

It is not our concern to defend the fiscal policy of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but the writer of this letter must not go too near the fire in his scornful criticisms of the working man, because he may be quite sure that what measure may be meted out to the worker will also be applied to the classes above him. After all, the working man has the instincts common to us all, and he is in the majority, so that it would probably be wise to be gentle with him and to reason with him while there is time, prudent also to set him a self-denying example. As we indicate elsewhere, the demand is not at all unlikely to be formulated one of these days for the rationing of the entire community. That would be simpler, perhaps, and certainly more effective in lowering prices than the numerous expedients resorted to under pressure or otherwise by the Board of Trade.

And about this nationalisation of the railways. It is all very well to say that administrators could not be found, and to instance cases where presumably incompetent individuals have been jobbed into offices of importance and responsibility, but how are the railway companies to face the demand that is sure to be made upon them to pay back to the Treasury some of the money now advanced out of the national debt to enable them to pay higher wages to their men? In all a bonus of 10s. a week has been bestowed upon railway servants at the instance of the Government, and, we believe, only 7d. of that comes out of the pockets of the railway shareholders. Does the writer of the letter imagine that the mass of the community, whether working men

or mere clerks, or humble shopkeepers, or just negligible journalists, will sit down quietly and allow the shareholders of the railway to reap the entire benefit of that enormous dole? And it is not only a question of ability to administer, or one of ability to refund money, but one of delivering the railway companies from the consequences of their happy-go-capitalise-it recklessness in the past. It is this writer's conviction that had railway construction been honestly gone about from the outset, had all classes in the community united in order to provide the country with the new public highways at a minimum of cost, and had boards of directors had any conception of the true relation between capital and revenue, and acted in loyalty thereto, the railways at the present time would have stood in capital cost at not much more than half the actual figure. In consequence of the waste of money, which has been perfectly stupendous from first to last, all development is now hampered—electrification, for instance, in no wise provided for—and when business is resumed after the war one of the most urgent questions to be faced will have to be a complete revision of passengers and goods rates in the sense of liberating the industries of the country and the workers from excessive charges. How is all that to be brought about and the main lines to be electrified unless the railways are nationalised? We have nothing further to say about the quality of railway directors. Evidently our critic is the happy member of a capable board, but in this case, as in too many others, the exception proves the rule. A long procession of shady, or incapable, individuals passes over the memory's screen as we look back over more than 40 years of City life. And the day for mealy-mouthedness is slipping away for ever.

We have already dealt with the preliminary report of British Dyes, Ltd., and the accounts for the year to April 30 are now available. They show that after providing £200,000 for increased cost of construction, depreciation, &c., the trading profit was £65,983, from which have to be deducted vendors' profits £12,000, preliminary expenses £8,984, and interest on Government debt £29,639, leaving a balance of £15,360. Out of this it is proposed to pay a dividend of 6 per cent., absorbing £11,300, and leaving £4,060 to be carried forward. The balance-sheet shows issued capital £271,460, Government debt £884,210, and sundry creditors £391,487. After deducting depreciation, &c., buildings, plant, &c., stand at £646,120, goodwill at £73,696, investments at £36,967, stocks at £641,370, and cash in hand at £164,360. All things considered and making allowance for the difficulties that had to be overcome, the company seems to have made a very fair start, but we cannot say much with confidence at the moment.

During the past six months there has been a decided revival in the demand for land in Canada, which may perhaps be due to munition workers investing their savings, and judging by the Hudson's Bay Co.'s statement, not only have sales been larger, but prices have risen substantially. In the past quarter the company sold 40,300 acres of farm lands for £127,800, or an average of £3 3s. 5d. per acre, compared with only 10,900 acres for £31,900, or an average of £2 18s. 6d. per acre in the corresponding period of 1915. The improvement has not extended to town lots, which only realised £400 as against £1,800, but the total receipts for the three months were more than doubled at £59,000. For the half-year the sales of farm lands amounted to 85,400 acres, or 65,900 acres more than in the corresponding half of 1915, and realised £275,400, as against £63,000, the average price being 4d. smaller at £3 4s. 3d. Town lots yielded £5,800, or an increase of £1,900, and the total receipts rose by £63,500 to £135,500.

In some respects the showing made by the Tatem Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., is almost unique. For the year to June 30 the profits were £284,000, an increase of £80,000, and the amount brought forward was £14,200 larger at £38,020. But repairs cost £4,000 less, and the amount written off steamers was £36,000

less, so that the available balance is rather more than doubled at £264,854. Lest it should be thought that the allowance for depreciation is insufficient we hasten to add that the cost of steamers has been written down to 30s. per ton, that the reserve funds are just double the amount of the capital (£350,000), that the insurance fund alone exceeds the book value of the fleet by £50,000, and that the company has a trifle of £1,342,000 of cash and investments, including £990,000 in War Loan and other Government securities. But the directors evidently felt that they were reckless in paying an interim dividend of 5 per cent. against 2½ per cent., and they consequently cut down the final distribution from 12½ per cent. to 10 per cent., making the total 15 per cent. as before. Then they place £41,100 to special reserve (raising it to a round half-million), and £100,000 to insurance reserve, which leaves £71,250, of £33,000 more, to be carried forward. It is a wonderful record, and the other figures—such as the increase of £230,000 in sundry creditors to £365,000, and the reduction of £200,000 to £150,000 in the cost of the fleet—look tame by comparison. No one likes better than ourselves to see a business prudently managed and well buttressed against the shafts of adversity, but these figures rather suggest a miser's attitude—hoarding for the mere love of hoarding. Of course, the company is in an extraordinarily strong position, and would be able to multiply its fleet of 100,000 odd tons—all fine useful boats of 7,000 to 8,000 tons—several times over when the proper time arrives, but the directors seem more inclined to sell than to buy at present, and we do not altogether blame them. During the year they sold five boats, on which they netted a profit of over £200,000, and one new steamer, the *Honiton*, was lost on her first voyage. Another steamer, the *Braunton*, 7,500 tons, has also been lost by mine or torpedo, but this will be dealt with in the current year's accounts. But there is no word either of a new building programme or purchases to replace the tonnage lost. Altogether it is a remarkable story, and we do not know quite what to make of it.

For a company that has been only a little over two years in existence, S. Smith and Sons (Motor Accessories), Ltd., has made wonderful progress. The first report to July 31, 1915, covered the transition period and showed a profit of £25,267, but £7,325 of this had to be handed over to the vendors, leaving a balance of £17,942, out of which a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum was paid, and £2,200 carried forward. For the past year the profit is given as £42,170, but this is arrived at after making ample provision for excess profits duty and other contingencies, so that the actual amount must have been considerably larger. A final dividend of 1s. 7d. per share, making 10 per cent. tax free for the year, is declared, and after writing off various items amounting to £17,700, against £6,100 last time, the balance forward is raised £4,500 to £6,728. Preliminary expenses, patents and goodwill entirely disappear from the balance-sheet, which is quite a notable achievement for a two-year-old baby. A year ago 100,000 new ordinary shares were issued to provide factory equipment and additional working capital, and it has been decided to increase the capital to £300,000 by the creation of another 100,000 shares. At first sight that looks like rather too rapid progress, but the conditions seem to justify it. The company carries a stock of nearly £300,000, while creditors have increased £150,000 to £272,000, and debtors are £70,000 higher at £117,000. Great expectations are based on a paraffin carburettor which the company has introduced, and which has proved very successful, so that there seems to be sound reason for the faith the proprietors display in the business.

The Rio Tinto Co. announces an interim dividend of £2 per share, equal to 40 per cent., as compared with 20 per cent. a year ago and nil in the autumn of 1914. Since the market had been anticipating not more than 35 per cent., the shares were promptly marked up half a point on the announcement. In view of the extra-

ordinarily high price to which copper has risen the market estimate of the final dividend of 40 to 50 per cent. does not look extravagant. Even the doubling of the interim dividend, however, does not indicate that the company has reached the stage of earning excess profits over the pre-war standard, like other copper companies. The profits for 1914 fell by about £900,000, or roughly 50 per cent., and in 1915 only a modest recovery of considerably less than one-half of the preceding year's decline was made. This year's interim is at the same rate as for 1913. Last year the increase in price realised for copper was largely offset by the higher cost of freight and fuel, and also of labour. The further rise this year in the price of the metal will be more directly felt, but the company is still hindered by shortage of labour, lack of shipping facilities, and also of adequate smelting arrangements.

A very excellent report is issued by the New Modderfontein Gold Mining Co., which continues its almost uninterrupted career of record breaking. In the 12 months ended June 30 the working profit was £766,200 as compared with £692,100 in 1914-15 and only £26,750 in 1903-4. The tonnage treated rose by 23,500 to 635,000, and the revenue rose by £126,546 to £1,296,043, the chief factor in this increase being the yield, which was 2s. 7d. higher at 40s. 10d. per ton. In this connection it is very satisfactory to note that the ore stoped was slightly under the average of the reserves as a whole, the improvement being due to the stoping of a narrower width than reckoned in estimating the value. Working costs, of course, were higher, but only to the extent of 1s. 4d. per ton. Consequently the average profit per ton was 1s. 3d. higher at 23s. 7d. per ton. After providing £132,657 for expenditure on development and equipment the dividend is raised from 31¼ per cent. to 32½ per cent., leaving £398,126, against £353,183, to be carried forward. The most striking feature of the report, however, is the enormous increase shown in the ore reserves. These are estimated at 8,013,370 tons of 8.4 dwts. value, against 6,015,800 tons of 8.15 dwts. value. A further substantial addition will be made this year to the reserves on the present lines of development. The new plant, however, is not expected to be completed before the end of 1917 at the earliest, owing to the war.

Shall We Love Our Enemies Just Yet ?

Lord Bryce appears to have said we should forthwith, at the 76th annual autumn meeting of the Congregational Union of England and Wales, held in Birmingham, and on many points we are disposed to agree with him. It is not absolutely essential to hate the *boa constrictor*. There was nothing new or original in his lordship's presentment of the after-the-war problem; but, as usual with him, he spoke without ambiguity, and gave a freshness even to the commonplaces he laid before his hearers. At one point, however, we think he laid himself open to criticism, if not to misrepresentation. "Let us avoid, let us repress, the spirit of hatred," he said. "We are justly indignant at the way in which the enemy Powers have waged war. We trust that our victory will warn the world that such methods must never be resorted to again, and that those guilty of them will be punished. But is it wise to talk of banning a whole people for all time to come? The German people are under a harsh and tyrannous rule, which has not only deceived and misled them, but silences any protest—and there are those who wish to protest—against its crimes. Some day, we hope, they will overthrow it when they have learnt the truth. To indulge revenge will be to sow the seeds of future wars." These are excellent sentiments suitable for a preacher of the Gospel, but none the less involve an avoidance of the real problem, a misconception of the issues involved. It has never been a question of hatred of the German people amongst the enlightened upholders of this war. These do not hate the German people but pity them, and we, at least, have never given any countenance to those agitators in this country who are clamouring for "retaliation" in trade, who

are in favour of waging war against the Germans in the workshop, in the mines and on the sea when fighting with murder weapons is at an end, any more than to those who say "let us hasten to embrace the foe and welcome him back to the fold," like Lord Bryce. What we maintain is that in the interests of these down-trodden, bestialised German nationalities themselves no pity must be shown to them or to those who have enslaved them and led them down to their present degraded condition of moral perversion.

The mere instinct of self-preservation warns us to be careful not to allow these enslaved peoples to remain under the leadership of the castes that have dominated over them to their de-humanising all these centuries. In destroying that brutal caste, in liberating the people from its ruthless tyranny, we must as a matter of self-preservation put out of the people's reach all temptation to fall back into ways of envy, hatred, greed, and covetousness, from which generates the spirit of the highway robber. Therefore have we insisted and do we insist that all minerals of the two empires must as far as possible be put henceforth under the control of the Allies of the *Entente* acting through their selected delegates. To Russia and Rumania must fall the control of the Eastern mineral deposits of Austro-Hungary and Germany; to Italy those that may be found in the Alps; to France and Belgium those of the West, France thus getting back what was torn from her by the treaties of 1814 and 1815, what is justly hers, Belgium obtaining that enlargement of territory which is also her due, together with control over the whole course of the Scheldt. We cannot afford, and it is not in the interests of the German people themselves that we should afford, liberty to the enemy to retain possession of the means by which they might forge new weapons of destruction with which base leaders in after time might lure them to again plunge the world into bloodshed, for the gratification of the predatory instincts of the few. Has Lord Bryce ever given thought to that aspect of the peace that is to be?

The kind of peace we ruminate over, and are sure many others think much about—many who are not perhaps much influenced by the political moralities of any religious sect—is a peace which implies prolonged domination for their good, and for our indemnification, over the suppressed, ground-down, besotted populations of the two empires. We wonder if Lord Bryce has ever read that interesting book which was translated into English some time ago, and published by Fisher Unwin, dealing with the Austro-Hungarian Empire. It is the work of an Italian journalist of distinction, Signor Virginio Gayda, and throws light on the sacerdotal and feudal tyranny from which the Allies of the *Entente* must rescue many races and nationalities now held in cruel bondage. One or two extracts from the volume will serve at least to illustrate the condition of the people oppressed by the Habsburg imposture that seeks to maintain for its own benefit superstitious reverence for a sacred race. Precisely the same tyrannous supermannishness prevails in the empire of the Hohenzollerns, and the dominant caste in both empires has established such absolute authority over the souls of the races they tread under foot as to make some of them eager, others easily acquiescent, tools of their infamy. The lands which these tribes, families, clans, sacerdotal organisations hold must be taken from them. In no other way can we attain a secure peace. Treaties subscribed by functionaries like Jagow or Bethmann-Hollweg, or by degenerate weeds like the Kaiser and his son, are of no value whatever as guarantee or security; the peace the Allies must impose must be a liberating peace. Their financial requirements will impel the democracies of all the Allies members of the *Entente* to insist that it shall be so. The land must be taken out of the grasp of those who have misused it, who oppress and keep in ignorance the masses who live upon it, and confiscated for our indemnification, to be by us sold back to the people at a fair price, or with reservation of such proportion of the enlarged revenues that will soon accrue from possession by the cultivator as may be deemed equitable. Moneys thus accruing would be distributed proportionately among the creditors for damage sustained,

and be devoted to the payment of the costs of the war. No consideration can be given either to the Junker classes or to the princely families in Germany, with their *roitelets*, dukes, counts, and such like, or to the territorial magnates and church establishments and dignitaries in Austro-Hungary. They must all be treated as outcasts from civilised society. Peace must not be made with representatives of these classes, or of the two emperors, but with delegates of the misled and crushed down democracies by whom we must take care that they shall be freely selected. At first though it must be the peace of conquest, and the docility with which the victims of Habsburg-Hohenzollern tyranny have worn their fetters may make our job easier than it looks. At any rate, the war cannot be ended in the old-fashioned way as the war against the first Napoleon was, by parchments drawn up in the interests of clans and families, castes and land-owning Churchmen, and in complete disregard of the peoples bandied about like sheep. Selfish tyrants of these types must be put aside, and the peace concluded between the democracies concerned. To maintain that peace will be the task of the Allies probably for many a year to come, until, that is, the serfs who are soon to be liberated acquire something of that individuality of character, dignity, and self-respect which may enable those who have swept away their tyrants to trust them to govern themselves.

(To be continued.)

Sir Walter Roper Lawrence, Bart., G.C.I.E., has joined the board of the Nedem Tea Co.

The Eastern Company of Petrograd have removed their London offices to more commodious premises at 4, Corbet Court, Gracechurch Street, E.C. Telephone, London Wall 8099.

Shawinigan Water and Power Co.—Earnings for the month of August were maintained at the same level as the previous month's, viz., \$160,000, being at the rate of \$1,920,000 per annum. Earnings for the month of August, 1915, were \$150,000, or at the rate of \$1,800,000 per annum.

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By-the-Way War Notes.

In the pause of the fighting there has been a certain relief, an interval where it may be said the humorous side of things has come to the surface. There was, for example, that outburst of the German Imperial Chancellor in the Reichstag, which could only be compared to the raving of a baffled "cracksman" caught by the police before he could get away with his plunder. This same von Bethmann-Hollweg on the night of July 29, 1914, sent for the British Ambassador late at night to ask him if his Government would promise to remain neutral in the war that the two Kaisers had decided upon, provided Germany did not touch Holland, and took nothing from France but her colonies. He was asked about Belgium, but had candour enough to refuse to pledge the Kaiser not to invade that kingdom. Most likely he could not do otherwise, seeing that his master's troops were already mustering on the frontier to begin that war of abominations the memory of which must never be let die; that war the miserable beings now seek to father upon us. But being pressed, Bethmann did graciously condescend to promise that if Belgium would remain passive no territory would be taken from her, so innocent of all guile was the "peace-loving" Kaiser, who still hoped to dupe us to our ruin. This is the bargaining thief, or thief's chief functionary, who now comes forward unashamed to pour foul-mouthed abuse upon England, after the manner of criminals caught red-handed. Could degradation of the German functionary and subservience of the German intellect be more vividly illustrated?

The funny side in such incidents really comes uppermost though, and when we remember that at the back of all the fuss is this fifth war loan, which all the drum-beating and tub-thumping, and bishop blessing and field marshal touting in the world has not been able to get subscribed, because there is no money to subscribe with, the German news becomes daily more amusing. What, for instance, could be funnier than the Kaiser's speech at the dinner given at Main Headquarters to celebrate the birthday of old Marshal von Hindenburg? "May God grant you to prosecute the gigantic world war to a final victory, which shall bring our allied nations the freedom for which we are fighting." Who are the allied nations of the Kaiser? There is Austria and Hungary, the Austrian Empire being one of the basest the world has ever seen, and one of the cruellest. There is Turkey, whom Russia has been endeavouring to turn out of Europe, one may say ever since the days of Peter the Great, and whose German-patronised massacre of the Armenians is but the latest of an endless procession of similar infamies; there is the Bulgar, most base of all the peoples that Russia has liberated, whether by the war of 1877, or by any previous war. Beautiful allies surely, but undoubtedly endowed with Kaiserly freedom. William, however, probably knew what he was about. "Hindenburg is going to fail; let me exalt him now, therefore, so that I may lay the blame on him when the hour of doom strikes."

But whatever the motive for the demonstration, the father is out-burlesqued by his son, whose weeping interview with an American parson, turned Hearst special correspondent, is one of the drollest exhibitions of caddish vulgarity we have come across for many a day. This man, who has been the particular member of the Hohenzollern family to fling away at least 500,000 of his fellow-countrymen before Verdun, of whom probably more than 150,000 have been killed, is moved even to tears at the "terrible waste of war," "at thought of the horrible instruments of destruction." "You saw," he said to the rapt, worshipping Yankee correspondent, a man named Hale, "many horrible instruments of destruction we are using—our heavy projectile shells, shrapnel, grenades, liquid fire, bayonets and knives. You know something of the labours with which we are perfecting the effectual use of these instruments. I hope you have not failed to be impressed with the fact that every general, every officer, every man, would far rather see all this labour, skill, education, intellectual

resource, and physical prowess devoted to the tasks of upbuilding and lengthening life, subduing the common enemies of men—disease and material obstacles to the progress of mankind—rather than devoted to the destruction of other men."

Is it not beautiful? And like the Bavarians M. Gaston Riou met in his captivity, the poor wretch was tired of the killing, and wanted to get back to his wife. "Have only been home twice in two years," he slobbered. He wept, too, at thought of the sufferings of his soldiers—for the foe he had nothing but hate. Since when did the Crown Prince of Prussia, heir to the disappearing German Empire, discover himself to be possessed even of this most limitedly humanitarian view of things? Since the want of money began to pinch? Since Verdun ground to dust whatever military reputation he ever had? Is he a shareholder in Krupps like his father, and fearful lest capital and dividends, and all vanish when the Allies obliterate that monstrosity? Was not this weed the most clamorous even amongst the German chauvinists for a war against England in order to snatch from her her sea liberties, liberties in which she had so generously allowed the envious, greedy Germans to share? That does not concern him. He has no pity except a hypocritical whine for his own soldiers, and even over them he does not get an opportunity to display his true feelings until he has slain and maimed them by the half-million. But he has a wife and family, and it is no happiness for him to look forward to spending a third Christmas at the front. Well, he is quite welcome to go home to the bosom of his family, and await his arrest there at the hands of the triumphing democracy now fighting for liberty, even for the liberty of the dupes this man and his caste grind down and lie to, and exploit without trace of scruple, for their own base ends.

In this man's opinion the Allies are not able to tire Germany out or to kill them off in sufficient numbers to give them their victory. That was meant to encourage subscriptions for the war loan, and the same motive lay behind the messages about "decisive" victories in the Debrudja, the "overwhelming defeat" of the Rumanians in Transylvania, and other tricks of the Prussian robber band. The Rumanians were surrounded, according to the Germany report, and obliged to flee from Hermannstadt, suffering appalling losses. Hermannstadt is a town the Rumanians were too cautious to enter, and lies of this clumsy description, with their usual trimmings about "murdering our wounded," did not get time to effect the purpose for which they were manufactured. Contradiction, making the original tale ludicrous, followed fast behind the first promulgation of each lie, and made the whole display as pleasantly cheering to the Allies as was the sight of a burning Zeppelin falling to earth in England. Instead of being victorious in the Debrudja the German-Bulgar army there appears to be in considerable danger of being penned up until starved into surrender, and in Transylvania the wasting away of such forces as Hungary and the Teutons can muster goes on apace. The Russian offensive is also wearing down the foe, and the Italian campaign developing in force. At no point in all the battle front is anything but defeat the lot of the criminal empires. Soon the Allies should link up forces in the Balkans.

How long can the Germans go on losing men as they are now doing? As long as dupes and vanity-devoured fools form the bulk of the population. What will be the condition after the war of a country which is obliged to call lads of 17 to the colours and to send lads of 18 to the forefront of the battle along with men about old enough to be their grandfathers? As to the ever-redoubtable Herr Ballin, who still lives to "breathe forth threatenings and slaughter" against British commerce when the war concludes, he and his like will have to make good our loss of ships before he can be permitted to send a single German vessel to sea again. It will not require much expenditure of ammunition or risking of precious lives to hold down a nation of slaves if it goes on until old and young among its males have been slaughtered and maimed for life at the speed now

visible, in such numbers as precludes any possibility of restoration to strength for several generations.

The summary of results attained on the Somme front since July 1 as reported by our General Headquarters in France had best be given in the official words:—

At the end of September the situation may be summarised as follows:—Since the opening of the battle on July 1 we have taken 26,735 prisoners. We have engaged 38 German divisions, of which 29 have been withdrawn in an exhausted or broken state. We hold the half-moon of upland south of the Ancre, occupying every height of importance, and so have direct observation of the ground to the east and north-east. The enemy has fallen back upon a fourth line behind the low ridge just west of the Bapaume-Transloy road.

The importance of the three months' offensive is not to be judged by the distance advanced or the number of enemy trench lines taken. It must be looked for in the effect upon the enemy's strength in numbers, material, and moral. The enemy has used up his reserves in repeated costly and unsuccessful counter-attacks without causing our Allies or ourselves to relax our steady and methodical pressure. In this action troops from every part of the British Empire and British Islands have been engaged. All have behaved with the discipline and resolution of veterans.

Our aircraft have shown in the highest degree the spirit of the offensive. They have patrolled regularly far behind the enemy's lines, and have fought many battles in the air with hostile machines and many with enemy troops on the ground. For every enemy machine that succeeds in crossing our front it is safe to say that 200 British machines cross the enemy's front. A captured corps report described our aeroplanes as "surprisingly bold," and their work has been as conspicuous for its skill and judgment as for its daring.

Some of our guides and interpreters in things war-like are still, we observe, ready to place credence in German lies, and to cast gloom over the spirits of those who long to see the war ended by the successful attrition of the foe. That is a pity, for really the fighting goes well for the Allies not only in Picardy, but everywhere. Russia is having a stiff job to prevail in Volhynia, in Galicia, but she is fighting a winning battle all the same, and in doing so is using up the last of the Austrian strength as also no small part of Germany's remaining reserves. Rumania, too, is encountering furious opposition, and may have to suspend altogether for a time her proposed conquest of Transylvania, merely holding the controlling passes in order to throw her greatest strength into the Balkan campaign; but her armies have nowhere been really beaten, and the lies circulated by the Germans and Bulgarians both about events in the Dobrudja and in Macedonia, are of heartening augury for the near future. Those splendid warriors, the Serbs, are destroying their treacherous foes, the Bulgars, with irresistible assiduity, and difficult, most unimaginably difficult, though the country is, the French, Russian, Italian, and British armies now assisting in the obliteration of Bulgaria and of its ally, Turkey, as self-misgoverning States, are steadily making progress with their enterprise.

In the Italian Alps, likewise, the Austrians are being reduced towards impotence by the valiant soldiers of the United Nation. Everywhere the progress may at the moment look slow, does so until we come to take account of the attrition, as in the above-quoted passage from Sir Douglas Haig's report, but when the dead, maimed, and captured are reckoned up it becomes obvious that the progress of the Allies is just of the kind most calculated to further the establishment of peace on a durable foundation when the time comes. Our enemies must first be exhausted in men and material, in means of subsistence also, to such a degree that not a kick will be left among them. For our peace implies occupation of territory now, and a great rooting up of intolerable tyrannies.

As to the staying power of the two derelict Empires, much encouragement may be drawn from the feverish way the German Press is endeavouring to reassure the hungry nation about the harvest. "Better than last year's, in spite of the bad weather," is the text on which the tame journalist is ordered to enlarge, and we may be sure that he is lying. Indeed, he as good as says he lies by proceeding to warn his readers that none of the food restrictions now in force can be relaxed. There is no "fat" to be had, and altogether the prospect is not too encouraging, even on the official

show. This is how the "Statistical Department of the War Committee for the Interests of Consumers" has summed the position up, according to the *Times*:—

It has worked out figures showing, for 4,000 households of all classes in 10 German towns, a comparison between prices in 1908 and in April this year. For a family of four persons there has been a total increase of expenditure, in spite of reduced consumption, of £2 4s. 1d. a month, or 73.47 per cent. Expenditure on bread went up 46.90 per cent.; on potatoes, 236.14 per cent.; on butter, margarine, and fat, 68.39; on meat, 28.79; on fish, 390; on eggs, 248.86; on milk, 24.64; on cheese, 226.71; and on coffee, 188.94 per cent. The consumption of potatoes rose 50.02 per cent., while the consumption of bread went down 35.49; butter, &c., 46.78; meat, 56.14; eggs, 14; milk, 29.83; and coffee, 36.23 per cent.

What this really signifies to the health and stamina of the nation we cannot measure, but prolonged it must imply physical and intellectual deterioration of the worst type, and prolonged it is to be. And in Hungary the position is worse. There, the Buda-Pesth correspondent of the *Morning Post* tells us, non-meat and fat days have come into the lives of the people—already hunger-gnawed to an appalling extent—and inspectors pry around to see that orders are not disregarded. But "three such days weekly, one of them entirely without fat, two of them without meat or even fish, is too much for the people here, and complaints are daily becoming more audible. During the meatless days special menus have to be provided by the restaurant keepers, and these are prepared by the authorities. The prices, however, are fixed by the proprietors themselves, so that the customer who consumes two kinds of vegetables and one kind of pastry is charged from three to four shillings even in restaurants frequented by the middle classes." We have no room for pity over this restaurant distress, but for the poor the outlook is heartrending. No evicting, rack-renting, absentee Irish landlord, however, has ever displayed greater callousness over the lot of his dependents than the masters of the poor in Hungary are now doing. Read this sketch drawn by the newspaper *Az Est*:—

Recalling the happy days when women went to the markets and returned in half an hour with their shopping baskets "tull of the freshest meat and vegetables, to-day," the writer says, "our women go to market early in the morning, some of them at five o'clock, in quest of necessities, and they return at ten without anything, their satchel empty, their eyes full of tears. Happy is she who succeeds in securing a few small potatoes and half-rotten tomatoes for the hungry children at home." The food conditions, in fact, are simply indescribable, proceeds the *Morning Post* correspondent. The Government woke up too late, and there is not the slightest chance now of improving matters. Yet, in spite of this, the exports to Germany and Austria are still going on briskly, as the Government has a contract with its allies to supply them with what was estimated to be Hungary's surplus stock. Now that it is found that there is no surplus stock at all, the Germans and Austrians are still demanding their share, thus reducing this country to such a condition that even if the most stringent regulations are observed it is absolutely certain that neither bread, nor milk, nor meat will be left by next April or May. The Millers' Association, which is the best authority on the subject, declares that early next summer there will be no more flour at the rate at which it is now being consumed, even if the maize crop should show an increase.

And after all, in spite of this plundering of the Hungarians, starvation hovers over both Austria and Germany. In Vienna restaurant keepers are forbidden to serve bread to their guests either at lunch or dinner, and are up in futile rebellion. And after all, Austria must have between three and four million fewer mouths to fill now than before Joseph and William laid their heads together to plunge Europe into war.

The Standard Bank of South Africa, Limited, has opened an agency at Hermanus, near Caledon, in the Cape Province.

JABEZ JOHNSON, HODGKINSON AND PEARSON, LTD.—After providing for excess profits duty and writing off £5,373, or £813 more, for depreciation, the nett profits for the year ended July 31 were £4,026 up at £37,535. The dividend and bonus on the ordinary shares is increased from 14 per cent. to 22½ per cent., and £10,000 is again transferred to reserve, but nothing is set aside compared with £5,000 to special income-tax reserve last year, and £29,831 is carried forward, as against £25,095 brought in. Stocks show a small reduction of £5,795 at £84,072, and the company has called in half of its loans, leaving £10,000 outstanding, but cash is £17,521 up at £60,139, and investments have been increased by £34,969 to £40,654. On the other hand, sundry creditors, including the provision for excess profits duty, are £15,702 up at £37,624.

Half-Year's Revenue.

I.—AN ACCOUNT OF THE TOTAL REVENUE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM in the undermentioned periods of the year ending March 31, 1917, as compared with the corresponding periods of the preceding year.

	Quarter from July 1 to Sept. 30, 1916, compared with the corresponding quarter of the preceding year.			
	Quarter ending Sept. 30, 1916.	Quarter ending Sept. 30, 1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
Customs	£ 15,951,000	£ 10,967,000	£ 4,984,000	—
Excise	13,349,000	14,481,000	—	1,132,000
Estate, &c., Duties	7,585,000	7,631,000	—	66,000
Stamps	1,840,000	1,704,000	136,000	—
Land Tax	—	—	—	—
House Duty	20,000	30,000	—	10,000
Property and Income Tax (including Super-Tax)	14,602,000	5,966,000	8,636,000	—
Excess Profits Duty	25,166,000	—	25,166,000	—
Land Value Duties	41,000	11,000	30,000	—
Postal Service	6,750,000	6,750,000	—	—
Telegraph Service	800,000	750,000	50,000	—
Telephone Service	1,450,000	1,580,000	—	50,000
Crown Lands	130,000	100,000	30,000	—
Receipts from Suez Canal Shares and Sundry Loans	2,367,622	597,299	1,770,323	—
Miscellaneous	1,188,279	1,062,329	125,950	—
	91,239,901	51,569,628	40,928,273	1,258,000
			£ 39,670,273	Nett Increase.

	Period from April 1 to Sept. 30, 1916, compared with the corresponding period of the preceding year.			
	Period ending Sept. 30, 1916.	Period ending Sept. 30, 1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
Customs	£ 32,113,000	£ 20,763,000	£ 11,350,000	—
Excise	14,920,000	27,855,000	—	2,935,000
Estate, &c., Duties	15,178,000	16,715,000	—	1,537,000
Stamps	3,475,000	3,036,000	439,000	—
Land Tax	40,000	20,000	20,000	—
House Duty	280,000	320,000	—	40,000
Property and Income Tax (including Super-Tax)	34,805,000	16,785,000	18,020,000	—
Excess Profits Duty	31,383,000	—	31,383,000	—
Land Value Duties	111,000	51,000	60,000	—
Postal Service	11,300,000	9,990,000	1,310,000	—
Telegraph Service	1,600,000	1,530,000	70,000	—
Telephone Service	3,100,000	3,080,000	20,000	—
Crown Lands	240,000	210,000	30,000	—
Receipts from Suez Canal Shares and Sundry Loans	2,381,011	603,771	1,777,240	—
Miscellaneous	2,994,888	1,907,993	1,086,895	—
	163,922,899	102,866,764	65,568,135	4,514,000
			£ 61,056,135	Nett Increase.

II.—AN ACCOUNT showing the RECEIPTS into and ISSUES out of the EXCHEQUER in the period ending Sept. 30, 1916, as compared with the corresponding period of the preceding year.

RECEIPTS.	Period ending Sept. 30, 1916.		Period ending Sept. 30, 1915.	
	£	£	£	£
BALANCES IN EXCHEQUER ON APRIL 1:—				
Bank of England	25,111,065	81,898,728		
Bank of Ireland	463,941	1,552,224		
REVENUE, as shown in Account I.	25,575,006	83,450,952		
ADVANCES REPAID—	163,922,899	102,866,764		
Bullion	—	—	2,080,000	630,000
MONEY RAISED BY CREATION OF DEBT—				
By Treasury Bills for Supply	1,092,626,000	67,758,000		
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913	—	—	180,000	—
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913	—	—	160,000	—
Under the Housing Act, 1914	—	—	45,200	—
By War Loan, 1925-1928	—	—	—	35,793,408
By 3 per Cent. Exchequer Bonds, 1920	—	—	—	242,345
By War Loan, 1925-1945	—	—	424	528,000,000
By 5 per Cent. Exchequer Bonds, 1919	34,222,000	—	—	—
By 5 per Cent. Exchequer Bonds, 1920	83,314,500	—	—	—
By 5 per Cent. Exchequer Bonds, 1921	62,367,000	—	—	—
By War Expenditure Certificates	23,353,000	—	—	—
By War Savings Certificates	28,450,000	—	—	—
By other Debt created under the War Loan Act, 1915, and Finance Act, 1916	20,494,556	—	—	—
EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE LOAN—				
Repayment on account of Principal and Interest	—	—	—	2,385
AMOUNTS TEMPORARILY BORROWED—				
ON THE CREDIT OF WAYS AND MEANS—				
By Treasury Bills	345,000,000	231,150,000		
By other Advances	86,896,500	1,000,000		
	£ 1,968,687,085	£ 1,050,898,854		

ISSUES.	Period ending 30th Sept., 1916.		Period ending 30th Sept., 1915.	
	£	£	£	£
EXPENDITURE—				
Permanent Charge of Debt	11,988,109	12,481,986		
Interest, &c., on War Debt	56,668,507	4,836,945		
Road Improvement Fund	—	694,395		
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c.	3,383,375	3,557,141		
Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,045,904	949,286		
Supply Services	831,715,834	651,977,667		
Total Expenditure chargeable against Revenue	904,801,729	674,497,420		
ISSUES TO MEET CAPITAL EXPENDITURE—				
Under the Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913	180,000	1,130,000		
Under the Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913	160,000	60,000		
Under the Housing Act, 1914	44,500	—		
ADVANCES—				
Bullion	2,340,000	975,000		
Interest on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	60,914	60,914		
REDEMPTION OF UNFUNDED DEBT—				
Treasury Bills for Supply	785,839,000	67,150,000		
Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan (Redemption) Act, 1910	—	16,395,500		
ISSUES UNDER SECTION 1 (5) OF THE WAR LOAN ACT, 1915	—	170,143,313		
OLD SINKING FUND, 1907-8	—	38,000	50,000	
Issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1903	—	—	—	
OLD SINKING FUND, 1910-11	—	—	—	
Issued under the Finance Act, 1911:—				
Section 16 (1) (b)	23,160	80,000		
OLD SINKING FUND, 1911-12	—	—	—	
Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (Acquisition of Capital) Act, 1914	250,000	250,000		
TEMPORARY ADVANCES REPAID—				
ADVANCES ON THE CREDIT OF WAYS AND MEANS—				
Treasury Bills	177,405,000	55,420,000		
Other Advances	70,896,500	—		
BALANCES IN EXCHEQUER—				
Bank of England	25,167,608	63,398,674		
Bank of Ireland	1,450,674	788,033		
	1,942,038,803	986,712,147		
	£ 1,968,687,085	£ 1,050,898,854		

Treasury, 30th September, 1916.

IRISH RAILWAYS.

	Sept. 29	£	+	£	•	£	+	£
Belfast and County Down ..	29	3,796	+	462	•	147,574	+	4,743
Grand Canal	29	885	—	223	†	13,876	—	1,375
Great Northern	29	25,440	—	3,260	•	910,013	+	25,263
Gt. Southern and Western ..	29	39,600	+	848	•	1,285,761	—	28,799
Midland Great Western ..	29	15,198	+	1,944	•	505,517	+	5,921

* From Jan. 1. † From July 1.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
Assam Bengal ..	Aug. 26	1,30,000	+	29,948	†	26,29,411	—	1,11,567
Bengal & N.-W. ..	" 19	3,33,620	+	75,412	†	86,19,902	—	12,39,242
Bengal Nagpur ..	Sept. 2	8,17,000	+	1,44,000	†	2,07,61,425	—	36,53,371
Bombay, Baroda ..	" 16	10,47,000	—	2,81,000	†	3,16,41,000	—	29,39,000
Burma ..	Aug. 26	3,46,617	+	13,486	†	81,85,166	—	1,85,612
Delhi Umballa ..	Sept. 23	58,100	—	4,949	†	16,91,871	—	1,27,388
East Indian ..	" 30	21,83,000	+	1,85,000	†	5,64,90,000	—	29,08,000
Gt. Indian Penin. ..	" 23	17,56,300	+	13,180	†	4,74,68,474	—	50,67,455
Lucknow-Bareilly ..	Aug. 19	31,999	—	169	†	6,74,911	—	84,838
Madras and S. ..								
Mahratta ..	Sept. 2	8,40,000	+	45,922	†	2,16,68,992	—	15,87,109
Nizam's Gd. (Broad) ..	" 2	1,01,624	+	9,878	†	27,81,564	—	1,64,386
" (Metre) ..	" 2	56,550	—	3,681	†	14,48,671	—	39,293
Robilkund and ..								
Kumaon ..	" 19	30,598	+	2,194	†	8,62,458	—	1,23,829
South Indian ..	Sept. 2	5,72,652	+	27,571	†	1,35,69,631	—	20,78,282

a 13 days. † April 1. ‡ October 1.

COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

		£	£	£	£
Beira	July *	34,768	+ 439	34,768	+ 439
Canadian Northern	Sept. 30	1,085,000	30,100	10,707,000	840,470
Canadian Pacific	" 30	3,660,000	289,000	37,263,000	1,039,500
Gr. Trk. Main Line	" 30	308,944	76,738	7,085,444	10,37,859
Gr. Trk. Western	" 30	43,398	470	1,440,206	319,315
Detroit G. H. & M.	" 30	16,795	778	510,598	104,360
Gr Trk Pac Prairie Sc.	" 30	29,011	2,243	216,962	35,242
Mashonaland	June *	59,685	6,011	803,079	88,804
Mid. of Westn. Aus.	July *	4,902	367	4,902	367
New Cape Central	Sept 2	1,421	96	54,720	7,648
Rhodesia	July *	87,807	522	170,230	7,241

a 9 days. * Months. † July 1. ‡ Jan. 1. c From Oct. 1.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

	Sept. 21	£	£	£	£	
Chesapeake & Ohio	986,000	+ 33,000	+	10,913,000	+ 619,000.	
Chicago G. W.	" 14	390,000	+ 32,000	+	2,485,000	+ 275,000
Colorado & South'n	" 7	295,000	+ 23,000	+	2,923,000	+ 296,000
Denver & Rio Gran.	" 21	571,000	+ 21,000	+	6,101,000	+ 191,000
Louisv'e & Nashv'e	" 21	1,281,000	+ 125,000	+	14,257,000	+ 1,743,000
Minn. S. P. (So.)	Aug. 31	948,000	+ 157,000	+	5,969,000	+ 1,255,000
Missouri Kansas	Sept. 14	737,000	+ 121,000	+	8,439,000	+ 1,479,000
Northern Pacific	Aug. 31	2,107,000	+ 87,000	+	13,576,000	+ 2,150,000
Southern	Sept. 21	1,503,000	+ 169,000	+	16,136,000	+ 1,512,000.

‡ Includes Wisconsin Central.

† From July 1.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—HOME.

TRAMWAY AND omnibus.—HOME.					
		£	£	£	£
Bristol	Sept. 29	10,997	+ 1,295	394,218	+ 18,419
Dublin United	" 29	6,682	+ 417	236,178	+ 2,443
Hastings and Dist.	" 29	1,267	+ 235	42,314	+ 2,715
Isle of Thanet	" 30	436	+ 179	19,775	+ 2,975
Lancashire United	" 27	2,170	+ 382	71,246	+ 2,873
Provincial	" 30	2,591	+ 319	121,476	+ 7,416
Yorks. (Wst. Rding.)	Oct. 1	1,914	+ 336	70,515	+ 6,764

* From Oct. 1.

† From Jan. 1.

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			Wks.	GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.	
	Week ending	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.		Amount	In. or dec. on last year.
Alcoy and Gandia ..	Sept. 30	Ps. 9,000	+ Ps. 1,500	†	Ps. 499,100	+ Ps. 35,900
Antofagasta (Chili) ..	Oct. 1	41,955	+ 16,810	†	1,318,730	+ 379,685
Arauco ..	Aug.	10,500	+ 6,750	†	162,738	+ 24,416
Argentine N.E. ..	Sept. 30	7,800	+ 95	†	90,102	+ 1,688
Bilbao R. and Canta ..	Aug. *	6,457	+ 1,236	†	36,518	+ 2,366
Bolivar ..	"	8,500	+ 1,111	†	15,500	+ 968
Brazil ..	July *	M3,357,000	+ M78,935	†	M 242,660,000	+ M212,972,000
Brazil Gt. Southern ..	June *	M18,355,000	+ M7,350	†	M214,690	+ M5,640
B. Ayres & Pacific ..	Sept. 30	82,000	+ 2,000	†	1,098,000	+ 20,000
Do. Gt. South'n ..	Oct. 1	110,000	+ 18,000	†	1,267,254	+ 161,346
Do. Western ..	"	58,000	+ 13,000	†	671,000	+ 92,000
Central Argentine ..	Sept. 30	119,000	+ 600	†	1,488,100	+ 26,700
C. Ur'g'ay of Mts V. ..	" 30	11,519	+ 382	†	143,073	+ 47
Do. East'n Ex. ..	" 30	4,144	+ 138	†	47,336	+ 1,715
Do. North'n Ex. ..	" 30	1,247	+ 225	†	23,571	+ 275
Do. West'n Ex. ..	" 30	2,058	+ 354	†	21,014	+ 545
Colombian National ..	Aug. *	13,760	+ 1,062	†	90,940	+ 8,600
Cordoba Central ..	Sept. 30	26,500	+ 7,135	†	443,500	+ 13,685
Costa Rica ..	July 29	5,500	+ 487	†	21,807	+ 243
Cuban Central ..	Sept. 30	8,778	+ 437	†	122,814	+ 19,502
Dorada Extension ..	Aug.	9,500	+ 400	†	64,000	+ 1,100
Egyptian Delta ..	Sept. 10a	5,095	+ 786	†	79,096	+ 14,063
Entre Rios ..	" 30	13,200	+ 3,500	†	157,100	+ 34,500
French Sante Fé ..	July	90,932	+ 15,010	†	619,079	+ 91,201
Gt. South. of Spain ..	Sept. 23	Ps. 106,467	+ Ps. 31,308	†	Ps2,730,097	+ Ps465,514
Gt. West. of Brazil ..	" 30	13,800	+ 6,200	†	354,100	+ 17,400
Havana Central ..	" 2	6,594	+ 1,649	†	53,980	+ 5,089
Inter. of C. Amer. ..	Aug. *	15,411	+ 3,052	†	243,164	+ 91,241
La Guaira and Car. ..	" 2	7,500	+ 1,750	†	65,000	+ 10,250
Leopoldina ..	Sept. 23	32,423	+ 1,151	†	893,998	+ 207,957
Manila (N. & Sth.) ..	Aug. 23	7,574	+ 795	†	359,525	+ 10,715
Midland Uruguay ..	Aug.	8,362	+ 4,010	†	18,043	+ 4,913
Mogiana ..	July *	M2,819,000	+ M211,678	†	M11,605,000	+ M1,007,815
N.W. of Uruguay ..	Aug. *	20,000	+ 5,148	†	39,250	+ 10,813
Nitrate ..	Sept. 30b	27,363	+ 10,748	†	742,550	+ 257,273
Paraguay Central ..	" 23	1,750	+ 720	†	29,220	+ 2,370
Paulista ..	July *	M4,000,000	+ M31,867	†	M152,500	+ M989,366
Peruvian Corp'n ..	Sept. 30	S835,430	+ S110,592	†	S10,798,927	+ S1,514,384
Salvador ..	Sept. 30	22,000	+ 3,750	†	266,355	+ 15,335
S. Paulo (Brazilian) ..	" 24	36,792	+ 989	†	1,027,762	+ 74,288
Sorocabana ..	May *	M1,269,000	+ M23,000	†	M 6,960,000	+ M202,000
Taltal ..	Aug. *	19,688	+ 1,470	†	39,308	+ 12,930
United of Havana ..	Sept. 30	30,463	+ 5,374	†	397,070	+ 75,533
West'n of Havana ..	" 30	5,902	+ 1,491	†	78,584	+ 11,573
Zafra and Huelva ..	Aug. *	13,099	+ 3,488	†	91,505	+ 28,688

*Months. †From Jan. 1. ‡From July 1. c Nett. b 15 days. a 10 days.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.

			£	Ms.	£	£		
Anglo-Argentine ..	Sept. 30		59,947	+	1,008	1,977,833	+	2,992
Auckland Electric ..	" 22b		20,884	+	618	62,858	+	563
Brazilian Traction ..	Aug. §	M3,982,000	+	M175,000	8	M 30,670,000	+	M109,580
Brisbane Elec. Inv. ..	" §		37,900	+	2,836	265,130	+	20,416
British Columbia ..	" §	550,293	+	43,167	8	1,017,849	+	70,737
B. A. Lacroze ..	" §		36,431	+	5,937	74,870	+	6,058
Burmah Electric ..	" b	Rs. 24,412	—	Rs. 747	—	—	—	Rs. 747
Calcutta ..	Sept. 30	Rs. 74,297	+	Ks. 10,473	*	Rs25,53,653	+	1,30,618
Cordoba Light ..	July		14,263	—	112	57,313	+	776
P. & T. ..	Sept. 2		17,048	+	5,392	508,853	+	125,754
La Plata ..	Aug. b		3,792	+	373	33,627	+	358
Lima ..	" §		14,996	+	240	125,565	+	3,423
Madras Electric ..	Sept. 30		Rs. 31,788	+	Rs. 3,484	Rs5,69,786	+	Rs. 41,725
Mexico ..	Nov. §		215,256	+	108,669	3,193,106	—	197,227
Puebla ..	Dec. §		40,000	—	25,600	669,500	—	44,500
Rangoon ..	Sept. §		4,137	—	308	36,479	—	2,001
Singapore Electric ..	Aug. 5		14,223	+	2,169	358,597	+	42,324
Toronto ..	" §		427,662	+	29,522	3,457,755	+	391,899
United of Monte V. ..	Sept. 1		26,711	+	1,641	319,043	+	15,626
Vera Cruz ..	Apl. §		83,500	+	39,600	287,400	+	142,000
Winnipeg ..	Aug. §		85,935	+	17,258	701,030	+	21,156

b 28 days. * From Jan. 1. § Nett. a From July 1. c Two weeks.

MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

NAME.	NETT EARNINGS FOR MONTH.				No of Mths.	NETT EARNINGS TO DATE.	
	Month.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year			Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year
		Dols.	Dols.			Dols.	Dols.
Atchison T. & S. Fé ..	Aug.	5,139,000	+ 1,538,000	2		9,208,000	+ 2,258,000
Atlantic Coast Line ..	July	460,000	+ 222,000	1		460,000	+ 222,000
Baltimore & Ohio ..	Aug.	3,268,000	+ 126,000	2		6,355,000	+ 116,000
Canadian Northern ..	"	1,072,400	+ 614,300	2		2,269,400	+ 1,345,300
Canadian Pacific ..	"	5,468,000	+ 2,025,000	2		9,485,000	+ 3,242,000
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	"	1,355,000	+ 213,000	1		1,355,000	+ 213,000
Chicago & N.W. ..	"	2,448,000	+ 800,000	1		2,448,000	+ 800,000
Chicago Burl. & Q. ..	June	2,881,000	+ 697,000	12		40,645,000	+ 9,962,000
Chicago G.W. ..	July	913,000	+ 25,000	1		913,000	+ 25,000
Chicago Mill. & S.P. ..	"	1,389,000	+ 378,000	1		1,389,000	+ 378,000
Chicago, Rock I. & P. ..	June	1,473,000	+ 419,000	12		16,811,000	+ 2,771,000
Colorado & Southern ..	May	447,000	+ 227,000	11		5,317,000	+ 1,457,000
Cuba ..	June *	604,000	+ 147,000	12		6,815,000	+ 1,609,000
Do. ..	May †	261,131	+ 482	11		2,314,953	+ 626,709
Delaware & Hud. ..	June	719,000	+ 19,000	6		4,205,000	+ 583,000
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	"	1,847,000	+ 171,000	12		10,151,000	+ 2,611,000
Erie ..	July	1,737,000	+ 222,000	7		10,388,000	+ 2,908,000
Gr. Tr. Main Line ..	Aug.	£305,650	+ £56,950	8		£1,731,500	+ £223,950
Grand Trunk Westn ..	"	£44,700	+ £15,000	8		£333,600	+ £248,800
Detroit G.H. & Mil. ..	"	£7,400	+ £6,900	8		£39,650	+ £23,950
Gt. Northern ..	June	2,912,000	+ 821,000	12		37,370,000	+ 7,035,000
Illinois Central ..	July	1,023,000	+ 491,000	1		1,023,000	+ 491,000
Kansas City Southn. ..	"	534,000	+ 68,000	1		534,000	+ 68,000
Lehigh Valley ..	"	1,222,000	+ 194,000	1		1,222,000	+ 194,000
Louisville & Nashvl. ..	"	1,433,000	+ 250,000	1		1,433,000	+ 250,000
Minn. S.P. (Soo) ..	June	1,043,000	+ 493,000	1		1,043,000	+ 493,000
Miss. K. & Texas ..	July	617,000	+ 145,000	1		617,000	+ 145,000
Missouri Pacific ..	June	601,000	+ 491,000	1		601,000	+ 491,000
New York Cent. & H. ..	July	5,720,000	+ 1,319,000	7		35,358,000	+ 12,600,000
N.Y. N. Haven & H. ..	June	2,130,000	+ 752,000	12		22,382,000	+ 3,647,000
New York Ont. & W. ..	July	406,000	+ 24,000	1		406,000	+ 24,000
Norfolk & Western ..	"	1,816,000	+ 128,000	1		1,816,000	+ 128,000
Northern Pacific ..	June	2,592,000	+ 430,000	12		31,032,000	+ 9,482,000
Pennsylvania East ..	July	11,330,000	+ 1,575,000	7		62,097,000	+ 23,634,000
St. Louis & San F. ..	May	1,201,000	+ 310,000	11		12,343,000	+ 1,747,000
Seaboard Air Line ..	June	467,000	+ 74,000	12		4,670,000	+ 74,000
Southern ..	"	1,282,000	+ 83,000	1		1,282,000	+ 83,000
Southern Pacific ..	"	5,048,000	+ 456,000	1		5,048,000	+ 456,000
Union Pacific ..	"	3,454,000	+ 605,000	1		3,454,000	+ 605,000
Wabash ..	June	1,016,000	+ 512,000	1		1,016,000	+ 512,000

§ Includes Wisconsin Central. * Gross earnings. † Surplus.

Critical Index to New Investments.

FRENCH NATIONAL DEFENCE LOAN.

A portion of the new French loan has, after all, been reserved for the British investor, and applications are now invited by the Bank of England in London and the Bank of Ireland in Dublin. Like the first issue, made in November last, with which it ranks, the loan takes the form of 5 per cent. Rentes for an unlimited amount, and is not redeemable before January 1, 1931, while both capital and interest will be exempt from all French taxes, present or future. The price is £3 4s. 6d. per 100 frs. nominal, which is equivalent at the exchange of 27.50, to the price of 88.75 frs. at which the loan is being issued in Paris, and is payable by instalments spread over until April 16, but if payment in full is made on application, the price will be £3 3s. 8d. When payment in full is made French sterling Treasury bills, due January 15, will be accepted in lieu of cash at £99 3s. 7d. for each £100 nominal of bills surrendered, and the Bank of England will also accept British Treasury bills issued prior to October 1, at rates ranging from 5½ per cent. for bills due on or before December 31 to 5¼ per cent. for bills maturing between April 1 and September 30, 1917. The decision to accept British Treasury bills in payment has been received with considerable satisfaction for two reasons. On the one hand, it clearly indicates that the proceeds of the loan will be used to relieve the Government of part of the obligations assumed by it to help France in financing the war, and on the other hand, the huge floating debt in this country will be reduced by the extent to which subscriptions are made in Treasury bills. If advantage is taken of the discount on payment in full, the loan at the exchange of 27.50 will yield nearly 5½ per cent., and when exchange becomes normal the yield will be increased to nearly 6½ per cent. The return is therefore decidedly attractive, and the only thing we can say is that we are sorry the French Government should have to pay such a heavy price. The fact that it has to do so leads us to suggest again that there should be financial as well as military co-operation between the Allies. If, instead of the countries borrowing individually, there was a pooling of resources by Great Britain and France, and perhaps Italy, it should not be difficult to arrange a joint loan, of which an agreed proportion would be guaranteed by each of them. Better terms would probably be obtained in this way, and the plan would certainly have the advantage of preventing the present clashing of interests when the power to help is restricted by the necessity of providing for our own country's requirements.

CONSOLIDATED GAS, ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER CO. OF BALTIMORE.

On September 22 last the directors offered \$3,697,912 of common stock for subscription by the holders of the preferred and common stocks, but they have since altered their plans, and now propose to get rid of the preferred stock altogether. The circular has consequently been withdrawn, and an issue of \$8,500,000 5 per cent. five-year convertible notes is now offered to holders of the common stock only to the extent of 60 per cent. of their holdings. The new notes will be dated November 15, 1916, and will mature in 1921, but they may be converted at the holder's option after November 15, 1918, into common stock at 110, while the company reserves the right to redeem all or any part of the issue at 101½ and interest after May 15, 1919, on giving 60 days' notice. In the event of their being called for redemption the notes may be converted into common stock up to 30 days prior to the date of redemption. Upon the approval of the issue by the Public Service Commission of Maryland the company will call for redemption on April 1 next, the preferred stock now outstanding.

Mr. Charles M. Davis has been appointed sub-manager of the British Commercial Bank, Ltd.

The Phoenix Assurance Co., Ltd., has removed from 70, Lombard Street, to Phoenix House, King William Street, E.C., where all communications should be addressed.

Great Western Colliery.—The directors have decided to call up the remaining £1 per share on the 30,000 £4 paid shares of class "B" on January 1, 1917. The share capital (£600,000) will then be fully called up, and it is intended on the date of the next annual meeting to submit a resolution to an extraordinary general meeting for dividing each of the existing shares of £5 each (both "A" and "B") into five shares of £1 each.

PRUDENTIAL

ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED,
HOLBORN BARS, LONDON.

Invested Funds exceed - £94,000,000.

CLAIMS PAID £126,000,000.

SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1824.

FUNDS OVER £10,500,000.

FIRE (INCLUDING LOSS OF PROFITS), LIFE, ACCIDENT, ILLNESS, ANNUITIES, PENSIONS, LEASEHOLD, BURGLARY, CLASS BREAKAGE, TRANSIT OF SECURITIES, FIDELITY, PROPERTY OWNERS' LIABILITIES, HORSE DRIVING ACCIDENTS, MOTOR CAR RISKS, THIRD PARTY, EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY AND MARINE INSURANCES EFFECTED ON THE MOST FAVOURABLE TERMS.

Edinburgh: 35, St. Andrew Square.

London: 5, Walbrook, E.C., and 5, Pall Mall, S.

PHENIX ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1782.

Head Office: PHENIX HOUSE, KING WILLIAM STREET, LONDON, E.C.

Total Assets Exceed £16,000,000.

Claims Paid Exceed £94,000,000.

Chairman—RT. HON. LORD GEORGE HAMILTON, P.C., G.C.S.I.

FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT. MARINE.

Loss of Profits following Fire, Workmen's Compensation, Fidelity Guarantee, Burglary, Trustee and Executor, &c.

Prospectuses and Proposal Forms may be obtained on application to any of Branch Offices or Agencies, or to the Head Offices.

General Manager SIR GERALD H. RYAN.

The Investors' Review.

Money and Credit Notes.

BANK RATE 6 PER CENT. (Increased from 5 per cent. on Thursday, July 13.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

A considerable amount of flurry developed in the Money market on the Treasury announcement that it was henceforth going to borrow on Exchequer bonds at 6 per cent. instead of nominally 5 per cent. The advance affected the Stock Exchange most prominently, but also embarrassed dealers in banking credit, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer is freely censured for his chopping and changing habits of business, and the demand is again heard that he should endeavour to consolidate the borrowing and arrange for its elasticity without having recourse to these perplexing devices that in the long run must hamper if not weaken the functioning of the nation's credit. In fact, some observers roundly declare that the Exchequer will get into a mess of its own creating unless greater forethought and resource are shown in financing our war costs. France, as usual, is doing better than we are, and it is unquestionably dangerous to have pressing on the market a Treasury bill floating debt of more than £1,000,000,000 together with three or four other forms of indebtedness which in a manner compete with each other. Is there not ability enough at the Treasury, or self-denial enough, to take advantage of the experience available? After all and even now London remains the financial centre of the world.

Rates for loans and of discount were not changed much by the irritation aroused over the latest Treasury

expedient for raising the money, but sometimes borrowers had to pay as much as $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for call loans. The usual rates, however, were $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 per cent., and a sort of stringency only developed when the market was loading up with December Treasury bills. French Treasury bills maturing in January have also been in request at anything over 5 per cent., as they can be exchanged at 5 per cent. for the new loan. Ordinary discount rates remain the same day after day as in our table, and business is absolutely without incident. The banks were buying November Treasury bills at $5\frac{1}{2}$ and December at $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and the sellers were reinvesting the proceeds in January bills.

The most conspicuous figures in the Bank return are the increases of £15,919,000 in the "other" deposits and of £13,781,000 in "other" securities, but we do not in the least profess to understand why these changes have occurred. The Bank's liability on other deposits is now £117,402,000, or £19,100,000 more than a year ago. On the other hand, public deposits of Government moneys, which fell off £1,136,000 on the week, are now at £52,236,000, £29,140,000 below the figure of a year ago. The reserve is also £10,807,000 lower now than then, but on the week it is up £549,000 to £36,016,000, coin and bullion having increased by £1,078,000 to £54,631,000, a total only £6,619,000 under that of a year back. Although the reserve is up, however, its proportion to the liabilities is $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. down at $21\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. owing to the great nett increase in the liabilities on deposits. Compared with a year ago the proportion is down $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

A decree extending the moratorium in France for another three months was published in the *Journal Officiel* on September 20. The reasons for this step were also made public, and it was pointed out that £1,792,000,000 of debts—of private obligations—have benefited by the moratorium since the beginning of the war. Thanks to the aid given by the Bank of France more than £1,200,000,000 of these liabilities have been voluntarily liquidated. That is the best testimony possible to the wisdom of restraining the power of creditors to exact instant payment no matter what the conditions may be.

The Swedish Government opened for subscription a new State loan for about £3,000,000 at $99\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., says the Stockholm correspondent of the *Morning Post*. This is the fifth Swedish internal loan since the war began, and no doubt the Swedes will find the money easily enough, for the war must have enriched them much.

In Germany it is quite otherwise. Concoct false stories of "great," "crowning," "decisive," "crushing," and other victories as they might, the "Kultur" serfs of the Kaiser have not been able to draw in the money to anything like the amount required, because there is no money available to be drawn. That is proved by the appeal for jewels, for all trinkets capable of yielding a little gold to be sent to the banks, an appeal the Empress herself has responded to for advertising purposes by giving up probably the least valuable of her jewels or a part thereof. We hope her example will be widely followed, and that the valuables stolen from Belgium and France may be stored in its banks as "cover" for paper money in a way handy for inventory and restitution when the time comes.

SILVER.

Supplies of silver from America have been on a larger scale this week, while India and the Far East have both offered the metal with some freedom. At the same time buyers have held off the market, and the price consequently steadily declined to $32\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz.

Applications for the Rs. 30,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 2,99,50,000. Of these Rs. 2,73,000 were allotted in bills, Rs. 6,00,000 in deferred transfers, and Rs. 21,21,000 in immediate transfers, tenders for bills and deferred transfers at Rs. 4 3-32d., and for immediate transfers at Rs. 4jd., receiving about 10 per cent. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is Rs. 40,00,000. Between April 1 and October 3 the total sales were Rs. 10,41,81,333, realising £6,987,997.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the
Week ending on Wednesday, October 4, 1916.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued	£ 71,238,455	Government Debt	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	52,788,455
		Silver Bullion	—
	£71,238,455		£71,238,455

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 42,188,051
Reserve	3,158,865	Other Securities	109,167,555
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts) ..	52,235,504	Notes	34,174,125
Other Deposits	117,402,096	Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,842,065
Seven Day and other Bills	22,331		
	£187,371,796		£187,371,796

Dated Oct. 5, 1916.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared
with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the
corresponding return last year.

Last year, Oct. 6.		Sept. 27, 1916.	Oct. 4, 1916.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,121,050	Rest	3,614,926	3,158,865	—	456,061
81,375,191	Pub. Deposits ..	53,371,842	52,235,504	—	1,136,338
98,391,667	Other do. ..	101,483,434	117,402,096	15,918,662	—
24,889	7 Day Bills ..	17,761	22,331	4,570	—
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
31,286,742	Gov. Securities ..	42,187,627	42,188,051	—	424
232,314,524	Other do. ..	95,386,643	109,167,555	—	13,780,912
47,658,996	Total Reserve ..	35,466,693	36,016,190	—	549,497
				15,923,232	15,923,232
				Increase.	Decrease.
32,876,520	Note Circulation ..	36,535,555	37,064,330	528,775	—
61,249,763	Coin and Bullion ..	51,552,248	54,630,520	1,078,272	—
26 p.c.	Proportion ..	22.9 p.c.	21.2 p.c.	—	1.7 p.c.
5 "	Bank Rate ..	6 "	6 "	—	—

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For 7 days ended Sept. 30.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
£	£
Customs	National Debt Service ..
Excise	Interest, &c., on War Debt ..
Estate, &c., Duties ..	Development & Road Impvt.
Stamps	Payments to Local Taxation
Land Tax and House Duty.	Other Consolidated Fund
Property and Income Tax ..	Charges
Excess Profits Tax	Supply Services
Land Values	Bullion Advances
Post Office	For Advance for Interest
Crown Lands	on Exchequer Bonds under
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	Capital Expenditure
Miscellaneous	(Money) Act, 1904
Bullion advances repaid ..	For Treasury Bills (net amt.)
For Treasury Bills (net amt.)	For Exchequer Bonds issued
War Loan, 1925-8	under the War Loan Re-
War Loan, 1925-45	demption Act, 1910
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919 ..	Issues under Section 1 of
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920 ..	War Loan Act, 1915
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1921 ..	Under Telegraph (Money)
War Expenditure Certificates	Act, 1913
War Savings Certificates ..	Under Post Office (Lon-
Other Debts created under	don) Railway Act, 1913 ..
War Loan Act, 1915	Under Housing Act
Telegraph Money Act, 1913 ..	Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8 ..
Under Post Office Rly. Act,	Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11 ..
1913	E. Africa Protectorate Loan
Under Military Works Acts,	Cunard Loan repayment is-
1897-1903	ued to reduce debt under
Under Housing Act	the Cunard Agreement ..
For Exchequer Bonds, 1920 ..	Deficiency advances repaid
East Africa Protectorate	China Indemnity issued to
Loan repayments	reduce debt under Finance
Cunard Loan—repayment on	Act, 1903
account of principal ..	Ways and Means Advances
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	repaid
China Indemnity	Increase in Exchequer
Ways and Means Advances	balances
Decrease in Exchequer	
balances	
£75,173,238	£75,173,238

CURRENCY NOTES.

Return of Currency Notes for the week ended October 4, 1916.

	Issued.	Cancelled.	Outstanding.
£	£	£	£
£1 notes	3,834,574	2,878,039	95,049,210
10s. notes	1,262,390	1,053,636	28,901,559
Note certificates	300,000	—	17,040,000
Previous total	435,553,114	304,007,634	—
	440,930,079	307,937,310	132,990,769

Ratio of gold held against notes: this week, 24.37 p.c.; last week, 23.59 p.c.

SHORT TERM GOVERNMENT LOANS.

	Sales Last Week.	Sales This Week.	Total Outstanding.
£	£	£	£
Treasury Bills	23,680,000	37,936,000	1,041,488,000
Exchequer Bonds, 1919 ..	329,000	63,000	34,222,000
Do.	450,000	450,000	237,038,500
Do.	1,523,000	866,000	62,367,000
War Expenditure Certificates	614,700	1,744,800	23,352,900
War Savings Certificates ..	1,000,000	1,400,000	29,700,000

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1916.	1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	£	£	£	£
January	1,071,948,000	918,685,000	153,263,000	—
February	1,107,655,000	960,743,000	146,912,000	—
March	1,364,599,000	1,231,392,000	133,207,000	—
April	1,090,356,000	976,264,000	114,092,000	—
May	1,447,416,000	1,164,194,000	283,222,000	—
June	1,147,630,000	960,209,000	187,421,000	—
July	1,239,193,000	1,316,605,000	—	77,502,000
August	1,364,782,000	1,352,519,000	12,263,000	—
September 6	298,577,000	255,092,000	43,485,000	—
" 13	273,357,000	254,607,000	18,750,000	—
" 20	285,501,000	239,471,000	45,830,000	—
" 27	279,355,000	250,838,000	28,517,000	—
October 4	337,388,000	291,855,000	45,533,000	—
Total	11,307,557,000	10,172,504,000	1,134,993,000	—

FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	Sept. 15, 1916.	Sept. 8, 1916.	Sept. 17, 1915.
£	£	£	£
Gold coin and certificates ..	50,061,600	49,769,200	44,880,400
Gold Redemption Fund ..	378,800	376,800	239,400
Gold Settlement Fund ..	25,054,200	23,790,000	12,608,000
Legal tender notes, silver, &c.	1,579,600	5,497,400	3,200,200
Total reserves	77,974,200	79,433,400	60,928,000
5% redemption fund against	—	—	—
F.R. bank notes	100,000	118,200	—
10-day bills and loans ..	3,137,000	2,863,600	949,200
30-day bills and loans ..	6,504,200	6,447,200	2,607,200
60-day bills and loans ..	7,957,600	7,925,000	3,450,200
90-day bills and loans ..	4,139,400	3,866,600	1,458,600
Maturities over 90 days ..	326,200	364,600	227,000
Total	22,064,400	21,467,000	8,732,200
Investments	—	—	—
U.S. Bonds	9,383,000	9,190,800	1,809,400
One year U.S. Treasury	—	—	—
notes	1,807,800	1,811,000	—
Municipal Warrants ..	4,742,800	4,233,200	4,188,800
Federal Reserve notes—nett.	3,995,000	3,861,800	2,496,200
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—	—	—	—
nett.	5,787,400	5,741,200	1,706,600
All other assets	593,800	659,200	676,400
Total assets	125,548,400	126,518,800	81,237,600
Paid-up capital	11,083,200	11,081,200	10,949,800
Government Deposits ..	8,036,800	8,847,200	3,000,000
Reserve deposits—nett. ..	102,868,600	102,845,000	63,390,600
Note circulation—nett. ..	2,844,600	3,215,200	3,312,400
Fed. Res. notes in circulation	642,800	466,800	—
All other liabilities	69,400	63,400	584,800
Total liabilities	125,548,400	126,518,800	81,237,600
Gold reserve against nett	—	—	—
liabilities	69.9%	67.7%	84.9%
Cash reserve against nett	—	—	—
liabilities	71.4%	72.8%	89.6%

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	Sept. 30, 1916.	Sept. 23, 1916.	Sept. 16, 1916.	Oct. 2, 1915.
£	£	£	£	£
Loans	667,910,000	661,418,000	661,274,000	555,638,000
Reserve held in own Vaults ..	87,524,000	87,526,000	82,270,000	102,154,000
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk.	34,624,000	35,096,000	33,610,000	28,560,000
Reserve held in Other Depos.	10,894,000	10,828,000	10,752,000	6,086,000
Net Demand Deposits ..	660,518,000	654,164,000	648,108,000	567,406,000
Net Time Deposits	33,774,000	33,624,000	33,956,000	24,534,000
Circulation	6,238,000	6,242,000	6,236,000	7,298,000
Excess Lawful Reserve ..	19,272,000	20,738,000	14,988,000	38,580,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the
Time Deposits.

NEW YORK STATE BANKS & TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.).

	Sept. 30, 1916.	Sept. 23, 1916.	Sept. 16, 1916.	Oct. 2, 1915.
£	£	£	£	£
Loans	144,076,000	144,340,000	144,526,000	116,142,000
Specie	11,932,000	12,058,000	12,052,000	9,912,000
Deposits	152,904,000	153,490,000	152,920,000	121,218,000
Legal Tenders	1,854,000	1,804,000	1,920,000	1,800,000

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Oct. 5, 1916.	Sept. 28, 1916.	Sept. 21, 1916.	Oct. 7, 1915.
£	£	£	£	£
Gold in hand	193,617,840	193,310,040	193,068,920	184,053,600
Silver in hand	13,404,200	13,473,600	13,521,600	14,544,960
Bills discounted	20,486,200	16,438,320	14,851,320	10,697,250
Advances	47,433,760	47,072,200	47,001,760	23,598,560
Note circulation	680,445,760	668,562,520	666,138,040	546,363,400
Public deposits	2,364,320	1,452,880	4,927,640	2,771,080
Private deposits	90,086,680	89,922,240	87,224,600	105,080,600
Foreign Bills	80,080	93,360	89,800	71,920

Proportion between bullion and circulation 30.91 per cent., against 31.01 per
cent. last week. Advances to the State £344,000,000, increase £4,000,000. The
adjoined payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium, £25,181,280,
decrease £69,800, and at the branches £30,137,800, decrease £58,560.

IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Sept. 29, 1916.	Sept. 21, 1916.	Sept. 14, 1916.	Sept. 29, 1915.
Notes in reserve ..	£ 9,590,000	£ 12,630,000	£ 9,770,000	£ 7,403,000
Gold	155,330,000	155,380,000	155,210,000	159,079,900
Gold in reserve abroad ..	205,510,000	205,490,000	205,490,000	3,849,300
Treasury Bonds ..	481,850,000	465,710,000	442,030,000	—
Circulation note issue ..	730,410,000	722,370,000	712,230,000	481,987,500
Treasury deposits ..	20,320,000	26,800,000	20,720,000	20,957,000

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Sept. 30, 1916.	Sept. 23, 1916.	Sept. 15, 1916.	Sept. 30, 1915.
Total Coin & Bullion ..	£ 125,180,800	£ 124,629,350	£ 124,620,100	£ 122,843,950
Treasury Notes ..	19,604,600	10,601,950	14,372,200	44,256,350
Bills and Advances ..	537,941,550	378,895,900	377,704,750	375,528,500
Advances ..	520,800	482,200	603,750	656,500
Note circulation ..	368,514,800	343,018,900	343,940,860	307,881,500
Deposits ..	313,322,650	183,987,050	173,340,400	220,812,750

Clearing House returns during Sept., £282,125,250 against £266,331,160 in Aug.

NETHERLANDS BANK (12 Florins to the £).

	Sept. 23, 1916.	Sept. 16, 1916.	Sept. 9, 1916.	Sept. 25, 1915.
Gold and Silver ..	£ 49,524,916	£ 49,531,083	£ 49,253,250	£ 32,291,595
Bills and Advances ..	15,594,166	15,858,583	15,801,666	18,831,347
Note circulation ..	56,728,750	56,882,333	56,437,000	43,504,702
Deposits ..	11,776,083	11,835,750	12,065,166	2,440,483

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	Aug. 31, 1916.	Aug. 20, 1916.	Aug. 10, 1916.	Aug. 30, 1915.
Total cash	£ 43,996,120	£ 43,896,400	£ 43,982,200	£ 56,278,520
Inland Bills	19,331,080	18,980,880	19,415,160	25,233,040
Foreign Bills	833,280	833,160	833,160	833,120
Advances	7,713,920	7,518,640	7,422,560	8,691,000
Government securities ..	8,801,080	8,866,920	8,737,760	7,557,920
Circulation	136,584,200	135,192,360	136,371,840	111,017,680
Deposits at notice ..	14,845,520	13,865,680	13,837,640	10,513,000
Current accounts ..	13,939,280	15,514,680	14,948,360	17,851,480

BANK OF NORWAY.

	Sept. 22, 1916.	Sept. 15, 1916.	Sept. 7, 1916.	Sept. 22, 1915.
Gold	£ 6,279,000	£ 6,282,000	£ 6,282,000	£ 3,359,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	5,724,000	6,162,000	6,003,000	3,799,000
Gov't Securities ..	767,000	767,000	767,000	781,000
Discounts & Loans ..	6,365,000	6,034,000	5,524,000	3,907,000
Notes in Circulation ..	12,272,000	12,369,000	12,292,000	7,865,000
Deposits at notice ..	4,195,000	4,307,000	3,748,000	1,470,000

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Sept. 23, 1916.	Sept. 17, 1916.	Sept. 9, 1916.	Sept. 25, 1915.
Gold	£ 46,630,297	£ 46,560,273	£ 46,355,734	£ 29,674,682
Silver	30,231,783	30,182,659	30,182,659	29,602,218
Foreign Bills	3,893,388	3,804,539	3,804,574	4,671,232
Discounts and Short Bills ..	24,024,617	24,031,086	23,680,807	26,233,956
Treasury Account, &c. ..	29,098,306	29,778,093	29,853,938	29,198,766
Notes in Circulation ..	89,670,109	89,645,053	89,883,062	80,914,091
Current Accounts, Deposits ..	30,815,970	30,665,857	30,787,686	25,403,233
Dividends, Interests, &c. ..	1,363,659	1,548,196	1,579,148	1,082,864
Government Securities ..	2,699,974	2,539,941	2,355,952	3,079,802

SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	Sept. 23, 1916.	Sept. 15, 1916.	Sept. 7, 1916.	Sept. 23, 1915.
Gold and silver ..	£ 13,838,712	£ 13,867,112	£ 13,682,535	£ 12,129,020
Bills	7,326,556	7,192,556	6,996,084	5,013,160
Note circulation ..	17,587,864	17,238,584	17,145,760	16,290,304
Current and deposit accounts ..	5,710,000	5,972,932	5,568,124	3,005,568

BANK OF SWEDEN.

	Sept. 16, 1916.	Sept. 9, 1916.	Sept. 2, 1916.	Sept. 28, 1915.
Gold	£ 9,527,000	£ 9,250,000	£ 9,207,000	£ 6,300,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	8,909,000	9,369,000	9,443,000	5,834,000
Swedish and Foreign Gov't Securities ..	3,765,000	3,787,000	3,795,000	2,651,000
Discounts and Loans ..	3,740,000	3,987,000	3,746,000	4,882,000
Notes in circulation ..	19,399,000	19,230,000	19,650,000	15,590,000
Deposits at notice ..	5,536,000	5,712,000	5,258,000	3,666,000

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.
Paris	chqs.	27.83½	27.80½	Antwerp	short	—	—
Brussels	chqs.	11.66½	11.65	Italy	sight	30.80	30.79½
Amsterdam ..	sight	17.15	17.13½	Constantinople ..	3 mths	12½ d.	12½ d.
Christiania ..	—	16.85	16.73	Rio de Janeiro ..	90 days	49½ d.	49½ d.
Stockholm ..	—	17.40½	17.47½	Buenos Aires ..	90 days	1/4½ d.	1/4½ d.
Copenhagen ..	—	150	150½	Calcutta	T.T.	1/4½ d.	1/4½ d.
Petrograd ..	3 mths	4.76½	4.76½	Bombay	T.T.	2/4½ d.	2/4½ d.
New York ..	cable	34½	34½	Hong Kong	T.T.	3/4½ d.	3/4½ d.
Lisbon	sight	23.77½	23.70	Shanghai	T.T.	2/4½ d.	2/4½ d.
Madrid	sight	—	—	Singapore	T.T.	2/4½ d.	2/4½ d.
				Yokohama	4 mths	2/4½ d.	2/4½ d.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Oct. 3, 1916.		Oct. 5, 1916.	
		Sellers.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Buyers.
Amsterdam ..	Cable transfers ..	11.64	11.67	11.63	11.66
"	Three months' bills ..	11.80	11.85	11.75	11.80
Paris	Cable transfers ..	27.73	27.78	27.75	27.80
"	Three months' bills ..	28.10	28.20	28.15	28.25
Marseilles ..	Three months' bills ..	28.10	28.20	28.15	28.25
Switzerland ..	Cable transfers ..	25.25	25.35	25.28	25.38
"	Three months' bills ..	25.69	25.70	25.63	25.73
Petrograd ..	Cable transfers ..	149½	150½	149½	150½
Genoa, &c. ..	Cable transfers ..	30.70	30.80	30.70	30.80
"	Three months' bills ..	31.15	31.25	31.15	31.25
Spain	Cable transfers ..	23.65	23.75	23.65	23.75
"	Three months' bills ..	47½	48½	47½	48½
Lisbon and Oporto ..	Cable transfers ..	34½	35	34½	35
Copenhagen ..	Cable transfers ..	17.42	17.52	17.42	17.52
Christiania ..	Cable transfers ..	17.08	17.18	17.10	17.20
Stockholm ..	Cable transfers ..	16.70	16.80	16.70	16.80

TREASURY BILLS.

		Last week.	This week
		Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months ..	.. .. .	5½	5½
Six months ..	.. .. .	.. (£98 12 7) .. (£98 12 3½)	..
Nine months ..	.. .. .	5½	5½
Twelve months ..	.. .. .	.. (£97 5 5½) .. (£97 5 1½)	..
		.. (£94 10 0) .. (£94 10 0)	..

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

		Last week.	This week
		Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted ..	.. .. .	5½	5½
Three months ..	.. .. .	5½	5½
Four months ..	.. .. .	5½	5½
Six months ..	.. .. .	5½	5½
Three months fine inland bills ..	.. .. .	6½	6½
Four months ..	.. .. .	6½	6½
Six months ..	.. .. .	6½	6½

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

		Last week.	This week
		Per cent.	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate ..	.. .. .	6	6
" short loan rates ..	.. .. .	6½	6½
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	.. .. .	4	4
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call) ..	.. .. .	4½	4½
" 7 and 14 days' notice ..	.. .. .	4½	4½
Current rates for 7 day loans ..	.. .. .	5	5
" for call loans ..	.. .. .	5	4½-4½

The Week's Stock Markets.

Speaking generally, it has been a gloomy week on the Stock Exchange. The readjustment of values necessitated by the issue of 6 per cent. Exchequer bonds has proved a painful process, and even now the dealers are not at all clear about the outlook. Money that would otherwise have come to the market will undoubtedly be diverted to the new bonds, and there is also the competition of the French loan to be considered. The latter is certainly a very attractive investment, and the fact that the "Victory" loan rose to a substantial premium will make the present issue an assured success. Subscribers very naturally like to see their stock at a higher price than they paid for it, and contrariwise they feel a grievance, however unreasonable, when the quotation persists in crumbling away. Our own officials might take a leaf out of the French book in this respect, and stability in price is worth striving for even at some temporary sacrifice; it probably pays in the long run. But the Stock Exchange had another sort of grievance in connection with the Exchequer bond issue. The prospectus was not advertised, as it ought to have been, and this parsimonious policy amid so much reckless waste is clearly penny wise and pound foolish. Moreover, the banks got their supply of prospectuses on Friday, and there were only a few copies for brokers to send to their clients. Saturday was a Stock Exchange holiday, and in many cases brokers could not send out the prospectus till the Monday, so that the banks got the start of the vitally important week-end. Much soreness was felt over this incident, and very justifiably, for there must have been unpardonable bungling somewhere. Competition between banks and brokers is sufficiently keen, and it is certainly unfair to give the former any undue advantage in this way. Even in the Stock Exchange itself the influence of the banks is becoming all-powerful, and a proposal that bankers should only receive one-third instead of one-half of the brokers' commission was hurriedly dropped with the startled air of a frightened child. For the rest business has been on a small scale with little buying impetus discernible anywhere, although on one day certain sections appeared to receive powerful support which for the moment arrested

the dry-rot that was setting in. But as we have said before, there is no hope of any material improvement under present conditions.

Adjustments by the Stock Exchange to the new standard of values created by the introduction of a 6 per cent. security resulted in prices being marked down very substantially all round. Towards the end of the week, however, it was felt that

	Last Week	This Week		Last Week	This Week
Consols.....	60	59½	N.S.W. 4½% 1922-7	94½	90½
War Loan 3½%.....	85½	85	" 5% 1921-3	99	97
" 4½%.....	95	93½	New Zealand 4%.....	88½	85½
India 3%.....	59½	59	Queensland 4%.....	84½	83
" 3½%.....	60½	60	" 4½% new.....	94½	94½
Australian 5½% 1920-22	100½	100	Union of S. Africa 4½%	94	93½
Canada 4% 1940-60	82	81	1920-5	93½	93½
" 4½% 1920-5	95½	95½	Victoria 4½% 1920-5	93½	93½
N.S.W. 4%.....	85½	85½	Westn. Aus. 4%.....	83½	81½
" 4½% 5 yr. bds.....	96	95½			
Belgian 3%.....	63	61½	French War Loan, 5%	84½	81
Brazil, 1913.....	67	64½	Japan 4½% (1st).....	95	95
" New Funding.....	81½	81	" (2nd).....	95	95
Chinese 1896	93	89½	Russia 4%.....	60	68
" 1912	78½	75½	" 4½%.....	81	81
Egypt Unified 4%.....	81	79½	" 5%.....	89½	89½
Brighton defd.....	67½	66½	London and S.-W. dfd.	24½	24
Caledonian defd.....	98	98	Do, new pf.....	98	98
Chatham ord.....	97	97	Metropolitan	24½	23½
Gt. Central pf.....	15½	15	Do, 5% New pf.....	90	90
" dfd.....	74	72	Met. District	18	17½
Gt. Eastern	37½	36½	Midland dfd.....	60½	59
Gt. Northern dfd.....	38½	38½	Nth. British dfd.....	14½	14½
Gt. Western	94½	91	Nth.-Eastern	104½	101½
Lanes. and Yorks.....	69½	68½	Nth.-Western	101	100
			Sth.-Eastern dfd.....	28½	28
Canadian Pacific	187½	189½	Chesapeake.....	71	71½
Do. 6% Notes	106½	107	Erie.....	43	43½
E. Indian Guar. 4½% debs.....	93	93	Milwaukee	102	102½
Grand Trunk ord.....	12	11½	N. Y. Central	115	118½
Do, 3rd pf.....	28½	27½	Southern	27½	27½
Do, 5½% 3-yr. Notes	97½	97½	Southern Pacific	108	107½
Do, 5½% 5-yr. Notes	97	97	Union Pacific	159	159½
Atchison	111½	113½	U. S. Steel	120½	123½
Baltimore.....	93½	94½			
Antofagasta dfd.....	130	130½	Cent. Argentine ord.....	79½	78½
Do, 6% Notes	101	101	Do, 5% Notes	96	95½
Brazil Common.....	6½	6	Do, 6%	100½	100½
B. A. & Pacific	46½	46	Leopoldina.....	37½	36½
B. A. Gt. Southern	86½	85	Mexican ord.....	19	19½
B. A. Western	89½	87	San Paulo (Brazilian).....	194	192
			United of Havana.....	85½	84½
Bank of Australasia.....	115½	115½	London City & Midland.....	74½	73
Barclay & Co. "A"	74	74	London County & West.....	158	158
Do, "B"	112	111½	London Joint Stock.....	22½	22½
Capital & Counties	23	23½	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (£104 pd)	27½	27½
Chartered of India	58½	59½	Do, (£12 pd)	31½	31½
Hongkong & Shanghai	76	77	Parr's	30½	30½
Lloyds	24½	24½	Standard of S.A.	108	108
London & Provincial	16½	16½	Union & Smiths.....	24	24
London & S.W.	12	12			
Apollinaris ord.....	1½	1½	Forestral Land.....	52½	50½
Armstrong, Whitworth	42½	40½	Furness, Withy.....	53½	52
Associated Cement	32	33½	Hudson's Bay	61½	61½
Birmingham Small Arms	49½	45½	Imperial Tobacco 'C' pf.....	22½	22½
Borax dfd.....	35½	34½	Do, 'C' pf.....	36½	36½
Bovril	20½	20½	Kynochs	30½	30½
Brazil Traction	59½	58	Lever Bros. "C" pf.....	20½	20½
British Amer. Tobacco	96½	47½	Lyons, J.....	48	47½
Brown (John), & Co.	36½	35½	Marconi	37½	37½
Brunner, Mond	47½	47½	Maypole Dairy dfd.....	22½	20½
Cammell-Laird	62	68½	Mond Nickel ord.....	38	38
Castner-Kellner	31½	31½	National Steam Car.....	29½	19½
Coats	62	62	Pears, A. & F.....	118	118
Cunard	89½	89½	P. & O. dfd.....	340	338½
Dennis Bros.....	38½	36½	Royal Mail	123	123
Dorman, Long	34½	33½	South Durham Steel	37½	37½
Eastmans	31	31	Underground Inc. Bds.....	89½	88½
English Sewing Cotton	44½	44½	Vickers.....	39½	38½
Fine Cotton Spinners	29½	29½			
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	10½	10½	Mexican Eagle pf.....	37½	35½
Baku (10s.)	3½	34½	North Caucasian	27½	26½
Burmah.....	4½	4½	Roumanian Cons.....	17½	16½
Lobitos.....	40½	43½	Royal Dutch (100 gulden)	45	45
Maikop Combine (10s.)	3½	3½	Shell	58	58½
Maikop Pipeline	4½	4½	Spies (10/-)	15½	14½
Mexican Eagle	36½	35½	Ural Caspian	33½	33½
Anglo-Java Rub. (2/-)	6½	6½	Malayalam £1.....	35½	34½
Anglo-Malay 2/-	12½	11½	Merlimau 2/-	61½	61
Ayer Kuning £1.....	37½	37½	Pataling 2/-	35½	35½
Bukit Mertajam 2/-	5½	5½	Port Dickson 2/-	3½	3½
Bukit Sembawang 2/-	4½	4½	Rubber Trust £1	25½	24½
Carey United £1	42½	41½	Sapumalkande £1	22½	22½
Grand Central £1	25½	26½	Sialang £1	71½	71½
Gula Kalumpung £1.....	31½	32½	Singapore Para 2/-	310½	310½
Highlands £1.....	55½	55½	Singapore United 2/-	34½	34½
Java Para £1	33½	33½	Taiping 2/-	3½	3½
Johore Rubber Lands £1.....	33½	31½	Tanjong £1	86½	85½
Langen Java £1.....	51½	51½	Tanjong Malim £1.....	28½	28½
Linggi 2/-	21½	22½	Tebrau £1	77½	75½
London Asiatic 2/-	8½	8½	United Serdang 2/-	12½	12½
Malacca £1	88½	87½	Vallambrosa 2/-	18½	18½
Abbotiakoon (10/-)	6½	6½	De Beers dfd. (£2 10s.)	12½	12
Brakpan	4½	4½	East Rand	17½	17½
Broken Hill Prop. (8/-)	57½	54½	Gt. Boulder (2/-)	13½	12½
Cam & Motor	11½	10½	Meyer & Charlton	3½	58
Central Mining (£12)	68½	7	Modder "B"	68	68
Chartered	12½	12½	Do, Deep	78	78
City Deep	4½	4½	New Modder (£4)	19	18½
Cons. Gold Fields	18½	18½	Rand Mines (5/-)	38	38½
Cons. Langlaagte	17½	27	Rio Tinto (£5)	62½	63½
Crown Mines (10/-)	2½	3	Van Ryn Deep	38	38½

the decline had been allowed to go far enough for the time being, and as buying of an influential kind was reported prices close well above the worst. Consols, which touched 58, rallied to 59½, and the ½ per cent. War Loan finished only ½ down on balance at 85, but the 4½ per cent. issue fell 1½ to 93½. Local Loans stock was marked down to 59½ and Irish Land to 54½. Colonial Government stocks participated in the scaling down process, but not in the recovery, and substantial losses are shown by many Australasian loans and by Union of South

Africa 4 per cent. Foreign Government bonds were inclined to be flat on the news that part of the French Loan had, after all, been reserved for London, but became steadier with the gilt-edged market. The French Loan was marked down 3½ to 81, bringing it to near the level of the new issue. Egyptian Unified fell 1½, and Greek 4 per cent. Rentes 1, while several Russian Railway loans were ½ to 1½ lower. Chinese issues were weak, and small declines were also recorded in some of the Japanese stocks. In the South American group Argentine 5 per cent. of 1886 lost 1, one or two Brazilian loans were ½ to 1 down, and Chilean 5 per cents. fell 1 to 2.

The Home Railway market was naturally upset by the readjustment of prices, and a little offering of stocks found no buyers. A rally followed on the official announcement that the bonus to employees would be paid by the Government, but on balance generally are substantially lower. North-Western closed at 100, after touching 99½. Great Western dropped to 91, and Midland deferred to 59. Hull and Barnsley was marked 2½ lower at 38½, and losses of ½ to 1 were fairly numerous. Canadian Pacific shares, after being down to 186½, recovered to 189½, but Grand Trunk stocks were dull with falls of ½ to 1 in the preference and guaranteed. American Railroad shares have moved irregularly in sympathy with the mood of Wall Street, but finished strong with substantial gains in Norfolk and Union Pacific. United States Steel touched 124, and closed very little below that figure. Argentine Railways have been heavy with losses of 1½ in Buenos Ayres Great Southern, 2½ in Buenos Ayres Western, and ½ in Buenos Ayres and Pacific. Central Argentine ordinary also fell 1, and the preference was marked down 3. Several of the debenture issues were lower, but Argentine Great Western debenture stock exceptionally improved to 84½.

Very little interest has been taken in Bank shares, but Capital and Counties rose ½, while London Joint Stock and London County and Westminster both lost that fraction. London City and Midland dropped ½, and Barclay "B" fell ½. Hongkong and Shanghai improved 1; Anglo-South American were ½ higher on the increased dividend; but Union of Australia declined ½. Shipping shares have been very much quieter, and P. and O. deferred, after touching 337½, closed 1 down at 338½. Furness, Withy were offered, and relapsed to 52½, but Court Line and Union of New Zealand both met with support, and showed small gains. Motor shares were dull, with slight declines in Dennis Bros., Darracq, and National Steam Car; but S. Smith hardened a little after the meeting. Brazilian Traction shares were offered, and fell 1½. Hudson's Bay shares were at first inclined to be weak, but rallied on the quarterly statement of land sales, and closed 7½ up at 7. Forestal Lands ordinary and preference relapsed. Associated Cement ordinary were again offered, and dropped ½, and British Aluminium and United Alkali were both a shade easier. Engineering and Munition things were quiet and dull, Fraser and Chalmers especially being weak, with a fall to 31s. 6d. Otis Steel were wanted, and improved to 56, and Dominion Steel improved sharply to 68½; but Steel Company of Canada gave way. Courtaulds were offered down to 6½, but recovered to 6½, and Textile things generally were dull. Meat shares were steady, and Catering things quiet. In the Oil share market very little of interest happened. "Shell" were offered, and relapsed to 5 15-32, while the preference dropped to 9½. Anglo-Egyptian "B" receded to 9s. 3d., but recovered the greater part of the loss on the latest return from the property. Ural Caspian rose to 34s., but closed rather below that figure on profit-taking, and North Caucasian, Spies, and Baku were all a shade lower. Black Sea Amalgamated relapsed on the report, but closed a little above the lowest. Burmah were offered, and fell to 4½, and Anglo-Persian preference were marked down 1s. to 20s. 9d. Lobitos were active on renewal of the rumour that the company would be taken over; but Mexican Eagle things were dull, and Eagle Transport preference gave way to 5½. Good buying of the higher-priced Rubber shares continued in the beginning of the week, but profit-taking then set in, and towards the end there was a marked shrinkage in the volume of business. Federated Selangor, Pataling, Lanadron, and Sungai Way all met with support; but Tandjong, Tebrau, and United Sui Betong relapsed, and Johore Rubber Lands were also a trifle lower. Java descriptions were firm, with Kasintoe, Java United, and Telogoredjo most in demand. Ceylon Rubber things were also steady, but Rubber Trusts were easier at 24s. 6d. xd.

LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

SUGAR.—Official quotations remained without change, and with supplies still inadequate, orders have to be curtailed. With the better classes of grocery very scarce, all the lower descriptions meet with steady favour. Stocks in the three chief ports of the United Kingdom amount to 120,000 tons, against 50,000 same time last year.

COFFEE.—There was rather more tone about the spot market this week, and a comparatively fair amount of business was transacted at a firm range for all desirable grades. Imports from the Brazils formed the chief supply offered by auction. The terminal market proved quiet, and rates weaker on depressing foreign advices. December, sold, 47s. 4½d. to 47s.; May, 50s. to 49s. 9d.

Cocoa without new feature, trade being very quiet and rates generally unaltered, as importers do not unduly press.

TEA.—Fair competition predominated for the better kinds, and rates disclosed steadiness, but common and thin liquoring parcels were again slightly easier. During the week 51,200 packages

Indian, 29,200 packages Ceylon, and 4,000 packages Java were submitted to auction.

RICE.—A moderate business resulted, and rates were firm, as sellers adopted general reserve. Bran also firm. Beans commanded good support. Rangoon spot, sold, £26 10s.; October-December, £28.

SPICE.—Only a quiet trade was conducted in all departments, though price changes were not of much importance. Tapioca dull, unaltered.

FIBRES.—As regards jute, business was very limited, while interrupted by holidays in Calcutta. Small sales include Balchand M circle, spot, London, at £32. Moderate sales were made in

CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 6, 1916.

—	Last Week.	This Week.	—	Last Week.	This Week.
Sugar —per cwt., duty 14½, 98% polarisation	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Wool —per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tate's Cubes No.1	2 7 1½	2 7 1½	Australian	2 1½-3 10	2 1½-3 10
Ditto, H.T.S. ..	2 6 7½	2 6 7½	Scoured Merino	1 8-2 9½	1 8-2 9½
Fine granulated..	nom.	nom.	Greasy Merino ..	1 3½-2 4½	1 3½-2 4½
Lyle's granulated	41 7½-42 1½	41 7½-42 1½	Greasy Crossbred	1 5-2 3½	1 5-2 3½
Foreign granu- lated, first marks	nom.	nom.	New Zealand (scoured) Merino	0-3 6	3 0-3 6
f.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	1 1-1 9½	1 1-1 9½
German Cubes f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Cape snow white	2 1½-3 4	2 1½-3 4
French Cube	nom.	nom.	Indian rubber , lb.		
prompt	nom.	nom.	Plantation, Spot		
Crystallised, West	nom.	nom.	Crepe	0 2 4	0 2 4½
India	nom.	nom.	Coal —per ton		
Best, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Durham, best ..	nom.	nom.
Tea —per lb., duty	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Seconds	nom.	nom.
1½ lb.			East Hartlepool..	nom.	nom.
Indian Pekoe ..	0 8½-1 2	0 8½-1 3	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 9½-1 4½	0 9½-1 4½	Steams, best ..	37/6 40/	37/6 40/
Orange	0 9½-1 2½	0 10-1 5	Seconds	30/	28/ 35/
Broken	0 9½-1 8	0 10½-1 11½	Lead —per ton.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Pekoe Souchong ..	0 8½-1 0	0 8½-1 0	English Pig ..	32 5 0	32 5 0
Ceylon Pekoe ..	0 8½-1 1½	0 8½-1 1½	Foreign soft ..	30 10 0	30 10 0
Broken	0 8½-1 1½	0 9-1 0½	Quicksilver —per		
Orange	0 9½-1 1	0 8½-1 0½	bottle firsthand	£17½	£17½
Broken	0 10-1 1½	0 10-1 2½	Tin —per ton		
Pekoe Souchong	0 8½-1 0½	0 7½-1 0	English Ingots ..	£177-£178	£179-£180
Cocoa —per cwt.	£ s.	£ s.	Do. bars ..	£178-£179	£180-£181
duty 6d. per lb.			Standard cash ..	£175 15 0	£176 15 0
Trinidad—per cwt.	81 0-85 0	81 0-85 0	Tin Plates, per box	nom.	nom.
Grenada	73 0-82 6	73 0-82 6	Copper —per ton.		
West Africa ..	70 0-74 0	70 0-74 0	English, Tough,	nom.	nom.
Ceylon Plantation	72 0-91 0	72 0-91 0	per ton	nom.	nom.
Guayaquil Arriba..	96 0-98 0	96 0-98 0	Best Selected ..	£141-£138	£143-£141
Coffee —per cwt.			Sheets	£161	£164
duty 4½ per cwt.			Standard	£118½-119	£120-£121
East India ..	67 0-95 0	67 0-95 0	Jute —per ton.		
Jamaica	62 0-120 6	62 0-120 6	Native firsts for		
Costa Rica ..	62 0-84 0	62 0-84 0	shipment Oct.	£33 10 0	£33 7 6
Provisions —			Oils —		
Butter, per cwt.			Linseed, per ton..	£38½-£39½	£39½-£40½
Australian finest	nom.	nom.	Rape, ref. English,	£48-£50	£48-£50
Irish Creameries	194/-202/-	196/-204/-	barrels	nom.	nom.
Dutch ditto ..	190/-194/-	190/-194/-	Brown English,	nom.	£43 0 0
Russian finest ..	nom.	nom.	naked	£35 0 0	£35 0 0
Normandy baskets	nom.	nom.	Cott'n Seed, crude	£40-£51½	£40-£51½
Danish finest ..	208/-210/-	210/-212/-	Ditto, refined ..	1/1½	1/1½
Brittany rolls ..	17/6-20/6	17/6-20/6	Petroleum Oil, per	1/2½	1/2½
doz. lb.			8 lbs.		
Bacon —per cwt.			Water White ..	—	—
Irish	108 0-117 0	104 0-115 0	Oil Seeds, Linseed		
Continental ..	98 0-117 0	94 0-114 0	Calcutta—per 410		
Canadian	100 0-112 0	96 0-108 0	lbs., Oct.-Nov.	4 0 0	4 2 0
American	96 0-100 0	96 0-100 0	Rape, Toria ..	69/6	71/
Hams —per cwt.			Iron —per ton		
Irish	136/-150/-	138/-150/-	Cleveland Cash ..	nom.	nom.
Canadian	0 0 0	0 0 0	Tobacco —		
American	68 0-114	67 0-115 0	unmanufactured		
Cheese —per cwt.			5/6 to 6/2½ per lb.		
Dutch	70 0-98 0	72 0-98 0	Maryland & Ohio		
Canadian	106 0-110 0	110 0-112 0	per lb. bond ..	0 6-0 10	0 6-0 10
English Cheddar	112 0-116 0	112 0-116 0	Virginialeat ..	0 8-1 6	0 8-1 6
Wilt's loaf ..	nom.	nom.	Kentucky leaf ..	0 6½-0 10	0 6½-0 10
New Zealand ..	106 0-108 0	108 0-112 0	Latakia	1 0-3 0	1 0-3 0
Rice —per cwt.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Havana	1 0-0 0	1 0-0 0
Garden Siam			Manila	0 6-2 0	0 6-2 0
spot	17 9	17 9	Cigars, duty 10/6		
Rangoon 2 stars ..	17 0	17 0	per lb.	2/ upds.	2/ upds.
Eggs —per 120.			Timber —Wood.		
English	22 6-24 6	24 6-26 0	Pitch Pine ..	250/-270/	250/-270/
Irish	21 6-22 0	22 6-23 6	Indian Teak ..	400/-600/	400/-600/
Danish	22 0-25 0	25 0-25 6	Turpentine —		
Spelter —			American Spot ..	2 3 0	2 2 9
G.O.B. as to position			Copra —		
Flour—per sack.	£52-£46	£54½-£49½	Malabar, London	nom.	nom.
Town Households			Sept.-Oct.		
Official	55/	57/	Ceylon, London	31 15 0	33 5 0
American First			South Sea ..	30 5 0	32 7 6
Patents	54/ upds.	56/ upds.	F.M.S.	30 15 0	32 10 0

Manila hemp at steady values. Spot coarse, sold, £49 5s. to £49 10s.; October-December, £48 10s.; January-March, £47.

SHELLAC quite unsettled, and T.N., October, sold, 111s., 121s. 6d., and 120s.; December, 115s., 112s., 124s. 6d., and 123s. 6d.

RUBBER steadily held, and a fair inquiry ensued. Plantation, spot, crepe, sold, 2s. 4½d. to 2s. 4½d.; November-December, 2s. 4½d. to 2s. 5½d. Ribbed smoked sheet, spot, done, 2s. 4d. to 2s. 4½d. Fine hard Para, spot, 3s. 2½d.

COPRA steadily hardened during the week, and a sustained demand was experienced on account of Marseilles. Ceylon, October-December, Marseilles, sold, £38.

CORN (Mark Lane).—Due mainly to shortage of supplies both available and in perspective temporarily, the general undertone

has been further influenced, while prices of bread and feeding stuffs were carried up to a higher level since last Monday. Wheat: English whites and reds delivered up range to 68s per qr., 504 lbs. Imported grades No. 1 Northern Manitoba, 76s., ex ship. Flour: Minneapolis first patents, 55s. upwards, landed. Girding Barley: American, 46s., ex ship; Indian, 50s. upwards, ex quay. Oats: La Plata, landed, 33s. 9d. to 35s., as to quality. Maize: La Plata, sound, 50s. 6d., ex ship, and 51s. 6d., landed.

METALS.—Copper: The standard market exhibited a further advancing tendency since last Monday, business being again on a small scale. Cash delivery by the middle of the week reached £120, and three months £116 10s. The tendency was quite nominal at Thursday's meeting, when cash left off at £120, and three months £117. Tin occupied fairly good attention this week, and rates moved in an upward direction, while the market manifested irregularity at intervals. Settling down last Monday at £175 cash, and £175 5s. three months, standard, cash, by the middle of the week left off at £176 15s., and three months at £177 5s., Thursday final values of these dates being £177 10s. and £178. Shipments from the Straits for September last—United Kingdom, 1,910; America, 600; and Continent, 760 tons. Lead quiet, unaltered. Soft foreign, October, £30 10s.; January, £29 10s. Spelter firmer. G.O.B., October, £54; and January, £49. Quicksilver, £17 15s.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—A further upward movement in prices has occurred in the market during the past week, and the tone continues very strong. Quite apart from the rise in raw material rates there is a tendency for values in yarn and cloth to appreciate as the output of the industry is steadily being reduced owing to the smaller amount of available labour. Bullish advices have been received relating to the American crop, and short supplies this season seem to be assured. Less satisfactory advices are also being received as to the Egyptian crop, and it seems very probable that the output will be much smaller than at one time expected. Most of the facts of the situation are undoubtedly pointing to still higher values, and it remains to be seen to what extent consumption will be affected by the course of events. The general inquiry in cloth for export has kept up fairly well, but the turnover, as a whole, shows a falling off compared with recent previous weeks. India has given less support in bleaching and printing cloths, and in grey shirtings and dhooties limits are very slow in being raised. The prospects in China do not improve, and it is said that the prices now being secured at the auctions in Shanghai are much below replacement values. The undercurrent of demand for Egypt continues encouraging, and we are likely to experience free exports to that market during the next few months. Irregular operations have occurred in home trade fabrics, some buyers showing much more enterprise than others. Prices in certain fine cloths made from Egyptian yarns have decidedly advanced in price during the last week or two, and the figures now asked are almost prohibitive. In American yarns for home consumption the undercurrent of demand has been fairly healthy; but, speaking generally, the total sales show a falling off. Producers of fine counts have recently strengthened their position. Disappointing reports continue to be received from producers of export yarns, the offers for India being poor. Bolton spinings continue to be firmly held at the higher rates; but trade is now disorganised, and to purchase freely at the moment means taking a good deal of risk, although any immediate slump in values is not anticipated.

Six Months' Revenue.

It amounted to £163,923,000, which was £61,056,000 more than the income for the corresponding half of the past fiscal year, and fully £2,000,000 more than the income for the entire year 1909-10. What does this increase portend? We know by keen experience what it means in the way of enforced economy to many people, but does it imply that the nation, by self-denial and unflinching determination to carry this war to a successful end, is capable of sustaining the demands a resolve so unflinching lays upon it? We think it does, and that the indications are favourable, although it is impossible at this early date to prophesy the certainty of such a magnificent revenue as Mr. McKenna calculated for. In his latest Budget arrangements he put down the revenue for the current fiscal year at £502,275,000, and his actual income for the first six months of it is £338,352,000 short of that forecast. But there is nothing at all in that, because the first half of the Exchequer year is the lean half always, and to us the astonishing fact still is that the revenue should have come in so magnificently as it has done.

Look at the property and income-tax alone. In the half-year just closed it is given £18,020,000 more than in the corresponding half-year, or £34,805,000 in all. Over and above this the new excess profits duty has furnished £31,385,000, so that in the six months these two direct taxes have produced £49,405,000 more than the income-tax alone gave to September 30, 1915, or a total to date of £65,190,000. That is most encouraging from the war-waging point of view, but it still

leaves almost £216,000,000 to come in if Mr. McKenna's forecast is to be made good, and doubts may be legitimately entertained whether so large a subtraction from the nation's income can be safely reckoned upon, not merely for this year, but for many years to come. Against the forecast may be put the fact that, remarkable as our foreign trade still is, it has neither the magnitude, the variety, nor in all respects the profitableness of our pre-war trade. In many directions the ordinary profits of business, manufacturing and agency, will probably be reduced, if not now, certainly after the war. In mitigation of a view of that kind, however, we must place the fact that wholly unusual profits are accruing now to those engaged in certain branches of our foreign trade through the rise in prices, the urgent and constantly increasing demands of our Army and Navy, and to some extent through the capture of trade that three years ago was German. Also many branches of domestic business are being stimulated to an unexampled extent by war necessities, and, on the whole, it is reasonable to conclude that the volume of profits available for the tax-collector will be larger this year than ever before. That being so, it would not be prudent to cast doubts upon the Treasury estimates. In one direction only is there a warning which looks serious against putting faith in the official forecast. Excise is falling short, not to an increasing extent, for the decline of the past quarter is only £1,132,000, whereas for the past six months it is £2,935,000. It is a decline, however, and looking at the restrictions put upon the drink traffic, restrictions which it may be expedient, even necessary, to extend, it is possible enough that at March 31 next the expected £65,000,000 from Excise will not have been forthcoming. In fact, there is £40,000,000 to collect under Excise during the next six months in order to make good the forecast, but the March quarter may do much, and at the worst the decline is likely to be made good from other sources of revenue. Customs, for example, have given £11,350,000 more in the half-year, and the total received under that category of income is not far short of half the estimate for the entire 12 months.

But there is still another branch of revenue whose product lags, viz., the death duties. These are expected to give £30,000,000 this fiscal year, and in the first six months they contributed £178,000 more than the half of that forecast, but the decline on last year is nevertheless £1,537,000. Here no doubt the fall in the prices of all kinds of securities, especially of trustee securities, is affecting the capital value of deceased estates, and through that hurting the revenue. But in this case likewise there is no such reduction as would warrant pessimism. If the worst comes to the worst, moreover, the nation, rich and poor, high and low, must submit itself to a universal "rationing" of income. To each individual, according to status and responsibilities, a fixed spending limit would have to be determined, all revenue beyond that being the property of the Treasury. A peasant might be able to live on 10s. or 12s. a week, a peer could not perhaps exist under 30s. or 40s.

It is on the side of the expenditure that we may have room for disquieting thoughts, for in the six months that has amounted to £904,802,000, or £230,000,000 more than the war absorbed in the first half of the past fiscal year. Supply services alone have taken £180,000,000 more at £831,717,000, and interest on the war debt, at £56,669,000 for the six months, is almost £52,000,000 more. Debt interest, in fact, including the permanent charge on the old debt, which is down about £500,000, has taken nearly £69,000,000 in the half-year, and the charge is now every week on the increase, a fact which those who devote their minds to calculations about the future of our foreign trade and the capacity of the nation when the war is over to finance all kinds of enterprise at home and abroad would do well to try and grasp the significance of. Debt charges when the war ends may lay a load of £200,000,000 per annum upon the nation for at least five years after peace has been secured. We can only carry that load if we stand shoulder to shoulder, with France first and foremost, and with all our other Allies in

leal helpfulness. At the same time, there is nothing as yet to alarm us in the costs of the war, provided we continue able to finance them without having to increase to a serious extent our dependence upon foreign support. After all, part of these huge war costs will come back to us, because they represent the assistance given to our Allies, and we must insist that the population of the derelict empires will have to shoulder the main part of the load. To bear our burdens is but a light punishment to mete out to their ruling classes, which prepared for and brought about the war, and in making these classes pay for their crime we may open the way to freedom for the races they have so long held in bondage. And one supreme good will spring out of all the agony of woe, if a new ideal of international comity of brotherliness in furthering the good of each, the advancement of all, emerges to rule.

American Business Notes.

October is the electioneering month in the Presidency contest, once every four years, and the fight is now in full swing, both candidates pursuing their canvass with heightening energy and ardour. Which is going to win we in a manner neither know nor care much, but it is at least satisfactory to find that neither President Wilson, the Democratic candidate, nor Mr. Hughes, his Republican antagonist, has truckled to the German-American voter. They have behaved like honest men when confronted by the truculent attitude of these alien citizens who are not Americans either in sentiment or habits of life. Always ready to use tools which may serve to disguise their machinations, the German-Americans have paid renegade Irishmen—and no country in the world has been cursed with more traitors than Ireland—to try and bully the candidates to give a pledge in favour of Germany or German interests. The attempt has met with ignominious failure, but that will not prevent the besotted Teuton mind from going on plotting and intriguing until it gets the next knock-down blow. One would have thought that by this time the densest, most fatuous German biped would have begun to comprehend that it is the policy of the insane to preach a gospel of hatred of one's neighbour to a country which has suffered in many ways from the abominable practices of the German military caste. But they do not see it, think themselves still the light of the world in their intellectual elevation and moral aloofness; so the natural result will be that German-American disaffected citizens will have no influence whatever either on the poll on the 9th of next month or on the future policy of the Washington Government, no matter which candidate returns there the victor.

Mexican affairs have made practically no progress since we last alluded to them. The brigand Villa's alleged capture of Chihuahua disturbed the equanimity of the Joint Commission sitting on Mexican affairs to some extent, and perplexity was aroused by the contradictory nature of the information. One United States authority roundly declared that a large number of deserters had left the Carranza army of 6,000 men located in the neighbourhood of the city to join Villa, and that a great quantity of arms and other loot had been abstracted by the brigands. On the other hand, General Trevino, who was in Chihuahua, denied that the bandits had captured the city at all, and Mr. Juan T. Burns, the Mexican Consul-General in New York City, officially published the general's denial. Not only did he declare that the report that Chihuahua City was attacked and captured by the bandits was entirely incorrect, but added that "one-third of those who put up the fight did not get away alive." He expected that the whole band would soon be annihilated.

Who we are to believe on this episode is not yet clear, but in the meantime various difficulties of another sort keep cropping up, principally we imagine owing to the financial inexperience of Carranza. He, for example, has issued a decree taking away the monopoly of issuing bank notes from the two banks in Mexico hitherto possessing it, viz., the London and Mexico Bank and the Banco Nacional. It is alleged that

between them these two can issue notes to the amount of about 100 million pesos, and Carranza accuses them of using their liberty to inflate the currency. Therefore he has ordered their note issues to stop, or rather has ordered them within 60 days to acquire metallic reserves dollar for dollar against their notes and under penalty of being compelled to liquidate. The banks at once closed their doors by way of protest, but as the Provisional Government of General Carranza is said to be contemplating the establishment of a national note issuing agency or bank, it seems probable that a considerable amount of time and wrangling will have to pass by and take place before things settle down, and there may be further confiscation of foreign property. The real trouble appears to be that, however well intentioned he may be, General Carranza has no practical knowledge of business, but is a dreamer of the type of Madero who has neither the astuteness nor the force of character to enable him to rescue his country from the slough into which it has been plunged.

Two important Western railway companies have issued their reports for 1915-16 since we last wrote, the most important being the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul. It earned gross \$105,546,000 at a cost of \$69,121,000, gross receipts being up \$14,211,000 and expenses higher by \$7,149,000. There was an increase of \$517,000 in the amount of taxes levied which brought the total up to \$5,264,000, but leaving that out of account, working expenses were only 65.43 per cent. of the receipts against 67.78 per cent., the proportion of the previous year. Exceptional prosperity was thus indicated, and the consequence was that after paying bond interest to the amount of nearly \$1,000,000 more than for the preceding year and also disbursing fully \$700,000 additional for hire of equipment and nearly \$200,000 more as rents paid, the year closes, after paying the 7 per cent. preference dividend and giving the ordinary shares 5 per cent., with a surplus of \$2,738,000, which compares with a deficit of \$1,399,000 for the preceding year. For the year closed June 30, 1914, however, the surplus was \$1,524,575. On any comparison last year was a prosperous one, and the company would seem to have been warranted in spending \$17,966,000 on capital account. Of that, however, \$5,630,000 was the cost of purchasing the Idaho and Washington Northern Railroad. Another \$9,309,000 of the total went in "additions and betterments," which seem to be provided for almost, if not altogether, from capital. The company carried 22.69 per cent. more tons of freight one mile than in the previous year, but the revenue earned per ton per mile was 3.10 per cent. down. But that decline may have been due to the longer haulage.

Next we have the Chicago and North-Western property, whose gross earnings rose \$10,534,000 to \$91,314,000. This increase was earned at an additional cost of \$5,581,000 in working expenses, raising their aggregate to \$67,952,000. The company paid \$225,000 more in taxes, but without counting that the ratio of working expenses was 67.85 per cent. compared with 69.78 per cent. for the previous year and 71.31 per cent. for 1912-13. Debt interest was slightly less, and there was a small reduction in rents paid, so that the total deductions from the entire free income of \$27,660,000 came to \$10,594,000 as compared with \$10,974,000 the year before and \$11,140,000 for 1913-14. The usual 7 per cent. dividend was paid on the ordinary stock, and there was a surplus of \$6,166,000 left to carry forward, which compares with one of \$810,000 in the preceding year. The reasons for the prosperity are common to the whole country, which has been everywhere stimulated to great industrial activity by European expenditure on war.

It would seem that the late J. J. Hill, despot of the Northern Pacific and other railroads, a position to which he rose through financial campaigning conjointly in the early days with the late Lord Strathcona and Lord Mount-Stephen, and afterwards "all on his own," has left property of the estimated amount of \$40,000,000, or £8,000,000 sterling. He died without having made his will, and at first his estate was put down at a tenta-

tive valuation of \$10,350,000, but it has grown in the interval to this great figure, and the State of Minnesota, it is said, will receive \$1,250,000 in the aggregate from it by way of inheritance tax. If it had been five times as much, none of the heirs need have been left in risk of immediate poverty.

Insurance News.

A certain number of policyholders now serving with the forces appear still to be labouring under a misconception as to income-tax concessions granted to them, and it is evident from correspondence that has recently appeared that the provisions of the Finance Act which received the Royal Assent in July have been as yet imperfectly understood in quarters directly concerned. All war life assurance premiums may be deducted from income liable to taxation, even though the total premium exceeds one-sixth of the annual income. A policyholder who, whether under a policy taken out before the war or not, is paying an extra war premium, or whose premium includes an addition for war risk, is entitled to full relief in respect of same, in addition and without any prejudice to such relief as he could have claimed had the question of war risk never entered into his contract. A clause of the Act, however, appears to limit the relief in the case of policies effected after June 22 to 3s. in the pound, rebate of super-tax being withdrawn altogether irrespective of the date of the policy.

Twenty years have passed since the directors of the Clerical, Medical and General Life Assurance Society made any change in the rates of premium charged for whole-life participating policies. During the interval the profit-earning powers of the society have steadily increased, and two years ago the non-profit rates were substantially reduced in order to render the relative attractions of the two tables more consistent. The directors have now taken advantage of the opening of a new quinquennium to revise both tables. In the result, the non-profit rates for ages above 57 are reduced, and the reduction of rates now made should prove attractive, in view of the fact that a number of policies are now effected at the higher ages in order to provide for death duties, and so on. The profit rates up to age 29 are slightly increased, but from age 29 onwards show a substantial and progressive reduction.

The profits of the South British Insurance Co. (New Zealand) were maintained at about the level of the previous year, and the dividend for the year now ended is made up to the usual 4s. 6d. a share. Allocations to reserve are the same, namely, £40,000, while £41,000 (which includes the £20,000 placed to investment fluctuation fund last year) has been written off investments.

Letters to the Editor.

THE LAND A NATIONAL ASSET.

DEAR SIR,—Your article of September 30 contains the wise saying that the land "must be treated as the greatest source of wealth and well-being the nation possesses." The whole of the article is of great interest at the present moment. As one goes on through the countryside it is no infrequent sight to find dilapidated buildings which will fall down in a few years; buildings in the country are often well worth maintaining because of the cost of carting labour and materials. One of the curses of poor land owned by impoverished landlords is that much of it is entailed, and unless there is a strong personal character behind, one finds the place is allowed to go to pieces so long as some tenant farmer robs the land to pay his annual rent, bleeding the farm down to something approaching prairie value.

Dr. Somerville's researches—and his own courageous experiments on the South Downs—go to show what enormous improvement can be made on most poor neglected soils by the use of basic slag. But he also shows that it is a landlord's manure, and few tenants are willing to increase the value of low-rented land for

fear their rent may be raised. The economic law of rent is that the landowner is in a position to take everything except the tenants' bare living, owing to competition for that monopoly, land. If the foreign competitor is hindered by tariffs, and the home consumer pays extra for his foodstuffs, it will mean in most cases a higher rent and a higher tithe based on corn prices, with higher costs of manures, feeding stuffs, and implements due to restricted competition, or importers' delivered prices being higher. Landowning should be a business and bad farmers should be weeded out, but while landowners accumulate money in trade, and do not trouble about their land or their tenants so long as they get a few days' shooting each year near their parklands, so long will the land fail to be an economic asset to the nation. Landowners are riding for a fall unless they take up their business responsibilities seriously, and the least that is likely to befall them is that the management of their lands may be put in the hands of some County Council land agent in the interest of the nation at large.

The ploughing up of pasture land is not always economical or wise, but neglected pasture is generally open to considerable improvement, and in consequence will often carry permanently double its present head of livestock. A National Agricultural Bank would go very far to improve the output of foodstuffs economically, but the financial interests are not very favourable to the idea, partly owing to landlords' lien on the stock for rent. Any increase of the yields would in time benefit the landowner in many ways.

W. COBBETT BARKER.

Rochester, October 3, 1916.

The Week in Mines.

Business has been less active this week in the Mining markets, which have been under the influence of the new 6 per cent. Exchequer Bonds, though, of course, to a lesser extent than the investment departments of the House. Eastern Rand shares have continued to meet with good support from Cape operators, notably Modder Leases, while Nourse Mines rose sharply on the report, which indicates that results should improve shortly. The Broken Hill group has been weak on fears as to the new profits taxation proposals of the Commonwealth Government; but when it was realised that they had been exaggerated, the market hardened a little. Copper and Tin shares have been active and firm, notably Rio Tintos, Anglo-Continentials, and Forum Rivers. Burma Corporations have been strong.

SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

Eastern Rand shares have again enjoyed a fair amount of activity and strength. There has been persistent buying of Modder Leases on dividend hopes, and the price is 3s. 9d. higher at 52s. 6d. Gedulds have also been in good request, and have risen 1s. 6d. to 47s. 6d. New Modderfonteins relapsed $\frac{1}{2}$ to 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ on profit-taking following the issue of the report, which is a very excellent one; but Nourse Mines advanced 3s. to 22s. 6d. on the report, which proved to be more reassuring than had been anticipated. Central Minings at 7. Rand Mines at 3 $\frac{1}{4}$, Simmer Deeps at 4s. 3d., and Village Main Reefs at 25-32 have been inquired for, and are slightly higher on balance. In the Rhodesian department, Chartereds improved to 12s. 9d., and Crescens rose 1s. to 6s. 9d. on the increased profits shown in the report. Tanganyikas, after rising to an appreciable extent, reacted on profit-taking to 2 $\frac{1}{4}$. Diamond shares show a general decline. De Beers Deferreds have fallen $\frac{1}{2}$ to 12 $\frac{1}{2}$, Jagers $\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 $\frac{1}{2}$, and Premier Deferreds $\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 $\frac{1}{2}$. Among West African shares, Gold Coast Amalgamateds improved to 17s. 3d., and Fanti Consols were wanted at 6s. 9d.

COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

A further rise of $\frac{1}{2}$ per ton in the price of copper has stimulated copper shares into fresh strength and activity. Anacondas have risen $\frac{1}{2}$ to 20 $\frac{1}{2}$, Arizonas $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$, and Mons Cupris 3d. to 7s. 3d., and Rio Tintos $\frac{1}{2}$ to 62 $\frac{1}{2}$, the last-named on the doubling of the interim dividend. Hampdens have been exceptionally dull on Australian taxation fears, the price falling 1s. 6d. to 35s. Tin shares have been bought freely in view of a further advance of $\frac{1}{4}$ in the price of the metal. Anglo-Continentials have risen 2s. 3d. to 11s. 9d., Forum Rivers $\frac{1}{2}$ to 27-32, East Pools $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$, and South Croftys 9d. to 15s.; but Dokcoaths have relapsed 9d. to 10s. 9d.

The Broken Hill group has been depressed, but the market made a partial recovery in the latter part of the week. Proprietarys, after falling to 52s. 6d., closed 4s. 3d. lower at 53s. 6d.; but North are 1s. 6d. lower at 45s., and Sulphides 9d. at 26s. Alaska Treadwells have declined $\frac{1}{2}$ to 4, but John Del Reys have risen 1s. 6d. to 16s. 9d. Russians have weakened with the adverse movement of exchange. Russo-

Asiatics have fallen $\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 $\frac{1}{2}$, Tanalyks 3-32 to 2 23-32, and Irtysks 3-32 to 2 11-32. Heavy buying of Burma Corporations hoisted the price up to 90s., but profit-taking caused a relapse to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$. Indians are easier, except North Anantapur Prefs., which have risen $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$.

MINING NEWS.

NOURSE MINES.—The report for the year ended June 30 states that the grade of ore mined was disappointing, and after a thorough investigation it was decided to close down the West Mill and concentrate reduction operations at the Deep Mill, which is being extended. It is confidently expected that as soon as the necessary alterations have been made increased profits will result from economies in concentrating reduction work and crushing a higher grade of rock. In consequence of the adoption of this policy, the ore reserves at the close of the year were considerably less than that shown in the report of the previous year, but are 0.5 dwts. higher in value. The total quantity is estimated at 2,169,300 tons. During the year the revenue was £775,362, or 23s. 4d. per ton—a decrease of 2s. 11d. per ton. Costs declined by 1s. 1d. per ton, to 19s. 11d., and the working profit was £114,203, equal to 3s. 5d. per ton—a decrease of £43,840, or 1s. 10d. per ton. Nett profit was £114,756, against £151,626; the dividend was reduced from 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to 10 per cent., but the carry-forward is raised from £112,895 to £127,929.

ROOTBERG MINERALS.—During the year ended June 30, 36,460 tons were milled, as compared with 37,263 tons in 1914-15; 706 tons of metallic tin were produced, against 730 tons. The revenue per ton, however, rose from £2 18s. 8d. to £3 4s. 3d., the average price realised being £10 higher at £161 per ton of tin. Working costs show an increase of 7s. 9d. per ton at £2 10s. 5d. per ton milled, owing to increased expenditure on development. The total working profit was £25,397, as against £29,803, and the total gross profit was £25,444. The dividend is reduced from 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to 10 per cent., and expenditure on improvements absorbed £9,350, leaving £11,177, as compared with £15,486, to be carried forward. At the end of the year the ore in sight was estimated to amount to 28,659 tons, valued at 3.10 per cent. metallic tin.

PATO MINES (COLOMBIA).—The report of this company, which is controlled by the Oroville Dredging, states that in the year to September 30, 1915, 1,308,470 cubic yards were dredged for a yield of 34,067 ozs., as compared with 921,488 yards for 33,530 ozs. in 1913-14. The nett profit for the year was £53,743. During the year the outstanding income notes were reduced by £14,000, and the accrued interest of £32,197, as at September 30, 1914, was liquidated. Capital expenditure amounted to £16,000. Advances to the Nechi Mines (Colombia), amounting to £15,690, have been paid off by that company, and the £11,688 to the debit of the Oroville Dredging, Ltd., has been applied to the discharge of income notes and interest thereon. The gold returns show an increase of about £4,000, while the expenditure has been reduced by about £6,900. It has been decided to write off depreciation of capital assets from the date of the commencement of operations. For the first eleven months of the current year ending to-day, 1,398,627 cubic yards have been washed for \$685,398 (£137,079).

Tea, Oil and Rubber.

There have been signs of profit-taking in the Rubber share market, but on the whole this section has been well supported and wonderfully firm, being encouraged by a slight rally in the price of the raw material, which has crept up to 2s. 5d. This movement and the relatively high price of many shares has set the statisticians to work trying to figure the production and consumption of rubber up to the end of 1920. We are not sure that it is a very profitable pastime, and the results of the calculations can be made to prove almost anything, although we notice that there is generally a strong bias in favour of demand equalling or outrunning supply in spite of the great increase in the planted area during the past few years. If the output of rubber averages 350 lbs. per acre in 1920 the world's production would amount to 265,000 tons, and if the consumption increases at the rate of 25 per cent. per annum 458,000 tons would be required. On the other hand, if the output averages 500 lbs. per acre the production in 1920 would be 367,000 tons, and if the increased consumption is at the rate of 10 per cent. the amount required would be only 242,000 tons. You can make the scale higher or lower on either side to suit your taste and come to any conclusion you choose, but it will not necessarily be the right one. With so much latitude of choice the only safe course is to leave an ample margin for contingencies.

Satisfactory progress was made by the Seaport (Selangor) Rubber Estate, Ltd., in the year to June 30. Production amounted to 323,900 lbs., an increase of

43,900 lbs. over the estimate and of 61,400 lbs. over last year's output. Gross price realised was 2s. 6.61d., an increase of 3.94d., while the all-in costs were a shade lower at 1s. 1.93d. Consequently the nett profits rose £9,400 to £24,697, and a rather larger balance was brought forward, so that the total available is £10,630 higher at £33,230. This allows of the dividend being raised from 7½ per cent. to 11 per cent., and after paying the directors an additional £1,290 there is £2,780 more at £11,316 to be carried forward. Changes in the balance-sheet are unimportant and need not detain us, but we think it is time the nucleus of a reserve fund was formed. The company has a planted area of 1,785 acres, but the tappable area is only 900 acres, 885 acres having been planted since 1912. On this basis the area in bearing has yielded 360 lbs. per acre, which may be regarded as quite satisfactory. For the current year the output is estimated at 360,000 lbs., but it ought to increase considerably in the next few years when the new ground comes into tapping.

Not so much progress has been made by the Banteng (Selangor) Rubber Estates, Ltd., as might have been expected, seeing that the great bulk of its property has been in bearing for practically two years. To April 30, 1915, the output was 218,500 lbs., and for the past twelve months it was 286,000 lbs., an increase of 67,500 lbs., but the average per bearing acre was only 3 lbs. higher at 286 lbs. As all but 115 acres out of 1,405 were planted in 1911, or earlier, it would not be unreasonable to expect a yield of 300 to 400 lbs. per acre, but the estimated crop for the current year is only 340,000 lbs. Evidently the Banteng estate is not doing particularly well, as it produced only 243 lbs. per acre, whereas the Puchong estate yielded 335 lbs. per acre, but the former, so far as can be judged by the figures available, ought to be the more favourably situated of the two. All over the average price obtained was 2s. 8d. per lb., an increase of 6½d., while the "all-in" costs were about ½d. less at 1s. 1½d. After providing a trifle of £1,400 for depreciation, the nett profit is £12,000 higher at £22,450, but nothing is placed to reserve, against £5,000 last year, so that there is no difficulty in raising the dividend from 12½ to 20 per cent., and the carry forward (subject to excess profits duty) from £2,125 to £12,576. This is conspicuously a case where a strong reserve might be of the greatest advantage a year or two hence, and sensible shareholders would have been content with a smaller dividend to make the future more secure.

As its area in tapping becomes older and more productive, the results obtained by the Sungei Siput Rubber Plantations show steady improvement. The crop for the year ended June 30 was 37,415 lbs. larger at 138,938 lbs., and the all-in cost, exclusive of war risk insurance, was further reduced by 2.46d. to 1s. 4.17d. At the same time the company benefited by the higher prices ruling for the commodity, and obtained a nett average of 2s. 6.52d., or an increase of 6.86d., with the result that the revenue, including £270, or £97 more, from tin tribute was £7,129 larger at £17,323. Revenue expenditure only rose by £847 to £9,635, leaving a profit of £7,688, or £6,282 more, and after deducting the debit of £1,104 brought in, the available balance was £6,583. Out of this a first dividend of 7½ per cent. is paid, £2,144, or one-third, is written off preliminary expenses, and £1,460 is carried forward. Outlay on development for the year amounted to £1,173, making the cost of the estates £45,117. The indebtedness on loan account has been reduced by £5,500 to £2,950, so that the position has been greatly strengthened. For the current year a crop of 160,000 lbs. is expected.

The Black Sea Amalgamated Oilfields, Ltd., is a combination of the Black Sea Oil Fields, Ltd., the Maikop Victory Oil Co., Ltd., and the Maikop New Producers, Ltd., and the first report, covering the 10 months to December 31 (o/s) has just been issued. Profits earned by the old companies between July 1, 1914, and February 28, 1915 (o/s) amounted to £11,134, and have been applied directly as depreciation in taking over the assets. For the 10 months covered

by the report the trading profit was £36,795, and the nett profit £19,950, of which £2,390 is used in writing off preliminary expenses, and the balance of £17,560 is placed to depreciation account. The company therefore starts with fairly clear decks. But for the low rate of 16 roubles per £1 at which the assets have been valued, the profits would have amounted to £35,280. Production of crude oil from July 1 to February 28, 1915, amounted to 1,555,980 poods, and from March 1 to December 31 (o/s) it was 1,524,550 poods. It is stated that important economies have been effected as the result of the amalgamation, notwithstanding the great increase in wages and the high cost of materials. A series of wells has been drilled in the Shirvanskaya area, but most of these have not been completed owing to the difficulty experienced in connection with shutting off the water sources. The balance-sheet has a clean appearance, and we may hope the company will do well when normal conditions are restored. It is not stated what price the oil sold realised.

SEAFIELD RUBBER.—A forward sale of 48 tons smoked sheet rubber was made on September 5 for delivery f.o.b. the East, 4 tons per month, November, 1916-October, 1917.

DANGEN RUBBER (1913).—Good progress was made in the year ended June 30, and the policy adopted in the last two years enables the directors to take advantage of the present prosperity to enter the dividend-paying list. The rubber crop amounted to 184,576 lbs., as against an estimate of 178,000 lbs., and was 59,655 lbs. larger than that of the previous twelve months. Of this 132,338 lbs. were sold at an average of 3s. 1.7d., or an increase of 1s. 0.6d., and the balance was taken into the accounts at 1s. 10d., as against 2s. 2d. The cocoa crop was about the same at 663 cwt., and realised 17s. 10d. more at 74s. 8d., but there was a big drop, to 18,788 lbs., in the output of tea. No attempt is made to give the cost of production, as until the whole of the estates are in bearing any apportionment can only be approximate. Gross profits, however, showed an increase of £3,995 at £11,172, and, with £5,236 brought forward, gave a total of £16,408, or £7,543 more, to be dealt with. Of this £5,353, representing the outlay on the property for the year, is written off, and dividends aggregating 10 per cent. have been paid, leaving £4,064, or £1,172 less, to be carried forward. For the current year the crops are estimated at 225,000 lbs. rubber, 600 cwt. cocoa, and 10,000 lbs. tea, and of these 37,536 lbs. rubber, 9 cwt. cocoa, and 2,756 lbs. tea were obtained during the first two months.

What Balance Sheets Tell.

STANDARD BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA, LTD.

Very satisfactory figures are given in the balance-sheet as at June 30. Cash and money at call, it is true, show a decrease of £2,045,568 at £6,316,822, but the reduction is accounted for by an increase of £1,999,955 to £16,539,404 in bills discounted and advances due to the purchase of over £2,000,000 of Treasury bills. Even at the lower figure the proportion to liabilities is nearly 24.44 per cent. In addition, investments are £829,010 up at £3,961,042, and bills of exchange have risen by £935,358 to £3,980,730. On the other hand, deposit and current accounts, including the profit and loss balance, are £1,482,444 higher at £26,243,681, notes in circulation show an expansion of £48,717 at £1,269,787, and drafts outstanding, &c., come to £190,103 more at £1,200,004, while customers' bills for collection are £504,183 up at £2,804,902. Being only an interim report, the directors do not submit a profit and loss account, but a dividend at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum is paid as usual.

ROYAL BANK OF IRELAND, LTD.

A small set-back of £1,260 to £101,768 is shown in the gross profits for the year ended August 31, while interest on deposits, &c., and income-tax both took more, with the result that the nett profits were £4,611 smaller at £37,576. The dividend paid is again 10 per cent., but £1,500 less at £12,500 is transferred to reserve, and after giving the officers' superannuation fund £1,500, or £500 more, £13,164 is carried forward compared with £13,463 brought in. Reserve has been debited with £30,000 written off investments, so that it now stands at £112,500, as against the paid up capital of £300,000. Deposit and current account liabilities show very little change at £2,104,003, while, on the other hand, investments have been reduced by £123,871 to £993,048, and bills discounted, advances, &c., by £148,241 to £1,287,458, but cash is £132,790 up at £263,974.

BELFAST BANKING CO., LTD.

Considering the way in which business was upset by the recent disturbances, it is satisfactory to find that the falling off in the profits of this bank in the year ended July 31 amounted to no more than £1,159 at £69,799. The war bonus to the staff took £5,215 of this, compared with £5,350 a year ago, but the balance brought in was £13,182 smaller at £33,546, and the surplus now available is consequently £14,206 down at £98,131. Dividends at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum on the "old" shares, and 8 per cent. per annum on the "new" shares, together with bonuses of 5d. and 2d. per share respectively, or

the same as a year ago, are paid; but income-tax being deducted, they require £5,627 less, and after again transferring £25,000 to investment reserve, the balance carried forward is reduced by £8,579 to £24,967. Notes in circulation show an expansion of £392,622 at £1,378,990, deposit and current accounts are £1,157,959 larger at £8,103,492, and bills for collection come to £427,331, or £395,915 more. Investments, which consist mainly of War Loans, have been increased by £34,737 to £1,908,016, cash and money at call and notice are £1,582,399 up at £3,199,605, and bills discounted, advances, &c., have risen by £317,519 to £4,802,807.

ROBINSON AND CLEAVER, LTD.

Profits for the year ended July 31 showed a further shrinkage of £3,386 at £21,713, while expenses, mainly because of heavier income-tax charges, rose by £1,803 to £18,848. Including £903 less at £12,449 brought forward, the divisible surplus is £6,092 smaller at £15,314, and after meeting the preference dividend the balance carried out is reduced by £5,216 to £7,233. Business has been hampered during the past two years by the rebuilding of the London property, but this has now been completed, and the directors expect to derive considerable advantage from the new premises when normal conditions prevail. The expenditure last year amounted to £25,775, and after deducting sinking fund and depreciation allowances the total cost is £21,880 up at £662,259, against which the indebtedness to the bankers has risen by £10,975 to £33,110. Stocks are £12,468 larger at £168,503, but debtors owe £2,186 less at £38,002, and cash is £17,942 down at £826, while, on the other hand, £3,974 more at £58,676 is due to creditors, and an overdraft of £6,722 has been obtained.

BROWN, HOPWOOD AND GILBERT, LTD.

After providing for depreciation, &c., the profits of this Birmingham business of wholesale grocers for the twelve months ended July 1 showed an increase of £5,343 at £17,547. The ordinary shares again get a dividend of 15 per cent., but, contrary to the policy adopted by many companies, the directors have decided to pay it free of tax instead of less tax as a year ago. Nothing is set aside for investments reserve, compared with £2,000, but this amount is divided between the appropriations to reserve and depreciation of leaseholds, goodwill, &c., making them £2,000 each, and £5,632 more at £8,306 is carried forward. On balance property and goodwill account has been reduced by £1,000 to £23,549, against which the company has a reserve of £27,000, and is otherwise in a very comfortable position. Stocks are £6,793 up at £25,149, debtors owe £5,069 more at £37,570, and in addition to £14,570 in cash there are investments valued at £36,641, while current liabilities are only £2,598 higher at £19,760.

COLONIAL CONSIGNMENT AND DISTRIBUTING CO., LTD.

Throughout the whole of its financial year ended June 30 this company was engaged in the storage and sale of frozen meat solely on Government account, on terms and conditions laid down by the Government. The requirements of the Army only permitted very reduced quantities to be disposed of through the ordinary trade channels, and as a result of this restricted business net profits were £10,504 smaller at £25,129. A dividend of 7 per cent., tax free, is paid on the ordinary shares as against 8 per cent. for the previous year, £4,084, or £5,916 less, is transferred to reserve, and after putting £2,002, or £276 less, to the staff benevolent fund the balance carried forward is reduced by £1,208 to £2,105. Property account has been increased by £2,770 to £168,702, and goodwill remains at £67,502, against which the reserve, including £911 from profit on debenture stock redeemed, will now stand at £70,000. Investments have been increased by £65,949 to £223,835 and cash is £35,033 higher at £175,342, while, on the other hand, current liabilities are £114,444 up at £215,203. Other changes in the balance-sheet are comparatively small.

PEARKS' DAIRIES, LTD.

In the year to July 1 this company made very substantial progress. It took over the business of Pearks, Ltd., as from September 5, 1914, and for the period to June 26, 1915, a net profit of £229 was earned. For the 53 weeks under review the net profit was £16,290, out of which £4,600 is provided for depreciation, £900 for income-tax, £1,100 for preliminary expenses, and £6,000 for reserve, leaving a balance of £3,896 to be carried forward. The directors regret that they are unable to recommend the payment of a dividend owing to the large amount of working capital and stock which it is necessary to have in the business at the present time; but the turnover is steadily increasing, and the shareholders may look forward to some return if conditions continue to improve. The position, however, does not look very strong. There are loans for £80,785 and sundry creditors for £182,430, while trade investments and loans stand at £62,200, stocks at £110,130, and sundry creditors at £36,370, while £126,000 of the capital is represented by goodwill. There is a stiff row to hoe before the dividend stage is reached.

DENVER UNITED BREWERIES, LTD.

Colorado became a "dry" State on January 1, and the report of this company for the year to June 30 is a correspondingly depressing document. The law prohibits the manufacture and sale of alcoholic liquors within the State, and this has involved the closing of all saloons for the sale of beer, with the result that the company's investments in the business have been largely sacrificed. Arrears of preference dividend already amounted to 60 per cent., so that the company's troubles date much further back than the new restrictions, but these have administered the death-blow. Gross profits amounted to £18,808, and the net trading profit was £2,610, after writing off £4,900 for losses on

saloon fixtures and £2,900 for depreciation of plant, &c. Special losses brought about by prohibition amount to £62,320, and debenture interest requires £10,100, so that there is a deficit of £67,558 after deducting the profit and £2,250 brought forward. Consequently the reserve fund of £50,000 is swept away, and there still remains a debit balance of £17,558. Cash amounts to £45,750, and there are other liquid assets for some £25,000, but the bulk of the capital is represented by buildings, plant, and goodwill (!) standing at £489,000, but what their realisable value may be the directors do not venture to estimate. The company has put on the market a temperance beverage the profits from which have helped to meet standing charges, but the best policy would seem to be to wind up the business with as little delay as possible. Preference arrears amount to £136,000, and it seems hopeless to go on.

SCOTTISH MALT DISTILLERS, LTD.

Working profits for the year ended July 31 showed a shrinkage of £8,833 at £29,254, but how much of the reduction was due to the provision made for liability under the Finance Acts and how much to a falling off in business we are not permitted to know. A balance of £4,008 was brought in, while, on the other hand, nothing had to be paid out, compared with £4,555 for interest on purchase price from July 31 to November 10, 1914, a year ago, and after providing for all charges, the available surplus was about the same at £31,020. The preference dividend requires considerably more, but only £5,000, or half last year's amount, is transferred to reserve, and after again putting £5,000 to depreciation fund, £15,559, or £2,464, is available, out of which the dividend on the ordinary shares is increased from 5 per cent. to 7½, leaving £620 less at £4,163 to be carried forward. Loans of £20,900 have disappeared from the balance-sheet, but liabilities to sundry creditors have risen by £24,751. On the other hand, stocks are £32,734 smaller at £48,287, and debtors owe £16,882 less at £17,797, while cash and bills have risen by £66,239 to £154,271.

BALANCE SHEET FACTS.

PORT TALBOT GRAVING DOCK AND SHIPBUILDING CO., LTD.—Gross profits for the year ended July 31, after making provision for excess profits tax, were £1,101 up at £15,369, but expenses rose by £1,572 to £7,588, leaving the net profit, after providing for interest, £379 down at £5,780. As usual £630 is transferred to reserve for the redemption of debentures, and the ordinary shares again get a dividend of 10 per cent., tax free, leaving £4,793 to be carried forward, as against £4,188 brought in. Changes in the balance-sheet are mostly small, but it may be noted that sundry creditors, which presumably include the provision for excess profits, are £9,328 higher at £13,823, while, on the other hand, cash is £6,460 up at £10,373.

BRETT'S STAMPING CO., LTD.—An improvement of £2,905 to £15,138 in trading profits for the year ended July 31 was more than swept away by heavier income-tax charges, and the net profits showed a shrinkage of £1,062 at £8,506. With £618 more at £4,010 brought in, the available total was £444 smaller at £12,516, but the directors repeat the dividend bonus of 20 per cent., tax free, on the ordinary shares, and by transferring £3,000 to reserve, compared with £2,000 to that fund and £2,000 to a special reserve for new plant, they are able to increase the balance carried forward by £657 to £4,667. Current liabilities are £3,204 up at £8,856, but, on the other hand, stocks have risen by £1,576 to £5,931, debtors owe £3,350 more at £7,987, and cash and bills are £1,799 higher at £13,045.

Answers to Correspondents.

J. B. O.—No, the company is not in a satisfactory position.

H. H.—(1) Good, but quite dear enough in present circumstances. (2) Also good, only the shares are at 200 per cent. premium or more, and the yield is less than 5 per cent. (3) Might be worth buying about 10s.

Cold Steel.—No, they are £5 shares. Can be bought in the market for, perhaps, 5s. per share less, and are not too cheap at that.

Zero.—Not much rise to be expected, but latest returns have shown improvement. Might hold on.

E. M. R.—If you do not wish to realise we do not think you need trouble to offer your stock. The interest should be safe enough, and business improve later on.

C. C. D.—Sell them, as they are fully priced. You can get a better return from Exchequer bonds.

Elad.—The company is doing very well, we hear, and the interest on your shares appears to be quite safe. Rather buy a few more than sell, although there is not likely to be much recovery in capital value for a long time.

Como.—The rise may continue, but we think you should be content to sell. The future is not absolutely certain.

N. J.—As they are in bearer form you cannot purchase unless allowed to do so specifically by your trust deed.

L. K. O.—They pay a good dividend at present, and look a fair speculative purchase. There are, of course, many risks attaching to the business.

Canadian Bank of Commerce.—A branch has been opened at Manyberries, Alberta.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

BIRMINGHAM SMALL ARMS CO.

THE SUPPLY OF ARMS AND WAR MATERIAL.

The annual meeting of the Birmingham Small Arms Co. was held at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham, on Thursday. Sir Hallowell Rogers, chairman, presided, and in moving the adoption of the report mentioned that that was probably the first time in the history of the company that the directors were not able to place before the annual general meeting a balance-sheet of the company for the past year. It was impossible to present definite figures before a settlement with regard to the levy was made, or even to give approximate figures in view of the great uncertainty which prevailed as to the lines on which such settlement would be arrived at. The directors did not for a moment suggest that any difficulty whatever was anticipated—they felt sure that they would be met by the Government officials in a fair, if not generous, spirit, in view of the great services the company had rendered to the nation in the supply of arms and war material. The directors, however, were satisfied under the report of the company's auditors, and after making all necessary provisions, that there were profits available for the payment of dividends in accordance with the resolution. It would not be advisable for me, the Chairman continued, to enter into particulars as to all that we have been able to do for the Government further than to say that, in some of the recent developments in modern war implements, your company has taken an active share. Neither is it my intention to touch upon the very difficult labour problems, both present and which may arise in the future, but I should like to testify to the great work which has been and is being done by the managers, all grades of the staff, and workpeople employed by the company.

PATRIOTIC WORKPEOPLE.

As you may imagine, the enormously increased output of the factories has not been attained without ceaseless effort on the part of those responsible for carrying out the extensions. The patriotic spirit displayed by the workpeople as a whole has been excellent, and shows that the men have appreciated the importance of their work to those who are actually engaged in the fighting in the trenches. The directors are proud to say that, in proportion to the capacity and scope of our manufactures, there is no concern in the country which has done more in the national emergency than your company has done. The high officials at the Admiralty, the War Office, and Ministry of Munitions have, on more than one occasion, expressed their complete satisfaction at the results, and at the way in which promises as to increased output and extensions generally have been fulfilled.

Mr. Montagu, the present Minister of Munitions, in an interesting review of the work of the Ministry which he gave in the House of Commons on August 15, referred particularly to the output of machine-guns and rifles, which, while being more difficult to increase than any other munition of war, had, in fact, increased in the one case fourteenfold, and was still increasing, and in the case of rifles three times as many were supplied in the first year of the Ministry's activities as compared with deliveries in the first 12 months of war. It is very gratifying also to read the Minister's statement that, as regards machine-guns and rifles, the supplies had been wholly from home sources. In this your company has had a very large share.

THE LEWIS MACHINE-GUN.

References in the daily Press to the Lewis machine-gun at the front have now become so frequent that you have all doubtless appreciated its enormous value to our armies. In referring to this machine-gun Lord Hugh Cecil stated in the House of Commons that it was the "envy of all Europe," and it is a matter of intense gratification to your board, and must also be to the shareholders of the company, that, as a result of experiments and trials on which we were engaged for 12 months prior to the commencement of the war, we were in a position to offer this gun to the War Office as an efficient and tested weapon just at the moment when it was wanted. I should just like to refer to an extract from a paragraph appearing in the *Times* of August 22, which reads:—"At another part of the line a formidable counter-attack of the enemy was held and absolutely wiped out by three Lewis guns. And it is well that the enemy should now and again feel the strength of machine-guns in defence." My preceding remarks, of course, relate more particularly to the rifle department, but the cycle department has not been behindhand in placing its facilities at the disposal of the country.

Some thousands of military pattern bicycles and motor-bicycles and quantities of 18pdr. shell cases have been supplied to the English and Allied Governments, and, in addition to this, the cycle department has assisted the rifle department in the output of Lewis guns and the Daimler Company in manufacturing small component parts for engines.

The shareholders will be interested in learning that the Daimler Company, which is owned by us, has, in its particular direction, effected great service to the country.

It has utilised the capacity of its greatly extended works and the brains of its organisation in largely increasing the output. In conclusion, the chairman mentioned that the company had joined the Federation of British Industries, believing that it would be able to yield an enormous influence to the advantage of British trade.

Mr. E. Manville, deputy-chairman, seconded the motion, which was carried.

A resolution was proposed that the directors' fees should be doubled, but the chairman said that the directors, whilst appreciating the generosity of the shareholders, preferred that the matter should not be pressed.

The retiring directors, Sir Hallowell Rogers and Mr. A. H. E. Wood, were re-elected.

S. SMITH AND SONS (MOTOR ACCESSORIES).

The second ordinary general meeting of S. Smith and Sons (Motor Accessories), Ltd., was held on Monday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, Mr. Samuel Smith, the chairman of the company, presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. F. A. Cotterell) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman observed that it was a satisfaction for him to be able to say that the expectations held out last year in his speech and in the letter which was published on the occasion of the last issue the company made of 100,000 shares had been fulfilled. In both sales and profit the directors' estimates had been well exceeded, and he trusted that when they met next year he might have an equally satisfactory account to present. The profit for the year under review amounted to £42,169, which was arrived at after providing a substantial amount in respect of the levy under the Munitions Act and duty which the company might be called upon to pay. The turnover for last year amounted to £396,412, which showed the important increase upon the company's output, which was rendered possible by the erection of the new factory. The amount available was £40,254, which the directors proposed should be dealt with as follows:—Write off balance of formation expenses, £3,556; balance of patents, £1,397; the whole of the goodwill, amounting to £12,740; and to pay a dividend of 1s. 7d. in the pound, free of tax, on the capital, absorbing £15,833, leaving £6,727 to be carried forward. The payment of the final dividend of 1s. 7d. net was approximately equal with the interim dividend of 2½ per cent. gross already paid, and from which tax was deducted, to a dividend of 10 per cent. nett for the year, free of tax. Some of the shareholders might think that the directors might have been justified in paying a larger dividend than 13½ per cent., which 10 per cent., free of tax, was really equal to, but it was the well-considered view of the board that, above all, they must consolidate the finances of the company. If the shareholders adopted the report, the position would be that the company was not encumbered with such items as goodwill, preliminary expenses, and so forth. The nett book value of the assets, excluding goodwill and preliminary expenses, amounted at July 31 last to no less than £222,949. During last year their factory had been very considerably extended, and the number of employees had been increased, so that to-day there were approximately 2,000 directly engaged in producing munitions and the goods required in the course of the company's ordinary business. During the year the company had introduced upon the market a successful paraffin carburettor. It had been fully demonstrated that, with the assistance of the carburettor, vehicles could be run quite satisfactorily upon 80 per cent. paraffin and 20 per cent. of petrol without any disadvantages hitherto associated with the use of paraffin. The carburettor was purely automatic, and could be fitted to any motor, and was without complication. Orders had been received, amongst others, from three firms who were among the largest importers of American commercial and motor vehicles. Besides the increased demand for the company's productions in munitions of war proper, there had been a continued increasing demand from the Government and other sources for aeroplane accessories and all sorts of motor accessories for the Government and private cars. The total value of orders in hand at the present time largely exceeded the whole of the output for last year, and increased demands were being made upon the company from all sides, both for munitions and for other goods. To provide for this increased munitions output, and to be able to cope as soon as hostilities were over with the growing demand for the company's specialities all over the world, important additions were about to be made to one of their factories at a cost of approximately £40,000. In order to provide the necessary funds for carrying out this programme, he would ask the shareholders to sanction an increase of 100,000 £1 shares, making the capital £300,000. There were no debentures and no preference shares, and none could be issued without the shareholders' sanction. In considering the best method of increasing the capital resources of the company, it had been deemed in the best interests of the shareholders to issue 100,000 ordinary shares conditionally on the present shareholders having the right to subscribe for one share in respect of each two shares now held. Arrangements had been entered into with a financial house, under which the latter would purchase the whole block of 100,000 shares to be issued. The shares in due course would be offered to the present shareholders, who would receive priority in allotment to which he had referred. The shares would be offered at a substantial premium.

The Managing Director (Mr. A. Gordon Smith) seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

An extraordinary general meeting was held subsequently, at which a resolution was passed increasing the capital of the company as mentioned by the chairman.

CHINESE GOVERNMENT 7 % PEKING-HANKOW RAILWAY REDEMPTION LOAN.

FIRST DRAWING

The following BOND CERTIFICATES issued by the London City and Midland Executor and Trustee Company, Limited, each representing 11 bonds of \$100 each (Peking currency) of the above LOAN, have been DRAWN for redemption at par (£99 per bond certificate), and will be paid at the Head Office of the London City and Midland Bank, Limited, 5, Threadneedle Street, E.C., on November 5, 1916, when interest thereon will cease.

The Bond Certificates, which must be accompanied by all unmatured coupons, should be left three clear days before payment, for examination, at the Head Office of the London City and Midland Bank, Limited, 5, Threadneedle Street, E.C., or any of its branches.

NUMBERS DRAWN.

3/5 26/7 29/30 34 36 39 42 44 49 51 53/4 60/1 63/4 67 70/2
74 76/7 92 95/6 106 111 114 121/2 126 133 137 146 150/1 162
104/6 173/5 178/9 181 185 201/2 218/19 230/4 248/50 256 258/60
262 266 268 270 272 279 281 292 302/3 306/8 316 321 330/1
335 337 340 342 351/2 364 384 386 392 395 397 416 418 438 446
456 465/6 468 471 474 500 510 513 516/8 521 528 533/5 547 559
562 570 574 579 583 586 609/10 614 616 622 624 629/30 676/9
685/7 689/90 720/1 758/60 762 770/1 773 775 781 794/5 797 806
816 818 820 853 860/2 865 869 871 880 883 894 898 908 917/8
924 926 929 931 942 951 972/3 975/6 980/1 997 1006/7 1011
1014 1017 1026 1030 1035 1038 1042/3 1049/50 1053/4 1060 1064
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2136 2143 2145 2147/8 2154 2162/4 2167 2169 2172 2180 2183/4
2191 2193 2197/8 2201/5 2208/9 2216 2222 2227 2230
2234 2242 2246 2250 2267/8 2272 2281/2 2285/6 2291 2300/1
2303/4 2316 2320 2325 2328/9 2334 2339 2341/3 2346/7 2349
2379 2382 2390 2397 2400 2405 2408 2413 2416 2510/2 2514
2518/20 2522/3 2525/6 2528 2536 2539 2541 2549 2555/6 2560
2567 2572/3 2575 2579/81 2586/7 2598/601 2606 2615 2620 2625
2636 2648 2661 2683/4 2700 2712/3 2728/30 2735/6 2750 2754
2759/61 2765 2773 2776 2783 2791 2795 2798 2802/3 2805 2815
2820 2827 2834 2836 2839 2842 2849/50 2852/3 2856/7 2860 2862/5
2870/1 2878/81 2885/7 2892 2901 2907 2923 2932/3 2966/71 2973/5
2977/83 3002 3004 3008 3010 3014 3016 3018/20 3027 3032/3 3036
3039 3043 3048 3051 3060/2 3064 3067 3077 3091/2 3106 3108
3110 3113 3121 3124 3132 3135/6 3141 3144/5 3147 3157 3159
3184/5 3187/92 3201 3225/8 3239 3254/5 3260 3262 3270 3273
3276 3282 3284 3293 3296 3300 3303 3308 3311 3313 3315 3319
3335/6 3339 3342/4 3348 3359 3363 3367 3370/2 3384/5 3389
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4771/2 4779 4782 4784/5 4791/2 4796 4798/9 4802 4810/1 4813
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5105/6 5110 5112/4 5116 5121 5123 5128 5133 5139/40 5154 5156/7
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6450 6460 6474 6476/7 6479 6482/3.

Total, 1,286.

London, October 2, 1916.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

Albion Motor Car.—Interim of 5 per cent., actual, less tax, on the ordinary, same as last year.

Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia Railway.—Interim of 2½ per cent. on deferred, same as a year ago.

Bank of Adelaide.—Interim for half-year at 8 per cent. per annum, payable Nov. 8, same as a year ago.

Bell's United Asbestos.—Interim on the ordinary of rs. per share, less tax (being at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum), on account of current year, same as a year ago.

Bombay Gas.—Interim of 3 per cent. for half-year ended June 30, payable Nov. 1, same as a year ago.

British Bank of Northern Commerce.—Interim for six months ended Sept. 30 at rate of 12 per cent. per annum, free tax, payable Oct. 16, against 8 per cent.

Butters Salvador Mines.—25 cents per share.

Caamano Tenguel Estate.—Interim of 4 per cent. on the preference, payable Oct. 4.

Cairn Line of Steamships.—Further interim of 2½ per cent. and bonus of 6d. per share, tax free.

Calcutta Electric.—Interim on the ordinary at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum for half-year ended June 30, same as a year ago.

City of Santos Improvements.—Half-yearly at rate of 6 per cent. per annum, less tax, on preference shares, payable Nov. 1.

Civic Investment and Industrial.—1 per cent. (being at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum) for three months ending Oct. 31, payable Nov. 15.

Commercial Union Assurance.—Interim of 12s. per share, less tax, on account of year 1916, against 10s.

Cuba Submarine Telegraph.—Interim for six months ended June 30 last at rate of 5 per cent. per annum, free tax, on ordinary, payable Oct. 19, same as a year ago.

Eastern Produce and Estates.—Interim in respect of 1916 of 6 per cent. per annum, less tax, payable Oct. 31, same as a year ago.

Enfield Cycle.—Further at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum on the "A" preference for half-year ended Aug. 21, and 12½ per cent., free tax, on the "B" preference and the ordinary for year.

Golconda Malay Rubber.—Interim of 15 per cent. (actual, less 4s. 6d. income-tax), payable Oct. 24, in respect of year ending Dec. 31, against 10 per cent.

Grand Central (Ceylon) Rubber.—Interim of 5 per cent. (actual) less tax, payable Oct. 31, same as a year ago.

Gula-Kalumpang Rubber.—Interim in respect of year ending Dec. 31, at the rate of rs. 3d. per share, less tax, payable Nov. 1, against 1s.

Henrietta Rubber.—Interim of 7½ per cent. in respect of 1916, payable 14th inst., same as a year ago.

Hope Tea.—Interim of 10 per cent. on the ordinary, less tax, payable at once on account of 1916, same as last year.

Imperial Bank of Canada.—12 per cent. per annum for quarter ending Oct. 31, same as a year ago.

Kuala Selangor Rubber.—Second interim on account of 1916 of 8d. per share, payable, less tax, Nov. 1, against 7d.

Linkwood-Glenlivet Distillery.—5 per cent. on the ordinary for the year, carrying forward £3,356, against 3 per cent.

Malay Rubber Planters.—Interim of 5 per cent. (making 15 per cent.), payable, less tax, Oct. 17, same as a year ago.

Merliman Rubber.—Interim for 1916 of 6½ per cent., free tax (equal to £8 8s. per cent., less tax), payable Nov. 14, same as a year ago.

Merton Rubber.—Interim on account of current year of 10 per cent., less tax, payable Oct. 5 next.

Milwaukee and Chicago Breweries.—Interim of 3 per cent. on capital stock, payable Nov. 1, against 2 per cent.

Nagolle (Ceylon) Rubber and Tea.—Interim of 5 per cent. (actual), less tax, payable Oct. 31, same as a year ago.

Rio Tinto.—Interim of 40s. per share on ordinary shares, payable Nov. 1, less English tax.

St. Helens Colliery and Brickworks.—Final of 10 per cent. on the ordinary for the year ended June 30, making 15 per cent. for the year, against 8 per cent.

Selangor River Rubber.—Interim on account of current year at 10 per cent., free tax, payable Oct. 12, same as last year.

South Crofty.—Interim of 3d. per share, free tax, for quarter ended Sept. 30.

Steel of Canada.—Usual of 1½ on the preference for quarter ended Sept. 30, payable Nov. 1.

Tanjong Malim Rubber.—Dividend in respect of year to June 30 of 10 per cent., tax free, against 5 per cent.

Toronto Railway.—2 per cent. for quarter ending Sept. 30, being at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, payable Oct. 2, same as a year ago.

Tronoh Mines.—Interim of rs. per share, less tax, payable Oct. 27.

Union-Castle Mail Steamship.—Interim for half-year ended June 30 last at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum (free tax) on the ordinary, same as a year ago.

Whitehaven Hematite Iron and Steel.—Interim of 4 per cent., actual, on the ordinary.

Yataderia Rubber and Tea.—Interim in respect of 1916 of 2½ per cent. per annum, less tax, payable Oct. 14, against 3 per cent.

[“LONDON AND DUBLIN ISSUE.”]

National Loan of the Government of the French Republic.

ISSUE OF FIVE PER CENT. RENTES.

Both Capital and Interest will be exempt from all taxes, present and future, of the Government of the French Republic.

Interest payable Quarterly on the 16th February, 16th May, 16th August, and 16th November, the first Coupon (for a full quarter's interest) being payable on the 16th February, 1917.

PRICE OF ISSUE—£3 4s 6d PER FCS. 100 NOMINAL CAPITAL

(Being the approximate equivalent, at the exchange of 27.50, of Fcs. 88.75c., the price at which the Loan is being issued in Paris.)

Applications, which must be accompanied by a deposit of Eleven Shillings per Fcs. 100 applied for, will be received at the Bank of England, Threadneedle street, London, E.C., and at the Bank of Ireland, Dublin. Applications must be for multiples of Fcs. 100 nominal Capital (i.e., Fcs. 5 of Rente).

The amount payable in respect of each Fcs. 100 will be required as follows, viz. :—

	s	d
On application	11	0
On, or before, Saturday, the 16th December, 1916	17	6
“ “ Friday, the 16th February, 1917	18	0
“ “ Monday, the 16th April, 1917 ...	18	0
Total	£3	4 6

or the whole of any amount applied for may be paid up in full at the time of application by a single payment of £3 3s 8d in respect of each Fcs. 100 applied for.

THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND, and the GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF THE BANK OF IRELAND, with the consent and approval of His Majesty's Government, are authorised by the Government of the French Republic to receive applications for this issue.

The conditions of the Loan will be identical with those of the National Defence Loan, the French Government undertaking that the issue shall not be redeemed prior to the 1st January, 1931, but reserving to themselves the right to redeem it in whole or in part, at any time on or after that date.

Both Capital and Interest, which will be exempt from all French taxes, present or future, will be a charge upon the general revenues of the Government of the French Republic.

French Government Sterling Treasury Bills, due 15th January, 1917, may be tendered in lieu of cash where payment in full for an allotment of this issue is made at the time of application. For the purpose of such payments the Bills will be accepted at the rate of £99 3s 7d cash for each £100 nominal of Bills surrendered, being the equivalent of par less interest at 5% from the 16th November, 1916 (the date from which interest accrues in respect of the new issue), to the 15th

January, 1917. A declaration, which is embodied in the Form of Application, will be required in the case of Treasury Bills so tendered, to the effect that they have not been in enemy ownership and have remained in physical possession in the United Kingdom since the date of their issue.

In any case in which the sterling equivalent of Treasury Bills tendered does not represent the exact amount required to secure an allotment which is a multiple of Fcs. 100 nominal capital, the additional sum necessary to secure such an allotment must be provided in cash.

In case of default in the payment of any instalment by its proper date, the deposit and any instalments previously paid will be liable for forfeiture.

A commission at the rate of two pence per Fcs. 100 nominal capital will be allowed to Bankers and to Members of the London and Provincial Stock Exchanges on allotments in respect of applications made on forms bearing their stamp, whether payment in respect of such applications be made in Cash or Treasury Bills.

Application will be made in due course for the admission to a Quotation on the London and Dublin Stock Exchanges of Bonds of the “LONDON AND DUBLIN ISSUE.” Such Bonds will not be negotiable in France until after the conclusion of Peace.

The necessary Forms of Application, viz. :—

1. For Subscriptions by Single Payment, whether in Cash, Treasury Bills, or both,
2. For Cash Subscriptions payable in Instalments, may be obtained at the Bank of England, London, E.C., at the Bank of Ireland, Dublin, and at any of the Branches of those Banks; of Messrs Mullens, Marshall & Co., 13 George street, Mansion House, E.C.; at any Stock Exchange in the United Kingdom; and at offices in the United Kingdom of the following Banks :—

Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris.
Crédit Industriel et Commercial.
Crédit Lyonnais.
Société Générale.

The List of Applications will be closed on, or before, Friday, the 27th day of October, 1916.

4th October, 1916.

The Investors' Review

FOUNDED BY A. J. WILSON, FEBRUARY, 1892.

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NEW SERIES.

[Registered as a
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[Price 6d.]

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THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.

(Registered in Japan.)

ESTABLISHED 1880.

Subscribed Capital	Yen 48,000,000
Capital Paid Up	Yen 30,000,000
Reserve Fund	Yen 20,800,000

Head Office: YOKOHAMA.

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Bombay.	Honolulu.	Newchang.	Singapore.
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Changchun.	Kobe.	Osaka.	Tientsin.
Dairen (Daijny).	Liaoyang.	Peking.	Tokyo.
Fengtien (Mukden).	Los Angeles.	Ryojun (Port Arthur).	Tsinanfu.
Hankow.	Lyons.	San Francisco.	Tsingtau.

The Bank buys and receives for collection Bills of Exchange, issues Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit on above places and elsewhere, and transacts General Banking Business.

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London Office: 7, BISHOPSGATE, E.C.

K. TATSUMI, Manager.

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LTD.

Head Office: 15, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.

Capital Authorised	... ..	£1,500,000
Capital Issued	... ..	1,125,000
Capital Paid Up	... ..	562,500
Reserve Fund	... ..	550,000

Branches:

INDIA, BURMAH, CEYLON, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS
CHINA, AND PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS.

The Bank buys and sells Bills of Exchange, issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, and transacts banking and agency business in connection with the East, on terms to be had on application.

DEPOSITS received for one year at 5 per cent. per annum. Rates for other periods on application.

On current accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on daily balances.

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Undivided Profits, \$1,321,193.

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UNCALLED CAPITAL	£4,645,575
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INCORPORATED by ROYAL CHARTER 1840.

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Subscribed Capital	£1,276,747	10 0
Paid up Capital	669,665	0 0
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits ..	354,791	5 3
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	606,962	10 0

REMITTANCES made by CABLE.

DRAFTS, LETTERS OF CREDIT and CIRCULAR NOTES issued upon Branches and Agents.

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LIMITED.

INCORPORATED 1880.

Authorised and Issued Capital, £6,000,000.

Paid-up Capital, £2,000,000; Reserve Fund, £1,960,000; together £3,960,000

Reserve Liability of Proprietors 4,000,000

Total Capital and Reserves £7,960,000

HEAD OFFICE - - - - - 71, CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.

DRAFTS are granted on the Bank's Branches throughout the Australian States and Dominion of New Zealand.

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DEPOSITS are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application.

BANKS.

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ESTABLISHED 1862.

Authorised Capital	£4,000,000
Paid-up Capital	1,800,000
Reserve Fund	2,000,000

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Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange,

Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London.

The Investors' Review.

Vol. XXXVII.

(January to June, 1916.) Price 15/6 (by Post 9d. extra).

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Vol. XXXVIII.—No. 980. SATURDAY, OCT. 14, 1916.
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One Reply to One Question — One Shilling. Any number of questions may be put and will be answered at the rate of **One Shilling** each. The questions should be numbered and a copy kept, as securities cannot be named with comments in the printed replies. Questions to be answered in the current issue should reach us not later than Friday morning.

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Passing Events.

Only £8,028,000 came into the Treasury last week from taxation and the State monopolies, and the total ordinary expenditure amounted to £34,118,000, of which £28,150,000 was the quota absorbed by the supply services, by the Army and Navy. This is £10,500,000 less than that of the previous week, but the total expenditure, including £5,470,000 paid as interest on the old and new debt and other charges, which amounted in all to £34,118,000, was still £4,874,000 per diem. Beyond the charges of the week £40,145,000 of temporary advances had to be repaid, so that altogether the Government had to raise £74,223,000. As a help to this the new 6 per cent. Exchequer bonds proved most valuable, for £20,621,000 was received through their sale, the highest debt contribution in this kind of any one week, so that the amount raised on Treasury bills was only £39,777,000 nett. In actual fact the outstanding total of Treasury bills was brought down by £1,065,000 to £1,040,423,000, and the Exchequer balances were further impinged upon to the extent of barely £90,000, making the total at Saturday last £26,558,000. A year ago it was £22,590,000, and these contrasts are surely a ground of satisfaction to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Treasury officials. They may not have displayed the perfection of wisdom in their management of the country's finances during the war, but they have done well, better than we expected, almost as well as France, which is saying much.

The ever fickle City, however, is very displeased at present with Mr. Reginald McKenna over this 6 per cent. Exchequer bond of his. All manner of accusations are hurled against him, and, of course, he is prominently blamed for having sprung a surprise upon the credit jobbers in Lombard Street, Princes Street, and Lothbury without consulting them beforehand. Probably he had little or no choice, and out of evil, if it is evil, good may come. The dwindling sales of 5 per cent. Exchequer bonds, and only £1,319,000 came in from them in the week ended September 30—the £391,000 which came in last week being of no moment as indicating tendency, but simply the product of "shaking the bag," so to say—warned him that a higher rate of

interest would have to be paid. As a consequence it is probable that the older forms of debts bearing lower rates of interest will have to be paid off as soon as possible by help of the new 6 per cent. bond, unless it should become possible to issue a large consolidation loan after the French and German fashions—perhaps at a lower rate of interest—for although we may mock at German fatuity in juggling with credit figures, it would be as foolish to deny the assiduity with which they juggle as to refuse credit to their soldiers for their boar-tenacity in fighting or to their leaders for cunning strokes in the management of their campaigns. All the same there are too many forms of debt kicking about the market. Treasury bills are all very well, and they have been of inestimable value in enabling the Government to finance the war. Short term Exchequer bonds are also excellent provided they can be sold in sufficient amount at reasonable prices, but these Expenditure certificates and Saving certificates have proved rather a drag, and continue to give an altogether deceptive idea of the capacity of the nation to find the means to carry on the fight. The more the mode of borrowing can be simplified the easier should it be to create credit, but we need not repeat what we have said again and again on that point. What we hope is that the multiplicity of debt forms may never go far enough to throw the whole financing of the war into confusion.

Lord Robert Cecil, in an interview published in New York, gave expression to some very plain home truths, which the Swedish Government, with its thinly veiled pro-German sympathies, would do well to assimilate. Probably Sweden considers that its attitude towards the Allies is governed by its own best interests, but at this stage of the conflict that is surely a very short-sighted view. We are fighting in this war to vindicate the rights of all nations, and especially the smaller ones, to develop themselves unhindered by the menace of military aggression. We ask no favours from neutrals in carrying through the task we have set ourselves, but we do ask that they should not hamper our belligerent rights by rendering our blockade of Germany ineffective. The Swedish Prime Minister recently associated himself with the American protest against the Black List, but, as Lord Robert points out, he omitted any reference to the Washington protests

against the submarine atrocities, which are certainly a far graver matter for neutrals. As for the Black List, it is merely an attempt to prevent British subjects from trading with enemy firms, and that Sweden or any other neutral should object to our taking such an obvious precaution is preposterous. For the British Government to use every means to prevent its own subjects from helping the enemy, wittingly or otherwise, violates no rule of law, equity, or morals, and any sound argument against this policy is inconceivable. With regard to the measures taken against trade with Germany through Sweden, the Allies are determined to use their naval forces for the purpose of preventing the import of goods to enemy countries, and no one can complain of that. Most people think that we have been far too lenient to neutral traders, who are bound to suffer some loss and inconvenience through the restrictions necessitated by a world-wide war. At the same time, we have been most anxious to facilitate as far as possible the import into neutral countries, including Sweden, of all goods needed for their home requirements, provided that proper guarantees are given that the goods will not in any form be re-exported to the enemy. It follows that the unrestricted import of goods which would release home products of a similar nature for export to the enemy cannot be tolerated by us. The guarantees against re-exportation which his Majesty's Government ask for to safeguard their interests are therefore:—(1) That the quantities imported should be restricted to the known requirements of Swedish home consumption; (2) that there should be a prohibition of export of such goods, which is not rendered ineffective by the grant of licences; (3) that the importer shall afford effectual guarantees against re-export in any form. How these objects can best be attained, with the least inconvenience to Sweden, is, of course, a difficult problem, but we have shown every disposition to reach a satisfactory agreement, and if we have failed, the fault does not lie at our door. No doubt it would be very nice and profitable for Swedish traders to have unrestricted liberty to furnish Germany with foreign supplies while the British Navy looks helplessly on, but, unfortunately, we cannot oblige them to that extent, and the sooner the Swedish Government recognises that fact the better it will be for the ultimate future of the country. Probably the best plan would be the formation of a Central Association to regulate importations on the lines of the Netherlands Trust; but Sweden can have any other method preferred so long as it is effective in attaining the object desired. But the petulant attitude hitherto adopted is certainly not designed to reach an amicable agreement.

A vindication of Lord Haldane as a patriot and far-seeing statesman and first-class administrator is not needed by the majority of his countrymen, for nowhere in the ranks of these countrymen has the indignation at the treatment meted out to him by our baser kind of Press been hotter than in the ranks of his political opponents. Nevertheless the inchoate multitude should be instructed, for much depends on it; and in his book just issued by Messrs. Methuen, entitled "The Vindication of Great Britain," Mr. Harold Begbie has provided in full measure the means of instruction. It is a book in many respects the best on certain aspects of the war and on the nature of the peace that must be secured which we have yet seen in the English language, and we have seen most. There is fire in it, earnestness of conviction, and a fulness of knowledge which, together with the admirably clear style in which it is written, should give it wide acceptance and great influence for good. Many aspects of the great dispute besides the doings and opinions of Lord Haldane are handled within its 300 pages, but the Haldane portion is the most important of all, not only because that great patriot statesman has been ill-used, but because his exculpation gives Mr. Begbie the opportunity to make clear the place and deeds of our Army—Haldane's army—in the war. He has had access to special information in compiling this part of the book, and the

result of his labours is not merely the giving to his countrymen a complete vindication of our great War Minister's conduct, but a most luminous history of the efforts made by Lord Haldane in Berlin and at home to prevent the outbreak of hostilities. In dealing with this subject Mr. Begbie has many a dig at Mr. Oliver's ephemerally popular book called "The Ordeal of Battle," and the points he makes against that controversialist are not the least valuable of his contributions to the elucidation of an obscured episode in current history. We tried, by-the-by, to read Mr. Oliver's book when it was all the rage amongst the multitude of the ignorant and found it impossible, so charged was it with ignorance, with violent prejudice, and with a bitterness of misrepresentation which deprived it of all value. With Mr. Begbie's book it is quite otherwise. It is a wise and most valuable book, thoroughly readable, and we hope it will have at least as great a vogue as that unworthy and misleading volume to which it may be said, in a sense, to be the antidote. Many will disagree, some will resent, its opinions and judgements on certain questions, and the author's gentleness with Germany, for example, may excite disapproval, though most sane—but all who read must benefit by its frankness, its transparent honesty, and the care with which every assertion is brought to the test of proof.

What may we reasonably take to be the Ulster party's motive for the sudden development of zeal for conscription in Ireland, with which we are now afflicted? It cannot be patriotism, for if the irreconcilables of Ulster had been patriots in a true sense they would have done all in their power long ago to smooth away the difficulties and differences between themselves and the immense majority of the people of Ireland whom they hope to continue to keep in subjection, or among whom they must continue to live, so that the law, as passed by Parliament, might be allowed to take effect. Instead of that the said irreconcilable, and we fear it must be added selfish, bigots of Ulster did their utmost, even to toying and trading with the kingdom's enemy, to prepare for rebellion, and professed themselves eager to deluge Ireland in blood once more for faction's sake rather than obey the law. They have been successful thus far in hanging up the Home Rule Act, and evidently beguiled by the flabbiness of Ministers their hope now is that by seizing every chance the incidents and exigencies of the hour may give them, they can continue not only to debar Ireland from the enjoyment of self-government, but also manage by a side wind even, perhaps, to save the hereditary House of Lords from extinction. "Let us worry the Government to take the unconstitutional step of forcing conscription upon Ireland in defiance of Irish rights, and we may manage to throw the whole of the emancipatory legislation of recent years again into the melting pot, thus saving the *Junker* landlords of Ulster from being forced to obey a Home Rule Parliament." That this would be conduct entirely opposed to the conceptions of freedom which these people may profess; that it derides the mission of "liberators" the Allies have taken up before the world; that it may, as Mr. Redmond plainly indicated, renew the cleavages and factionism which have so long held Ireland in chains, and, because insuring misery there, generate revolutionary ideas among what are called the "lower orders" of England and Scotland—all that is as nothing beside a class triumph and the wrecking of measures sealed by the authority of Parliament. Those who to-day bawl or wheedle for conscription to be forthwith applied to Ireland are not doing their level and disinterested best to help us to win the war.

A further purchase of £320,000 Japanese Government 4½ per cent. bonds of the first series and £180,000 of the second series, or £500,000 in all, for sinking fund purposes is announced by the Yokohama Specie Bank. This brings the amount redeemed since the beginning of the Japanese financial year on April 1 up

to £2,000,000, and the total purchases since the outbreak of war up to £5,271,520, of which £2,629,500 was in the first and £2,642,020 in the second series. By the steady redemption of debt the Japanese Government has rendered this country good and timely service, and apparently it is prepared to do still more in this direction. Provision was made in the Budget for the repayment of yet another £1,000,000 during the current year, and it is understood that an additional £2,000,000 will be purchased out of the internal loan for which powers have been taken.

May we hope that the enemies of Mr. Charles Birch Crisp will not display too great joy at the fate which has overtaken his British Bank for Foreign Trade, Ltd.? When it was originally started, under the name of the Anglo-Russian Bank, Ltd., jealous people in the City hastened to point out to all concerned or not concerned that Mr. Crisp was a mere upstart, who had little or no solid backing, and all the rest of it. The bank, however, would seem to have made some headway with the purely financial side of business, and but for the war it might have come to something. Unfortunately, it was unwise enough to put most of its money into Russian Commercial and Industrial Bank shares, which it held to the value of £1,230,000. But it has had to sell 30,000 of these shares at a loss of upwards of £250,000. It also has incurred losses in other directions through the shrinking in value of its investments, and the board now comes forward with a proposal that the £5 fully-paid share should be reduced by 30s. to £3 10s. That means £360,000 written off as loss, and we suppose shareholders will have no choice but to assent to the proposal and pass the necessary resolution. We do not, however, see where their consolation is to be found if they agree, for the provisional balance-sheet sent out along with the circular, in order to illustrate what the position of the bank will be after this loss has been duly placed and written off, differs so considerably from the balance-sheet dated April 30 last as to make us hesitate to regard the business as a substantial one. We have already mentioned the value of the Russian Commercial and Industrial Bank shares as shown in the annual balance-sheet, and in the new one "Russian Bank shares at cost" are entered at £71,071. Loans to customers, including Stock Exchange loans under the Treasury minute, which at April 30 showed a total of £696,868, or £166,839 more than the year before, are entered in the later trial or reformed balance-sheet, as we may call it, at £411,253, and Russian Government guaranteed bonds and other securities, which appeared entered at cost in the April exhibit at £1,095,835, are down to £762,874 in the later essay. Both balance-sheets show the advances by the Bank of England and the liability on acceptances at the same figure, viz., one at £58,668 and the other at £10,007, but current, deposit and other current liabilities have shrunk from £1,828,036 to £596,959, and a reserve fund of £25,000 has wholly disappeared. What do these changes and cuttings really imply? "There is a class of business," says the circular, "in which the joint-stock and clearing bankers do not seek to engage directly. Such business, however, must be undertaken by institutions such as this bank if British enterprise is to keep pace with that of other nations." Is that so? Has Mr. Birch Crisp's creation any good business of that description to show on which to base a hope that there are better times in store? Will not the proposed new Traders' Bank completely embrace its territory?

Although the Anglo-South American Bank has not got back to the 10 per cent. dividend basis it is making steady progress in that direction, and at the same time further entrenching an already strong position. For the year to June 30 the gross profits were £592,420, an increase of £50,000, but expenses took £24,000 more at £252,650, income-tax was nearly doubled at £53,670, and rebates absorbed an additional £11,000, with the result that the nett profit is £11,300 down at £257,898. However, £23,600 more was brought

forward, so that the available balance is £12,300 higher at £391,785. Out of this it is proposed to pay a final dividend of 5s. against 4s., raising the distribution for the year from 8 per cent. to 9 per cent., while the pension fund gets the usual £9,500, and £75,000 is again applied in writing down investments to actual value as at June 30. There is then a balance of £140,785, or £7,000 more, to be carried forward. Evidence of expanding business is furnished in the balance-sheet. Current and deposit accounts are up £1,100,000 at £9,076,300, and bills payable have increased £1,076,000 to £4,577,000, but acceptances have been reduced £625,000 to £836,200. Cash also is £110,000 lower at £2,184,600, and after writing off the £75,000 already mentioned investments stand at £1,840,000, or practically the same as a year ago. Bills receivable are £2,000,000 higher at £5,892,000, and advances are £400,000 up at £7,531,600. Most of these figures indicate a healthy revival in business, and the improved results have been helped by the fact that the rate of exchange has improved from 7½d. to 9½d. The reserve fund remains at £1,400,000 against the paid up capital of £2,250,000, and the bank has every appearance of impregnable strength.

Business reports from South America *via* the British Bank of South America's Monthly Circular, are encouraging. The exports of Brazil, for example, showed an increase of £564,000 in June, as compared with June, 1915, making the total £3,002,000, and the imports were £981,000 better at £3,546,000. For the whole six months, moreover, the excess value of exports over imports was no less than £6,977,000. If that figure could be maintained hopes for the solvency of Brazil would sensibly expand. Exports of rubber for the half-year rose £685,000 to £4,255,000, but that was entirely a matter of value, for the quantity exported was only 17,464 tons compared with 18,441 tons for the first half of 1915. In Argentina matters remain

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UNDERGROUND

THE TEMPLE, and MEMORIALS OF LONDON, Naval and Military

Two new illustrated Booklets on London, bearing the above titles, are now ready.

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much where they were with an easier Money market and fair trade prospects for the season about to begin. In the first six months of this year, however, exports were valued at only \$246,057,000 gold, which compares with \$330,486,000 gold for the first half of 1915. For the same section of 1914, however, the value of the exports was only \$213,734,000, so that although there is a drop of nearly \$84,500,000 compared with last year, the recoil does not bring the country back to the stagnation of 1914, and if shipping could be had in sufficient tonnage the figures might make a much finer display. The prospects for the wool clip are good, and although the country has endured some three to four months of drought, and pasture lands have suffered severely from want of rain, no great damage has so far been done to live stock. As for the past year's cereal crop, it is still being held up for higher prices, and large stocks of maize and wheat remain to be exported. Doubtless the Allies will bear that fact in mind, especially our new Commission that has taken charge of our food supplies with full powers.

Owing to the death of Mr. Martin Kennedy it has been necessary for the directors of the Bank of New Zealand to appoint a shareholders' representative to the board, and their choice has fallen on Mr. R. W. Kane. Mr. Kane was at one time manager of the Wellington branch, and has already held office as a director for one term, having been appointed by the Government two years ago, but was displaced in March last by Mr. D. J. Nathan. The present appointment is a temporary one for the period until there is an opportunity of making an election in the ordinary way, which in this case will be in June next. Mr. Kane can then offer himself to the shareholders as a candidate, and as his selection now appears to have given great satisfaction in business circles in New Zealand there is little doubt but that his appointment will be readily confirmed.

We have always taken an interest in the progress of the railways and tramways of New South Wales, partly because of the variety of useful statistics annually furnished by the Chief Commissioner. He has not signed the report for the year closed June 30 last, because ill-health has, we regret to say, kept him away from his office, but the report of his deputy, Mr. James Fraser, is adequate to fill the interregnum. It tells us that for the year closed with the date named, the railways show a deficit of £223,749, after meeting the interest on the capital invested, said interest being £2,569,000. On the tramways, however, there was a profit of £86,292 arrived at under the same conditions, so that on the entire property of the Government in these public works, the deficit for the year was only £137,457. This, however, compares with a surplus of £66,804 in the previous year, and it is plain from the report itself that deficits are more likely to prevail than surpluses in the near future. To be sure the past year was one of considerable strain, so much work having had to be done for nothing or at reduced charges. The railways, for example, had to carry free 62,570 tons of starving stock returning to their original pastures, and to carry at half ordinary rates troops and material connected with the Expeditionary Forces sent to help us in the war. Had these services been paid for in the ordinary way the gross revenue would have been increased by £170,000. Unhappily, this sum is tiny compared with the increase in the expenses which arises from the liberality displayed in dealing with the demands of the men for more wages. Gross receipts of the railways alone, for example, amounted last year to £8,006,078 and working expenses to £5,661,168, receipts showing an increase of £389,567, while the working expenses rose £350,006, thus absorbing nearly the whole of the increase in receipts. Expenses, in fact, came to 70.71 per cent. of the gross earnings, against 69.73 per cent. in the previous year and 53.03 per cent. in 1907. Of the increase in expenses, Mr. Fraser tells us that £129,401 was due to increases in wages caused by wages boards' awards that came into

operation since the year began. Another £72,982 represented increases arising from the result of earlier awards, so that altogether fully £200,000 out of £461,524, the addition to the costs of working the railways, was due to wages alone. Another £29,977 seems ascribable to increased pay, but it came from the full employment during the past year of men who worked less than full time in the year before.

Much the same story is told by the tramway accounts, which, however, yielded a profit. Altogether the two branches of the Government carrying trade showed an increase of £615,000 per annum in the working expenses account, out of which £513,593 represents the increase in wages. Thus "classification advances" show an increase of £118,819, "advances in pay and improved conditions under awards of the wages boards" one of £201,753; advances in pay due to Section 26 of the Industrial Act of 1912 one of £232,051 improved classifications for station masters and night officers one of £5,465, improved classifications for "juniors on the wages staff" one of £27,253, and promotions from lower to higher grades and other increases in pay approved by the Chief Commissioner an eke of £29,664. This statement is insisted upon here at some length because of the ominousness of the consequences. The higher wages are eating into the railway and tramway revenue, and beginning to threaten the security upon which the capital sunk in them rests. Last year, for instance, £3,242,318 of new capital was laid out on the railways alone, bringing up their total capital cost to £68,825,592, and there was no corresponding increase in nett revenue to comfort the State's creditors by. Much of the new money, moreover, appears to have been laid out in directions that do not look likely to prove directly or soon freely remunerative; but, apart from that, the steady increase in working expenses on both the railways and the tramways is something which will have to be tackled and, if possible, checked if unpleasant consequences are not to follow. The properties are good although costly, and ought to be capable of yielding steady revenues, that on the whole grow larger. It will, therefore, be a pity if the high earning power is all frittered away either by the action of wages boards cultivating the working men votes, or by the reductions in fares and freight charges granted to the general body of citizens, in view of coming bids for political power.

India, like most other countries, suffered considerably from the outbreak of the European war as the trade returns for the year 1914-15 clearly indicate. Total imports, including treasure, amounted to £111,159,000, a decrease of £45,340,000 as compared with 1913-14, and total exports were £124,977,000, a decrease of £45,750,000. There was consequently a loss of £91,000,000 in the seaborne trade, which may be directly attributed to the war. Imports from the British Empire declined £17,300,000 to £68,095,000, and those from foreign countries £13,000,000 to £23,858,000. On the other hand, exports of Indian merchandise to the British Empire only fell £5,300,000 to £55,985,000, while those to foreign countries were nearly £40,000,000 lower at £62,337,000. In 1913-14 Germany sent £8,444,000 worth of goods to India and Austria £2,860,000 worth, but these figures were reduced by £5,340,000 and £2,000,000 respectively in the following year. Exports to Germany amounted to £17,570,000 in 1913-14, and only to £6,785,000 in 1914-15, while those to Austria fell from £6,650,000 to £3,012,000. Of course, these figures of trade with enemy countries represent business before the war broke out, and it has since been entirely cut off, so that the returns for 1915-16, when they become available, are likely to show a further reduction, although no doubt there have been compensations in other directions, owing to the higher prices for the staple products of the country. India exported £30,094,000 worth of

grain in 1913-14, and only £19,366,000 in 1914-15, of oils £17,117,000, against £9,769,000, of raw textile materials £50,429,000, against £33,284,000, and of yarns and fabrics £27,147,000, against £22,700,000, but exports of tea increased from £9,983,000 to £10,352,000. It is not a particularly cheerful record, and we feel confident that our great dependency could cut a much better figure in the world's markets if its industries were properly organised, but that is one of the problems that will have to be seriously tackled when the war is out of the way, and for the present things must just be allowed to drift.

Our merchant shipbuilding trade is one of such vast importance that it is interesting to learn of an increasing activity in our building yards during the past quarter or so. Lloyd's register of merchant shipping at September 30 shows that 469 vessels of 1,789,054 tons were then under construction, or about 249,000 tons more than at the end of the previous quarter, and 253,000 tons more than a year ago. True, some of these ships are no further towards completion than they were at the beginning of the war, but the fact that during the past quarter work was started on 96 new vessels of a combined tonnage of 320,120 is in itself a satisfactory item, for these figures show an increase of 15 vessels and 126,864 tons as compared with the June quarter. Better still, the number of vessels completed and launched was 86, or exactly the same number as in the previous quarter, and with an increase of 37,738 tonnage. The June quarter showed an increase of 19 vessels and 76,368 tons compared with the previous three months, and though in peace time these would have been considered insignificant figures, at present, taking into account the enormous difficulties that owners and builders have had to face, such returns have a certain measure of comfort.

In the year ended March 31 the Assam Railways and Trading Co., Ltd., showed a satisfactory recovery in the working of the railway, which produced a nett revenue of £37,303, or £4,412 more. The general trading account also yielded better results, and although there was a small falling off in the income from dividends, the total from all sources was £5,285 up at £112,263. After providing for management commissions and other charges, the nett surplus was £4,241 larger at £53,226, and the "B" stock again gets a dividend of 5 per cent., £1,400 is written off new issue expenses, and £3,004 is carried forward, as against £2,960 brought in. During the year £16,877 was spent on railway capital account, but £32,894 was received, so that the credit balance is £16,018 up at £222,643. In addition to the outlay on the railway £16,654 was spent on the new tea garden, making the total cost £51,855. Stocks of coal, stores, and materials have been increased by £17,219 to £155,659, and cash consequently shows a reduction of £15,982 at £17,903.

Much the most interesting item in the report of the Ericsson Shipping Co., Ltd., Newcastle-on-Tyne, is the statement that the amount recovered for the loss of the *Monitoria* has been adjusted by increasing the paid up capital from £20,000 to £50,000, a step which the shareholders will doubtless confirm at the forthcoming meeting. Nett profits for the year to September 30 were £4,630 higher at £13,400, out of which it is proposed to set aside £2,500 for excess profits duty and an additional £1,500 for income-tax, but depreciation requires £1,500 less. The dividend is raised from 15 per cent. to 20 per cent., and the balance forward is £300 higher at £716. Investments have increased £33,700, and the cash in hand amounts to £21,000 against less than £2,000 a year ago. With regard to the new tonnage contracted for, the builders have been unable to proceed with the construction of the vessels owing to pressure of Government work, but they hope to make a start with the first boat shortly.

As the result of political pressure the Union Government of South Africa recently appointed a Commission

to examine the question of the feasibility of State mining. Mr. R. N. Kotze, the well-known mining engineer, has given evidence before the Commission and made some very pertinent remarks on the subject. Assuming State working were to be decided upon, the Rand would be, he said, the most suitable area for gold mining. Diamond mining would be better, for South Africa had practically a monopoly of it, but the diamond mines were in private hands, while the virgin gold areas of the Eastern Rand were already Government property to a large extent. The principal disadvantage of State mining, said Mr. Kotze, would be the possibility of financial loss, as it could not be assumed that the whole of the Eastern Rand areas would prove profitable. The State would be unable to make such large profits as individuals, and it was debatable whether it would pay salaries sufficient to command the highest technical talent. In support of this contention, Mr. Kotze instanced the absorption of German officials by private firms. He feared that State mines would deteriorate into training grounds and dumps for inefficient, with promotion based upon seniority and not merit. There were also dangers in the direction of political interference. The answer to this point is that if the State decided upon mining on its own account, the organisation would have to be responsible to Parliament, but patronage would have to be rigidly excluded. The Port of London Authority, which does its work very well, is a public institution, and the lines of its organisation might provide a good starting-point for laying the business foundations of a State mining enterprise. There is a great deal to be said both for and against the project, but the hazardous nature of gold mining renders it one of the less suitable objects of State enterprise.

A very depressing communication has been issued this week by the Nigel Gold Mining Co. The consulting engineer, Mr. Percy Cazalet, has made a report on the property, in which he states that the western section of the main block of mining ground is now practically exhausted, while the Rand Nigel prospects indicate that operations there should cease. Future prospects depend entirely upon success attending development of areas east of No. 3 shaft and the finding of further payable shoots in deep level claims in new ground. To develop thoroughly the areas east of No. 3 shaft £50,000 is required immediately. During the period of development, say twelve months, it would be advisable to close down the mill, and eventually further funds would be required to develop new ground. The local board at Johannesburg reports that it is impossible to raise the requisite funds in South Africa. If they cannot be raised here, the only alternative will be to cease development, to exhaust ore reserves, and then to close down. The prospects, while war lasts, are decidedly gloomy, unless a finance house cares to advance the money required.

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The Latest Vote of Credit.

No member of the House of Commons—nay, one may say no citizen of this country—could fail to have deep sympathy with the words spoken by Sir Edward Carson when he rose to follow the Prime Minister on Wednesday afternoon. He expressed the sincere sympathy and affection felt by all towards the Prime Minister amid the circumstances in which he had made his speech. Well might Mr. Asquith himself refer with deep feeling in the words we quote below, to the strain, the agony this war is causing among civilised nations. And that the Prime Minister should manfully and unflinchingly stand by his task while overborne with grief at the loss of his eldest son, is a spectacle which moves with sympathy every right-minded being, and which should put to shame and reduce to silence the mobs of his persecutors and, in the ranks of what is called "society," the multitude of his detractors, whose malodorous tittle-tattle has often sunk to depths of malignity the veriest "rough" in our slums could not hope to rival.

His task on Wednesday afternoon was to ask the House of Commons for another vote of credit to enable the Government to carry the war on until Christmas. Already in the current fiscal year, as he explained with his usual lucidity, votes of credit to the amount of £1,050,000,000 have been passed—viz., on February 21, £300,000,000; on May 23, £300,000,000; and on July 24, £450,000,000. The further amount of £300,000,000 now asked for will bring up the total raised in the current financial year to £1,350,000,000, and even that gigantic sum will leave the outlay of more than three months of the year still to be provided for. In 1914-15 three votes of credit, aggregating £362,000,000, were passed. In the full year, 1915-16, six votes of credit provided £1,420,000,000. Add to these sums the total votes, including the latest one, for the current financial year, making thirteen votes in all since the outbreak of the war, and it will have cost us £3,132,000,000 by next Christmas. If it goes on another year the total cost will probably surpass £5,000,000,000, and as our Allies are correspondingly drawn upon, the fate of the two Germanic Empires must inevitably be sealed for ever, because the Allies could not avoid taking steps to make their offending citizens pay the damages even if they would.

How has this money been spent? The Prime Minister entered into certain details showing that our own expenses have, on the whole, remained fairly equal in magnitude, at the high figure of £3,500,000 per day. In the 113 days between April 1 and July 22 we spent £559,000,000, of which £379,000,000 went to meet the costs of the Army, Navy, and Munitions Departments, and £157,000,000 was contributed in loans to the Allies and our Dominions, food supplies and other miscellaneous charges absorbing the remaining £23,000,000. From July 23 to October 7, to the end of last week that is, we have spent a further £390,500,000; that is to say, this amount of money disappeared in 77 days, and £284,500,000 of it was absorbed by the Army, Navy, and munitions, another £96,000,000 by loans to the Allies and Dominions, and £10,000,000 by food supplies, railways, &c. Enough of the last vote remains to carry us on to the 27th inst., and altogether then, in the current year up to the end of last week, our total expenditure on the war has been £949,500,000—viz., £663,500,000 on the Army and Navy and munitions, £253,000,000 in loans to Allies and Dominions, and £33,000,000 in food supplies, &c. These credits show that the Army, Navy, and munitions are now costing us approximately £3,600,000 a day, that including £220,000 a day, our normal peace expenditure; also that the help given to the Allies—a help given absolutely without profit of any kind to us of the United Kingdom—has been greater than Mr. McKenna anticipated. It has amounted already to £253,000,000, leaving only £197,000,000 for the rest of the fiscal year to bring the aggregate up to his estimate of £450,000,000 for the entire year. But we cannot avoid giving this help,

would not do so if we could, because by enabling our Allies and outlying Dominions to purchase all that is necessary to them for the prosecution of the war we are enabling them to help us all towards victory. And it is not to be a sham victory this time. Once more Mr. Asquith gives the nation this assurance, and his words are so emphatic that we must preserve them here:—

The strain which the war imposes on ourselves and our Allies, the hardships which we freely admit it involves to some of those who are not directly concerned in the struggle, the upheaval of trade, the devastation of territory, the loss of irreplaceable lives; this long and sombre procession of cruelty and suffering, lighted up as it is by deathless examples of heroism and chivalry, cannot be allowed to end in some patched-up, precarious, dishonouring compromise, masquerading under the name of peace. No one desires to prolong for a single unnecessary day the tragic spectacle of bloodshed and destruction, but we owe it to those who have given their lives for us in the flower of their youth, in the hope and promise of the future, that their supreme sacrifice shall not be in vain. The ends of the Allies are well known; they have been frequently and precisely stated. They are not selfish ends, they are not vindictive ends, but they require that there should be adequate reparation for the past, and adequate security for the future. On their achievement we in this country honestly believe depends the best hopes of humanity. For them we have given—we are giving—what we can least afford to give—without stint, without regret, not only as the price by which the world will purchase and surely hold in the years to come protection for the weak, supremacy of right over force, free development under equal conditions, and each in accordance with its own genius, of all the States, great or small, which build up the family of civilised mankind.

The Government as Universal Wheat Merchant.

Is not the time about come for the Protectionists in this country to revise a little their attitude towards the future of trade? No sooner has Parliament re-assembled than they begin to bicker around the administration with questions as to what is going to be done to carry out the recommendations of the Paris Conference. "Will any legislation be introduced to prevent, in the event of peace, the dumping of German goods?" Sir Edward Carson asked, and no doubt he is a profound expert upon the influences and laws governing the course of trade. At any rate he is an expert advocate, most useful to empire-splitters of all types. But surely the announcement Mr. Runciman made that same afternoon to the effect that the Government has been forced to take entire control of our wheat supply might give the Protectionist faction something other than mere "pocket" to think about. Suppose the Government is driven further along that line of action, what will be the position of the traders and manufacturers who now hunt after profit as the hound after the hare? Sugar has been taken control of by the Government to the interception of many "profits" we imagine, and now the supply of wheat is to be its exclusive affair. Why not also the supply of commodities used in our iron and steel manufactures? What is to hinder a joint Commission composed of able men drawn from each of the nations now allied in the stupendous labour of destroying the Teutonic monster from being set up to take control of the entire supplies of goods that Germany hitherto "dumped," as it is called, on this and other countries at prices dismaying to our "profiteers," as the new slang has it?

Supposing the private traders are pushed aside altogether by our agony of endeavour. What then? Is there anything particularly impossible, for example, in an organisation of special bodies who would take charge of all contracts in all kinds of businesses, and govern the men by whom they are executed without the intermediary of, say, gentlemen like Sir John Jackson? Readers, we daresay, sometimes think we go too far when we talk of "rationing the rich," but we do not; we merely adumbrate the not improbable. The rich may be even worse treated than that should our necessities compel the Government to take into its hands one industry or one raw material, and one article of food after another, in order to protect the great multitude of the wage-earners, of the poor of all degrees, from being squeezed to death by the intermediaries intent on

making unusual profits. The power to carry the war to a successful issue might itself be threatened with destruction were not liberty in this direction more and more circumscribed.

The fresh step announced by Mr. Runciman on Tuesday afternoon involves, it will be noticed, the control of shipping freights as well as of supplies of grain. He has had to arrange not only for the purchase of the Australian crop, or of all that is exportable of it, at a cost, it is alleged, of some £4,000,000, but for its conveyance to this country. Steps have now been taken, he said, to provide all the tonnage required for the conveyance of the wheat, and he added that tonnage for the carriage of wheat across the Atlantic has been provided for nearly a year past "with excellent results." What is to hinder this system from undergoing extension so that our iron ore from Scandinavia or Spain, our fruits from all the ends of the earth, but especially from the south of Europe and Africa, may be brought to the consumer without his being compelled to pay the profits of two, three, or more intermediaries, plus such freight charges as the opportunity afforded by the nation's agony enables the shipper to exact? Where would the tariff throttlers stand then?

And talking of shipping, there is unquestionably, as we have admitted and must always admit, great, nay, a genuine economic, excuse for a portion of the increased charges the war has enabled shipowners to levy. Their cause was well and reasonably put the other day by Sir William Tatem, of Cardiff, in his address to the shareholders at the meeting of his shipping company. He pointed out, quoting *Fairplay*, that shipping profits have fluctuated enormously; that for eight years, from 1904 to 1911, the average annual dividend earned by certain companies was 3½ per cent.; and that, to enable them to pay those dividends, the average amount written off for depreciation was "a bare 2 per cent." No doubt matters improved after the later date given, but for the whole period of eleven years the average dividend distribution was a little over 5 per cent., after "a totally inadequate amount had been provided for depreciation." It is reasoned from this, naturally enough and reasonably enough, that when a chance comes the neglected depreciation should be fully provided for and compensation dividends distributed to the long-suffering shareholders out of the larger earnings procurable. Only within a limited range, however, does that logic prevail, and before we can pass judgment upon the exact righteousness of any such proceeding, we ought to know how far the capital of the shipping companies had been inflated, and also to what extent the neglect of full provision for depreciation in lean years weakened the capacity of the ships to earn more money on low freights in the years that were fat. Above all, the influence of "rings" or "conferences" would have to be elucidated. The Tatem Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., paid 20 per cent. for the past year; that is to say, 15 per cent. dividend tax free, which was equivalent to 20 per cent. gross, and, compared with what some other shipping companies have done, it looks a moderate enough profit; but, after all, that is not the essential question of the time. Rather is it, what view will the multitudes of the consumers take of such unusual, and in ordinary circumstances un hoped for, manifestations of prosperity? They are the ultimate determining force, and it is to their voice that the Government must give ear. Now, if the Protectionists imagine that they are going to hustle this Government, or the Government of any of the Allies, into a trade policy which, by completely blockading German trade, will give them a monopoly in the rest of the world, they are committing a greater mistake than their deceased leader, Joseph Chamberlain, did when, in order to cover up the tracks of his disastrous South African policy of bloodshed, he jumped out of the Free Trade camp and became a "raging, tearing" Protectionist. Protectionism is only too likely to be countered by State-guided collectivism, and it is by no means an impossibility that the free peoples of Europe may become bound together in a harmony of business intercourse

which will drive the *accapareur*, the usurer, and the "profiteer" of all types and sizes out of existence. In our present circumstances, we may be sure the Government cannot stop short at sugar and wheat; neither can the Government of France stand aloof from intervention to mitigate the sufferings of the non-combatant.

War's Wealth Consumption and Its Fruits.

Probably we should be quite justified in accepting the view of the great neutral banker who told M. Edmond Théry, the eminent French economist, that the German War Loan had been "a complete fiasco," for it could substantially be nothing else. The conversion of municipal debts into German War Loan scrip gave the Kaiser's Government no new money with which to carry on the war, still less effectually any help in paying debts already incurred. In another sense, however, the loan is real enough, for it will add between £28,000,000 and £30,000,000 sterling to the annual load the German peoples will have to shoulder when the war is over, and if altogether the war debts of the German Empire have added £4,000,000,000 to the already irksome load the workers of the empire had to carry, then the additional taxation necessary to pay 5 per cent. on that debt is at least £200,000,000 per annum now. To meet this charge no provision has been or can be made. The Prussian tyrant can send his slaves to be killed in millions, but he cannot wring out of them the means to pay his debts.

And the end of the war is not in sight, for a Berlin correspondent of the *Cologne Volkszeitung* says that during the present session of the Reichstag another war credit of £600,000,000 will be asked for. And even that will not embrace all the war costs already incurred. At such speed has the wealth of Germany been devoured and the resources of the future mortgaged. Were the war to close next week and Germany simply to retire within her boundaries as fixed by the Treaty of Frankfurt and to be left alone there, her war obligations, coupled with the loss of life the fighting has caused, would remove the entire country for generations from the number of progressive States. Left alone, shut in upon their ruined industries, their wealth-bereft social condition, not all the plodding assiduity of her docile people could save her from obliteration as a "Power" of any kind in Europe.

But is not the same thing happening all round? Are we not all of us being brought to poverty by this war? Undoubtedly. We ourselves cannot hope to get off at the end of it with a smaller addition to our annual charges from debt incurred alone than £200,000,000 per annum, and it may very well come to be more, if the war should continue beyond another year. For France also the additional debt obligations cannot be much

THE LONDON CITY & MIDLAND BANK

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smaller than our own, and for Russia, in spite of the cheapness of her armies in some respects, the mortgage on the country's labour and assets will be probably almost as great. Italy also will have a trying prospect, and now we have Rumania swept into the maelstrom which swirls all the allied nations downwards into the vortex of insolvency. The war may add a charge of £750,000,000 to £800,000,000 per annum—temporarily at least, and until the debts get adjusted and consolidated—to the amount Europe, outside the doomed robber empires, will have to provide in taxation to prevent dishonour. As yet none of the nations realises this, and hitherto the Allies have stood the strain of the capital expenditure in a fashion from many points of view worthy of all admiration. But they cannot continue indefinitely to endure this enormous drain of their resources, and if the war should continue into another year, the determining cause of ultimate victory may come to lie less in the fighting power of the belligerents than in their capacity to exist as coherent political entities. We are all living upon credit, and credit is a wonderful instrument when thoughtfully employed under proper restraint. It is like steam, which has been one of the most valuable agents in setting man free from the slavery of manual labour ever utilised, but to be useful steam has to be controlled and its force directed to useful purposes. Super-heated beyond the containing strength of the boiler, and it explodes and devastates. So with credit. Over-inflate it, expand it until its pressure exceeds the resisting power of the case in which it is shut up—the nation upon whose producing capacity it rests—and it explodes, collapses, bringing ruin, or, in the case of nations and empires, it may be the extinction of civilisations, the degradation of whole races of men as product of its mishandling. We are progressing all of us towards this excessive distension of the credit force, and there is no room left for mockery of Germany in her despicable condition, but rather for earnest solicitude lest we too should go down to ruin along with these corrupt empires whose existence has cursed mankind for so many years, nay—in the case of Austria, for so many centuries. We, the Allies, must labour without ceasing to avoid even the beginnings of any such catastrophe.

It is reflections of this type which move us sometimes to sharp warning, sometimes to bitter mockery, and always they create a certain dread, for we are a heedless people in the United Kingdom, and no country amongst all who claim to rank amongst the civilised has shown in the past greater recklessness in dealing with credit, or greater indifference to the consequences of its misuse. You see the *nonchalance* in our recruiting policy, in the calling up of hundreds of thousands of married men either to join the fighting ranks or the important supply services behind, without regard to the extra burden their wives and families cast upon the country's means, and it is visible also, most sinisterly visible, in the readiness of traders, manufacturers, contractors—furnishers of all kinds—to seize the opportunity of the country's extremity in order to rake in excessive profits. Every additional percentage pocketed by the merchant or contractor who supplies the Army with goods or with labour and skill, adds something to the crushing load which will weigh down posterity and, it may be, cripple the nation's energies for many a day to come; but nobody ever seems to think about that. Your spender, your official dispenser of orders, thinks of credit as if it were cash always. The individualism, the egotistical pursuit of gain, which has warped the progress of our civilisation throughout, continues to act with unrestrained eagerness in the conduct of the war, with the result that it is probably costing us at least 20 per cent. more than it should do on the profit-swelling count alone; while the inexperience, absence of business capacity, multiplication of authorities, and consequent inefficiency of real control in the domain of officialdom may very likely account for another 20 to 25 per cent. addition to our burdens. Only when the war is over will we begin to see what a heedless people we have been.

When we look at this side of the momentous struggle,

we are sometimes disposed to despair of any other end than chaos and the solution of continuity in our civilisation. There is, however, the other side of the shield, where consolation of more than one kind may be discerned. The enormous debts the war is creating in every one of the States now forming the union of the *Entente* will impel them all to adopt a policy of mutual forbearance and assistance which they might not all have been ready to accept had the war been over soon and the victory easy. If the nations are now to pay their way after the supreme ordeal has ended, then, leaving aside what may be drawn from the peoples of the destroyed Empires, they must abandon militarism for good and all, and in doing that they must perforce cease to indulge, as great Powers or otherwise, in those rival ambitions which would nurture future wars. Look, for example, at the Near East. What has been the history of the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus, not for one century or two, but for thousands of years? They have been a source of covetousness and bone of contention between races and hordes from time immemorial. Are they to be so still when this war is over? Possibly they might be, but that the Allies will be so exhausted in men and in means by the struggle as to be thankfully ready to abandon dreams of world hegemony, and to liberate all the nationalities interested in the free waterway between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean, so that all should have a voice in the policy that controlled the Straits. A congeries of free communities formed out of the central Empires to be destroyed, and with France, Russia, Great Britain, and Italy as guardians of European liberty, all thoughts of conquest abandoned, that is the ideal towards which we must advance. Thanks to the financial impotence, or cripplement, which is threatening us all in the not distant future, the races suppressed, tyrannised over, plundered, and kept in sottish ignorance by the Habsburg and Hohenzollern despotisms for their own base ends, will be set at liberty by these great Powers of the *Entente*, and allowed to grow up to manhood free henceforth to follow their own bent in all pacific and well-being-spreading directions. Contemplated from this side, the waste of war may become almost consoling; but none the less is it something well calculated to dismay those who cast their eyes beyond the sinister arena of bloodshed and try to fathom what mysteries may lie beyond the smoke of battle. It is a new and unexplored world towards which we are journeying in the dark. Well-worn conceptions of public policy and private relationships may have to be cast aside like used-up garments, and a new philosophy of life and civilisation be constructed out of that comradeship in poverty as in the battlefield, with which this conflict and its consequences are making us familiar.

Our Foreign Trade.

Although the Board of Trade returns for September are not quite up to the figures of the previous month, they present a record of industrial activity which is quite amazing in the circumstances. Comparisons with last year are really more favourable than the subjoined table indicates, because many factories closed for two or three days to compensate for the postponed Bank holidays, although the cessation of work was not so general as it would have been under normal conditions:—

	September, 1916.	Compared with 1915.	Compared with 1914.
Imports	77,488,368	+ 7,202,130	+ 32,481,760
Exports	43,477,677	+ 11,169,245	+ 16,803,576
Re-exports	7,120,570	— 443,756	+ 1,846,530
NINE MONTHS.			
Imports	704,044,617	+ 60,232,280	+ 181,570,270
Exports	379,328,938	+ 96,237,250	+ 28,580,575
Re-exports	76,875,080	+ 1,255,190	+ 78,870

Bullion and specie figures for the quarter will be given in next month's returns. There must inevitably be some anxiety about the continued growth in imports, but it is highly satisfactory to note that the visible

balance of trade, so far as it can be judged, is steadily becoming more favourable, and if we are paying dearly for our purchases we are also selling at highly remunerative prices, and other industries, outside war supplies, are evidently prospering. Last month's imports of food and drink showed a nett increase of £3,702,720, although there was a decrease of £1,320,640 in dutiable commodities, principally sugar, tea, and cocoa. Raw materials were £5,831,700 higher, to which cotton contributed £2,586,260, oil seeds, &c., £1,463,500, and iron £467,240, while there was a decrease of £674,000 in wood and timber. Manufactured articles showed a decrease of £2,245,000, over half of which is accounted for by metals and metal manufactures. Motor-cars, &c., dropped £687,000, silk £322,000, and machinery £215,000, but there was an increase of £447,000 in chemicals and dyes. Exports of food and drink were up £492,000, and of raw materials, principally coal, £1,027,000. Manufactured articles showed the large increase of £9,902,000, to which iron and steel contributed £1,095,000, cotton £3,582,000, wool £1,435,000, and chemicals, &c., £545,000, but there is a gain under practically every heading. For the nine months imports of food and drink show an increase of £22,433,000, raw materials an increase of £26,434,000, and manufactured articles an increase of £11,356,000. Exports of coal have advanced £8,857,000, of iron and steel £16,116,000, of cotton £22,560,000, and of wool £10,800,000.

Considerable interest attaches to the direction of our foreign trade under present circumstances, and perhaps the best general idea of it can be obtained from the returns of outward shipping, of which the following table gives the principal figures:—

Tonnage Cleared to	Sept., 1916.	9 Months 1916.	9 Months 1914.
Russia (Northern Ports)	57,030	196,700	1,738,700
Sweden	75,970	763,920	1,763,780
Norway	145,600	1,390,650	1,334,550
Denmark	107,600	1,128,000	1,491,000
Germany	—	—	3,317,500
Netherlands	100,220	989,000	2,480,000
France	889,350	8,252,400	6,313,000
Spain and Portugal	175,000	1,523,400	2,015,000
Italy	308,290	2,605,100	3,188,500
United States of America	372,600	3,253,400	5,015,800
Mexico, &c.	24,250	139,440	370,700
Brazil	18,370	214,340	749,150
Argentina	97,250	984,100	2,396,900
Japan	53,070	366,000	523,000
British North America	174,440	983,600	1,761,500
India	114,380	854,840	1,300,000
Australia and New Zealand	95,000	745,000	1,262,200
South Africa	40,000	272,330	566,550
Egypt	41,110	398,800	1,143,000

It will be seen that only in the case of France is there an increase as compared with 1914, and that is easily accounted for by the various supplies which we are able to provide for our gallant Ally. Of course, transport and supplies for our own Expeditionary Forces are not included in the figures. In other directions the reductions are doubtless due to the fact that, owing to the scarcity of tonnage, vessels are more heavily loaded on the average than was the case before the war. Looking at some of the chief articles of export, we find that France took £4,420,000 of small coal, £4,498,000 of unscreened coal, and £5,445,000 of large coal in the nine months, as compared with £1,956,000, £1,364,000, and £2,247,000 respectively in 1914; but allowance has to be made for the increase in price. Italy also has received considerably more, but there has been a heavy reduction in shipments to Argentina, Brazil, and Egypt. France took £2,722,000 of pig-iron, against £292,000 in 1914, and the United States £1,303,000, against £524,500; while India took only £154,000 steel rails, against £789,000, and Australia no more than £9,900 against £671,000. We sent £1,132,000 bridge and other plates to France, against £13,580, and £1,470,000 black sheets, against £20,480. France took £2,415,000 cotton yarns, against £355,300, the Netherlands £2,709,000, against £1,383,000, and the United States £842,000, against £587,000. In the case of cotton piece goods, China took £5,528,000, against £8,780,000 in 1914; France

£2,812,500, against £300,000; Morocco £882,000, against £557,000; Dutch East Indies, £2,529,000, against £2,796,000; United States £1,863,000, against £1,493,000; Argentina £2,784,000, against £1,261,000; Egypt £3,242,000, against £2,314,000; Bombay £7,049,000, against £8,796,000; Bengal £9,691,000, against £11,812,000; and Australia £4,173,000, against £2,943,000. Holland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Argentina, Australia, and Canada all took more woollen tissues, while the United States took less; but the figures are not worth quoting, except in the case of France, to which we sent £5,645,000, against £7,789,000 last year, and only £744,000 in 1914. In other directions our trade is wonderfully well maintained, but it is too early yet to get any clear indications of markets captured from the Germans, as the problem is complicated by our manufacturers' inability to fulfil orders, and by the diminished purchasing power of several of our best customers.

American Business Notes.

What is the precise meaning of Mr. Hughes's declaration at a speech delivered in Philadelphia last Tuesday to this effect: "No American who is exercising only American rights shall be put on the Black List by any foreign nation. We propose to protect American lives, American property, and American trade according to our rights under international law." Is this merely a piece of electioneering rhetoric, or did the speaker actually imagine that the Government of the Republic, his Government as it might come to be, could assume this dictatorial attitude towards any foreign country with success? What is the "Black List," our Black List? Again and again our proceedings in relation to foreign firms, and especially to firms domiciled in the United States, have been explained by Lord Robert Cecil and other authorities. We do not interfere with the trade of these firms in the slightest degree, except as it affects our interests. They can sell their goods or buy wherever they please—but not to us for good and sufficient reasons. What we have done is merely to draw up a list of firms who trade with the enemy, as we believe or know in our hearts, and say to our own merchants, "You must have no dealings with any of these people during the war." Have we not a right to say that, to enforce that request on our own citizens if need be? Surely we have, and surely the pretension set up by Mr. Candidate-for-the-Presidency Hughes is absurd, if not arrogant *comme Prussien*. Would he force us to withdraw our order or recommendation? If not, what does he mean? He might try to retaliate by telling other firms not black listed by us, whose intermediary might be necessary to us, to abstain from trading with us until we removed our embargo, but what good would that do him? His declaration, in fact, seems

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Capital Subscribed -	£31,304,200
Capital Paid Up -	£5,008,672
Reserve Fund -	£3,600,000
Deposits, etc. -	£133,958,678
Advances, etc. -	£56,535,897

FRENCH AUXILIARY—
LLOYDS BANK (FRANCE) LIMITED.

an absurdity; but one never knows what illogical consequences may follow from bombast of that sort, and we must be prepared for an increasing display of malevolence against ourselves and France, if not against Russia, should this war continue for another year.

No wonder the German exploit—and it is said to be only one submarine that has performed it—in sinking no less than nine ships just beyond American waters has made a tremendous sensation. It has even disturbed the equanimity of President Wilson, the telegraphic reports say, but he has kept his mind "open" as usual, as open as a sieve in fact, also as usual. But here we are less concerned with the transitory outburst of wrath, astonishment, and seemingly dread the exploit has produced in the States, than with the legal position evolving. We have demanded that submarines ought not to be allowed to enter the port of any neutral country, and the dangerous character of these weapons, the wholly abominable use to which they have been put by the Germans, as well as their indiscriminate attacks upon the shipping of neutral countries, surely made our demand reasonable. "We cannot grant it," say the Washington officials. And supposing submarines are allowed to refit in United States ports, supposing they have a base or bases of supplies in that country, suppose their tenders, calling themselves "trade liners," buy what they want in the States and take it out to the submarine, will not the Allies and neutrals have irresistible claims for damages against the American Republic? No submarine, however beautifully fitted up—and the Germans have the ingenuity of working ants—can maintain itself at such a distance from Europe as an effective instrument of destruction without continual renewal of its supplies of petrol, provisions, and torpedoes. Where is it to get these if not from some place on the coast of the United States? A tale has been circulated of "supply submarines," of the so-called mercantile type stationed at various points on the Atlantic to which the fighting submarine can repair. We do not believe that yarn. It is intrinsically improbable and also impracticable; therefore if the exploit of a week ago is not to be an isolated example of German fury in defeat, the hyphenated traitors within the North American Republic must have arranged a supply base in America and stocked it. Should that be discovered after further ravages upon shipping have been perpetrated, what is Washington going to do? It will have to pay, or lose caste among the civilised.

According to the latest exhibit of "the state of money in the country," the National Bank notes outstanding on September 1 last compared with the same date in 1915 are down \$53,180,000 to \$712,866,000. On the same comparison, Federal Bank notes have increased by about \$78,000,000 to \$182,047,000, but the most conspicuous increase is one of \$324,000,000 in the total of gold certificates in circulation. There is also an increase of a little over \$75,000,000 in the total holding of gold coin and bullion, so that together the visible accumulation of gold in the Republic has increased by about \$400,000,000, or £80,000,000 sterling, within 12 months.

Prosperity in trade continues to be emphasised by the railroad reports now pouring in upon us. Here is the Southern Pacific Railway Co. coming out with an increase of \$22,828,000 in its gross income of \$152,694,000 for the past year on the 10,956 miles of line to which its system now extends, an increase of over 400 miles on the year. Working expenses expanded by only \$9,690,000 to \$97,444,000, so that the nett revenue before taking in extraneous income shows an expansion of \$13,139,000 at \$55,251,000. Taxes expanded by \$652,000 to \$7,023,000, and the income from outside sources, investments and the like, fell off by fully \$1,750,000, but even so the final clear income of \$60,393,000 showed an increase of \$10,745,000, and after paying all interest charges and the 6 per cent. dividend on the common stock, rentals and so forth, there was \$13,589,000 left as surplus compared with only \$3,270,000 at the end of the preceding year.

Precisely the same story is told by the Atchison,

Topeka and Santa Fé Railway, on whose 11,247 miles earnings last year amounted to \$133,762,000. This is an increase of \$16,096,000 on the preceding year, and expenses amounting to \$83,731,000 were only \$7,640,000 up. Consequently the nett income from working was \$8,457,000 larger at \$50,031,000 before adding income from investments or deducting taxes. In other words, the business was conducted at a cost of 62.60 per cent. of the gross income, and in 1912-13 the cost was 66.42 per cent. On the previous year the decline in expenses is almost 2 per cent., for in 1914-15 the proportion was 64.67 per cent. Taxes, as everywhere else, continue to mount, and were more than \$700,000 up last year, but nevertheless the final income of \$47,087,000 was \$10,038,000 better than that of the preceding year, and the surplus, after paying all interest charges, 6 per cent. on the common stock, and setting aside \$7,000,000 from revenue to additions and betterments, was \$6,819,000. In the past four years about \$22,000,000 has been assigned to betterments out of this company's revenues. Its position should, therefore, continue to improve.

For the whole system embraced in the Reading Co., the nett income last year was \$16,814,000, and when the company's common stock had received its 8 per cent. dividend, there was a surplus of \$8,626,000, the largest ever attained, for in the bumper year 1912-13, when the common stock got only 7 per cent., the surplus was no more than \$6,898,000, and for the year ended 1914-15, with 8 per cent. paid on the common stock, it was only \$331,000. Coming to the component parts, we find the Philadelphia and Reading Railway Co., which is the main item in the Reading Co.'s assets, earning last year \$57,298,000, or \$10,583,000 more than in the preceding year. The nett income of \$23,909,000 was \$8,332,000 up, because working expenses at \$33,390,000 rose no more than \$2,265,000, and the final clear revenue of \$22,931,000, arrived at after deducting taxes and adding other income, was \$8,004,000 better. Consequently, after meeting the interest, rents, &c., but without making any provision whatever for improvements, the surplus was \$12,668,000, against \$5,367,000 for the preceding year. The Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Co. gave a surplus of \$1,280,000, as against barely \$61,000 for the previous year, its charges of all kinds having, as usual, absorbed \$35,324,000 out of the gross income of \$36,604,000. A dividend of 12 per cent. was again easily paid by the Central Railroad Co. of New Jersey for its past fiscal year, and a surplus of \$2,680,000 was left to carry forward. The company, however, did not improve its earnings so conspicuously as some of its neighbours, although the gross earnings of \$33,463,000 compared with \$28,742,000 for the preceding year and with \$29,251,000 for 1913-14, but working expenses jumped from \$18,951,000 to £21,130,000, and the nett revenue before deducting taxes was only \$2,542,000 better at \$12,333,000. The figures did not include any income from the Lehigh and Wilkes-Barre Coal Co. Two dividends were declared by that coal company during the fiscal year, and the Central of New Jersey Company's share of these dividends would have been \$1,104,000, but that money has been for the present withheld, as the Wilkes-Barre property has been removed from the control of the Hudson Co.

Mr. John Rae has joined the Edinburgh board of the North British and Mercantile Insurance Co.

Kaministiquia Power.—Nett earnings for August, \$25,603.01; increase, \$2,820.25. Aggregate nett earnings from November 1, \$266,760.54; increase, \$21,880.65.

We are officially informed that there is no truth in the statement that Lloyds Bank has secured premises in Belfast, and intends opening a branch there to compete for Irish business.

It is announced that Mr. H. F. Freshwater has been appointed a director of the National Bank of New Zealand, Ltd., and that Mr. Arthur Willis succeeds Mr. Freshwater as secretary and manager of the London office of the bank.

In response to an appeal on behalf of the Governor-General's Relief Fund in South Africa, the board of directors of the Standard Bank of South Africa, Limited, have given a further donation of £5,000 to the fund, making their total contribution £10,250.

IRISH RAILWAYS.

	Oct. 6	£	£	£	£
Belfast and County Down ..	Oct. 6	3,803	+ 732	151,377	+ 5,475
Grand Canal ..	" 6	1,035	— 89	14,911	— 1,404
Great Northern ..	" 6	24,835	+ 3,985	991,844	+ 20,248
Gt. Southern and Western ..	" 6	35,132	+ 3,476	1,320,893	+ 25,323
Midland Great Western ..	" 6	16,653	+ 2,527	522,170	+ 8,448

* From Jan. 1. † From July 1.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
Assam Bengal ..	Aug. 26	1,30,000	+	29,948	†	26,29,411	—	1,11,567
Bengal & N.-W. ..	" 19	3,33,620	+	75,412	†	86,19,900	+	12,39,249
Bengal Nagpur ..	Sept. 9	8,59,000	+	1,51,000	†	2,16,20,425	+	38,03,883
Bombay, Baroda ..	Oct 7	10,50,000	+	1,02,000	†	10,50,000	+	1,02,200
Burma ..	Sept. 2	3,41,857	+	31,627	†	85,28,733	+	2,15,940
Delhi Umballa ..	" 23	58,100	—	4,949	†	16,91,871	+	1,27,388
East Indian. . .	Oct. 1	19,89,000	—	1,47,000	†	5,84,79,000	+	27,61,000
Gt. Indian Penin. .	Sept. 30	18,13,800	+	5,68,720	†	4,92,82,274	+	93,19,889
Lucknow-Bareilly ..	Aug. 19	31,999	+	169	†	6,74,911	+	84,838
Madras and S. . .								
Mahratta ..	Sept. 9	8,65,000	+	41,371	†	2,25,33,992	+	16,28,480
Nizam's Gd. (Broad)	" 2	1,01,624	+	9,878	†	27,81,564	+	1,64,386
" " (Metre), . .	" 2	56,550	—	3,681	†	14,48,671	—	39,293
Robilkund and ..								
Kumaon ..	" 19	30,598	+	2,194	†	8,62,458	+	1,23,829
South Indian ..	" 9	6,02,087	+	26,328	†	1,41,71,718	+	11,04,610

a 13 days. † April 1. ‡ October 1.

COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

		£		£		£		£
Beira ..	July *	34,768	+	439	I	34,768	+	439
Canadian Northern ..	Oct. 7	857,400		89,900		911,504,400		4014,400
Canadian Pacific ..	" 7	2,966,000		51,000		840,329,000		104,000
Gr. Trk. Main Line ..	" 7	219,197		58,739	I	7,304,641		10,96,593
Gr. Trk. Western ..	" 7	38,322		2,096	I	1,478,528		321,411
Detroit G. H. & M. ..	" 7	13,527		658	I	524,125		105,018
Gr Trk Pac Prairie Sc. ..	Sept. 30	29,011		2,243	I	216,962		35,242
Mashonaland ..	June *	59,685		6,012	I	803,079		88,804
Mid. of Westn. Aus. ..	Aug. *	5,504		1	2	10,706		366
New Cape Central ..	Sept. 9	1,370		82	I	56,091		7,505
Rhodesia ..	July *	87,807		512	2	170,230		7,241

a 9 days. * Months. † July 1. ‡ Jan. 1. c From Oct. 1.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

	Sept. 30	1,365,000	— 3,000	12,361,000	+ 700,000
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	Sept. 30	1,365,000	— 3,000	12,361,000	+ 700,000
Chicago G.W. ..	" 30	354,000	+ 49,000	4,165,000	+ 553,000
Colorado & South'n ..	" 14	3,200	+ 9,000	3,235,000	+ 305,000
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	" 30	748,000	+ 4,000	6,849,000	+ 187,000
Louisville & Nashv. ..	" 21	1,281,000	+ 125,000	14,257,000	+ 1,743,000
Minn. S.P. (Soo) ..	" 14	631,000	+ 2,000	7,727,000	+ 1,488,000
Missouri Kansas ..	" 30	1,096,000	+ 258,000	9,535,000	+ 1,737,000
Northern Pacific ..	Aug. 31	2,107,000	+ 87,000	13,576,000	+ 2,150,000
Southern ..	Sept. 21	1,503,000	+ 169,000	16,136,000	+ 1,512,000

§ Includes Wisconsin Central. † From July 1.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—HOME.

	Oct. 6	£	£	£	£
Bristol ..	Oct. 6	10,570	+ 1,474	404,788	+ 19,893
Dublin United ..	" 6	7,058	+ 981	243,236	+ 1,743
Hastings and Dist. ..	" 6	1,076	+ 91	43,390	+ 2,807
Isle of Thanet ..	" 7	338	— 3	338	+ 118
Lancashire United ..	" 4	2,349	+ 644	73,637	+ 3,325
Provincial ..	" 7	2,281	+ 37	123,757	+ 4,753
Yorks. (Wst. Rdn.) ..	" 8	1,834	+ 294	72,350	+ 7,058

* From Oct. 1. † From Jan. 1.

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE		
	Week ending	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	Wks.	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.
Alcoy and Gandia ..	Oct. 7	Ps. 6,700	+ Ps. 4,300	1	Ps. 514,800	+ Ps. 31,600
Antofagasta (Chili) ..	" 8	40,325	+ 14,500	1	1,359,055	+ 394,185
Arauco ..	Aug. 10	10,500	+ 6,750	1	162,738	+ 24,416
Argentine N.E. ..	Oct. 7	5,200	+ 1,048	1	95,302	+ 2,736
Bilbao R. and Canta ..	Aug. 7	6,457	+ 1,236	7	36,518	+ 2,366
Bolivar ..	Sept. 8	8,000	+ 148	3	23,500	+ 1,116
Brazil ..	July *	M3,357,000	+ M78,935	1	M2,226,000	+ M212,970
Brazil Gt. Southern ..	June *	M18,35,000	+ M7,350	1	M2,4,690	+ M5,640
B. Ayres & Pacific ..	Oct. 7	81,000	+ 1,000	1	1,182,000	+ 21,000
Do. Gt. South'n ..	" 8	98,000	+ 7,000	1	1,365,254	+ 168,346
Do. Western ..	" 8	50,000	+ 3,000	1	721,000	+ 95,000
Central Argentine ..	" 7	101,200	+ 16,300	1	1,589,300	+ 43,000
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte V. ..	" 7	12,335	+ 1,255	1	155,408	+ 1,302
Do. East'n Ex. ..	" 7	4,208	+ 274	1	51,544	+ 1,989
Do. North'n Ex. ..	" 7	1,592	+ 65	1	25,163	+ 21
Do. West'n Ex. ..	" 7	2,009	+ 97	1	23,023	+ 642
Colombian National ..	Aug. *	13,750	+ 1,062	8	60,940	+ 8,600
Cordoba Central ..	Oct. 7	27,200	+ 2,865	1	479,400	+ 10,820
Costa Rica ..	Aug. 12	5,367	+ 1,048	1	32,552	+ 2,029
Cuban Central ..	Oct. 7	8,900	+ 933	1	131,714	+ 20,435
Dorada Extension ..	Aug. *	9,500	+ 400	1	64,000	+ 1,160
Egyptian Delta ..	Sept. 10a	5,095	+ 786	1	79,096	+ 14,063
Entre Rios ..	Oct. 7	11,400	+ 1,900	1	168,500	+ 36,400
French Santa Fé ..	July *	90,912	+ 15,010	7	619,979	+ 91,201
Gt. South. of Spain ..	Sept. 30	Ps. 130,511	+ Ps. 57,719	1	P. 2,861,208	+ Ps. 523,333
Gr. West. of Brazil ..	Oct. 7	14,300	+ 5,900	1	368,400	+ 11,500
Havana Central ..	" 7	6,307	+ 384	1	86,954	+ 9,294
Inter. of C. Amer. ..	Aug. c	15,411	+ 3,052	1	243,164	+ 91,241
La Guaira and Car. ..	" 30	7,500	+ 1,750	1	65,000	+ 1,250
Leopoldina ..	Sept. 30	34,815	+ 3,282	1	966,829	+ 203,214
Manila (Nr. & Sth.) ..	Aug. 23	7,574	+ 795	1	359,525	+ 10,715
Midland Uruguay ..	" 8	8,362	+ 4,010	2	18,043	+ 4,913
Mogiana ..	July *	M2,819,000	+ M221,678	7	M11,605,000	+ M100,781
N.W. of Uruguay ..	Sept. *	27,000	+ 4,564	3	866,250	+ 86,249
Nitrate ..	" 30b	27,363	+ 2,748	1	742,550	+ 257,273
Paraguay Central ..	" 30	1,850	+ 60	1	31,070	+ 1,690
Paulista ..	July *	M4,000,000	+ M81,867	6	M15,250,000	+ M89,366
Peruvian Corp'n ..	" 30	583,430	+ S10,592	10	S10,798,927	+ S1,543,844
Salvador ..	Oct. 7	23,400	+ 7,900	1	280,805	+ 21,253
S. Paulo (Brazilian) ..	" 1	36,351	+ 9	1	1,064,113	+ 74,279
Sorocabana ..	May *	M1,209,000	+ M23,000	5	M6,960,000	+ M292,000
Taita ..	Aug. *	19,688	+ 1,470	2	39,308	+ 12,930
United of Havana ..	Sept. 30	30,463	+ 5,374	1	397,070	+ 75,533
West'n of Havana ..	" 30	5,902	+ 1,491	1	78,584	+ 11,573
Zafra and Huelva ..	Aug. *	13,099	+ 3,488	1	91,505	+ 28,688

* Mon. † From Jan. 1. ‡ From July 1. c Nett. b 15 days. a 10 days.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.

		£	£	Ms.	£	£
Anglo-Argentine ..	Oct. 7	5,667	+ 985	2,031,900	—	2,007
Auckland Electric ..	Sept. 22	20,884	+ 618	62,858	—	563
Brazilian Traction ..	Aug. 1	M3,982,000	+ M175,000	M30,670,000	+ M109,580	—
Brisbane Elec. Inv. ..	Sept. 1	32,530	+ 2,170	297,660	—	22,586
British Columbia ..	Aug. 1	550,293	+ 41,167	1,017,849	+ 70,737	—
B.A. Lacroze ..	"	36,431	+ 5,037	74,870	—	6,958
Burmah Electric ..	Sept. 16b	Rs. 21,749	+ Rs. 1,586	—	+ Rs.	839
Calcutta ..	Oct. 7	Rs. 76,405	+ Rs. 5,366	Rs. 25,59,019	+ 135,984	—
Cordoba Light ..	"	13,852	—	71,165	—	469
P. & T. ..	Aug. 1	17,048	+ 5,392	508,853	+ 125,754	—
Hongkong ..	Sept. 2	3,792	+ 373	33,627	—	358
La Plata ..	Aug. 6	14,996	+ 240	125,565	—	3,423
Lima ..	" 1	31,788	+ Rs. 3,484	Rs. 5,69,785	+ Rs. 41,725	—
Madras Electric ..	Sept. 30c	215,256	+ 108,669	3,193,106	+ 197,227	—
Mexico ..	Nov. 1	40,000	+ 25,600	666,500	+ 44,500	—
Puebla ..	Dec. 1	4,137	+ 38	36,479	—	2,001
Rangoon ..	Sept. 1	14,223	+ 2,169	358,597	+ 42,324	—
Singapore Electric ..	Aug. 5	427,662	+ 29,520	4,557,555	+ 391,899	—
Toronto ..	" 1	26,711	+ 1,641	319,043	+ 15,626	—
United of Monte V. ..	Sept. 1	85,200	+ 35,400	372,000	+ 178,200	—
Vera Cruz ..	May *	85,935	+ 17,258	791,030	+ 21,156	—
Winnipeg ..	Aug. 1	—	—	—	—	—

b 28 days. * From Jan. 1. † Nett. a From July 1. c Two weeks.

MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

NAME.	Month.	NETT EARNINGS FOR MONTH.		No. of Mths.	NETT EARNINGS TO DATE.	
		Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year.		Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year.
		Dols.	Dols.		Dols.	Dols.
Atobison T. & S. Fé ..	Aug.	5,139,000	+ 1,538,000	2	9,208,000	+ 2,258,000
Atlantic Coast Line ..	"	516,000	+ 427,000	2	976,000	+ 649,000
Baltimore & Ohio ..	"	3,268,000	+ 126,000	11	6,355,000	+ 116,000
Canadian Northern ..	"	1,072,400	+ 614,300	11	2,269,400	+ 1,325,300
Canadian Pacific ..	"	4,668,000	+ 2,025,000	2	9,485,000	+ 3,242,000
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	"	1,355,000	+ 213,000	1	1,355,000	+ 213,000
Chicago & N.W. ..	"	2,448,000	+ 800,000	1	2,448,000	+ 800,000
Chicago Burl. & Q. ..	June	2,881,000	+ 697,000	12	40,54,000	+ 9,962,000
Chicago G.W. ..	Aug.	475,000	+ 143,000	2	6,485,000	+ 1,174,000
Chicago Mil. & S.P. ..	"	3,306,000	+ 796,000	1	1,389,000	+ 378,000
Chicago, Rock I. & P. ..	June	1,473,000	+ 419,000	12	16,811,000	+ 2,771,000
Colorado & Southern ..	May	447,000	+ 227,000	11	5,317,000	+ 1,457,000
Cuba ..	June *	604,000	+ 147,000	12	6,815,000	+ 1,609,000
Do. ..	May *	261,131	+ 482	11	2,314,953	+ 626,709
Delaware & Hud. ..	July	655,000	+ 121,000	7	4,860,000	+ 462,000
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	"	756,000	+ 226,000	1	756,000	+ 226,000
Erie ..	Aug.	2,026,000	+ 243,000	8	12,414,000	+ 1,855,000
Gr. Tr. Main Line ..	"	6,305,650	+ 650,950	8	61,731,500	+ 2,232,950
Grand Trunk Westn ..	"	644,700	+ 65,000	8	6,333,600	+ 228,800
Detroit G.H. & Mil. ..	"	7,400	+ 60,900	8	39,690	+ 32,950
Gt. Northern ..	July	3,085,000	+ 724,000	1	3,088,000	+ 712,000
Illinois Central ..	"	1,023,000	+ 491,000	1	1,023,000	+ 491,000
Kansas City South'n ..	"	534,000	+ 68,000	1	534,000	+ 68,000
Lehigh Valley ..	"	1,222,000	+ 194,000	1	1,222,000	+ 194,000
Louisville & Nashv. ..	"	1,433,000	+ 250,000	1	1,433,000	+ 250,000
Minn. S.P. (Soo) ..	June	1,043,000	+ 493,000	1	1,043,000	+ 493,000
Miss. K. & Texas ..	July	617,000	+ 145,000	1	617,000	+ 145,000
Missouri Pacific ..	June	601,000	+ 491,000	1	601,000	+ 491,000
New York Cent. & H. ..	Aug.	11,511,000	+ 2,790,000	7	35,358,000	+ 126,000
N.Y. N. Haven & H. ..	June	2,130,000	+ 732,000	12	22,382,000	+ 3,647,000
New York Ont. & W. ..	July	406,000	+ 24,000	1	406,000	+ 24,000
Norfolk & Western ..	"	1,816,000	+ 128,000	1	1,816,000	+ 128,000

THE LIVERPOOL & LONDON & GLOBE INSURANCE CO., LTD.

FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT. MARINE.
ASSETS EXCEED £14,400,000.

Head Office:
1, Dale Street, Liverpool.

London Chief Office:
1, Cornhill, E.C.

The Investors' Review.

Money and Credit Notes.

BANK RATE 6 PER CENT. (Increased from 5 per cent. on Thursday, July 13.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

One consequence of the higher interest now offered for money on Exchequer bonds has been a tightening in short loan rates. Bankers are losing some of their deposits, drawn away to place in the new Exchequer bonds, which thus interfere with the placing of Treasury bills to the requisite amount. We probably see the effects of this movement in the decline of £8,042,000 in "other" deposits shown in this week's Bank return. At the same time, "other" securities have fallen off £6,394,000, so that against a deposit liability of £109,361,000, there is an asset of £102,773,000 in the form of other securities. At best, however, these movements crudely indicate what is going on in the Money market, and, as regards the general position, the most satisfactory change in this week's Bank return is an increase of £1,276,000 in the reserve, of which £1,066,000 is due to gold. The reserve is now £55,696,000, and because of this increase and of the nett decline in the liabilities on deposits, public deposits having risen £2,900,000, the proportion of reserve to liabilities has risen $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to $22\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., but it is still $4\frac{3}{8}$ per cent. below the figure of a year ago.

What the future of the Money market is to be no one can forecast, but on the whole the tendency of things seems to be towards hardness, and we cannot see how it could very well be otherwise. Even call money is very often quite 5 per cent., and most days $4\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. is the exception. Even if the week-end brings greater abundance in credit, it cannot be trusted to last. The discount on Treasury bills also tends to stiffen, and the $5\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. offered on November bills seems to be now unattractive to buyers. December bills, which were taken at $5\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. most of the week, rose yesterday to $5\frac{3}{8}$ per cent., and the rate on French Treasury bills maturing in January was a nominal $5\frac{3}{8}$ per cent.; but, on the other hand, the parcel of Russian commercial bills sold this week were taken at $\frac{1}{16}$ less than last time at $5\frac{1}{16}$ per cent., or about the market rate as shown in our table. There is still a certain amount of undercutting in discounts, but it is less easy than it was to melt a three or four months' bank bill at $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The rates tend towards $5\frac{3}{8}$ per cent.

This tendency towards higher rates should be carefully noted by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and efforts ought to be made by him now to arrange, in agreement with the market and with our Allies, for that big loan which must come before the City gets out of hand. There is not enough co-ordination in the handling of credit amongst the Allies, else, surely, Mr. McKenna would have avoided the placing of 6 per cent. Exchequer bonds on the market just at the moment when the French loan was about to appear. There is something petty, not to say parochial, something higgledy-piggledy in this sort of management, and we venture once again to recommend greater frankness in intercourse between lenders and borrowers, a more intelligent co-ordination and supervision of war finance than has hitherto been shown. Not only in the international sense is there a lack of breadth of view or foresight, but in the schemes—one is almost

disposed to say dodges—ever and anon being put forward to "attract" the savings of the multitude there is a parish vestry sort of ingenuity apparent that does not tend to give the market confidence in the management of the Exchequer. Our necessities are stupendous, and they ought to be provided for on a scale commensurate. It is to be feared that we shall drift into a nasty mess unless wisdom and experience become more prominent in the conduct of our monetary affairs.

In spite of muddles and mistakes, though, we hope investors in great numbers will have something to spare for the French Loan.

One fails to realise the amount of financial help which is being given to the defenders of liberty by the United States. It takes various forms. Mr. Loree, for instance, the well-known president of the Delaware and Hudson Railroad Co., has devoted much care and labour to find out the amount of American securities held abroad. The sum of his investigations is that in the 18 months since January 31, 1915, almost £260,000,000 of American securities have been sent home, leaving the total holdings abroad on July 31 last at £283,115,000. The principal securities parted with have been mortgage bonds and common stock. We consider his figures well within probabilities.

As already intimated in this column, the City of Paris has been enabled to borrow £10,000,000 in the United States from a syndicate at the head of which stands Kuhn, Loeb and Co., and the fact that this German Jewish house of high repute should have taken the lead in such a financial transaction is at least proof that all German Jews are not pro-Prussian, although the senior partner of this firm is reputed to be so. Italy has also been helped by New York to the extent of £5,000,000. One-year 6 per cent. notes to this amount falling due to-morrow have already been renewed to the amount of about \$17,500,000, and the bankers in charge of the transaction, Messrs. Lee, Higginson and Co., are offering the balance of \$7,500,000 in new one-year 6 per cent. notes at par. They should have no difficulty in getting the money.

Thanks to the marvellous success of the latest appeal of the Canadian Government for money to the extent of £20,000,000 on its latest 5 per cent. gold loan—an appeal the answer to which was an offer of almost double the amount—the Dominion Finance Minister has been able to place another £10,000,000 in Ottawa to the credit of the Imperial Government to pay for munitions and supplies. Unhappily the supplies of grain are likely to be considerably less from Canada this year than last, but in other ways Canada can and will continue to help.

It is possibly only a small beginning, but the opening of a London office by the Banque Franco-Serbe is a further step towards the consolidation of interests among the Allies which will be so necessary after the war. The bank was founded in 1910, and has a paid-up capital of 12,000,000 frs., or £480,000. Its head office is in Paris, but it has established a central office in Belgrade, with branches in Skoplye (Uskub) and Bitolj (Monastir) for exchange operations, remittances, collections, and general banking business throughout Serbia. Communication with those places is at present interrupted by the war, but the bank is looking ahead, and offers its services to all who have Serbian interests or are contemplating the development of business with that country when the time comes.

SILVER.

The demand for silver for coinage continues good, but supplies from America have been larger this week, and there has also been some speculative selling from the bazaars. A drop of $\frac{3}{8}$ d. to $32\frac{3}{8}$ d. per oz. brought buying orders from China, and the price rallied again to $32\frac{3}{8}$ d. per oz., but weakened again on further offerings from New York. It finished, however, at $32\frac{7}{8}$ d.

Applications for the Rs. 40,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 3,66,00,000. Of these Rs. 1,96,00,000 were allotted in bills, Rs. 9,81,000 in deferred transfers, and Rs. 28,23,000 in immediate transfers, tenders for bills and deferred transfers at rs. 4 3/32d., and for immediate transfers at rs. 4 1/4d., receiving about 12 per cent. Special sales

were also made of Rs. 16,00,000 in deferred transfers at rs. 4½d., and of Rs 8,00,000 in immediate transfers at rs. 4 5-32d. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is again Rs. 40,00,000. Since April 1 the total sales have been Rs. 10,89,16,332, realising £7,306,046.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, October 11, 1916.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued	£ 72,265,300	Government Debt	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	53,815,300
		Silver Bullion	—

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 42,188,051
Reserve	3,177,521	Other Securities	102,773,484
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts) ..	55,135,356	Notes	35,411,230
Other Deposits	109,360,502	Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,881,129
Seven Day and other Bills ..	27,515		

Dated Oct. 12, 1916. £182,253,894 J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year.

Last year. Oct. 13.	Oct. 4, 1916.	Oct. 11, 1916.	Increase.	Decrease.
£ 3,158,692	£ 3,158,865	£ 3,177,521	£ 18,656	—
70,859,610	52,235,504	55,135,356	2,899,852	—
97,907,026	117,462,096	109,360,502	—	8,041,594
33,180	22,331	27,515	5,184	—
			Decrease.	Increase.
25,959,825	Gov. Securities.	42,188,051	—	—
114,706,690	Other do.	102,773,484	6,394,071	—
45,845,002	Total Reserve ..	37,292,359	—	1,276,169
			9,317,763	9,317,763
			Increase.	Decrease.
32,560,453	Note Circulation	37,064,330	—	210,260
59,955,457	Coin and Bullion	54,630,520	1,065,909	—
27.2 p.c.	Proportion ..	22.7 p.c.	—	—
5 ..	Bank Rate ..	6 ..	—	—

CURRENCY NOTES.

Return of Currency Notes for the week ended October 11, 1916.

	Issued.	Cancelled.	Outstanding.
£ 1 notes	£ 3,311,682	£ 2,962,592	£ 93,398,300
10s. notes	1,257,801	950,267	29,209,092
Notes certificates ..	880,000	—	11,920,000
Previous total	440,930,079	307,937,310	—
	446,379,562	311,852,169	134,527,392

Ratio of gold held against notes: this week, 23.24 p.c.; last week, 24.37 p.c.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For 7 days ended Oct. 7.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
	£
Customs	1,275,000
Excise	430,000
Estate, &c., Duties ..	476,000
Stamps	113,000
Land Tax and House Duty.	—
Property and Income Tax ..	2,262,000
Excess Profits Tax	3,120,000
Land Values	—
Post Office	302,000
Crown Lands	—
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	—
Miscellaneous	51,983
Bullion advances repaid ..	50,000
For Treasury Bills (nett amt.)	39,777,000
War Loan, 1925-8	—
War Loan, 1925-45	—
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919 ..	—
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920 ..	300,000
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1921 ..	91,000
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920 ..	20,621,000
War Expenditure Certificates	1,008,600
War Savings Certificates ..	1,000,000
Other Debts created under War Loan Act, 1915 ..	3,347,763
Telegraph Money Act, 1913	—
Under Post Office Rly. Act, 1913	—
Under Military Works Acts, 1897-1903	—
Under Housing Act	—
East Africa Protectorate	—
Loan repayments	—
Cunard Loan—repayment on account of principal ..	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	—
China Indemnity	—
Ways and Means Advances	—
Decrease in Exchequer balances	89,948
	£74,313,004
	£
National Debt Service ..	2,256,803
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	3,234,195
Development & Road Impvt.	—
Payments to Local Taxation	270,380
Other Consolidated Fund	—
Charges	226,916
Supply Services	28,150,000
Bullion Advances	50,000
For Advance for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 ..	—
For Treasury Bills (nettamt.)	—
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan Redemption Act, 1910 ..	—
Issues under Section 1 of War Loan Act, 1915 ..	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913	—
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 ..	—
Under Housing Act	—
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8 ..	—
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11 ..	—
E. Africa Protectorate Loan	—
Cunard Loan repayment issued to reduce debt under the Cunard Agreement ..	—
Deficiency advances repaid	—
China Indemnity issued to reduce debt under Finance Act, 1903	—
Ways and Means Advances repaid	40,145,000
Increase in Exchequer balances	—
	£74,313,004

£74,313,094

£74,313,094

SHORT TERM GOVERNMENT LOANS.

	Sales Last Week.	Sales This Week.	Total Outstanding.
Treasury Bills	£ 37,936,000	*1,065,000	£ 1,040,423,000
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919 ..	63,000	—	34,222,000
Do. 1920	450,000	300,000	237,303,500
Do. 1921	866,000	91,000	62,458,000
6% Exchequer Bonds	—	20,621,000	20,621,000
War Expenditure Certificates	1,744,800	1,008,600	24,361,500
War Savings Certificates ..	1,400,000	1,000,000	30,700,000

* Decrease.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1916.	1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
January	£ 1,071,048,000	£ 918,685,000	£ 153,263,000	—
February	1,107,655,000	960,743,000	146,912,000	—
March	1,364,599,000	1,231,392,000	133,207,000	—
April	1,090,356,000	976,264,000	114,092,000	—
May	1,447,416,000	1,164,194,000	283,222,000	—
June	1,447,630,000	960,209,000	187,421,000	—
July	1,239,193,000	1,316,695,000	—	77,502,000
August	1,364,782,000	1,352,519,000	12,263,000	—
September 6	293,577,000	255,092,000	43,485,000	—
" 13	273,357,000	254,607,000	18,750,000	—
" 20	285,301,000	239,471,000	45,830,000	—
" 27	279,355,000	250,838,000	28,517,000	—
October 4	337,388,000	291,855,000	45,533,000	—
" 11	326,880,000	269,450,000	57,430,000	—
Total	11,634,437,000	10,441,954,000	1,192,483,000	—

FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 48s.).

	Sept. 22, 1916.	Sept. 15, 1916.	Sept. 24, 1915.
Gold coin and certificates ..	£ 51,472,200	£ 50,061,600	£ 45,694,400
Gold Redemption Fund ..	388,220	378,800	240,400
Gold Settlement Fund ..	23,553,200	25,054,200	11,810,000
Legal tender notes, silver, &c.	1,528,400	1,579,600	4,584,000
Total reserves	77,217,000	77,074,200	62,628,800
5% redemption fund against F.R. bank notes	100,000	100,000	—
10-day bills and loans	4,875,600	3,137,000	1,497,400
30-day bills and loans	4,847,600	6,504,200	2,399,400
60-day bills and loans	7,578,600	7,957,600	3,112,400
90-day bills and loans	4,718,800	4,139,400	1,634,600
Maturities over 90 days ..	297,400	326,200	242,600
Total	22,318,000	22,064,400	8,886,200
Investments—			
U.S. Bonds	9,510,600	9,383,000	1,865,600
One year U.S. Treasury notes	1,607,800	1,807,800	—
Municipal Warrants	4,827,400	4,742,800	4,989,000
Federal Reserve notes—nett.	3,216,000	3,995,000	2,973,200
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—nett.	5,853,200	5,787,400	1,481,800
All other assets	1,690,200	593,800	715,400
Total assets	126,340,200	125,548,400	83,540,000
Paid-up capital	11,084,600	11,083,200	10,949,600
Government Deposits	7,989,400	8,039,600	3,000,000
Reserve deposits—nett. ..	103,691,200	102,868,600	65,988,800
Note circulation—nett. ..	2,921,000	2,844,600	3,696,000
Fed. Res. notes in circulation	582,800	642,800	—
All other liabilities	71,200	69,400	532,600
Total liabilities	126,340,200	125,548,400	83,540,000
Gold reserve against nett liabilities	69.6%	69.9%	82.2%
Cash reserve against nett liabilities	71.0%	71.4%	88.7%

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 48s.).

	Oct. 7, 1916.	Sept. 30, 1916	Sept. 23, 1916	Oct. 9, 1915
Loans	£ 669,902,000	£ 667,910,000	£ 661,418,000	£ 560,976,000
Reserve held in own Vaults ..	86,056,000	87,524,000	87,526,000	100,280,000
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk.	33,492,000	34,074,000	35,095,000	29,352,000
Reserve held in Other Depos.	10,784,000	10,894,000	10,828,000	6,668,000
Net Demand Deposits	660,544,000	660,518,000	654,164,000	571,628,000
Net Time Deposits	33,264,000	33,774,000	33,624,000	25,282,000
Circulation	6,232,000	6,238,000	6,242,000	7,200,000
Excess Lawful Reserve	16,504,000	19,272,000	20,738,000	37,520,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits

NEW YORK STATE BANKS & TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 48s.).

	Oct. 7, 1916.	Sept. 30, 1916.	Sept. 23, 1916.	Oct. 9, 1915.
Loans	£ 143,882,000	£ 144,076,000	£ 144,340,000	£ 116,754,000
Specie	11,712,000	11,932,000	12,058,000	10,210,000
Deposits	153,250,000	152,904,000	153,490,000	123,210,000
Legal Tenders	1,934,000	1,854,000	1,804,000	1,772,000

IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Oct. 6, 1916.	Sept. 29, 1916.	Sept. 21, 1916.	Oct. 6, 1915
Notes in reserve	£ 10,740,000	£ 9,590,000	£ 12,630,000	£ 5,316,000
Gold	155,620,000	155,330,000	155,380,000	159,187,900
Gold in reserve abroad ..	205,500,000	205,510,000	205,490,000	3,836,200
Treasury Bonds	503,430,000	481,850,000	465,710,000	—
Circulation note issue ..	744,260,000	730,410,000	723,370,000	482,000,000
Treasury deposits	22,590,000	20,320,000	26,800,000	22,196,000

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Oct. 7, 1916.	Sept. 30, 1916	Sept. 23, 1916.	Oct. 7, 1915
Total Coin & Bullion ..	£ 125,563,550	£ 125,180,800	£ 124,629,350	£ 122,925,950
Treasury Notes	18,503,650	19,604,600	10,601,950	44,393,250
Bills discounted	373,403,050	537,941,550	378,895,900	218,798,450
Advances	546,650	520,800	482,200	713,150
Note circulation	361,527,250	368,514,800	343,018,900	293,877,150
Deposits	160,816,050	313,322,650	181,097,050	280,771,150

Clearing House returns during Sept., £282,125,250 against £266,331,160 in Aug

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Oct. 12, 1916.	Oct. 5, 1916.	Sept. 28, 1916.	Oct. 14, 1915.
Gold in hand ..	194,261,369	193,627,840	193,379,049	185,894,680
Silver in hand ..	11,291,480	13,404,200	13,473,630	14,530,720
Bills discounted ..	17,439,080	20,486,200	16,135,320	10,908,166
Advances ..	47,002,760	47,453,760	47,072,200	23,290,880
Note circulation ..	631,155,760	680,445,760	668,562,520	550,085,720
Public deposits ..	1,911,920	2,161,720	1,452,880	2,377,400
Private deposits ..	93,833,760	99,076,680	89,922,240	104,471,600
Foreign Bills ..	72,000	80,780	93,360	52,840

Proportion between bullion and circulation 30.47 per cent., against 30.91 per cent. last week. Advances to the State £344,000,000, unchanged. The adjourned payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium, £25,122,640, decrease £58,640, and at the branches £30,071,320, decrease £66,480.

NETHERLANDS BANK (12 Florins to the £).

	Oct. 7, 1916.	Sept. 30, 1916.	Sept. 23, 1916.	Oct. 9, 1915.
Gold and Silver ..	49,461,916	49,476,416	49,574,916	32,706,913
Bills and Advances ..	14,453,166	14,609,333	15,594,166	13,031,854
Note circulation ..	59,248,750	58,621,333	59,728,750	45,339,535
Deposits ..	8,050,416	8,830,083	11,776,083	1,171,130

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	Sept. 10, 1916.	Aug. 31, 1916.	Aug. 20, 1916.	Sept. 10, 1915.
Total cash ..	43,130,520	43,996,120	43,806,400	55,491,960
Inland Bills ..	19,514,520	19,331,050	18,980,880	22,713,340
Foreign Bills ..	833,520	833,280	835,160	832,280
Advances ..	7,548,800	7,713,920	7,518,640	8,332,280
Government securities ..	8,828,320	8,801,050	8,866,920	7,405,680
Circulation ..	138,103,560	136,584,200	135,192,360	111,586,840
Deposits at notice ..	14,127,040	14,845,520	13,865,680	10,860,560
Current accounts ..	15,878,640	13,936,280	15,514,680	18,109,280

BANK OF NORWAY.

	Sept. 30, 1916.	Sept. 22, 1916.	Sept. 15, 1916.	Sept. 30, 1915.
Gold ..	6,274,000	6,279,000	6,282,000	3,465,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	5,621,000	5,724,000	6,162,000	3,705,000
Gov't Securities ..	767,000	767,000	767,000	781,000
Discounts and Loans ..	6,791,000	6,365,000	6,034,000	4,045,000
Notes in Circulation ..	12,661,000	12,272,000	12,369,000	8,220,000
Deposits at notice ..	4,200,000	4,195,000	4,307,000	1,254,000

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Sept. 30, 1916.	Sept. 23, 1916.	Sept. 17, 1916.	Oct. 2, 1915.
Gold ..	46,939,246	46,650,297	46,500,273	29,977,890
Silver ..	30,193,056	30,231,783	30,182,659	29,522,671
Foreign Bills ..	3,666,786	3,893,388	3,804,559	4,476,161
Discounts and Short Bills ..	24,448,954	24,004,617	24,031,086	27,340,111
Treasury Account, &c. ..	28,758,267	29,098,306	29,778,093	28,971,290
Notes in Circulation ..	90,368,764	89,670,109	89,645,053	81,623,241
Current Accounts, Deposits ..	30,355,378	30,815,970	30,665,857	25,337,369
Dividends, Interests, &c. ..	2,555,661	1,363,059	1,548,196	1,943,067
Government Securities ..	1,871,053	2,699,974	2,539,941	2,116,937

BANK OF SWEDEN.

	Sept. 30, 1916.	Sept. 23, 1916.	Sept. 16, 1916.	Oct. 2, 1915.
Gold ..	9,499,000	9,504,000	9,527,000	6,300,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	9,390,000	9,489,000	8,909,000	6,614,000
Swedish and Foreign Gov't Securities ..	3,754,000	3,762,000	3,765,000	3,066,000
Discounts and Loans ..	3,929,000	3,732,000	3,740,000	5,248,000
Notes in circulation ..	21,493,000	19,252,000	19,390,000	17,340,000
Deposits at notice ..	4,137,000	5,627,000	5,536,000	3,357,000

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.
Paris ..	ohqs.	27.80½	27.81	Antwerp ..	short	—	—
Brussels ..	ohqs.	—	—	Italy ..	sight	30.79½	30.79½
Amsterdam ..	sight	11.65	11.63½	Constantinople ..	3 mths	—	—
Christiania ..	—	17.13½	17.22½	Rio de Janeiro ..	90 dys	12½d.	12½d.
Stockholm ..	—	16.73	16.84	Buenos Aires ..	90 dys	49½d.	50½d.
Copenhagen ..	—	17.47½	17.70	Calcutta ..	T.T.	1/4½d.	1/4½d.
Petrograd ..	1 mths	150½	152	Bombay ..	T.T.	1/4½d.	1/4½d.
New York ..	cable	4.76½	4.76½	Hong Kong ..	T.T.	2/2½d.	2/2½d.
Lisbon ..	sight	34½	34½	Shanghai ..	T.T.	3/0½d.	3/1d.
Madrid ..	sight	23.70	23.62½	Singapore ..	T.T.	2/4½d.	2/4½d.
				Yokohama ..	4 mths	2/1½d.	2/1½d.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Oct. 10, 1916.		Oct. 12, 1916.	
		Sellers.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Buyers.
Amsterdam ..	Cable transfers ..	11.65	11.68	11.63	11.66
	Three months' bills ..	11.60	11.85	11.75	11.85
Paris ..	Cable transfers ..	27.78½	27.83	27.80	27.85
	Three months' bills ..	28.15	28.25	28.18	28.28
Marseilles ..	Three months' bills ..	28.15	28.25	28.18	28.28
Switzerland ..	Cable transfers ..	25.10	25.20	25.10	25.20
	Three months' bills ..	25.45	25.55	25.45	25.55
Petrograd ..	Cable transfers ..	151½	152½	151½	152½
Genoa, &c. ..	Cable transfers ..	30.80	30.90	30.73	30.83
	Three months' bills ..	31.25	31.35	31.20	31.30
Spain ..	Cable transfers ..	23.62	23.72	23.58	23.68
	Three months' bills ..	47½	48½	48	48½
Lisbon and Oporto ..	Cable transfers ..	33½	34½	33½	34½
Copenhagen ..	Cable transfers ..	17.50	17.65	17.63	17.73
Christiania ..	Cable transfers ..	17.12	17.22	17.15	17.25
Stockholm ..	Cable transfers ..	16.73	16.83	16.80	16.90

SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	Sept. 30, 1916.	Sept. 23, 1916.	Sept. 15, 1916.	Sept. 30, 1915.
Gold and silver ..	13,758,944	13,838,712	13,897,112	12,187,580
Bills ..	7,697,208	7,364,556	7,192,556	5,953,756
Note circulation ..	18,850,340	17,587,804	17,238,584	17,430,724
Current and deposit accounts ..	4,746,161	5,710,000	5,972,932	2,887,660

TREASURY BILLS.

	Three months	Six months	Nine months	Twelve months
Last week.	5½	5½	5½	5½
This week.	5½	5½	5½	5½

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Thirty and sixty day remitted	Three months	Four months	Six months
Last week.	5½	5½	5½	5½
This week.	5½	5½	5½	5½

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Last week.	This week.
Bank of England minimum discount rate ..	6	6
" " short loan rates ..	6½	6½
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	4	4
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call) ..	4½	4½
" 7 and 14 days' notice ..	4½	4½
Current rates for 7 day loans ..	4	4
" " for call loans ..	4½	4½

The Week's Stock Markets.

There has been a welcome recovery in the 4½ per cent. War Loan since the Chancellor of the Exchequer's assurance that the conversion rights are valuable, and the hint that the issue of another long-dated loan to relieve the mass of temporary borrowing may not be very long postponed. But the operation will not be so easy as many impatient people seem to imagine, and the conversion of some £900,000,000 of existing stock into a higher interest-bearing security is not, to be lightly undertaken. Taking conversion rights into consideration, the stock is undoubtedly attractive at the present price, but it does not give such a good return as the 3½ per cent. Loan at 85½. As the latter is redeemable in from nine to twelve years, the yield, allowing for redemption, works out at £5 7s. per cent., whereas Consols at 58 only return 4½ per cent. That looks poor beside the 6 per cent. Exchequer bonds, but there is a wide margin for capital appreciation on Consols, and that mainly accounts for their relatively high price. Markets generally have displayed a more cheerful tendency, and the daily markings of business keep at a fairly satisfactory level; but brokers complain that the average amount of individual bargains is terribly small. And so they are again campaigning against divided commissions, the encroachments of the banks on their business being particularly resented. Nothing can be done till the next Committee election in March, and even then it is very doubtful whether the promised agitation will get beyond the grumbling stage. Americans suffered a nasty jar over the latest U-boat exploits, and the market for a time was sadly demoralised; but no doubt the incident will terminate in more talk and ink-slinging. Canadians have been depressed by adverse crop reports, and the harvest does not appear to be turning out at all satisfactorily, which is a great misfortune, both for the Dominion and the Allies. But Russia has a great store to release when the expiring Turk is finally driven from the Dardanelles.

Owing to the accumulation of orders over the week-end holiday the number of dealings on Monday was the largest recorded this year, but the conditions were exceptional, and markets have for the most part relapsed into apathy. Consols have been heavy at 58 owing to holders selling for the purpose of exchanging into Local Loans, while the latter rose ½ to 59½. The 4½ per cent. War Loan was a little uncertain in the beginning of the week, but rallied sharply on Mr. McKenna's statement, closing at 95, and the 3½ per cent. issue improved to 85½. Colonial Government stocks have hardly been mentioned, but several Queensland and Victoria issues gave way, while South Australian 5 per cent. 1921-3 improved to 98 and New Zealand 4 per cent. of 1943-63 rose ½. Foreign Government bonds have been weak, especially Brazilian, which have suffered from fears regarding the resumption of cash payments at the close of the funding period, and have declined from 1 to 3 points. Chilean stocks were also substantially lower, and Argentine 5 per cent. 1886 and Buenos Ayres Waterworks

were marked down 1 each. Egyptian Unified fell $\frac{1}{2}$, and Russian Railway loans were all marked down. Japanese 4 per cent. of 1905 fell to 79 $\frac{1}{2}$, and the 5 per cent. 1907 loan was also easier at 87 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Home Railway ordinary stocks were neglected, and in the absence of business prices gave way, but there was a slight rally towards the close in sympathy with the gilt-edged market. Great Western finished $\frac{1}{2}$ up, and North-Western and North-Eastern were both $\frac{1}{2}$ higher, but Midland preferred fell $\frac{1}{2}$, and Great Northern preferred $\frac{1}{2}$, while South-Western de-

	Last Week	This Week		Last Week	This Week
Consols.....	59 $\frac{1}{2}$	58	N.S.W. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1922-7	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$
War Loan 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	85	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	" 5% 1921-3	97	97
" 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	93	New Zealand 4%	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$
India 3%	59	59 $\frac{1}{2}$	Queensland 4%	83	82
" 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	69	69 $\frac{1}{2}$	" 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % new	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	94
Australian 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ %, 1920-22 ..	100	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	Union of S. Africa 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % ..	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$
Canada 4%, 1940-60	81	81	" 1920-5	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$
" 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %, 1920-5	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	Victoria 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %, 1920-5	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$
N.S.W. 4%	83 $\frac{1}{2}$	83 $\frac{1}{2}$	Westn. Aus. 4%	81 $\frac{1}{2}$	82
" 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 5 yr. bds.	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$			
Belgian 3%	61 $\frac{1}{2}$	61	French War Loan, 5% ..	81	81
Brazil, 1913	64 $\frac{1}{2}$	62	" Japan 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % (1st)	95	95
" New Funding	81	79 $\frac{1}{2}$	" (2nd)	93	95
Chinese 1896	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	81	" Russia 4%	68	68 $\frac{1}{2}$
" 1912	75 $\frac{1}{2}$	73	" " 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	81	79 $\frac{1}{2}$
Egypt Unified 4%	79 $\frac{1}{2}$	78	" " 5%	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$
Brighton defd.	66 $\frac{1}{2}$	66	London and S.-W. dfd.	24	23 $\frac{1}{2}$
Caledonian defd.	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	" Do. new pf.	98	98
Chatham ord.	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	Metropolitan	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	23 $\frac{1}{2}$
Gt. Central dfd.	15	13	" Do. 5% New pf.	90	90
" dfd.	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	Met. District	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	17 $\frac{1}{2}$
Gt. Eastern	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	Midland dfd.	59	59
Gt. Northern dfd.	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	Nth. British dfd.	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
Gt. Western	91	92	Nth.-Eastern	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lancs. and Yorks.	68 $\frac{1}{2}$	68 $\frac{1}{2}$	Nth.-Western	100	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
			Sth.-Eastern dfd.	28	27 $\frac{1}{2}$
Canadian Pacific	189 $\frac{1}{2}$	184	Chesapeake	71 $\frac{1}{2}$	69 $\frac{1}{2}$
" Do. 6% Notes	107	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	Erie	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	40 $\frac{1}{2}$
E. Indian Guar. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % debts.	93	93	Milwaukee	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$
Grand Trunk ord.	113	11	N. Y. Central	118 $\frac{1}{2}$	114 $\frac{1}{2}$
" Do. 3rd pf.	27 $\frac{1}{2}$	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	" Southern	27 $\frac{1}{2}$	29 $\frac{1}{2}$
" Do. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 3-yr. Notes ..	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	96	Union Pacific	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
" Do. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 5-yr.	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	96	U. S. Steel	159 $\frac{1}{2}$	155
Atchafalpa	143 $\frac{1}{2}$	110 $\frac{1}{2}$		123 $\frac{1}{2}$	116
Baltimore	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$			
Antofagasta dfd.	130 $\frac{1}{2}$	131	Cent. Argentine ord.	78 $\frac{1}{2}$	78 $\frac{1}{2}$
" Do. 6% Notes	101	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	" Do. 5% Notes	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	96
Brazil Common	6	6	" Do. 6%	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
B. A. & Pacific	46	45	Leopoldina	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	36
B. A. Gt. Southern	85	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mexican ord.	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	19
B. A. Western	87	86	San Paulo (Brazilian) ..	192	192
			United of Havana	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	84 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bank of Australasia	115 $\frac{1}{2}$	117	London City & Midland ..	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Barclay & Co. "A"	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	London County & West ..	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
" Do. "B"	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11	London Joint Stock	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$
Capital & Counties	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (£10 $\frac{1}{2}$ pd)	27 $\frac{1}{2}$	26 $\frac{1}{2}$
Chartered of India	59 $\frac{1}{2}$	59 $\frac{1}{2}$	" Do. (£12 pd)	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	31
Hongkong & Shanghai ..	77	78	Parr's	30 $\frac{1}{2}$	30 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lloyds	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	Standard of S.A.	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
London & Provincial	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	Union & Smiths.	24	24
London & S.W.	12	12			
Apollinaris ord.	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Forestral Land	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$
Armstrong, Whitworth ..	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	39 $\frac{1}{2}$	Furness, Withy	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	51 $\frac{1}{2}$
Associated Cement	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	Hudson's Bay	7	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Birmingham Small Arms.	45 $\frac{1}{2}$	45 $\frac{1}{2}$	Imperial Tobacco 'B' pf.	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$
Borax dfd.	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	" Do. 'C' pf.	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bovril	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	Kynochs	30 $\frac{1}{2}$	30 $\frac{1}{2}$
Brazil Traction	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	Lever Bros. "C" pf.	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$
British Amer. Tobacco ..	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	Lyons, J.	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Brown (John) & Co.	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	Marconi	3	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Brunner, Mond	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	Maypole Dairy dfd.	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cammell-Laird	68 $\frac{1}{2}$	68	Mond Nickel ord.	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Castner-Kellner	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	National Steam Car.	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	19 $\frac{1}{2}$
Coats	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	Pears, A. & F.	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cunard	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	P. & O. dfd.	338 $\frac{1}{2}$	338 $\frac{1}{2}$
Dennis Bros.	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	Royal Mail	123	121
Dorman, Long	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	South Durham Steel ..	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	36 $\frac{1}{2}$
Eastmans	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	Underground Inc. Bds.	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$
English Sewing Cotton ..	44 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	Vickers	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fine Cotton Spinners ..	29 $\frac{1}{2}$	29 $\frac{1}{2}$			
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mexican Eagle pf.	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{1}{2}$
Baku (10s.)	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	North Caucasian	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	26 $\frac{1}{2}$
Burmah	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	Roumanian Cons.	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lobitos	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	Royal Dutch (100 gulden)	45	45
Maikop Combine (10s.) ..	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	Shell	58 $\frac{1}{2}$	57 $\frac{1}{2}$
Maikop Pipeline	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	Spies (10/-)	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
Mexican Eagle	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	Ural Caspian	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	33 $\frac{1}{2}$
Anglo-Java Rub. (2/-) ..	63	64 $\frac{1}{2}$	Malayalam £1.	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	33 $\frac{1}{2}$
Anglo-Malay 2/-	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	Merlimau 2/-	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ayer Kuning £1.	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	Patalang 2/-	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bukit Mertajam 2/-	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	Port Dickson 2/-	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bukit Sembawang 2/- ..	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	Rubber Trust £1	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	26 $\frac{1}{2}$
Carey United £1	41 $\frac{1}{2}$	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	Sapumalkande £1	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	23 $\frac{1}{2}$
Grand Central £1	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	Sialang £1	71 $\frac{1}{2}$	71 $\frac{1}{2}$
Gula Kalumpung £1.	32 $\frac{1}{2}$	32 $\frac{1}{2}$	Singapore Para 2/-	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	31 $\frac{1}{2}$
Highlands £1	55 $\frac{1}{2}$	55 $\frac{1}{2}$	Singapore United 2/- ..	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	34 $\frac{1}{2}$
Java Para £1	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	Taipang 2/-	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Johore Rubber Lands £1 ..	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	Tandjong £1	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$
Langen Java £1	51 $\frac{1}{2}$	51 $\frac{1}{2}$	Tandjong Malim £1.	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	30 $\frac{1}{2}$
Linggi 2/-	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	Tebrau £1	75 $\frac{1}{2}$	75 $\frac{1}{2}$
London Asiatic 2/-	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	United Serdang 2/-	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Malacca £1	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	Vallambrosa 2/-	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 $\frac{1}{2}$
Abbotiackoon (10/-)	64 $\frac{1}{2}$	63 $\frac{1}{2}$	De Beers did. (£2 10s.) ..	12	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Brakpan	44 $\frac{1}{2}$	44 $\frac{1}{2}$	East Rand	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	16 $\frac{1}{2}$
Broken Hill Prop. (8/-) ..	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	Gt. Boulder (2/-)	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cam & Motor	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	Meyer & Charlton	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Central Mining (£12)	7	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	Modder "B"	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Chartered	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Deep	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
City Deep	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	New Modder (£4)	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	19 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cons. Gold Fields	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	Rand Mines (5/-)	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	38 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cons. Langlaagte	27 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	Rio Tinto (£5)	63 $\frac{1}{2}$	63 $\frac{1}{2}$
Crown Mines (10/-)	3	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	Van Ryn Deep	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	34 $\frac{1}{2}$

ferred and South-Eastern deferred were lower. Central London deferred was marked down 1 to 70, but Underground income bonds recovered to 89 $\frac{1}{2}$. Canadian Pacific shares were heavy on the poor reports of the harvest in Western Canada, and relapsed to 184. Grand Trunk stocks were also affected, and showed losses ranging from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. American Railroad shares have fluctuated widely, being depressed in the beginning of the week by the fresh complications created by the U boat activity, and recovering later. Dealings on this

side, however, are extremely small, and movements merely reflect the movements of prices on Wall Street. International Mercantile Marine common and preferred were amongst the principal sufferers, and finished with losses of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 19 respectively, while United States Steel common was marked down to 116. Argentine Railway shares were weak, with losses of $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 in Buenos Ayres Great Southern, Buenos Ayres and Pacific, and Buenos Ayres Western, but Central Argentine ordinary and preference exceptionally showed small recoveries. Mexican Railway first preference fell to 65 and the second preference to 37.

Bank shares have again been exceedingly quiet, and in the London group National Provincial £10 $\frac{1}{2}$ paid were marked down 1 and the £12 paid $\frac{1}{4}$. Lloyds also lost $\frac{1}{4}$, and Barclay "B," London City and Midland and London County and Westminster all fell $\frac{1}{8}$. Amongst Foreign and Colonial descriptions Hongkong and Shanghai came in for a good deal of support, and improved to 78 $\frac{1}{2}$, but Chartered lost $\frac{1}{4}$. Bank of Australasia put on 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. Shipping shares have been very quiet, and inclined to be dull. Royal Mail closed 2 down at 121, and Cunard, Furness Withy and Union of New Zealand all showed losses. P. and O. deferred, after touching 337 $\frac{1}{2}$, recovered, and closed unchanged at 338 $\frac{1}{2}$, and there was sufficient support for Court Line to lift the price to 35 $\frac{1}{2}$. Brazilian Traction have fluctuated sharply, and after touching 56 and 57 closed at the lowest. City Services common and preferred were marked down sharply to 340 and 96 respectively. Gas Light and Coke was lower, and Imperial Continental Gas was marked down 2. Hudson's Bay shares were $\frac{1}{8}$ easier, but Pekin Syndicate improved to 123 on buying which was believed to be on French account. Engineering and Munition things were quiet, and inclined to be easier, but there was some inquiry for Thornycrofts and Fraser and Chalmers, both of which show fair gains, and Bengal Iron were also supported and higher. British Oil and Cake Mills were offered, and declined to 29s. 9d., but Nitrogen Products were in demand, and rose to 16s. Meat shares were a shade easier, and Textiles generally were dull, with a sharp drop in Coats to 6 $\frac{1}{2}$.

In the oil share market business has shrunk to very minute proportions. As usual, there was a moderate inquiry for "Shell," but they close a trifle lower at 57 $\frac{1}{2}$. Anglo-Egyptian "B" were helped by the large increase in output shown by last week's return. North Caucasian and New Caucasian were both easier, but Black Sea Amalgamated recovered slightly, while Rumanian Consolidated sagged to 17s. 9d. Mexican descriptions were dull and Eagle Transport preference lost $\frac{1}{8}$, but a little inquiry for Burmah left the price $\frac{1}{8}$ up. A fairly big business has been done in Rubber shares, and prices generally improved under the lead of Rubber Trusts, which jumped to 26s. 6d., and finished very little below that figure. Highlands, Anglo-Malay, Federated Selangor, United Temiang and United Serdang were all active, and Batu Rata met with support on the satisfactory report. Java and Sumatra shares fell sharply at the end. These companies are likely to suffer considerably from the Bill to extend to the Dutch colonies the excess profits tax, which has hitherto been confined to Holland, and also from the proposal to prohibit the export from Java of more than one-third of the coffee crop.

LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

SUGAR.—Prices were kept at recent level, and a good demand continued for the comparatively small available supplies. With the better grocery qualities very scarce, commoner kinds meet a ready sale. Stocks in the three chief ports of the United Kingdom amount to 121,000 tons, against 53,600 last year.

COFFEE.—General trade assumed a quieter tone this week, though no material alteration occurred in values, as importers do not press. Supplies submitted to auction were only partially disposed of. After ruling firmer, the terminal market became quieter. December, sold, 47s. 3d. to 46s. 6d.; March, 48s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 48s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

COCOA shows no improvement, while mainly dependent upon home manufacturers, and who apparently possess adequate stocks for the time being. In auction, 10,700 bags were catalogued, of which 6,600 bags consisted of Colonial imports. With buyers indifferent, only a limited proportion was disposed of at irregular and slightly easier prices. An attractive line of Samoa failed to elicit attention, while foreign grades were neglected.

TEA.—Indian auctions encountered generally active competition, and all the finer parcels cleared at a full range, common ruling steady. As regards Ceylon consignments, common and stalky lots were only saleable at a slight concession, though parcels possessing good liquor did well. Java sales were quite steady. During the week, 44,000 packages Indian, 31,000 Ceylon, and 4,000 packages Java were offered.

SPICE.—Actual transactions were again confined to a narrow compass, and in several instances quotations were purely nominal. Of cloves, fair Zanzibar, spot, sold, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Tapioca experienced but retail support on former terms.

RICE.—Only a moderate trade resulted, but holders asked full rates. Rangoon beans firm and in demand. Spot lots, sold, £27. Japanese peas further advanced. October-November, steamer, sold, £40 5s. to £40 10s. F.A.Q. butter beans, spot, sold, £34 : and whites, £35.

FIBRES.—Jute, after being quiet, became firm, a moderate inquiry revealing a scarcity of sellers. Native first marks, assortment, spot, London, sold, £31 15s. to £32 10s.; ditto, September-October, Dundee, £33 5s. to £33 10s. Of Manila hemp, rates eased slightly at first but improved, and a fair business took place. Fair, October-December, sold, £53 for H grade, and £52 to

£52 10s. ordinary; coarse, October-December, £48 15s. to £49 5s.; January-March, £47 10s. to £48 5s. New Zealand firmer.

SHELLAC.—Business on spot moved quietly on the basis of 119s. for fair second orange. For delivery, T.N., December, sold, 116s., 114s., and 120s.

RUBBER hardened at first, but became quieter, while general trade proceeded quietly. Plantation, spot, crepe, sold, 2s. 5½d., 2s. 6d., 2s. 5½d.; November-December, 2s. 6d. Ribbed smoked sheet, spot, sold, 2s. 5d., 2s. 5½d. Fine hard Para, spot, 3s. 3d., buyers.

COPRA firmly held.

METALS.—Copper: There has been more doing in the standard market since last Monday, while cash delivery by the middle of

CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 13, 1916.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
Sugar —per cwt., duty 14½, 98% polarisation	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Wool —per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tate's Cubes No. 1	2 7 1½	2 7 1½	Australian	2 1½-3 10	2 1½-3 10
Ditto, H.T.S.	2 6 7½	2 6 7½	Scoured Merino	1 8-2 9½	1 8-2 9½
Fine granulated	nom.	nom.	Greasy Cr'ssbr'c	1 3½-2 4½	1 3½-2 4½
Lyle's granulated	41 7½-42 1½	41 7½-42 1½	Greasy Merino	1 5-2 3½	1 5-2 3½
Foreign granulated, first marks	nom.	nom.	New Zealand (scoured) Merino	3 0-3 6	3 0-3 6
f.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	1 1-1 9½	1 1-1 9½
German Cubes f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Cape snow white	2 1½-3 4	2 1½-3 4
French Cube	nom.	nom.	Indiarubber p. lb.		
prompt	nom.	nom.	Plantation, Spot		
Crystallised, West	nom.	nom.	Crepe	0 2 4½	0 2 5½
India	nom.	nom.	Coal —per ton		
Beet, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Durham, best	nom.	nom.
Tea —per lb., duty 1½	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Indian Pekoe	0 8½-1 3	0 8½-1 0½	East Hartlepool	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 9½-1 2	0 9½-1 3½	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Orange	0 10-1 5	0 9-1 2	Steamers, best	37½ 40½	40½
Broken	0 10½-1 0½	0 8½-1 9	Seconds	28½ 35½	30½
Pekoe Souchong	0 8½-1 0	0 8½-1 1½	Lead —per ton.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Ceylon Pekoe	0 8½-1 0	0 8½-1 0½	English Pig.	32 5 0	32 5 0
Broken	0 9-1 0½	0 8½-1 1½	Foreign soft.	30 10 0	30 10 0
Orange	0 9½-1 0½	0 8½-1 1½	Quicksilver —pr		
Broken	0 10-1 2½	0 10-1 2½	bottle firsthand	£17½	£17½
Pekoe Souchong	0 7½-1 0	0 8-1 0	Tin —per ton		
Cocoa —per cwt., duty 6d.	s. s.	s. s.	English Ingots	£179-£180	£182-£183
Trinidad	81 0-85 0	81 0-85 0	Do. bars	£180-£181	£183-£184
Grenada	73 0-82 0	73 0-82 0	Standard cash	£176 15 c	£180 17 6
West Africa	70 0-74 0	70 0-74 0	Tin Plates, per box	nom.	nom.
Ceylon Plantation	72 0-91 0	72 0-91 0	Copper —per ton.		
Guyana/Arriba	96 0-98 0	96 0-98 0	per ton	nom.	nom.
Coffee —per cwt., duty 4½			Best Selected	£143-£144	£146-£143
East India	67 0-95 0	67 0-95 0	Sheets	£164	£166
Jamaica	62 0-120 0	62 0-120 0	Standard	£120-£122	£123
Costa Rica	62 0-84 0	62 0-84 0	Jute —per ton.		
Provisions			Native firsts for shipment Oct.	£33 7 6	£33 12 6
Butter , per cwt.			Oils		
Australian finest	nom.	nom.	Linsed, per ton.	£39½-£40½	£39½-£40½
Irish Creameries	196½-2 4½	194½-202½	Rape, ref. English, barrels	£48-£50	£49-£51
Dutch ditto	190½-194½	194½-196½	Brown English, naked	£43 0 0	£46 0 0
Russian finest	nom.	nom.	Cott'n Seed, crude	£35 0 0	£36 10 0
Normandy baskets	nom.	nom.	Ditto, refined	£40-£51½	£42-£52
Danish finest	210½-212½	206½-208½	Petroleum Oil, per 8 lbs.	1/1½	1/1½
Brittany rolls—doz. lb.	17½-20½	17½-20½	Water White	1/2½	1/2½
Sacon —per cwt.			Oil Seeds, Linsed	—	—
Irish	104 0-115 0	103 0-115 0	Calcutta—per 410 lbs., Oct.-Nov.	4 2 0	4 1 6
Continental	94 0-114 0	96 0-114 0	Rape, Toria	71½	72½
Canadian	96 0-108 0	94 0-108 0	Iron —per ton		
American	96 0-100 0	93 0-102 0	Cleveland Cash	nom.	nom.
Hams —per cwt.			Tobacco —duty, unmanufactured		
Irish	13½-150½	140½-152½	5/6 to 6/2½ per lb.		
Canadian	0 0-0 0	109 0-113 0	Maryland & Ohio	0 6-0 10	0 6-0 10
American	67 0-115 0	67 0-114 0	per lb. bond	0 8-1 6	0 8-1 6
Cheese —per cwt.			Virginia leaf	0 6½-0 10	0 6½-0 10
Dutch	72 0-98 0	76 0-104 0	Kentucky leaf	1 0-3 0	1 0-3 0
Canadian	110 0-112 0	110 0-114 0	Latakia	1 0-3 0	1 0-3 0
English Cheddar	112 0-116 0	112 0-116 0	Havana	0 6-2 0	0 6-2 0
Wilt's loaf	nom.	nom.	Manila	0 6-2 0	0 6-2 0
New Zealand	108 0-112 0	110 0-112 0	Cigars, duty 10/6 per lb.	—/ upds.	2/ upds.
Rice —per cwt.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Timber —Wood.		
Garden Siam	17 0	17 0	Pitch Pine	250½-270	250½-270½
spot	17 0	17 0	Indian Teak	400½-600	400½-600½
Rangoon 2 stars	17 0	17 0	Turpentine —American Spot	2 2 9	2 4 3
Eggs —per 120.			Copra —Malabar, London		
English	24 6 26 0	25 0-27 0	Oct.-Dec.	nom.	nom.
Irish	22 6 23 6	23 0-23 6	Ceylon, London	33 5 0	34 10 0
Danish	23 0-25 6	24 0-26 0	South Sea	32 7 6	33 10 0
Spelter —G.O.B. as to position	£54½-£49½	£56-£51½	F.M.S.	32 10 0	31 10 6
Flour —per sack.					
Town Households					
Official	57½	55½			
American First	56½ upds	nom.			
Patents					

the week settled down at £123 10s., and three months at £119 10s. Less inclination was shown at Thursday's meeting to operate, and rates fell back, spot closing at £123, sellers, three months £119. Electros, £144 to £141. Tin moved in an upward direction until Tuesday, on good general buying, standard, cash, fluctuating to £181 5s., and three months to £181 15s. During the middle of the week selling desire led to a setback, and values of these dates left off at £180 5s., and three months £180 15s. At Thursday's session rates ruled firmer, and a moderate business transpired, closing £180 15s. for cash, and £181 10s. three months. Spelter quiet. G.O.B., November, £56; January, £51 10s. Lead quiet. Soft foreign, November, £30 10s.; January, £29 10s. Quicksilver unaltered.

CORN (Mark Lane).—Government proposals with regard to regulating supplies of imported wheat during the continuation of the war, led to some remaining at a standstill since the middle of the week, no prices being fixed. Flour nominal. Barley, oats, and maize dearer. Wheat: English whites and reds range up to 70s. per quarter, 504 lbs. delivered. Grinding barley: La Plata, 48s. 6d. upwards, ex quay. American, ex ship, 48s. Oats: La Plata, landed, 35s. to 36s., as to quality. Canadian Western No. 2, 37s. 6d., ex quay. Maize: La Plata (sound), 52s., ex quay, and ex ship, shortly due, 51s. 6d.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—We have experienced a strong and dearer market during the past week, and all along the line prices have gone against buyers. In many quarters it has been difficult to secure full advances, and business to some extent has been checked, although the undercurrent of demand may be described as healthy. Buyers realise there is not much probability of more favourable opportunities of purchasing in the near future, but at the same time there is a fear of arranging heavy commitments when there is a possibility of depreciation in values. Prices in American cotton have been supported by the big trade demand and the heavy exports from the United States. Owing to fears of international complications between Germany and America, some people are afraid that supplies on this side will become still further reduced, and freights have tended to harden. Worse advices continue to be received relating to the Egyptian crop, and according to some authorities the yield will be much smaller than at one time expected. The all-round inquiry in piece goods for export has been extensive, but increased difficulty has been experienced in arranging contracts. India has continued to purchase fair lots in miscellaneous goods, but the bids in grey staples remain poor and unsatisfactory. The holidays in Calcutta have interfered with negotiations for that outlet. There is scarcely any fresh news from China, and demand continues to drag. A steady trade has again been done for Java in a variety of cloths. Egypt has given good support, and it is quite evident the requirements of that market are not yet satisfied, and higher prices have not altogether checked operations. Rather irregular buying has occurred in home trade fabrics. The general offtake for our colonies such as Australia and New Zealand continues healthy. There are comparatively weak places amongst manufacturers of cloth, but the position on the whole is more encouraging than a few months ago. American yarns for home use have been stiffly held at the advanced quotations, and buyers have had few opportunities of purchasing except at full rates. Small lots for quick delivery in fine counts have been sold at a premium. Very little activity continues to show itself in export yarns, both India and the Continent being quiet. Egyptian spinnings are dearer on the week, and business has been demoralised. Some necessary buying has occurred, and now and again extraordinary prices have been paid, especially in the higher counts.

Answers to Correspondents.

Coolavin.—Why should you take a three-year security merely for the temporary higher rate of interest? Behind the stock you have there is the best security in the world, and that fact will by-and-by assert itself in the price. You should stick to it.

James N., Junr.—The advantage is that you would get full interest on your money at the end of the time. But you lose all chance of getting back your lost capital by a recovery in the price of the stock now held.

S. S. O.—No, we do not. They may be pushed higher, of course, but the premium is already about 400 per cent., and the future is quite as uncertain as the past.

C. G. E.—(1) The Public Trustee. (2) Your friend can be included.

D. R. S.—(1) We cannot advise a sale now. Should some semblance of order be restored there might be a sharp upward move. If so, sell, as we fear it will be a long time before the company can recover. (2) The damage to this property cannot have been so heavy, and the company ought to recover more rapidly than (1). It was doing well before the trouble arose, and the security was considered good apart from the guarantee.

Yeo.—You had better lend them to the Government and ask for a certificate about the tax. This may enable you to recover, but we cannot be sure.

W. G. M.—They seem fairly fully priced now, and you might sell.

L. N. T.—(1) Not worth more than their present price. (2) There is a speculative chance for these, as one at least of its properties is reported to be doing better; on the other hand, some of its assets are near their end. (3) Also quite speculative, but with some prospects. (4) Has been doing well, and price may rise a little more, but do not hold on too long. (5) On the present price of the shares they are high enough, but the company we are told has done well with some of its properties. Why not sell half and wait a little longer with the rest?

Elder.—It depends how long you want the investment to run. Exchequer 6 per cent. bonds run to February, 1920, and pay interest half-yearly. War Expenditure Certificates run for two years, and War Savings Certificates for five years, principal and interest being paid in a lump sum at the end of the period.

A. S. D.—In the present state of the country and its exchange we do not think you should increase your holding. The company was over-capitalised, and we do not think you will see your money back, but we hope to see some recovery from the present low price, as there must be a possibility of improvement when conditions are more normal.

Shall We Love Our Enemies Just Yet ?

[There was a regrettable slip in the first part of the above article, which appeared a week ago. In outlining the rearrangement of territory that will be necessary if Europe is to be guaranteed against another outbreak of Teutonic insanity we mentioned that the mineral resources now in German control must be taken away in order to remove temptation from the path of future dreamers of dreams about world hegemony, and in doing so assigned the eastern deposits of iron, coal, &c., to Russia and Roumania. We ought to have said Poland and Roumania, for we have no doubt that this time Russia will prove faithful to the promise made for her by the Tsar and restore the Kingdom, or Republic, of Poland to its ancient status. So far as the portions of that country held by Austria and Prussia are in question, there should be no difficulty after the war in effecting their liberation, but Poland cannot be made wholly free without the much larger Russian share of the plunder. This the Tsar has promised to set free, and now that the German dominance over the Russian bureaucracy is ended we can have no fear that his word will be broken. To this restored, reunited nation therefore must fall the rich mineral deposits of petroleum, coal, iron, zinc, copper, lead, salt, &c., to be found in many parts of its area. If this restoration is fully and honestly accomplished, and if the Poles are to be freed henceforth from all external domination with the purpose of stealing, it will do much to help in the maintenance of the European harmony. And the happier and more comfortable the people of reunited Poland become, the greater will be the prosperity and beneficent influence of her great liberator. For everywhere the peace that is to come must be a peace between peoples, not one between potentates and Powers, not a peace clouted together in the interests of usurers and capitalists to the neglect of the masses who work and pay, but a peace in which the humblest must have some direct share.]

In face of the stern duties, events and our necessities, German abjectness also, are laying upon us, phrases like those of Lord Bryce are out of place and jar against the sense of justice Germany's crimes and German moral degradation have roused to activity. Will readers now peruse the following extracts from Signor Gayda's volume? The first deals with the land tyranny in Austria :—

It might truly be said of the aristocracy of Austria and Hungary, as that of France in the eighteenth century, that their greatness is measured by the extent of their lands. This domination had already long been protected by privilege, as in Austria till 1848 only the nobility could have complete possession of the land, while to the other classes a right of enjoyment was scarcely recognised. Later, when serfdom was abolished, the land was free; but the nobility preserved their sovereignty. In the country, veritable little kingdoms remain which unite village to village for interminable distances under the rule of a single family. Such are the estates of Prince Schwarzenberg in Bohemia, of Prince Potocki in Galicia, of Prince Lichtenstein in Moravia. Here is a *résumé* of the Schwarzenberg properties in Southern Bohemia: Seven *fidei-commissa* estates, covering an area of about 315,000 acres, four freehold estates of about 45,000 acres, 12 castles, 95 dairies, 85 forests, 12 breweries, two sugar refineries, 22 sawmills, furnaces, graphite mines, with 87 churches, 73 parishes, 5,000 peasant families, about a thousand workmen, and several hundred clerks. The landed possessions alone yield a nett annual revenue of 2,000,000 crowns (£83,333). The Lichtenstein property in Bohemia alone extends over about 250,000 acres (5 per cent. of the whole province). In Hungary, Prince Esterházy, Margrave Pallavinci, the Károlyis, the Andrásys, the Zichys, and 20 others have possessions of over 250,000 acres; in Lower Austria 30 noble families occupy 9 per cent. of the whole province; in Styria 14 nobles divide 7.1 per cent. of the property; in Silesia 11 lords own a fifth of the province. Austria really belongs very little to the people who live and toil in her; her land is, as it were, subtracted from the wealth of the State.

The following sketches the economics of irresponsible landlordism in Hungary :—

In Hungary, however, many properties are still under a veritable mortmain, inalienable, with those *fidei-commissa* reserved to the Church and the aristocracy, which remain in the family that owns them until it is extinct and without descendants. These increase enormously every year; in 1870 they occupied 24 per cent. of the whole Hungarian territory, Croatia and Slavonia excepted; in 1897 they represented 34.6 per cent. of the kingdom. The Esterházy princes alone own about 735,000 acres of them, in addition to their other landed

estates; and these old properties, all covered with dense uncultivated forests, broken here and there by immense flat pasture lands, produce nothing and diminish more and more the fertile ground suitable for cultivation.

And could any picture be more forlorn than this? A selfish, pleasure-loving, on occasion war-making, caste, remorselessly preying on the people by whose labour they exist!

In the country and the woods of Austria, too, the chase is reserved entirely for the gentry, and is their ancient hereditary passion; of old the Princes of Babenberg and later the House of Habsburg placed it among their most important interests. On this account the Austrian aristocracy, very little interested in the increased production of grain and meat demanded by the town populations, seize the small farms of the peasants, weakened by debts, destroy the houses, kill the domestic animals, and turn the vineyards and fields into uncultivated woods to complete their preserves and to open fresh ways for the stag and roebuck.

So the unproductive estate continues to grow, and the small peasant properties disappear, while their owners leave the country in throngs, emigrating to the towns. It has been observed, especially in feudal Bohemia, that the growth of large sporting estates coincides with the depopulation of the villages.

It is a sad and serious dislocation of the social balance, an economic dissonance which deepens the gulf between the aristocracy and the people; it is still further accentuated by the upper classes shutting themselves up in an iron system of economic privileges. They behave as if they were outside the law, they exempt themselves from financial burdens; from 1893 to 1902 the revenue from the land tax dropped from 71,460,000 crowns (£2,977,500) to 54,460,000 crowns (£2,269,166). They silently suppress those social obligations bequeathed to the feudal estate, and even to-day imposed by custom, by which the large landowners should themselves, in the villages which they rule, provide for the education of the children, for the assistance of the poor, for the care of the sick; they impose the law of their exclusive interests on that inflexible agrarian policy of Protection and of oppression which raises the price of bread and meat progressively in Austria, lowers the agricultural wages to starvation rates, and sterilises industry.

Yet, there is one picture, the ugliest, most loathsome of all, that of the property-owning, land-grabbing Catholic Church. Perhaps our Nonconformist readers, of whom there are many, will ponder over this, and say whether the peace as of other days will do to end this war.

At the centre of all her wealth lies her landed property, the mortmain. It is impossible to specify its value in exact figures, for no one knows it in its vast entirety. To safeguard it from a possible lay invasion many religious communities, warned by the history of France, conceal it under false colours; in Budapest, for instance, many French monks pretend to live on the property of some devout old lady. Still, the official figures in existence, very much simplified, reveal the ecclesiastical treasure as already immense. In 1900 the patrimony of the Catholic Church reached a total of 813,000,000 crowns (£33,875,000), distributed thus: Land and real estate, 301,500,000 crowns (£12,562,500); public bonds, 387,270,000 crowns (£16,136,250); private capital, 70,500,000 crowns (£2,939,500); other patrimonies, 54,200,000 crowns (£2,258,333), with a total annual income of 60,000,000 crowns (£2,500,000).

But this, again, is nothing in comparison with the power of the Hungarian Catholic Church, which has only to provide for the souls of 8,000,000 Catholics, whilst that of Austria controls an army of 23,000,000 believers. The value of the Hungarian ecclesiastical possessions, including the buildings and the agricultural implements, is reckoned at 15,000,000 crowns (£600,000). The real estate alone covers a total area of about 2,800,000 acres, and returns an annual revenue of 70,000,000 crowns (£2,916,666).

There is no province of the Empire without some immense estate belonging to the Church. In Bohemia the ecclesiastical property covers about 37,000 acres (3 per cent. of the whole area of the province), in Styria about 315,000 acres (5.8 per cent. of the provinces), in Moravia 200,000 acres (3.8 per cent.). Opposed to the iron *bloc* of the new Jewish capitalism, which directs the movements of the Liberal *bourgeoisie*, the Church, with its territorial conservatism, stands huge and massive by the side of the ancient feudal nobility.

In 1900, for instance, the revenue of the Church in Austria reached the sum of 60,000,000 crowns (£2,500,000), against an expenditure of 25,000,000 crowns (£1,041,666) only, so that a margin of 35,000,000 crowns (£1,458,333) remained as savings. Her lands have increased at the same time as her capital. According to official statistics, the real estate of the Hungarian clergy has increased by about 285,000 acres in eight years; the same has happened in Austria.

A few years ago the Bishop of Olmütz, whose income is 4,000,000 crowns (£166,666), and who paid his peasant in winter the un-Christian wage of 30 or 40 *hellers* (3d. or 4d. a day), was publicly denounced in the Austrian Parliament. Such things have been seen, too, on the landed estates of Galicia, managed by speculating Jews. Great capitalism has the same habits everywhere. Founded on this, nourished by her fabulous war-chest, the Austrian Church stands watchful in the breach, and wages war daily for the conquest of the Empire.

Many more passages of significant import might be quoted, but this should be enough to show that the roots whence this war sprung lie deep-buried in the past, and therefore unless we go on fighting until the foe is beaten so low as to be easily dispossessable, so that we can liberate the ignorant and the degraded from an abominable oppression, we shall have made but little real progress with the civilisation of mankind, with the elimination of war from among civilised peoples.

By-the-Way War Notes.

Is this sudden onslaught of a German submarine pirate on unarmed merchant ships outside New York a proof that Germany is growing stronger, more able to recover the mastery in this world-war? No, it is a sign of growing weakness, because the attempt would not have been made or in any way necessary if the submarine savagery nearer our shores had not been already over-mastered by our fleet. There is no reason to doubt the report that the German Government has confessed its inability to maintain the supply of fresh submarine boats at a height sufficient to keep up the piracy in British waters, but the fury of defeat and the necessity to sustain the War Loan and the people's spirits prompted the Kaiser's functionaries to make a sensation by a surprise-attack upon a few unsuspecting vessels leaving America for Europe. To sink eight or nine of them indiscriminately and safely, seeing that they were all unarmed, was calculated to make a tremendous sensation, and to confuse the growing anti-war faction in the helpless Reichstag, perhaps also to gull the multitude of the preyed upon a little longer with the idea that the "triumph" is after all coming. To us the episode has much more interest as regards our relations with the United States than as an effect upon or incident in the war. It is possible that success of a sort may continue for a little time to attend this demonstration of brutality on the American coast, just as the efforts to interrupt our trade with Russia *via* Archangel has been causing our Navy a certain amount of extra trouble, but all of it will be overcome. We have simply to extend our range of ocean scouting and to persevere on land as we are doing to bring the end of the conflict in sight, and that ere long, too. "On without hurry, on without stop," that is the motto.

It would be useless to deny that a certain war weariness now and then comes over all the belligerents in this war. That the Germans should be tired of the fighting, as our prisoners say, is to be expected, for they begin to understand that they have been made dupes of by the Kaiser and his fellow-brigands; but the Allies also begin at times to think the fighting should end soon. We must ever combat this feeling, and with all the more sternness on days when no progress seems to be made, when, as in Transylvania, we seem to be getting the worst of it. Our own impression grows more emphatic that the aggressor Empires cannot maintain the fight all through another winter, but we must make our arrangements for continuing it until the fourth winter and beyond if need be.

And there is no valid ground for our growing tired. We are doing, on the whole, very well and getting on, although every second day does not bring accounts of new fortresses stormed on the Somme or of great hauls of prisoners. The most ingeniously elaborate systems of trench and subterranean fortifications ever constructed by human labour and perverted brains have to be stormed and "cleaned up" in Picardy, and all along the 300 odd mile front in France and Belgium; and the work has to be done in such a way as to inflict the largest loss upon the enemy at the smallest cost in killed and wounded to ourselves. Therefore progress is in appearance slow, but it is not really that, has never been that, and not a day passes along the Anglo-French front without something being gained by the Allied armies. Those "great pushes" the news of which comes to cheer us up from time to time would not be the successes they are unless prepared for by days and sometimes weeks of strenuous labour, and unless planned with a skill and forethought that inspire the

troops with a perfect assurance of victory. All the time that we sap and outflank and circumvallate we are killing off the foe or taking prisoners from him in hundreds and thousands, and all the time his conceit is being driven out of him, taking with it his moral courage, never high. How long will *les Boches* continue to stand up to the pounding they are now subjected to every day and all day on the long front they hold? As long as fools can be found to face the death, believing that victory is with them still if they "stick it."

Ah! but how long can the tyrants who will keep up the supply of men and of death-dealing appliances? Who shall guess? Both Empires are irretrievably bankrupt now, and their "loan" operations—another Austro-Hungarian one is coming, it is said—are more confessions of this bankruptcy than proof of ability to go on meeting the costs of the struggle. One form of indebtedness is converted into another, but the cash in the Reichsbank is not increased by the turnover, and the Kaiser's brag about it to his factotum, the Chancellor, von Bethmann-Hollweg, is merely a proclamation to the effect that so much more of the floating debt has been funded, placed officially on the back of the people, without providing them with as much as one mark towards meeting the obligation. Listen to the ranting impostor:—

More than 10½ milliards of marks have been raised for the fifth war loan by all classes of the population. The sum placed at the disposal of the Fatherland in long-term loans has thereby reached about 47 milliards (equal to about £2,750,000,000). This result, which has been reached during the most furious and powerful attacks which have yet been delivered upon our front, must be considered an expression of the unshakable confidence of the nation in itself and its future. Germany continues to work amidst the devastation of war. So long as everyone gives to the Empire the profits he makes from this work, the Empire will repose inexhaustibly on its own strength. I gratefully acknowledge that my confidence is strengthened that the unconquerable might of the whole people will lead us to victory.

"Slaves ye are, and slaves ye shall remain, slaves of the usurer and my cannon food." That is what the Kaiser's vaunt really proclaims, and we may take comfort.

"But the war is not going well on all fronts." No, not everywhere so well as it should. Rumania appears to have dashed into Transylvania in inconsiderate haste, unaware of the astuteness with which Mackensen had gathered a host to attack it in the rear from Bulgaria. Therefore the Rumanian troops have been forced to retreat to the passes, and had not Russia come promptly to the rescue in the Dobrudja the enemy might have crossed the Danube and seized Bucharest. Happily, all danger of that would now appear to have been arrested, for not only is Mackensen held in the Dobrudja, but General Sarrail, with his Anglo-Franco-Russian troops and his magnificent Serbians is pressing on into Bulgaria from the South; and General Brusiloff is busy hunting down the last of the Austro-Hungarian reserves and much of the Germans also in Galicia, and among the buttresses of the Carpathians. Once more Teutonic cunning has probably overreached itself, to the advantage of the Allies.

Nor do things go at all badly in Asia Minor, in Persia, in Albania, where the Italians are getting into a position from which they may deal shrewd blows at the Austrians in Mid-Serbia, in the Italian Alps, and on the ocean. That was a lamentable incident, the sinking of the French 15,000-ton auxiliary cruiser *Gallia*, with the loss of about 600 men, and it evokes feelings of both sympathy and rage; but yet it is a marvel that there has been so little of this kind of "success" reaped by the Austrians and their Allies, and we feel sure that the fleets of the Allies in the Mediterranean and Adriatic will be stimulated to increased zeal in putting it out of the power of the foe to repeat the crime. For crime it is, the crime of felons, not the warfare of valiant men.

German casualty lists do not tell all the truth by any means, hide altogether the losses of colonial troops or at sea, for example, but, accepting them as published, they warn us that there must yet be a vast amount of

killing to be done before peace comes in sight. Including the losses "reported" in September—not the actual losses incurred during that month, be it observed—which are put at a mere 179,884, of whom only 30,306 were killed and 1,976 dead of disease, the aggregate damage done to the barbarous savages up to the end of last month was 3,556,018, of whom 817,560 are the number of the killed. In addition, 52,622 have died of sickness. Also 249,967 are set down as "missing," many of whom should no doubt be numbered among the slain. Even so, the dead cannot on this exhibit much exceed the "million" the Kaiser boasted to an English General he could "afford to lose," and we fear the total may have to be doubled before Germany is brought back to sanity and a rudimentary sense of respect for fellow human beings. Here, for reference, is the full summary as published in Germany:—

Killed and died of wounds, 817,560; died of sickness, 52,622; prisoners, 178,862; missing, 249,967; severely wounded, 478,854; wounded, 280,880; slightly wounded, 1,318,834; wounded remaining with units, 178,439; total, 3,556,018.

All Friday morning's news is good, and at most points the Allies make progress. The German blows against Rumania seem to have gained nothing valuable on either front, and the increasing savagery of the attack on Russia in the Riga "sector" betrays impotence rather than strength. Steadily our forces move forward in Macedonia, and the citizen soldiers of Italy have performed unmatched feats of war in their assaults upon the Austrians at many points along their mountain battleground. "Since August 6," says the official report, "we have taken 30,881 prisoners, including 728 officers, on the Italian front alone." Around Gorizia they have captured this week 1,771 prisoners, including 35 officers. Against the Franco-Belgian-British front in the West the Teutons dash themselves in vain. Everywhere they are being pushed back or held down, everywhere the process of "attrition" goes on, and the sense of imminent defeat begins to appear even in the furies of hate and braggings about "victory" in the Reichstag. Surely the foamings at the mouth of these politically impotent deputies, whose function it is to screen arbitrary power, are not the last manifestations of the Teutonic mind? Is the hate-and-defiance attitude all paid for, like the lying and raving of the newspapers? Is there no man in Germany who may be capable of summoning the nation back to reason and the ways of peace? Must we continue to look in vain for the outbreak of that German revolution, for that upheaval of oppressed nationalities, which would end Habsburg and Hohenzollern autocracies for ever? Why speculate? Our duty is to fight on and on until the oppressors are finally defeated. And the winter draws near, for which the Allies are prepared better than the enemy. And want spreads upward among the population of both Empires, a hunger that should goad the most cowed of serfs to rise and prove themselves men. Well may the jackals of despotic power bark and snarl and bark again. Nought else is left for them to do.

Tea, Oil and Rubber.

For the past nine months imports of rubber into this country amounted to 1,238,070 centals, a decrease of 93,000 centals as compared with the corresponding period, but the value was £2,700,000 higher at £17,200,000. The total includes 179,000 centals from Brazil, which, although it only takes third place in the list of producers, is not yet a negligible quantity. Exports amounted to 813,323 centals, a decrease of 300,000 centals, the United States having taken 250,000 centals less and Russia 84,000 less. It appears, therefore, that we have retained 425,000 centals for home consumption, as against 218,000 centals last year. Evidently the reduction in exports to America is due to direct shipments from the East, as the United States' returns for the year to June 30 show that the imports amounted to 117,440 tons, against 73,950 tons in 1914-15 and 57,250 tons in 1913-14. The fact that American imports have more than doubled in two years has been

widely trumpeted and gladly hailed as proof that there is no fear of production outstripping demand. That remains to be seen, but it must be admitted that American consumption has advanced much more rapidly than the most sanguine anticipated, and there is every reason to believe that the demand will continue to grow, at any rate until the next wave of commercial depression sweeps over the country. Meantime, the figures have greatly heartened the share market, and quotations have been soaring under the lead of Rubber Plantations Investment Trusts, although the price of the commodity has been rather shaky at a fraction under 2s. 6d. per lb.

As a rule we are not much in favour of splitting businesses into subsidiary companies, but we believe the policy is a prudent one in the case of a firm like Harrisons and Crosfield, Ltd. Two years ago the Australian and New Zealand interests were amalgamated with those of the Fraser, Ramsay Proprietary, Ltd., and the results have been so satisfactory that the original arrangement has been considerably extended. A subsidiary company has recently been formed to handle the South African tea business, and since the close of the financial year (June 30) arrangements have been completed for the amalgamation of the remainder of the tea business with R. Twining and Co., Ltd. These developments will leave the directors free to devote their whole energies to the rubber industry, in which the company is so largely interested. For the past year the nett profit, after providing for excess profits duty, is practically the same as for the previous twelve months at £149,717, but £6,800 more was brought forward, and £1,180 more interest was received on preference reserve fund investments, so that the available balance shows an increase of £8,760 at £196,596. A year ago £17,500 was placed to preference reserve and £5,600 was written off new issue expenses. This time £20,000 is placed to general reserve, and £5,000 to property reserve, which will raise the total of the various funds to £306,000. The dividend on the preferred ordinary is maintained at 10 per cent., and that on the management shares at 3s., while the carry-forward is almost the same as last time at £42,290. Creditors and bills payable have increased £136,000 to £560,000, and bank overdrafts are £163,000, against £16,000. On the other hand, stocks are up £138,000 at £477,000, sundry debtors £80,000 at £314,700, properties £49,000 at £365,300, and cash balances £54,000 at £69,650. Investments have been reduced £19,000 to £497,000, but whereas last year there was a depreciation of £22,500, it is stated that they now show a large appreciation. The company is in a strong position, and is evidently managed with great energy and ability.

Considerable expansion is again shown in the output of the Tanjong Malim Rubber Co. for the year ended June 30, the total of 766,642 lbs. being 194,924 lbs. larger than that of the preceding 12 months. Owing to the increase in the export duty, the f.o.b. cost showed a small increase of .39d. at 11.19d., and freight, insurance, and selling charges were also slightly higher; but there was a considerable reduction in the provision required for loss on exchange, and the all-in costs consequently worked out at 1s. 2.97d., or .79d. less. An average of 2s. 9.52d. was realised, compared with 2s. 3.09d. last time, and the nett profit rose by £35,181 to £61,695, to which was added £7,694 brought in, giving £69,389, or £28,876 more, to be dealt with. The company is hampered in dealing with its dead assets of preliminary expenses, underwriting commission, &c., by its agreement with the vendor, which prevents its using any of the profits from the land under cultivation when taken over for any purpose but the payment of dividends. It is estimated, however, that £4,209 of the above profit was derived from land planted by the company, and this sum, together with £2,344 from interest, is applied in reduction of the item of underwriting commission. The dividend is then doubled at 10 per cent., tax free, which is equal to £12 2s. 5d. per cent., less tax at 3s. 6d., and £5,141 more at £12,836 is carried forward, subject to direc-

tors' additional remuneration. The company has 6,630 acres under rubber, of which 2,483 acres were planted at the time the property was taken over, and 2,709 acres were planted in 1911-12. In addition, it had a large reserve, but in order to reduce the rent charge 11,880 acres were surrendered during the year, and the total area, including sites and roads, swamps, &c., is now 8,619 acres. Expenditure on development amounted to £21,340, making the total cost £420,220, exclusive of £24,587 for buildings, machinery, &c., or nearly £62 per cultivated acre. Cash is £17,523 down at £11,880, and balances in hands of agents have been reduced by £12,328 to £40,164; but the company has £49,733 invested chiefly in Treasury bills, so that its resources are ample. A further considerable addition to the area in tapping will evidently be made this year, as the crop is estimated at 1,100,000 lbs.

A very satisfactory display is made by the Batu Rata (Sumatra) Rubber Plantations for the year ended June 30. The company has 1,112 acres in bearing, of which 698 were planted between 1909 and 1911, so that it is a comparatively young producer, but it was able to secure an increase of 116,282 lbs. to 368,755 lbs. in its crop. At the same time the cost of production showed a small decrease of .11d. at 1s. 1.50d., and the price rose by 7.10d. to 2s. 10.25d. Gross profits were £23,423 larger at £50,457, of which £1,000 is again written off for depreciation, but the appropriation of £2,000 to reserve is not repeated. After providing for all charges and adding £4,503 brought forward, the available balance was £20,543 better at £37,424, and the dividend is further increased by 7½ per cent. to 20 per cent., leaving £15,485, or £10,982 more, to be carried forward, subject to excess profits duty. During the year a further £20,269 in £1 shares was allotted at par to holders of option rights, making the issued capital £119,325. Capital expenditure, less depreciation, only amounted to £2,141, bringing the total cost to £110,936, but the directors have issued instructions for further portions of the estates to be brought into cultivation, and in the meantime have £39,862, or £34,937 more, invested in Treasury bills. The crop for the current year is estimated at 420,000 lbs., and a further substantial increase in the following season is foreshadowed by the statement that a considerable number of the 1913 trees will be ready for tapping towards the middle of next year.

Another addition to the ranks of plantation undertakings which did well in the past year is the Sungei Buaya (Sumatra) Rubber Co. The crop for the 12 months ended June 30 did not quite come up to expectations, but it exceeded that of the previous year by 74,588 lbs. at 375,248 lbs., while the price rose by 5.90d. to 2s. 8.96d. The "all-in" cost was only reduced by .20d. to 1s. 2.99d., owing no doubt to the heavier freight and other charges, but the nett profits showed the substantial increase of £13,649 at £28,452, and with £2,492 brought forward gave £30,944, or £11,730 more, available. A year ago £4,000 was written off property account, but it has since been decided to write this back and transfer the amount to a reserve, to which a further £6,000 is now transferred. After making this provision the dividend is again increased by 7½ per cent. to 22½ per cent., and £3,327 more at £5,819 is carried forward, subject to excess profits duty, if any. Expenditure on the immature area for the year was £3,421, making a total, including buildings and machinery, of £85,254, against which the reserve now stands at £10,000. The crop for the current year is estimated at 420,000 lbs.

A very promising start has been made by the North Labis (Johore) Rubber and Produce Co. Tapping began on August 14, 1915, and in the period ended June 30 a crop of 77,930 lbs. was obtained, or 7,930 lbs. more than the estimate. Being the initial output the "all-in" cost was naturally high, and amounted to 1s. 11.36d., but a satisfactory price of 2s. 7.42d. was realised, which gave a nett profit of £2,479. The whole of this is written off preliminary expenses, brokerage, &c., leaving only £997 to be wiped out, and as a crop of 225,000 lbs. is expected in the current year the

prospects for the company making an early entry into the dividend-paying list seem bright. During the 12 months a further 3s. per share was called up on 79,868 shares, making the paid-up capital £100,000, and liabilities on loans were reduced by £3,303 to £368. Expenditure on development amounted to £5,233, and on buildings and machinery to £2,275, bringing the total cost of the estate to £99,421.

In order to provide funds for the redemption of debentures which fall due on April 1 next, the directors of the Anglo-Johore Rubber Estates are offering 67,575 2s. shares at 2s. 3d. to present holders in proportion to the amount of capital now held by them. When this issue has been allotted the issued capital will amount to £60,000. The Treasury has raised no objection to the issue being made to existing shareholders.

In the report of the North Caucasian Oilfields it was stated that steps were being taken for the formation of a Russian company, and the directors now announce that the following resolutions will be submitted at the ordinary meeting on the 19th inst. :—

That a company be incorporated under the laws of the Empire of Russia, to be called the North Caucasian Oilfields Company, with a capital of Rs. 15,000,000, for the purpose of acquiring and carrying on the business of the company carried on in Russia.

That upon the statutes of the Russian company being sanctioned by the Imperial Russian Government all the property and assets of the company in Russia, including the sum due by Anton Lucianovitch Kraitsevitch to the company, as shown by the books of the company, in respect of plots Nos. 232, 233 and 237, shall be transferred as a going concern to the Russian company in consideration of the sum of Rs. 15,000,000, to be satisfied by the issue to the company of fully paid shares of the Russian company of the nominal value of Rs. 15,000,000, and the Russian company shall undertake the debts and liabilities of the company in Russia.

VICTORIA (MALAYA) RUBBER.—Until a year ago this company was mainly occupied with development work, and its production in 1913-14 and 1914-15 was on a very small scale. No great expansion was looked for in the 12 months ended June 30, the estimated crop being only 29,000 lbs., but the actual output amounted to no less than 71,500 lbs. A gross price of 2s. 8.11d., or 5.19d. more, was realised, and the all-in cost, including 0.47d. for war risk insurance, was comparatively moderate for so young a producer at 1s. 5.28d. The coconut crop was disappointing at 38,820 nuts, compared with 58,000 nuts in the previous year, and, owing to the poor growth on 58 acres, the trees have been cut out and replaced by rubber. After providing for debenture and other interest, there was a nett profit of £2,523, out of which £1,391 is written off underwriting and debenture issue expenses, &c., and a first dividend of 5 per cent. is paid, leaving £126 to be carried forward. The company has been able to sell 1,500 acres of the reserve land which it was intended to surrender to the Government, and in all 4,927 acres were sold and surrendered, leaving the property at 3,029 acres, of which nearly half is under cultivation. Capital expenditure, less receipts from sales of land, &c., amounted to £2,764, bringing the cost up to £40,460, exclusive of land and buildings. The crops for the current year are estimated at 164,000 lbs. rubber and 50,000 coconuts.

ASSOCIATED TEA ESTATES OF CEYLON.—In the year ended June 30 the tea crop showed an increase of 46,102 lbs. at 833,531 lbs., but the gross price realised was .15d. smaller at 10.57d., while the cost rose by 0.82d. to 8.54d. Much better results, however, were obtained from rubber, the output of which was 32,806 lbs. larger at 211,155 lbs., while the gross price was 7.91d. better at 2s. 9.98d., against an increase of only 0.21d. to 11.55d. in the cost. Including £3,415 brought in, the nett profit amounted to £25,652, or £3,779 more, out of which the dividend on the ordinary shares is increased from 17½ per cent. to 25, but nothing is set aside to the reserve for rubber cultivation compared with £2,508 a year ago, and £500 less at £2,500 is transferred to reserve, leaving the balance carried forward £3,038 up at £7,052. The reserve for rubber-planting having been brought up to £15,508, or the exact amount of the expenditure up to the end of last year, these items have been eliminated from the balance-sheet. The rubber crop for the current year is estimated at 235,000 lbs.

SEAFIELD RUBBER.—The directors have sold forward a further 48 tons of smoked sheet rubber.

PELMADULLA RUBBER.—48 tons have been sold forward (24 tons smoked sheet and 24 tons crepe).

MERTON RUBBER.—The directors state that, as a majority of the shareholders express themselves as being in favour of the conversion of the £1 shares into shares of the nominal value of 2s. each, they are prepared to act in accordance with their views, and a meeting has been called for October 16.

Houlder Line.—The directors have decided to redeem the whole of the outstanding funding certificates on October 31 next, less tax, subject to the certificates being forwarded to the offices of the company for examination on or before October 23.

Letters to the Editor.

TERMS OF PEACE.

DEAR SIR,—Is the policy adumbrated in a portion of our daily Press to be pursued after the war is over?—which, please God, will not be long. When we have got the Germans down, are we going to jump on them and kick them? Nothing less, it appears to me, will satisfy the aspirations of some of our "fire-eaters."

Although I am nothing but an amateur politician, I can claim to be a liberty-loving Free Trader, and as such I submit that the methods referred to are too Bismarckian for the British nation. Besides, they will be quite unnecessary. The Germans can be "educated" into a better frame of mind without going to such lengths. I would not even advocate any interference with their Government. If after the war they still want a Hunzollern to rule over them, to think for them, why let them have one!

A simple method of procedure would be for the Great Powers—Russia, Italy, France, and ourselves—to impose upon the enemy the entire cost of the war, and to occupy the country until that indemnity had been paid or forgiven. Such debt would, of course, be given preferential treatment over any other Government debts, and it would be a question for the enemy Governments to decide, whether the present enormous debts should be repudiated or not. All that the armies of occupation need attend to would be to see that the settled instalments be paid, and while Germany enjoyed the protection of foreign armies, it would not be necessary for her to maintain a standing army or navy of her own.

Such procedure would be, in my opinion, an eminently simple and safe plan, and with a judicious return of stolen territory to its former owners, we should, I think, be absolutely free from the German menace for at least one hundred years—when we shall be all dead, and during that period there is little doubt that the Germans of the twenty-first century will have acquired some of that "horse-sense" of which they are now so lamentably deficient.

Of course, some ready money will have to be found for Belgium, Serbia, and others, which we can safely assume will not be forthcoming. But the German Navy and the Junkers' estates will be available as security for what is required.

I have only given you a bare skeleton of my "plan," but it will require very little imagination to put flesh on the bones. On doing that, surely anyone will see that our revenge—if anybody wants it—viz., the punishment of the "Huns," their humiliation for a century and their regeneration for ever will be faithfully accomplished without the cruelty of shutting them off from trade, or, in other words, compelling them to exist without giving them the means of earning their livelihood.

Yours faithfully,

T. ELLIS.

West Hampstead, N.W., October 10, 1916.

THE LAND AS A NATIONAL ASSET.

SIR,—In your issue of the 7th inst. Mr. W. Cobbett Barker says that farm tenants are deterred from improving their land through the fear that they will be increasing both its capital and rental value. The obvious and only satisfactory remedy for this state of affairs is to give the tenants facilities for becoming the owners of their holdings. The ownership system has been highly successful in Ireland and on the Continent; it might be adopted with equal success in this country. Moreover, farmers themselves have asked for it; as witness resolutions in its favour passed by the Central Chamber of Agriculture, the Farmers' Union, and the Scottish Chamber of Agriculture.

Yours faithfully,

J. L. GREEN, Secretary.

The Rural League, 21, Surrey Street, Strand, London, W.C.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1916, and Oct. 7, 1916:—

	Estimate for the Year 1916-1917. (See note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1916, to Oct. 7, 1916.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1915, to Oct. 9, 1915.
Balances in Exchequer on April 1—			
Bank of England	—	25,111,065	81,898,728
Bank of Ireland	—	463,941	1,552,224
REVENUE.		25,575,006	83,450,952
Customs	71,000,000	33,388,000	22,559,000
Excise	65,000,000	25,350,000	23,574,000
Estate, &c., Duties	30,000,000	15,654,000	17,457,000
Stamps	7,000,000	3,588,000	3,319,000
Land Tax and House Duty	2,650,000	320,000	340,000
Property and Income Tax and Super Tax	195,000,000	37,067,000	18,216,000
Excess Profits Duty	80,000,000	34,505,000	—
Land Value Duties	475,000	111,000	51,000
Post Office	36,100,000	16,300,000	15,400,000
Crown Lands	550,000	240,000	210,000
Receipts from Suez Canal	5,000,000	2,381,011	767,960
Shares and Sundry Loans	3,500,000	3,046,871	2,139,913
Miscellaneous	—	—	—
Revenue	502,275,000	171,950,882	109,033,873
Total, including Balance	—	197,526,888	192,484,825
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion	—	2,130,000	750,000
For Treasury Bills (net amount)	—	346,564,000	—
For War Loan, 1925-1928	—	—	35,798,408
For 2½% Exchequer Bonds, 1920	—	—	242,345
For War Loan, 1925-1945	—	424	534,000,000
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919	—	34,222,000	—
For 3% Exchequer Bonds, 1920	—	83,614,500	—
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1921	—	64,458,000	—
For 6% Exchequer Bonds, 1920	—	20,621,000	—
For War Expenditure Certificates	—	24,361,600	—
For War Savings Certificates	—	29,450,000	—
For other Debt created under the War Loan Act, 1915, and Finance Act, 1916	—	23,842,319	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913	—	180,000	500,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913	—	160,000	—
Under Housing Act, 1914	—	45,200	—
East Africa Protectorate Loan Repayments on account of Principal and Interest	—	—	2,385
Temporary Advances—	—	—	—
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £345,000,000 in 1916-1917 and £231,150,000 in 1915-1916)	—	431,896,500	232,150,000
Total	—	1,257,071,431	995,927,963

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Estimate for the Year 1916-17. (See note.)	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1916, to Oct. 7, 1916.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1915, to Oct. 9, 1915.
EXPENDITURE.			
Permanent Charge of Debt ..	12,818,000	14,224,912	16,496,437
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	114,436,000	59,902,702	5,048,711
Road Improvement Fund	—	—	694,395
Payments to Local Taxation	—	—	—
Accounts, &c.	9,500,000	3,653,755	3,877,521
Other Consolidated Fund	—	—	—
Services	1,700,000	1,272,820	1,183,425
Supply Services	1,687,529,000	859,865,834	683,220,360
Expenditure	1,825,983,000	938,920,023	710,520,849
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion	—	2,390,000	1,175,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	—	60,914	60,914
For Treasury Bills (net amount)	—	—	6,204,000
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan (Redemption) Act, 1910	—	—	16,395,500
For Issues under Section 1 (5) of the War Loan Act, 1915	—	—	170,143,313
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913	—	180,000	1,130,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913	—	160,000	160,000
Under Housing Act, 1914	—	44,500	500,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8, issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1908	—	38,000	50,000
Old Sinking Fund—1910-1911: Issued under the Finance Act, 1911—Section 16 (1) (b)	—	23,160	80,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1911-1912—Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Co. (Acquisition of Capital) Act, 1914	—	250,000	250,000
Temporary Advances repaid—Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £217,550,000 in 1916-17 and £66,668,000 in 1915-16)	—	288,446,500	66,668,000
Total	—	1,230,513,097	973,337,576
Balances in Exchequer—			
Bank of England	25,080,293	21,912,548	—
Bank of Ireland	1,478,041	677,839	—
Total	26,558,334	22,590,387	—

MEMO.—Treasury Bills outstanding on Oct. 7, 1916 *£1,040,423,000.

* Includes £441,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the Account.

NOTE.—Estimate as in House of Commons Paper No. 50 of 1916, and Supplementary Grants.

Treasury, October 9, 1916.

The Comte de Segur Lamoignon, vice-president of the International Sleeping Car Co., and Col. Edouard Quellenec, chief engineer of the Suez Canal Co., have joined the board of Charron, Limited.

The Week in Mines.

This week has been an active and interesting period in the Mining markets. There has been a marked revival of interest in Tin shares, notably the Nigerian group, on a further strong advance in the price of the metal, and quotations show a general and, in some cases, substantial advance. Copper shares have been under the influence of the unsettlement which has ruled in Wall Street owing to submarine exploits in American waters, but the undertone has remained very firm. Diamond shares have been buoyant, and while certain Rand shares have reacted slightly, Simmer Deeps, Van Ryn Deeps, and Zambesia Explorings have developed marked strength.

SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

Early in the week there was a renewal of Johannesburg buying of Eastern Rand descriptions, Van Ryn Deeps rising 7-32 to 3-19-32, but later this support was withdrawn, and interest centred in other descriptions. Prominent among these were Simmer Deeps, many thousands of which changed hands, and the price rose 1s. to 5s. 3d. There is talk of a small maiden dividend being declared this year, but the present comparatively high price is attributed to influential buying from well-informed quarters, which is taken to indicate that a scheme is projected. Crown Mines have been supported, and are $\frac{1}{8}$ higher at 3. A cablegram from the property reports the location of the South and Main reefs in the uncharted ground below the South Rand dyke, which cuts the company's property in two from east to west. A borehole was put down from No. 7 shaft to determine the extent to which the dyke had thrown the ore bodies, and the core from it gives an assay of 21 $\frac{1}{2}$ dwts. per ton over 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches for the South reef, and no less than 900 $\frac{1}{2}$ dwts. over 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches for the Main Reef leader. This information, though important and satisfactory, only definitely establishes the location of the reef. Consolidated Langlaagtes have been supported at 28s., Gedulds have risen 2s. 6d. to 50s., New Modders $\frac{1}{2}$ to 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ on the report, Modder Deeps $\frac{1}{2}$ to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$, Rand Mines $\frac{1}{8}$ to 3 $\frac{1}{2}$, and Randfontein Centrals 1s. to 12s. 6d. Brakpans, however, have relapsed $\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$, Central Minings $\frac{1}{8}$ to 6 $\frac{1}{2}$, and Modder Leases 1s. 3d. to 5s. 3d., all on sales to secure profits. In the Rhodesian section Tanganyikas and Zambesias have been in good demand in anticipation of the reports which are expected next week. The former has risen $\frac{1}{8}$ to 2 $\frac{1}{4}$, and the latter 1s. 6d. to 19s. 6d. Diamond shares have been strong, especially De Beers deferreds, which have advanced $\frac{1}{2}$ to 12 $\frac{1}{2}$, and the preference, which are $\frac{1}{2}$ higher at 14 $\frac{1}{2}$. Jagersfontein have risen $\frac{1}{8}$ to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$. West Africans have been more lively owing to the revival in Nigerian Tins. Fantis have risen 6d. to 7s. 3d., and Taquahs 6d. to 20s. 6d.

COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

A further rise of nearly $\frac{1}{4}$ a ton in the price of copper has stimulated buying of the shares, though the American descriptions have been subjected to a good deal of realising in Wall Street. Thus Anacondas are $\frac{1}{2}$ lower, and Utahs $\frac{1}{2}$ at 19 $\frac{1}{2}$. Rio Tintos, however, have risen $\frac{1}{2}$ to 63 $\frac{1}{2}$, and Mons Cupris 9d. to 7s. 9d. The Broken Hill group has moved irregularly. Norths fell 1s. to 44s., and Sulphides 1s. 6d. to 24s. 6d. Proprietaries, however, have improved to 54s. on news that the engine-drivers and firemen at the iron and steel works have resumed work. Burma Corporations are $\frac{1}{2}$ lower on balance at 4 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Tin shares have been active and buoyant on the rise in the price of the metal to over £180 a ton. Owing to the large demands of the United States, a further rise is not unexpected, and this has induced the bulls to take the bit between their teeth. Nigerians have been particularly active, Naraguta Extendeds rising 2s. to 8s. 6d., Nigerian Corporations 1s. 6d. to 10s. 6d., Bauchis 1s. to 3s. 6d., Rayfields 1s. 6d. to 8s. 9d., Roppes 1s. to 17s. 9d., and South Bukerus 1s. to 5s. Among other tin shares, Geevors have advanced 2s. to 10s., and Renongs $\frac{1}{8}$ to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Alaska Treadwells have fallen $\frac{1}{2}$ to 4, but Gold Fields are 1s. to the good at 13s. 6d. St. John Del Reys have again risen 1s. 3d. to 18s. Russians have weakened further, notably Russo-Asiatiks at 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ and Tanalyks at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Westralians have been a poor market, especially Kalgurlis at $\frac{1}{2}$, and Lake View and Oroyas at 12s. Of the Indians, Champions have been in demand up to 7s. 3d., but North Anantapurs have fallen $\frac{1}{8}$ to 3 $\frac{1}{2}$.

MINING NEWS.

TRANSVAAL GOLD OUTPUT.—The production last month was £3,277,408, a decrease of £22,015 on September last year. The following table shows the monthly production since January, 1911:—

Month.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
January ..	£ 2,765,386	£ 3,130,830	£ 3,353,116	£ 2,708,470	£ 3,037,058	£ 3,344,948
February ..	2,594,624	2,989,812	3,118,325	2,660,186	2,872,406	3,201,063
March	2,871,740	3,528,688	3,358,050	2,917,346	3,202,514	3,384,121
April	2,836,267	3,133,383	3,334,358	2,904,924	3,160,651	3,205,643
May	2,913,734	3,311,794	3,373,908	3,059,340	3,243,347	3,303,377
June	2,907,854	3,202,517	3,173,382	3,049,558	3,208,224	3,235,767
July	3,012,738	3,255,108	3,111,398	3,272,258	3,232,891	3,277,408
August	3,030,360	3,248,195	3,092,754	3,024,037	3,307,975	3,318,116
September ..	3,076,065	3,176,846	3,099,686	2,982,630	3,299,423	3,277,408
October ..	2,910,130	3,265,150	3,051,701	3,116,754	3,388,122	—
November ..	3,057,213	3,216,965	2,860,788	3,040,677	3,317,634	—
December ..	3,015,499	3,297,962	2,857,938	2,952,755	3,317,949	—
Total ..	34,991,620	38,757,560	37,358,040	35,588,075	38,627,461	29,593,334

NATIVE LABOUR RETURNS.—These returns show a further increase, amounting to 5,156, which compares with an increase of 3,943 in August. There was an increase of 3,022 at the gold mines, and at the diamond mines there was a further increase of 1,381, following an addition of 1,807 in August:—

Month.	Natives on Gold mines.	Natives on Coal mines.	Natives on Diamond mines.	Total natives.
September 1915.....	204,833	9,743	—	214,576
October	210,017	9,513	—	219,530
November	210,068	9,432	—	219,500
December	209,438	9,309	132	218,879
January, 1916.....	209,835	9,228	802	219,865
February	209,426	9,468	970	219,864
March	203,575	9,588	917	214,080
April	199,936	9,827	938	210,701
May	194,765	9,811	1,459	206,035
June	192,809	9,859	2,105	204,773
July	192,130	9,932	3,339	205,401
August	194,112	10,086	5,146	209,344
September	197,734	10,239	6,527	214,500

CONSOLIDATED MAIN REEF.—This company established fresh records in the year ended June 30. Ore crushed amounted to 342,895 tons, an increase of 48,129 tons; the revenue amounted to £501,281, or 29s. 2d. per ton, a decrease of 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per ton. Costs, however, declined by 11d. per ton, resulting in an increase of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in the profit per ton, and £24,666 in the total profit, which amounted to £162,931, or 9s. 6d. per ton. The tonnage milled and the total profit are the highest, and the costs per ton, in spite of increased cost of stores, are the lowest in the history of the mine. Reserves of ore are estimated at 856,740 tons, valued at 7.51 dwts. per ton, practically the same as at June 30, 1915. Dividends amounting to 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. have again been paid, and £77,854, against £69,874, is carried forward. Capital expenditure amounted to £41,002; of this £24,622 was provided out of the year's profits, and the remainder of the funds provided by the amalgamation in 1909.

MAIN REEF WEST.—During the year ended June 30 307,680 tons were crushed, an increase of 38,160 tons, the revenue being £339,672, or 22s. per ton, a decrease of 1s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per ton. This decrease was partially offset by a reduction of 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in working costs, so that the profit per ton was 1s. lower at 2s. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. The total profit declined by £8,214 to £42,662. Reserves of ore have declined by 29,320 tons to 386,960 tons, of an average value of 5.73 dwts. per ton. Capital expenditure amounted to £22,104. Debenture redemption has been suspended for three years to September 30, 1917, and this has necessitated writing back in the appropriation account £18,750. After payment of debenture interest £45,864, against £24,711, is carried forward. Profits for the current year are likely to fall somewhat short of the past year's profits, even under the most favourable labour conditions. But endeavours are being made to expedite reef exposures in the deeper levels in the hope of striking a better zone to relieve the present unsatisfactory position.

NORTH ANANTAPUR GOLD MINES.—Although costs were reduced by as much as 8s. 3d. per ton to 22s. 4d., partly due to the milling of more ore, the profits for the year ended June 30 declined by £6,918 to £17,724, owing to a drop of about 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ dwts. in the yield per ton. There were crushed 32,390 tons, yielding £56,209, the average grade being 8 dwts. 16 grains of gold per ton. As a result the ordinary shares receive only 6d. per share as against 1s. per share, the preference shares getting 4s. 6d. per share. A sum of £4,204 is carried forward, which is more than sufficient to meet excess profits duty. Development was attended with less satisfactory results than in the previous session, but, thanks to the exploitation of ground excluded as unpayable, the ore reserves are only 9,600 tons lower at 44,400 tons. It is anticipated that the profits of the past 12 months can be maintained during 1916-17.

AMERICAN SMELTING AND REFINING.—The report of this company and its subsidiaries for the six months ended June 30 states that the profits make an abnormal comparison with the earnings of the same period of 1915. During the first six months of last year the prices of all metals were depressed, and the production of ores was correspondingly decreased, but during the past half-year the reverse effect of the war has been realised. Prices have been stimulated beyond any previous record, and this has inevitably resulted in a large increase of production. On the other hand, the cost of operation has been very much higher. Wages have been advanced, while the cost of materials has been advanced 50 per cent., and in more than one instance over 100 per cent. On this account the profits per ton of ore smelted or bullion refined have been seriously reduced, due to the fact that the toll received from the mines and smelters has been fixed in long-time contracts made when present costs were not believed possible. The present favourable showing as to profits is due to a very large increase in business, some lines of which are quite new to the company. There has been an entire lack of earnings from the properties in Mexico. Nett income for the six months applicable to dividends comes out at \$11,145,693, an increase of \$6,125,711. The last two quarterly dividends on the common stock were declared at the regular rate of 4 per cent. per annum, and 2 per cent. extra, and there was carried to surplus \$6,642,950. New properties purchased and extensions of old works have absorbed \$3,623,786. It is expected that a similar amount will be expended during the current half of this year.

Insurance News.

The record as to the cost of the principal fires, that is those where the damage amounted to £1,000 or more, in the United Kingdom during September is unsatisfactory, the estimated total being £405,000, which compares with £218,000 in August and £212,000 in the corresponding month last year. The total for the past month has only been exceeded once this year, namely, in April, when the losses were £532,000. While there were no really serious losses in September, the heaviest having been one of £40,000 at some oil works in Old Trafford, there were a number of cases where the loss ranged up to £15,000, which accounts for the comparatively heavy total for the month.

According to a statement in one of the French insurance papers 63 per cent. of the total life insurance business transacted in Greece is in the hands of German companies, while the only two native insurance offices are entirely under German influence, and reinsure the whole of their risks with a Munich office. Moreover, the German companies with branches in Greece collect 78 per cent. of the fire and 73 per cent. of the marine premiums, and it is pointed out that this predominance of German influence in Greek insurance business dates from the proclamation of the 1910 insurance law.

For some months past marine underwriters have not had a very satisfactory experience, and apart from the surprise the market received this week respecting the operations of enemy submarines off the United States a good deal of unfavourable news also came to hand. Several bad fires were reported on liners in various parts of the world, which in the aggregate will entail very considerable losses. War insurance rates on cargo by steamers from America to this country have been this week raised from 1 per cent. to 2 per cent., although a number of other rates remain unchanged.

What Balance Sheets Tell.

NORTHERN BANKING CO., LTD.

The high level of profits reached in 1914-15 was not maintained in the year ended August 31, and the increase of £2,954 has been followed by a reduction of £2,797 to £75,545, but a larger balance of £20,106 was brought forward, so that the available surplus of £95,651 was only £454 down. The dividends paid are the same as a year ago at 13 per cent. on the "A" shares and 6½ per cent. on the "B" shares, but the fact that they are paid less tax, enables the directors to transfer an extra £5,000 at £30,000 to the reserve for depreciation and still leave £20,269, or £163 more, to be carried forward. Notes in circulation have risen by £332,116 to £1,258,942, and deposit and other accounts are £456,536 up at £6,875,169, against which cash balances are £416,026 higher at £1,847,653, and investments have been increased by £662,434 to £4,083,572, while bills discounted, loans, &c., are £257,869 down at £3,096,738.

BANK OF VICTORIA, LTD.

Very little change is shown in the gross profits or the working expenses for the six months ended June 30, but as £18,374 less at £22,773 was brought forward the available balance is £18,742 smaller at £75,052. The ordinary shares, however, again get a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, and the balance carried forward is increased by £7,937 to £30,711. Liabilities on Government deposits bearing interest have risen by £55,486 to £614,133, and those not bearing interest are £18,166 up at £115,739, but other deposits not bearing interest show a decrease of £155,252 at £2,219,131, and those bearing interest are £163,390 down at £3,547,032. Balances due to other banks are also £109,428 smaller at £26,509, but bills in circulation show an expansion of £54,630 at £446,819. On the other hand, cash assets are £244,851 lower at £2,115,897, a decrease of £366,901 in the coin, bullion, &c., being partly offset by increases of £66,400 in investments and £38,210 in bills and remittances in transit. Bills discounted and other advances have dropped by £26,157 to £6,476,664.

NAUTILUS STEAM SHIPPING CO., LTD.

For the year to June 30, after making provision for excess profits duty, the nett profits were £91,400 higher at £165,544, and £6,780 more was brought forward. So the directors can afford to be generous, and they not only double the dividend at 20 per cent., but declare a bonus of £2 10s. per share, which will be applied in paying a call of like amount, so as to make the £25 shares fully paid up. Last year the bonus was 11s. 3d. per share. Moreover, £75,000, against £15,000, is added to reserve, and £9,000 more is written off for other purposes, which still leaves £2,900 more at £24,073 to be carried forward. So the shareholders are not likely to grudge the managers their commission of £29,800, against £6,000 odd last year, although it looks very generous. Creditors, including provision for income-tax and excess profits duty, are £248,000 up at £275,320, while investments and cash are £380,000 higher at

£412,626. Yes, shipping companies are having a grand time, and these are fine results from a fleet of just over 51,000 tons. It consists of thirteen steamers, one of which is nearly 25 years old, and only two are less than ten years old, while the average book value is just about £5 per ton.

LAMBERT BROS., LTD.

This company had a very prosperous year to June 30, and the profits of £200,895, including £20,650 brought forward, show an increase of £38,750, so the four managing directors doubtless deserve to have their remuneration doubled at £12,000. But the shareholders get 25 per cent. (including bonus) against 20 per cent., so they also ought to be perfectly satisfied. Then £75,000 against £60,000 is placed to reserve, raising it to £235,000, and the carry forward is increased by £2,750 to £23,395. All of which wears a very comfortable and comforting appearance. Including provision for war taxation sundry creditors have increased £390,000 to £585,700, while investments are £343,000 higher at £574,000, but cash is £20,000 lower at £254,300. Sundry debtors are up £62,600 at £116,650 and stocks of coal £60,200 at £121,130. It is much better to be a seller than a buyer of coal in these times.

KAYSER, ELLISON AND CO., LTD.

This steel business has been exceedingly busy as a controlled establishment throughout its year ended June 30, and the directors state that its plant was kept working continuously night and day, without the usual stoppages for repairs. In order to cover the excessive wear and tear involved £10,000, or £8,000 more than a year ago, has been written off for depreciation, but even after making this allowance and providing for war taxation the nett profits were £9,581 up at £38,121. Of this, £5,000 is transferred to an employees' benefit fund, compared with £7,000 set aside as a special reserve last time, and after repeating the dividend of 12½ per cent. on the ordinary shares the bonus is increased from 2s. 6d. to 7s. 6d. per share, both being paid tax free, leaving £13,812, or £6,121 more, to be carried forward. Current liabilities, which include war taxation reserves, have risen by £41,228 to £92,082, while, on the other hand, cash is £75,408 up at £75,781, and investments have been increased by £6,500 to £52,039. Stocks at Sheffield are £9,824 larger at £84,578, but stocks and assets at agencies show a decrease of £35,444 at £8,637, and sundry debtors are slightly lower at £101,165.

SIR J. L. HULETT AND SONS, LTD.

This Natal firm of tea and sugar planters did extremely well in the year to June 30. Tea sales were a trifle of £1,840 lower at £53,790, but it is stated that the rate of profit has been fully maintained in spite of the increased cost of packing materials and higher freights. Sugar output increased 2,640 tons at 41,410 tons, and the sales were £206,220 higher at £761,900. Altogether the revenue amounted to £841,028, an increase of over £200,000, which follows an increase of £82,250 last year. Liberal allowances have been made for depreciation and maintenance and £43,000 more has been placed to various reserve funds, with the result that the balance carried to appropriation account is only £9,100 higher at £67,988. Out of this it is proposed to repeat the dividend of 8 per cent. and to pay in addition a bonus of 6d. per share, together amounting to £52,500. Reserve funds, including £15,000 for income-tax, now amount to £79,500, which is not particularly generous against a capital of £800,000, but a beginning was only made last year, and so we must not complain. Owing to active sales stocks have been reduced £36,500 to £64,400, while creditors are up £14,250 at £115,140, debtors £28,000 at £101,330, stores £51,760 at £88,680, investments £23,300 at £68,780, and cash balances £22,000 at £41,586. As usual, the accounts are given in admirable detail.

ENFIELD CYCLE CO., LTD.

The company having become a controlled firm on August 17, 1915, and not yet having ascertained its obligations under the Finance and Munitions Acts, the directors do not feel that they can publish a balance-sheet at present. They, however, are satisfied from the auditors' report that, after making all necessary provisions, there are profits available, and they feel justified in paying a dividend on the "B" preference and ordinary shares of 12½ per cent., tax free, for the year ended August 31.

Mr. H. V. Meredith, president of the Bank of Montreal, upon whom King George has recently conferred a baronetcy, and who will now be known as Sir Vincent Meredith, Bart., has spent his entire business career with the Bank of Montreal, having joined the staff in 1867, and rose from junior position till he became general manager in 1911, and president and chief executive officer in 1913. For many years Mr. Meredith has been one of the outstanding figures in Canadian financial and banking circles. During the past couple of years the Bank of Montreal has been very largely identified with the various financing carried out by the Dominion Government, and in doing so Mr. Meredith at all times played a most prominent part. Mr. Meredith is president of the Bank of Montreal, president of the Royal Trust Co., president of the Royal Victoria Hospital, president of the Art Association of Montreal, a governor of McGill University, chairman of the Canadian board of the Royal Exchange Assurance Co. of London, England, a director of the Standard Life Insurance Co. of Edinburgh, Scotland, a trustee for the Mackay Companies, a director of the Commercial Cable Co., and is interested in numerous charities and civic bodies. He resides in Montreal.

MINING RETURNS FOR SEPTEMBER.

Ashanti.—7,897 tons; value, £37,383 (Aug., £35,060).
 Aurora West.—14,730 tons; profit, £4,064 (Aug., £4,197).
 Balaghat.—2,250 tons; 1,426 ozs. fine gold (Aug., 1,265 ozs.),
 Bantjes.—23,030 tons; loss, £783 (Aug., profit £2).
 Brakpan.—58,600 tons; profit, £35,010 (Aug., £35,158).
 Bullfinch Prop.—6,010 tons; profit, £1,452 (Aug., £943).
 Cape Copper.—Output, 193 tons (Aug., 225 tons).
 Champion Reef.—13,625 tons; 9,460 ozs. fine (Aug., 10,278 ozs.).
 Chenderiang Tin.—28 tons; profit, £1,870 (Aug., £1,240).
 City and Sub.—27,150 tons; profit, £19,108 (Aug., £20,135).
 City Deep.—59,500 tons; profit, £58,493 (Aug., £60,272).
 Cons. Langlaagte.—54,000 tons; profit, £22,446 (Aug., £22,595).
 Cons. Main Reef.—27,560 tons; profit, £14,079 (Aug., £13,035).
 Crown.—203,000 tons; profit, £68,630 (Aug., £61,044).
 Durban Road. Deep.—25,900 tons; profit, £2,816 (Aug., £2,608).
 East Rand Prop.—155,500 tons; profit, £44,729 (Aug., £45,781).
 Ferreira Deep.—53,580 tons; profit, £37,600 (Aug., £33,849).
 Geduld.—26,800 tons, £40,729; profit, £12,619 (Aug., £14,253).
 Geldenhuis Deep.—57,500 tons; profit, £14,083 (Aug., £14,285).
 Ginsberg.—15,265 tons, £14,913; profit, £2,108 (Aug., £2,811).
 Glencairn.—20,710 tons; profit, £1,176 (Aug., £1,265).
 Glynn's Lydenburg.—4,123 tons; profit, £4,049 (Aug., £2,236).
 Gov. Areas Mod.—64,000 tons; profit, £25,504 (Aug., £22,561).
 Globe and Phoenix.—6,373 tons; profit, £20,042 (Aug., £19,582).
 Jibutil (Anantapur).—2,700 tons, 701 ozs. (Aug., 744 ozs.).
 Jupiter.—22,400 tons, £26,075; profit, £5,028 (Aug., £5,602).
 Kamunting Tin.—33½ tons; profit, £1,050 (Aug., £2,041).
 Knight Central.—25,100 tons; profit, £374 (Aug., £1,440).
 Knight's Deep.—102,400 tons; profit, £14,208 (Aug., £17,002).
 Langlaate Est.—49,328 tons; profit, £13,199 (Aug., £13,000).
 Luipaard's Vlei.—20,390 tons; profit, £3,884 (Aug., £3,642).
 Main Reef West.—25,470 tons; profit, £2,766 (Aug., £2,060).
 May Consolidated.—13,170 tons; profit, £686 (Aug., £574).
 Meyer and Charl.—14,478 tons; profit, £22,155 (Aug., £22,326).
 Modder "B".—43,500 tons; profit, £55,785 (Aug., £53,393).
 Modder Deep.—40,000 tons; profit, £43,768 (Aug., £46,983).
 Mysore.—26,250 tons, 16,524 ozs. (Aug., 16,596 ozs.).

New Goch.—30,650 tons; profit, £8,197 (Aug., £8,433).
 New Heriot.—13,200 tons; profit, £8,623 (Aug., £8,700).
 New Modder.—53,500 tons; £60,866 (Aug., £64,033).
 New Primrose.—22,100 tons; profit, £3,006 (Aug., £3,015).
 New Unified.—14,000 tons; profit, £4,027 (Aug., £4,170).
 North Anantapur.—2,500 tons, 1,139 ozs. fine (Aug., 1,118 ozs.).
 Nigel.—10,300 tons, loss £2,836 (Aug., loss £2,849).
 Nourse.—38,000 tons; £59,512; profit, £10,679 (Aug., £10,146).
 Nundydroog.—8,300 tons, 6,765 ozs. (Aug., 6,781 ozs.).
 Ooregum.—13,004 tons, 7,690 ozs. fine gold (Aug., 8,643 ozs.).
 Pahang Cons.—Black tin produced, 229 tons (Aug., 231 tons).
 Princess Estate.—22,400 tons; profit, £1,224 (Aug., £1,445).
 Randfontein Cent.—185,712 tons; profit, £80,036 (Aug., £81,161).
 Rayfield Tin.—70 tons (Aug., 60½ tons).
 Renong Tin.—Output, 84 tons (Aug., 99 tons).
 Robinson Deep.—53,500 tons; profit, £24,706 (Aug., £26,970).
 Robinson.—56,300 tons; profit, £30,071 (Aug., £32,172).
 Roodepoort United.—32,223 tons; profit, £2,041 (Aug., £2,009).
 Rose Deep.—60,000 tons; profit, £16,042 (Aug., £22,316).
 Sheba.—6,292 tons, 1,910 ozs.; loss, £1,122 (Aug. loss, £461).
 Simmer and Jack.—67,700 tons; profit, £21,732 (Aug., £16,357).
 Simmer Deep.—64,700 tons; profit, £5,527 (Aug., £6,322).
 Sub Nigel.—8,850 tons, £19,036; profit, £5,522 (Aug., £5,190).
 Sudan.—2,220 tons for £4,850 (Aug., £4,840).
 Transvaal Estates.—15,930 tons; profit, £11,522 (Aug., £16,104).
 Van Ryn Deep.—42,500 tons; profit, £50,101 (Aug., £50,032).
 Van Ryn.—37,400 tons; profit, £18,367 (Aug., £18,276).
 Village Deep.—51,900 tons; profit, £21,951 (Aug., £24,553).
 Village Main Reef.—29,300 tons; profit, £16,009 (Aug., £13,642).
 Vogelstruis Estates.—11,282 tons, 3,042 ozs. (Aug., 2,050 ozs.).
 Wanderer.—13,680 tons; profit, £1,666 (Aug., £1,464).
 West Rand Cons.—33,500 tons; profit, £5,505 (Aug., £7,837).
 Witwatersrand.—42,100 tons; profit, £23,086 (Aug., £24,052).
 Wit. Deep.—40,000 tons; profit, £13,050 (Aug., £14,079).
 Wolhuter.—35,000 tons; profit, £13,694 (Aug., £13,637).

Union Bank of Canada has opened a branch at Etzikom, Alberta.

["LONDON AND DUBLIN ISSUE."]

NATIONAL LOAN OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC.

ISSUE OF FIVE PER CENT. RENTES.

Both Capital and Interest will be exempt from all taxes, present and future, of the Government of the French Republic. Interest payable Quarterly on the 16th February, 16th May, 16th August, and 16th November, the first Coupon (for a full quarter's interest) being payable on the 16th February, 1917.

PRICE OF ISSUE—£3 4s. 6d. per FCS. 100 NOMINAL CAPITAL.

(Being the approximate equivalent, at the exchange of 27.50, of Fcs. 88.75c., the price at which the Loan is being issued in Paris.)

Applications, which must be accompanied by a deposit of Eleven Shillings per Fcs. 100 applied for, will be received at the Bank of England, Threadneedle Street, London, E.C., and at the Bank of Ireland, Dublin. Applications must be for multiples of Fcs. 100 nominal Capital (i.e., Fcs. 5 of Rente).

The amount payable in respect of each Fcs. 100 will be required as follows, viz.:

	s.	d.
On application	11	0
On, or before, Saturday, the 16th December, 1916.....	17	6
" " Friday, the 16th February, 1917	18	0
" " Monday, the 16th April, 1917	18	0
Total	£3	4 6

or the whole of any amount applied for may be paid up in full at the time of application by a single payment of £3 3s. 8d. in respect of each Fcs. 100 applied for.

THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND, and the GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF THE BANK OF IRELAND, with the consent and approval of His Majesty's Government, are authorised by the Government of the French Republic to receive applications for this issue.

The conditions of the Loan will be identical with those of the National Defence Loan, the French Government undertaking that the issue shall not be redeemed prior to the 1st January, 1931, but reserving to themselves the right to redeem it in whole or in part at any time on or after that date.

Both Capital and Interest, which will be exempt from all French taxes, present or future, will be a charge upon the general revenues of the Government of the French Republic.

French Government Sterling Treasury Bills, due 15th January, 1917, may be tendered in lieu of cash where payment in full for an allotment of this issue is made at the time of application. For the purpose of such payments the Bills will be accepted at the rate of £99 3s. 7d. cash for each £100 nominal of Bills surrendered, being the equivalent of par less interest at 5 per cent. from the 16th November, 1916 (the date from which interest accrues in respect of the new issue), to the 15th January, 1917.

A declaration, which is embodied in the Form of Application, will be required in the case of Treasury Bills so tendered, to the effect that they have not been in enemy ownership and have remained in physical possession in the United Kingdom since the date of their issue.

In any case in which the sterling equivalent of Treasury Bills tendered does not represent the exact amount required to secure an allotment which is a multiple of Fcs. 100 nominal capital, the additional sum necessary to secure such an allotment must be provided in cash.

In case of default in the payment of any instalment by its proper date, the deposit and any instalments previously paid will be liable to forfeiture.

A commission at the rate of two pence per Fcs. 100 nominal capital will be allowed to Bankers and to Members of the London and Provincial Stock Exchanges on allotments in respect of applications made on forms bearing their Stamp, whether payment in respect of such applications be made in Cash or Treasury Bills.

Application will be made in due course for the admission to a Quotation on the London and Dublin Stock Exchanges of Bonds of the "LONDON AND DUBLIN ISSUE." Such Bonds will not be negotiable in France until after the conclusion of Peace.

The necessary Forms of Application, viz.:

1. For Subscriptions by Single Payment, whether in Cash, Treasury Bills, or both,

2. For Cash Subscriptions payable in Instalments, may be obtained at the Bank of England, London, E.C., at the Bank of Ireland, Dublin, and at any of the Branches of those Banks; of Messrs. Mullens, Marshall and Co., 13, George Street, Mansion House, E.C.; at any Stock Exchange in the United Kingdom; and at offices in the United Kingdom of the following Banks:—

Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris.
 Crédit Industriel et Commercial
 Crédit Lyonnais.
 Société Générale.

The List of Applications will be closed on, or before, Friday, the 27th day of October, 1916.

4th October, 1916.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

African Steamship.—Interim at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for six months ended June 30, free tax, against 8 per cent.

Alliance Investment.—Interim for six months ending the 15th inst. at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on the deferred, payable Nov. 1, same as a year ago.

Anglo-Continental Supply.—Interim of 4 per cent. for year to Dec. 31, 1916, on the preference. Warrants payable Oct. 30.

Argentine Land and Investment.—Less tax, for year ended June 30, of 2½ per cent. on the preference, making 5 per cent. for year, 4 per cent. on the income, and 5 per cent. on the capital paid up on the ordinary of £1 each (10s. paid), same as a year ago.

Benger's Food.—Interim for six months ended Sept. 30 on the ordinary at the rate of 1s. per share, tax free, same as a year ago, payable Nov. 1.

Blaenavon Company.—On the ordinary held at Dec. 31 at the rate of 7½ per cent., less tax, against nil a year ago.

Callender's Cable and Construction.—Interim on ordinary of 5s. per share, being at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, less tax, payable November 1.

Ceylon (Para) Rubber.—Interim of 12½ per cent., less tax, at 4s. 6d., same as a year ago, but tax free.

Charcoal Iron of America.—3 per cent. on the preference, payable 1 per cent. on the last days of Oct., Nov., and Dec. of this year.

Cheras Rubber.—Interim of 5 per cent. (actual), less tax, in respect of year ending Dec. 31, against 2½ per cent.

Direct United States Cable.—Interim of 2s. per share, less tax at 5s., payable 31st inst., making 4 per cent. for the half-year ended Sept. 30, same as a year ago.

Eastern Kodak of New Jersey.—Extra of 5 per cent. on the common, payable Nov. 15. Usual quarterly of 2½ per cent. on the common will be paid on Jan. 1.

Edinburgh Investment Trust.—Interim on the deferred at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum, less tax, against 12 per cent.

Furness, Withy and Co.—On the ordinary at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, for quarter ending Oct. 31, 1916, being 6d. per share, free tax, payable Oct. 31.

Hope Brothers.—Final at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum (less tax) on the ordinary for half-year ended Aug. 31 (making 4 per cent. for the year); forward £13,827, against £14,151, same as a year ago.

Indo-European Telegraph.—Interim for half-year ended June 30 at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, free tax, payable Nov. 1, same as a year ago.

Industrial and General Trust.—Interim for half-year to Sept. 30 on the ordinary at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, less tax, same as a year ago, payable Nov. 1.

Investment Trust.—Interim for six months to Nov. 1 on the deferred at the rate of 11 per cent. per annum, less tax, payable Nov. 2, same as a year ago.

Levinsteins (Dye Manufacturers, Manchester).—The directors announce that the balance-sheet will be delayed until a settlement is arrived at with the Inland Revenue authorities on the Excess Profits Tax. A further interim of 15 per cent. is, however, declared, making 30 per cent. for the year. Last year's dividend was 30 per cent.

London and Lancashire Fire Insurance.—Interim of 14s. per share, less tax, payable Nov. 1.

London Trust.—Interim for half-year at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on the deferred on account of year ending March 31, same as last year.

Nordanal (Johore) Rubber.—Interim of 5 per cent. (actual), less tax (at 4s. 6d.), in respect of year ending Dec. 31, same as a year ago.

Northern Assurance.—Interim, payable Nov. 2, of 3s. per share, less tax, being at the rate of 15 per cent., on account of 1916, same as a year ago.

North of England Trustee Debenture and Assets.—Interim of 4s. per share, less tax.

North of Scotland and Town and County Bank.—For half-year at the rate of 12½ per cent., less 5s. tax, carrying forward £134,647, same as last year.

Oriental Telephone and Electric.—Interim of 4 per cent. on the ordinary, tax free, same as a year ago, payable 31st inst.

Pabbojan Tea.—Interim of 6½ per cent., less tax at 4s. 6d. on account of 1916, payable 19th, against 5 per cent., tax free.

Panawatte Tea and Rubber.—Interim of 7½ per cent. (less tax), payable Oct. 30, against 6 per cent.

Realisation and Debenture of Scotland.—21 per cent. per annum on the ordinary, less tax, placing £11,000 to reserve, same as last year, with £4,800 to reserve.

Rosario Drainage.—On the ordinary at the rate of 3 per cent. (less tax) for year ended June 30, same as a year ago.

San Lorenzo Nitrate.—Interim of 2s. per share, payable Nov. 1, tax free, same as a year ago.

Second Scottish Investment Trust.—Final of 5 per cent. on the deferred, making 8 per cent. less tax, for year; £3,000 to reserve; and £4,620 forward, same as last year.

Sungei Choh Rubber.—Interim of 12½ per cent. (less tax), payable Oct. 16, against 10 per cent.

Sungei Perun (F.M.S.) Rubber.—Interim of 5 per cent. (actual), less tax, in respect of year ending Dec. 31.

Sunnygama Co.—Interim of 30 per cent., less tax at 4s. 6d., same as a year ago, but tax free.

Tekka-Taiping.—1s. per share, less tax, payable Oct. 26.

Val de Travers Asphalte Paving.—Interim at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum (3d. per share) for six months ended June 30, less tax at 4s., against 6d.

Yatiantota Ceylon Tea.—Interim of 6 per cent. (less tax) payable Oct. 25, same as a year ago.

Continued from following page.

385397 385451 385666 385984/9 386304/6 386446 388216 389032/3
390640 392108 392520 393194 396110 396522 398485 398796 399180
399427 401588.

582 BONDS of £100.

225037 225347 225361 225942 226816/7 227060 227163 227178
227790 228029 228777, 228812 229049 229518 229525 229778
229784/6 229834/5 230499 230503/5, 230569/70 230900 230911/2
231135/6 231267 231269 231299/300 231740 231957 232272 232346
232381 232387 232617 232753/4 232804 232845/9 233127/8
233183/5 233336/7 233429 233495/500 233524 233537/40
233547 233557/60 233581 233662 233682 233727 233742
233919 233996 234328 234376 234679 234729 234747/9 234772
234834 234841/5 234847/8 235439/44 235572/8 235872/6 236528
236788/90 236801/10 237000 238074 238286 238304 238447 238664
238940/1 239084 239383/5 239710 239770 239794 239810 239933/4
239976 240175 240243 240286 240422 240440/3 240596 240603
241016 241119 241260 241286 241402 242013 242401/2 242423
242910 243343 243848 244304/5 244425 245008 245205 245456
245594 245816 245938 246064/6 246165/6 246661 246667/70 246675
246698 246818/20 247448 247841 248010 248117 248475 248983/6
249048 249064 249434 249474 249498/9 249565 249979 250004
250026, 250342 250346 250574 251162 251604 251710 251975/6
252136 252162 252028 252991/253000 253328 255005 255204/13
255388/90 256185 256371/5 256955/6 257104 257121 257160 257175
257319/21 257841 258013/4 258150/3 259364 259372 259396 259432
259733 260029/32 260116/8 260319 260322 260946 261371/2
261442/3 261478 261685 261842 262165/6 262592 262619 263209/18
263464 263790 263981/2 264290 264449 264509/11 265267 265454
265522 265543 266189 266338 266476 266940 267087/96 267178
267206 267538 267622 267804 267937 268370 268532/3 269252
269255 269508 269553/72 269653 269655/8 269799/825 270330
270393/4 271014/7 272266/8 272414/7 272549 272651 272652
273799 273832/4 274083/4 274112 274129/31 274144 275210 275023
275025 276058 276305 276534 276616 277243 277651/700 277711/20
277928 278707 279049 279996 280385 280538 280794 280800 281496
282374 282390 282442 282516 282723 283393 283530 283548 284178
284296 284801 285374 286062 286335 286542 286624 287071
287286/7 287475 288324 290920 291573 292690 292692 292794
293064/7 293351 295080 295219 295223 295734 296306 296576
296580/1 296631 298394 298483 299242 301954 302283/4 302308
303322 305958 306904 307285 308258/5 309169 310421 311491
311676 314542/3 315197 315842 317166 318444 318607/8 318746
319016 319733 320918 320920 321652 322001 323332 323615
324193/4 324243.

1,270 BONDS of £20.

456/8 483 501/3 1426 1428/9 1465/6 1917 3061/2 3400 3553/61
3660/91 4176/9 4810/4 4832/6 4941/2 5891 6837 8059 8305/6
9752 9880 9900 10425/31 11996/8 12027/31 12057/9 12626/7 13342
15385 13709 15143/7 15222/6 16143 16190/1 16244/5 16664 16916
17103/5 17534/5 17946/8 18106/7 18684 19334/5 19467 19536
19662 19821/2 19834/8 19929/30 19939 19963 20081 20147/51 20225
20265 20804 20806 20925/7 21197/201 21586/607 22874/5 23406
24172/3 24723 24832/3 25179 25313/5 25532/3 25621/3 25768/9
26121/2 26165 26917 27839 27945/6 28066/7 28399 28500/1 29028/9
29444/5 29680 29769/72 29966/70 29984/6 30049 30148
30195/201 30274 30426/35 30458 30484/533 30768/9 30775 30789/94
30844 30906 30918 31025/9 31294/5 31334/5 31890/1 31996/7
32553/4 32666/7 32953/5 33506/9 33535 33726/30 33751/3 34640
34960 35035 35104/5 35245/9 35425/30 35537/41 35579/80 35872/3
35919 36053/4 36112/31 36188 36231/5 36370/1 36469/9 36834/8
36883 37347 37452 37809 38500/2 38520/1 38543 38653/4 38701/2
38725 38850/4 39118/9 39183/90 39339 39561/4 39694/6 39764/6
39828/32 39984 40043/6 40143 40868 40877/9 40942/4 41020/1
41333/8 43104/8 43368 43759 43985 45323 45342/3 46131/3 46268
46493 46623/4 46643 46742 47158/9 47163/5 47751/65 47964
48426/30 48790/1 48929/30 48932 48935 49176/8 49526/7 49555/9
49976/80 50335 50368 51246/7 51482/4 52027/31 52263/4 52507/686
52729 52734 52751/3 52811/12 53003 53046/8 53073/6 53120/1
53179/80 53200/2 53216 53360 53397 53511/15 53767 54120/1 54138
54327/8 54341/2 54371 54866 54868/71 54961 55115 55799 56246
56201 56336/8 56615/26 56910 56967/8 57283/4 57672/3 57749/52
58215/6 58746 58822/4 59028/31 59307/8 59620/1 59764/7 60415
60758/9 61145/7 61751 62160/1 62166/7 62171/4 62266/8 62287/8
63131 63300 63302/5 63316 63443 63873 64052/4 64362 64367/8
64914/5 64972/3 65501 65919 66238/9 66271/320 66614/8 66689
66744/5 67086/7 67556/8 67745/6 67837 67873/5 67981/5 68124
68244/8 69216/7 69607/8 69873 69881/91 69924/6 69943 70162
70297/8 70608/9 70935 71724/5 72130 72531 72582/5 73101/2
73109/10 73259/60 73316 73473/4 74128 74379 74516/9 74868 75724
75939/40 77130 77644/5 81900 83127 83923 85080 88073/4 88140
88380 89119 89191/3 89273 90613 92219/20 95034/5 96192 98077/8
98567/70 99996 100813/4 102608 102851/4 103809 104244 104455/8
104460 105232/3 105255/8 105281 105453 105620 106419/20
106465/6 107314 107643 108054 109431 110789/90 110801 111426
112228 112270 114486 114636 115987/92 116960/1 117264 117410
117679 118742 120563/6 122864/7 123125/6 123536 123538 123740
125019/20 125472/503 126229/30 127643 127728/9 127787 129642
129693 129814/5 131036/7 133144 135240 137074 137851/2 138372/3
139385/9 153668 155780 156101 156491/4 156901 158055 162266/7
162779 164675 164744/8 166747 166753 167450/1 168462 170618/9
171620 172891/2 174270 174976 175006 175118/9 175203 175525
176817/8 177571 180770/82 181711/8 183060 184593 185060 187608
190020 191120 192312 193311/3 195783 196428/9 196649/50 198884
198045/6 199139 199238/40 200646 202131 202372/4 204080
205684/5 206045 206627 208770/1 210023 210519/22 210560
211013/5 211020 211920/32 212315 216801 216904 217508 219369
221868 222680/1 222741 222745 222750 222774/8 224895.

London, October 11, 1916.

BONDS CANCELLED.

IMPERIAL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT 4½ PER CENT. STERLING LOAN OF 1905.

The Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd., London, announces that £320,000 4½ per Cent. Sterling Bonds of the 1st SERIES and £180,000 4½ per Cent. Sterling Bonds of the 2nd SERIES have been PURCHASED on behalf of the Imperial Japanese Government for the purpose of cancellation, and the said BONDS are now CANCELLED.

The NUMBERS of the BONDS so CANCELLED are the following:—

IMPERIAL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT 4½ PER CENT. LOAN.

FIRST SERIES.

28 BONDS of £500.

210413 210499/500 210725 211071 211108/9 211122 211231
211233/4 211281 211313/4 211337 211347 211447 211505 211695
211790/3 211827 211840/3.

846 BONDS of £200.

130346/7 130421/5 130515/6 130539/40 130803 131124 131141
131307 131462 131530 131582/91 131607/8 131611 131766 131877/80
131989 132203 132381/2 132688 133271 133839/44 133912 134037/8
134073 134468/72 134570/1 134598/9 134701/2 134841 134897
135079 135352 135434 135447 135671 135683 135925 135984 135995
136085 136137 137057 137186 137307 137349/52 137512 137552
137567 137740/1 137806 137913 138009/10 138213/4 138305
138625/6 138722 138847 139241/2 139409 139458 139532 139681
139718/20 139756 139941/55 139987 140024 140065 140102
140153/7 140411/3 140582/5 140609 140898 140900 141012
141097/8 141214 141845 142048 142077 142372/3 143179 143183
143229/32 143501 143597 143750 144083/4 144349 144819/23
144870/1 144925 144975 145101 145286 146317 146355 147344/5
147772 148048 148169 148542/6 148752 149144/5 149687/8 150451
150521 150836/40 150934 150996 151499 151801 151905 151909
152088 152156/9 152205/6 152228/37 152274 152313/4 152484/5
153667/9 153677 153712 156709 156825 156990 157118 157244
157285 157267/9 157981/2 158002 158141 158334 158377 158459
158531 158830 158907 159464/5 159481 160011 160039 160181
160190 160192/6 160521 160649/50 160759 161114 161149/51
161262 161287 161456 161951 162341 162897 162921/5 162945
163146/8 163243 163666/7 163670/1 163773/5 163881 164091
164125/9 164308 164317 164572/3 164598/606 165126/7 165131
165373 165349/40 165606 165671/95 165730 165746 165968 166233/7
166763 166941/5 167011 167236/46 167255/6 167725/6 168323/4
168326/7 168518 168596/8 168600 168676/7 168723/4 169072/7
169083/7 169111 169328 169405 169445 169608 169735/7 169951
169985 170020 170046 170117/8 170340 170356 170495 171237
171514 171650/5 171667/9 172163/4 172412 172473/4 172490
172782/3 172813 172815 172995/7 173016/20 173070 173281/5
173448 173603/4 173693/4 173763 173798 173800 173990 174107/131
174341/8 174524 174530 174574 174719/21 174943 174989/90
175301 175523 175600 175663 175947 176737/40 176878 176905
176907/8 176920 177024/8 177166/8 177333 177337 177920/1 177927
178032 178382/3 178423 178425 178489 178627 179065 179242/4
179339 179355 179365 179557/8 179692/5 179704/5 179957 180127
180332 180384/5 180525/6 180609/10 180808/9 180969 181112
181149 181223 181266 181837 182000 182083/4 182251 182289
182291 182319/22 182360 182368 182793 182807 182970
183382 183401 183551 183601 183774 183869 183871
184116 184539 184587 184613 184788 184904 185303
185793/5 185803/4 185821 185862 185971/2 186008 186010/12
186054 186257 186407 186674 186716 187004 187628 187638 187708
188174/5 188272 188449 188498/9 188936 189194/7 189281 189407
189456 189492/4 189497 190156 190202 190281 190427 190431
190574 191038 191077 191295/6 191331 191653 191953 192130
192139/41 192257 192419 192479/81 192581/2 192589 192664/5
192708 192957 192985 193375/6 193803 193821/2 193844 194053
194144 194341 194369 194475/6 194664 194690 194754/5 194763
194984 195031 195092 195386 195501/2 195505 195764 195789
195817 196209 196428 196587 196620 196697 196705/6 196936
197128 197143 197427 197431 197449 197600 197618/9 197634
197997 198769/78 198787/8 198825/6 199345 199403 199424
199427/8 199519/20 199842/3 200082 200434/6 200542 200720
200785 200815/6 200872/4 200940 201100/11 201164/6 201171
201535 201784 201836 201879/80 201921/4 201957/9 202056
202316/7 202374 202626 203048 203401/2 203774/7 203834 204104
204212/4 204358 204645 204739 206127 206130 206237 206358
206436 206755/6 207012 207022/5 207065/6 207648 207800/1
208118/9 208209/11 208450 209342 209437 209685 209861/2
209974/5.

1,368 BONDS of £100.

110 249 288 1148 1575 1864/5 2015/6 2143 2313 2349 2434
2736/7 2797 2864/4 3123 3509 4102 4728/32 4838 5206 5316 5391
5474 5501 5614 5904 6071 6115 6224/6 6290 6303 6400/2 6533
6580 6612 7150 7246 7314/5 7341/4 7612 7854 8552 8849/52 9025
9709 10210 10336 10386 10448 10524 10546 10638 10657 10670
10937 10996 11326/9 11332 11563 11691 12178/9 12562/5 13249
13662/3 13702/7 13939/41 13961/2 14581/2 14693 14779 14815
14859 15028 15501 15858/9 15861 16000 16082/6 16249 16262
16383/5 16763 16961/2 17052 17054 17151 17316/9 17330 17602
17798 18157 18278/9 18650 18699/701 18820/2 18952/3 19766
20129/41 20202 20575/6 20585 20663/707 21142 21450 21541

21831/2 21932/41 21995 22168/9 22242 22503/6 22685 22819/28
22881 23124 23174 23588 23981 24514/5 24745 24864 25613 25753
26180/5 26617/21 26680 26964 27118/9 27207 27349 28192 28307
28928 29062 29666 29781 29848/9 29972 30043 30323 30493 30511
30755 30761 30766 30851 30858 30872 30875/6 30968 31442 31573
31605 31668/87 31703 31954 31983 31985 31987 32018 32021 32075
32176 32467 32574 32579/83 32716 32781/2 32835 33005 33218/27
33300 33311/2 33314/7 33386/8 33391/3 33969 34073 34211 34350
34975 35344 35481/3 35540/7 35741 35952 36005/7 36011/2
36233/7 36297/8 36486 36518 36591/3 36883/4 37133/4 37766/70
37774 37815/9 37859 37867 38164 38191 38403 38451 38569 40020
40133/4 40277 40284 40897 40910 40913 41074/6 41182 41220
41362 41381 41441 41473 41668 42254 42369 43260 43431/2 43645
44014 44169 44208 44259 44297 44381 44391/2 44478/9 44517
45043 45053 45155 45331/3 45354/5 45850/1 45871 45927/36
46165/6 46554 46773/4 47140/8 47196 47421 47529 47601 47691
47885 47994/7 48103 48491 48573 48584/5 48795 49010/3 49209
49282 49632 49940 50051/5 50153 50468 50489 51124/30 51141
51241 51255 51319 51423/4 51534 51631 52100 52256/8 52271 52322
52534 52693 52709 52758 52915 53035 53258/64 53367/7
53428 53746/9 54093 54217 54234 54348 54623 55182 55262 55283
55298/301 55342 55443/7 55931 56175 56435 56645/7 56687 57222
57622 57699 57756 57821 57823 57856 58048 58121 58148/50 58235
58332/3 58659 58831/2 58876 58883 59544 59754 60051 60107/8
61002 61301 61341 61383 61448 61451/71 61915/16 61929 61959
61994 62625 62668 62746 62806 62906 62944/5 63043/3 63089/101
63150/1 63250 63484/5 64070/4 64130 64137/46 64181 64368
64631 64714/6 65239 65401 65676 65812/25 66118 66183 66332
66509 66511 66524 66992 67126/7 67482 67585 67643/4 67731/44
68717/26 69484 69178 70389 70398 70432 70839 70842 70860 70863
70974/5 71299 71452 71555/64 71625/6 71700 71738/9 71746/8
71826 71854 71887 71934/7 71972/3 72034 72040/1 72416 72449
72504/5 72731/6 72747/52 72782 72793 72825/7 72422 74378/83
74811/20 74842 76065 76558 76747 77087/92 77569/70 77830
77908/10 78117 78119 78128 78242 78311 78482 78571/4 78618
78694 78726/30 79007/8 79026 79107 79403/5 79586 79672 79865
79902 79966/7 80199 80409 80446/55 80742 80920 80945/6 81473/4
81618 81766 81926 82042/4 82167/76 82244 83021 83482/4 83482/4
83504 83527 83553/7 84055 84138/9 84439 84873 84956 84981
85077/86 85186 85292 86154/75 86329/38 86584 87059/63 87523/4
87829 87904/5 87939/40 88044 88209 88310 88442/4 88512 89525
89593 89609/14 89901 89923/32 89952/3 90141/2 90203/4 90803
90929/31 91029 91290 91699 92396 92574 92909/10 93987 94691/713
94823 95209 95714/5 95823 96412 96422/3 96669/70 96849/910
97185 97251 98344 98666 99153 99583 99620 99687 99749/50 99800/3
99928 100261/5 100416 100902 101007 101080 101662/3 101784/5
101864 102140 102212/3 102485 102732 102843/4 102901/10
102944/5 103197 103229/33 103371 103463 103652 103684 103741
103829/38 104013 104078 104156 104592 104728/9 104859/60
104953 105238/42 105316 105508/14 105585 105663 105734
105870/4 105923 105975 106063 106086/7 106277 106492 106524
106714 106720 106864 107013/4 107041/3 107052 107667 107817/9
107201/2 107250/4 107260 107300/4 107479 107665/7 107709
107751 108136 108524 108614 108708 108804 108922 109444 109811
109911 109948 110206 110563 111171 111947/8 112406 112557
112693 112867 112870 113217 113295/6 113921/3 114035/9 114098
114617 115255 115282 115359 115522/6 115814 116042 116060
116254 116368 116394 116550/1 116565 116758/9 116880 117107/8
117251/2 117604 118140 118167/8 118882 119923 119929 120120
120128 120718 120957 121092 121135 121108 121621 121836 121871
122433 122515 122723/6 122977/85 123387 123496/7 123863/4
124168 124549 124600 124712 124796 125273 125385 125854
125952/6 126108/9 126157/8 126882 127290/1 127499/500 127507
128178 128316 128631 128942 129058 129083/5 129239/30 129546
129775.

IMPERIAL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT 4½

PER CENT LOAN.

SECOND SERIES.

482 BONDS of £200.

325298 325467/71 325693/4 325768/9 325953/62 326547/8
326622/31 326998 327040 327342 327539 328123/7 328771/8
329937 329990/3 330145 330191/3 330379/83 330386/7 330455
330552 330661 330704 330941/2 330983 331396/7 331503/6 332771
332893/4 333141/2 333146/7 333702 334038 334039 335008/12
335798 336217 336260/4 336404 336472/81 336994/5 337104/8
337271/3 337890/1 337940 337945 338018 338222 338482 338014
338921/7 339381/4 340082/3 340196 340930 340950/341001 342228
342281 342374 342476 343838 343905 344119 344213 344546 345201
345392/4 345641 345685 346216 346664/5 346885 346972 347381
347534 348008 348038 348146 349164/5 349245/9 349443 349460
349538 350306/10 350654/5 350947 351343 351982/5 352218 353407
353620 353678 353820/2 353854 354006/7 354143/9 354465/6
354522/3 354676 354861 354950 354988/8 355258/82 355313 22
355582 357230 357576 358180 358318 358775/6 358780 358800
358872 359010 359021 359284 359327/8 359510 359561 359587
359629/30 359689/91 359693 359953/5 360325 360791 361398 361791
361810 362078 363000 363166 363276 364245/8 364578/85 364904/5
365045 365881 366076 366520/32 366913 366921 366949 367026/7
367076 367868 368340 368231 369072 369572 369881 369913 370066
370511 370542 370557 370834 371426 8 371502 372050 372204
372287/9 374203 374382 374457/8 374931/4 375160 375088 375097/7
376533/42 377072/4 377713/9 378733/5 378721/2 378558 61 378620/4
378680 378701 379058 379199 379758/9 380564 380684/7 381515
381616 381620/1 381786 382803 383322 383812 383943 385083/4

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FOUNDED BY A. J. WILSON, FEBRUARY, 1892.

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NEW SERIES.

[Registered as a
Newspaper.]

SATURDAY, OCT. 21, 1916.

[Price 6d.]

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THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LTD.

Head Office: 15, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.

Capital Authorised	...	£1,500,000
Capital Issued	...	1,125,000
Capital Paid Up	...	562,500
Reserve Fund	...	550,000

Branches:

INDIA, BURMAH, CEYLON, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS
CHINA, AND PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS.

The Bank buys and sells Bills of Exchange, issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, and transacts banking and agency business in connection with the East, on terms to be had on application.

DEPOSITS received for one year at 5 per cent. per annum. Rates for other periods on application.

On **current accounts** interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on daily balances.

THE LONDON & RIVER PLATE BANK (LIMITED).

ESTABLISHED 1862.

Authorised Capital	£4,000,000
Paid-up Capital	1,800,000
Reserve Fund	2,000,000

BRANCHES—

ARGENTINE.—Buenos Aires, Rosario, Mendoza, Concordia, Bahia Blanca, Córdoba, Tucumán, Paraná, Barracas (Buenos Aires), Once (Buenos Aires), Boca (Buenos Aires), Calle Santa Fé (Buenos Aires), Calle B de Irigoyen (Buenos Aires). URUGUAY.—Montevideo, Montevideo Agency (Calle Rio Negro), Paysandu (Agency), Salto (Agency). BRAZIL.—Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Santos, Pernambuco, Para, Bahia, Victoria, Curitiba, Manaus (Agency). CHILI—Valparaiso. FRANCE—Paris (16 Rue Halévy). Agency in New York and Agents throughout the world.

Letters of Credit, Drafts, and Cable Transfers issued. Bills negotiated, advanced upon or sent for collection.—7, Princes Street, E.C.

BANK OF NEW ZEALAND.

(Incorporated July 29th, 1861.)

BANKERS TO THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT.

London Office: 1, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL £5,500,000

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL.

Four per Cent. Guaranteed Stock	£529,988
"A" Preference Shares issued to New Zealand Government	500,000
"B" Preference Shares issued to New Zealand Government	250,000
Ordinary Shares	1,500,000
	£2,779,988
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits	£2,118,065

Negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange.
Grants drafts on its Offices in New Zealand, Australia, Fiji and Samoa. Remittances made by telegraphic transfer.

ALEXANDER KAY, Manager.

THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.

(Registered in Japan.)

ESTABLISHED 1880.

Subscribed Capital	.. .. Yen 48,000,000
Capital Paid Up	.. .. Yen 30,000,000
Reserve Fund	.. .. Yen 20,800,000

Head Office: YOKOHAMA.

Branches and Agencies at

Antung-Hsien.	Harbin.	Nagasaki.	Shanghai.
Bombay.	Honolulu.	Newchang.	Singapore.
Calcutta.	Hong Kong.	New York.	Sydney.
Changchun.	Kobe.	Osaka.	Tientsin.
Dairen (Dalny).	Liaoyang.	Peking.	Tokyo.
Fengtien (Mukden).	Los Angeles.	Ryojun (Port Arthur)	Tsinanfu.
Hankow.	Lyons.	San Francisco.	Tsingtau.

The Bank buys and receives for collection Bills of Exchange, issues Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit on above places and elsewhere, and transacts General Banking Business.

Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be obtained on application.

London Office: 7, BISHOPSGATE, E.C.

K. TATSUMI, Manager.

PRUDENTIAL

ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED,

HOLBORN BARS, LONDON.

Invested Funds exceed - £94,000,000.

CLAIMS PAID £126,000,000.

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND.

Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1727.

CAPITAL PAID UP	£2,000,000
REST & UNDIVIDED PROFITS	£800,986

Head Office: ST. ANDREW SQUARE, EDINBURGH.

ADAM TAIT, Cashier and General Manager

A. K. WRIGHT, Secretary.

London Office: 3, BISHOPSGATE, E.C.

WILLIAM WALLACE, Manager.

166 Branch Offices throughout Scotland.

Banking Business of every description transacted. Accounts opened for Foreign and Colonial Correspondents. Bills, Cheques, and other documents collected. Deposit received at interest repayable at call or at notice

LONDON COUNTY & WESTMINSTER BANK, LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED IN 1836.

CAPITAL £14,000,000, in 700,000 Shares of £20 each.

Paid-up Capital - - - £3,500,000.

Reserve - - - £4,000,000.

Chairman: The Right Hon. The VISCOUNT GOSCHEN. Deputy Chairman: WALTER LEAF, Esq.

HEAD OFFICE: 41, LOTHBURY, E.C.

The Bank is represented by Branches or Agents in all the Principal Cities and Towns of the United Kingdom and has Correspondents throughout the World.

Paris: London County and Westminster Bank (Paris) Limited, 22, Place Vendôme.

SUMS OF £10 UPWARDS RECEIVED ON DEPOSIT, AND INTEREST ALLOWED THEREON
EVERY DESCRIPTION OF BRITISH AND FOREIGN BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED
EXECUTOR AND TRUSTEE DUTIES UNDERTAKEN.

STANDARD BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA, LTD.

Bankers to the Government of the Union of South Africa in Cape Province, to the Imperial Government in South Africa, and to the Administration of Rhodesia.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	£6,194,100
PAID-UP CAPITAL	£1,548,525
RESERVE FUND	£2,000,000
UNCALLED CAPITAL	£4,645,575
	£8,194,100

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Wm. Rolerson Arbutnot, Esq. Horace Peel, Esq.
Sir David Miller Barbour, K.C.S.I., William Smart, Esq.
K.C.M.G. Right Hon. Lord Sydenham, G.C.S.I.,
Robert E. Dickinson, Esq. G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E.
James Fairbairn Finlay, Esq., C.S.I. H. L. M. Tritton, Esq.

HEAD OFFICE: 10, CLEMENTS LANE, LOMBARD ST., LONDON, E.C.

New York Agency: 55, WALL STREET.

OVER 235 BRANCHES AND AGENCIES IN SOUTH AND EAST AFRICA.

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Established 1941.		
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Reserve Fund	2,675,000
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London Directors:

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H. L. M. TRITTON, Esq.

WALTER S. M. BURNS, Esq.

DAVID GEORGE, Manager.

J. S. CAMPBELL, Secretary.

HALKERSTONE MELDPUK,

DAVID GEDDIE,

Assistant Manager.

Accountant.

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Reserve Fund	£1,000,000.	Uncalled Capital	£1,010,000
Uncalled Capital	£1,010,000.	Reserve Liability of Shareholders	£25,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	£25,000.		£1,760,000

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ESTABLISHED 1837.

LIMITED.

INCORPORATED 1880.

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Paid-up Capital, £2,000,000; Reserve Fund, £1,960,000; together £3,960,000

Reserve Liability of Proprietors 4,000,000

Total Capital and Reserves £7,960,000

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Passing Events.

Revenue came in well enough last week ended October 14, the total received from taxation and public services having been £8,424,000. Of this, £3,232,000 was derived from excess profits duty, raising the total thus far collected under that impost to £37,737,000. The contributions under other heads will be found, as usual, in our table. As for the expenditure, under ordinary sub-divisions, it was £32,297,000, which was moderate, less, in fact, than in the previous week, or only an average of £4,614,000 per day, compared with £4,874,000. A fortnight ago it was £5,914,000 per day. But in addition to this ordinary expenditure, there were sundry repayments to make, arising from floating debt exigencies. Thus temporary advances to the amount of £29,350,000 had to be repaid, i.e., renewed, and Exchequer bonds of 1904 fell due to the amount of £3,088,000, a debt met by the issue of an equivalent amount of new bills or by the prolongation of the old. Other minute liquidations brought up the total overturn of the week to £64,903,000. The Government, however, raised altogether £72,845,000, viz., £42,955,000 nett on Treasury bills, £16,006,000 on the new 6 per cent. Exchequer bonds, and the above-noted £3,088,000 on renewal Exchequer bonds, besides £817,000 on Expenditure certificates and £1,100,000 on Savings certificates, so that in the end, in spite of the huge expenditure and renewals of debt, Exchequer balances were increased by £7,942,000. The nett addition to the Treasury bills afloat was £16,464,000, bringing up the entire floating debt in this form to £1,056,887,000. The total amount of Exchequer bonds outstanding is now £334,339,000.

The well-informed Budapest correspondent of the *Morning Post* tells us that another Austro-Hungarian loan is about to be issued, making, it would seem, the sixth, counting in the separate Hungarian loans. Altogether the Habsburg Empire seems to have already funded new war debt to the amount of £1,600,000,000 nominal, and it now wants to convert another £200,000,000 of its owings. Even could it do so it would not have provided for nearly all the money costs of the war thus far incurred, for these must have much

exceeded £2,000,000,000 up to date; but no doubt the attempt is being made in the interest of its creditors to provide them with bits of paper they might sell, to create a "marketable security" in short against a future day. Mere private debts, or debts due by Government to firms that are ruining themselves in manufacturing weapons of destruction, cannot be passed from hand to hand like a public loan bond. Unfortunately, the financiers of all races who traffic in that kind of paper will not be buyers after this war. A public loan by the Central Empires is, therefore, a proclamation of bankruptcy, and really we cannot see where Austro-Hungary is to get a new farthing. Even the Jews who have stood behind the Habsburgs in egging them on to conquest of coveted territory in no sense their property must have by this time lost not merely the will, but much of the power to come to the assistance of the distressed despotism. "Germany," says this correspondent, "with all her riches and her readiness to aid her ally, has not contributed more to the previous four Austro-Hungarian war loans than £20,000,000 or so." We are surprised to be told that Germany has managed even as much as that, but if the wealthy Israelites in the Hohenzollern Empire could not to a larger extent than that assist their co-racials in poverty-stricken Austro-Hungary in keeping the hoary imposture on its legs, what must now be the position of the whole Semitic finance of the two empires? No doubt a certain amount of gold continues to be hoarded by the wealthy few, but the worse the political position becomes the less likely is it that any of this gold will be forthcoming to help the ruin-all to complete the empire's destruction. Looking merely at the financial side of affairs, we should say that the war cannot be far from its end; but, unfortunately, such is the force of despotic government, fighting is likely to go on for long after the inspirers of the conflict are ruined. They know that their defeat means their extinction.

There have been many important shipping deals in the past few years, but none has been more sensational, in its way, than the purchase of the Wilson Line by Sir John Ellerman. Thos. Wilson, Son and Co., Ltd., was founded on a very modest basis over 60 years ago, Mr. Thos. Wilson starting business with a single small

sailing vessel, but he was one of the first to appreciate the possibilities of steam, and it was not long before he had several steamers running. With headquarters at Hull, Wilsons and the port grew up together, and it became a by-word that "Hull is Wilsons and Wilsons are Hull," for the firm gradually swallowed up most of its local rivals and extended its enterprise to ship-building, engineering, fishing, and other important ventures. At the outbreak of the war the Wilson Line numbered about 100 vessels, and was reputed to be the largest private shipping firm in the world. With regular sailings from London and Liverpool as well as Hull it had a huge trade with Baltic, Mediterranean, and Black Sea ports, America and India; indeed, its ramifications were almost worldwide. But many ships have been lost through the war, and owing to the difficulty of replacement the management have decided to join forces with the Ellerman group in order to safeguard as far as possible the connections established, with a special eye to preserving Hull interests. The nominal capital of the company is £2,000,000, with £500,000 in debentures, but the capital value of the business taken over must be very considerably greater. No statement, however, has been made as to the amount involved in the deal. Mr. Oswald Sanderson will continue as manager under the new auspices, and the Ellerman group will now control some 200 steamers with a capacity of 1,400,000 tons. It is a pity to see the old firms disappearing, but the development is probably inevitable.

While the chief interests of the Bank of Taiwan are in Formosa, where it is the recognised Government institution, it has extended its operations all over the Far East, and has also opened offices in London, New York, and Petrograd. Arrangements have also been made for agencies in India, South Africa, and Australia, which have already given satisfactory results, and are now being increased in order to provide banking facilities in connection with the growing trade with those countries. Like other Japanese undertakings, the bank found difficulty in employing its funds in Japan during the six months ended June 30, and very similar conditions appear to have prevailed in Formosa. The export trade showed an expansion of 31,520,000 yen, most of it, of course, being with Japan, although Australia and China both took substantially larger amounts of produce, while the increase in imports was only 4,020,000 yen up, so that the favourable balance was large, and, money being plentiful, loan rates had to be reduced. Compensation, however, was found in the operations with China, which were favourably affected by increased exports from Japan to China, thanks to the higher price of silver, and also to some degree to the European commodities which had been kept back from China. Nett profits for the six months showed an increase of 188,045 yen at 876,567 yen, to which is added 255,772 yen, or 9,285 yen more brought in. A dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, or the same as a year ago, is paid, but requires an extra 152,500 yen, owing to the larger amount of capital ranking, and after transferring 200,000 yen to reserve, compared with 180,000 yen, the balance carried forward is increased by 11,830 yen to 262,340 yen. With this addition, the reserves will stand at 4,880,000 yen, as against a paid-up capital of 12,500,000 yen. All items of the balance-sheet indicate a considerable growth of business, the note circulation being 3,591,128 yen larger at 17,969,305 yen, and deposit and current accounts, 5,389,185 yen up at 84,472,359 yen, while liabilities for bills payable, acceptances, &c., have risen by 23,912,490 to 50,776,395 yen. On the other hand, bills, loans, and advances show an increase of 32,362,498 yen at 134,104,807 yen, cash in hand is 3,716,929 yen up at 9,955,656 yen, and bullion and foreign money 1,296,979 yen up at 4,249,986 yen, but cash at bankers has been reduced by 2,227,392 yen to 5,007,423 yen. Loans to Government, investments, and properties are all higher, and the aggregate of the balance-sheet is 179,030,399 yen, or 33,800,134 yen more than a year ago.

Probably the board of the Buenos Ayres Great Southern Railway Co., Ltd., was justified in making, by giving a final 2½ per cent., the dividend for its year closed June 30 last 4½ per cent., an increase of ½ per cent. on the previous year's payment, but no great harm would have happened had the additional 10s. been withheld. True, the balance of £83,853 left to carry forward after this increase has been deducted is £25,901 above the one brought in the year before; the board, moreover, has added £60,000 to the general reserve out of the year's profits, so that there can be no question at all of the capacity to pay the higher rate. Only prospects do not seem to be brilliant just at present, and the pressure of competition as well as of the capital expenditure involved in fulfilling the behests of the Argentine Government, an increasingly exacting authority, counsels the keeping in reserve of as much free money as possible. Capital expenditure was not large last year, but still it did increase somewhat, and the total involved in the undertaking is now £53,971,000. The earnings of the year came to £5,549,000, or £607,513 more than in the previous year, and working expenses at £3,165,000 were only £178,000 up, so that the nett income of £2,384,000 was £429,000 better; but was the policy of keeping down working expenses in the way these comparisons imply a reasonably prudent one? The accounts appear to say so as under most heads there was some increase, although not in the cost of maintaining permanent way and works, which was £11,000 down. Locomotive running, however, shows an increase of £99,000, emphatic testimony to the increased cost of fuel, and against sundry other increases in the outgoings, several branches of the revenue were stagnant. The increase in the goods receipts was satisfactory-looking, though barely £433,000 at a total of £2,605,000, but the increases of £97,000 in passenger earnings and of £65,000 in the receipts from parcels, excess luggage, &c., the one making a total of £1,645,000 and the other one of £445,000, were not due to larger travelling. They came from higher charges. The number of passengers carried actually fell off by 682,000, or by nearly 3 per cent., but the receipts increased by the sum named, or more than 6½ per cent. Now, we doubt whether it was wise to raise fares and other charges at a time like the present. Probably enough, the board will say "we were compelled to do so by the increased cost of maintaining and working our lines"; but surely the main purpose of railway management in the Argentine, as everywhere else, should be to encourage the increase in the population, in the development of local industries, and other guarantees of progress. And increased levies for the same services rendered do not represent the safe, economic way to enlarge wealth.

We find the keynote to the comparatively poor results of the Central Argentine Railway, Ltd., in the statement of the general manager that although favoured with a larger cereal crop than in the preceding year, the restricted facilities for exportation militated against the movement of grain which in ordinary times would have ensued. But he consoles himself with the reflection that the traffic is not lost, but merely postponed, as much grain still remains in store. We must be content with this explanation, and can only hope that the corresponding recovery will arrive in due course, although we may note that in the first 14 weeks of the current year there has been a decrease of £43,000 in gross receipts. For the 12 months these amounted to £5,737,090, a decline of £18,160, while working expenses were £339,000 higher at £3,702,100. Thanks mainly to profit on exchange nett credits were up £40,000 at £225,518, but fixed charges increased £115,000, largely owing to the full interest having to be met on the 5 per cent. five-year notes, with the result that the nett revenue is reduced £430,000 to £1,460,310. The allocation to contingencies fund is again £100,000, but £95,000 less at £345,840,000 was brought forward, and the available balance is £525,000

down at £1,706,150. Consequently the dividend on the ordinary stock has to be reduced from 5 per cent. to 4 per cent., and the deferred stock gets nothing, against 5 per cent. last year, while the carry forward is still further depleted to the extent of £203,000. All this is rather depressing, but the company serves a splendid territory, and under more favourable conditions it will no doubt rapidly regain its former level of prosperity. There was a decrease of 640,000 in the number of passengers and of £44,800 in receipts, while goods dropped 820,000 tons and receipts £111,790. On the other hand, live stock traffic yielded £106,000 more and parcels, &c., £26,700 more. Average receipts per passenger were a shade higher at 1s. 6½d., and the average freight per ton of goods rose 11½d. to 10s. 6½d. Naturally the ratio of working expenses advanced rather formidably, being 64.53 per cent., against 58.43 per cent. Increased cost of fuel and materials operated adversely, as in the case of other railways in the Republic. Maintenance of way and rolling stock cost £52,000 more, and running expenses were £220,000 higher, while traffic and miscellaneous charges advanced £66,000. Capital expenditure amounted to £1,069,200, a decrease of £750,000, but it is still too heavy for times like these, and should be curtailed. The balance at the credit of the account is reduced by over a million to £863,530, and there will be considerable difficulty in replenishing it for some time to come. However, the company has reserve funds of nearly £2,000,000 to draw upon after writing off £220,000 for depreciation of investments, and there need be no real anxiety about the future.

More favourable results are shown by the Buenos Ayres Western Railway, Ltd., than the dividend announcement led the market to expect. Under exceptionally difficult conditions the company has done very well indeed, and it is evident that with just a little more luck things would have been still better. Gross receipts for the year to June 30 amounted to £2,714,620, an increase of £192,000, while working expenses advanced only £75,000 to £1,580,480, with the result that the nett receipts are £117,000 higher at £1,134,140. Interest, &c., brought in £67,000 more, and the balance forward was £6,000 higher, so that the total available balance was £190,000 higher at £1,316,410. Fixed charges require £44,000 more, and income-tax £10,000 more, leaving £819,700 for dividend after minor adjustments. Last year, in order to make up the dividend to 5 per cent., £160,000 was taken from reserve. On this occasion the same dividend absorbs an additional £126,000, but it is entirely met out of revenue, and the balance carried forward is only reduced by £1,850 to £52,066. That, in brief, is the record for the year, and it may be regarded as entirely satisfactory in the circumstances. It must be borne in mind, in considering the accounts, that the bulk of the traffic passing over the Western Railway is dependent upon the amount of shipping tonnage available. During the past year this was quite inadequate, resulting in abnormal ocean freights, which in turn hampered the export of foodstuffs from Argentina, while shortage of coal and the increased cost of all materials added to the company's difficulties. Strict economy, however, was enforced, consistent with the efficient working of the line, and extension works have either been postponed or greatly curtailed, but even so capital expenditure amounted to £526,000, against £648,450 for the previous year, and the balance at the credit of capital account has been reduced from £1,990,000 to £1,660,000.

Coming to details, we find that the number of passengers dropped 700,000 to 8,138,000, but the receipts were nearly £20,000 higher at £634,860, owing to an increase of 2d. in the average fare to 1s. 6½d. In the case of goods traffic the tonnage hauled was 36,700 less at 3,356,280, but the receipts were £140,000 higher at £1,780,710, and the average freight earned per ton rose from 9s. 8d. to 10s. 7½d. In spite of the smaller

volume of traffic 24,800 more train miles had to be run, the total being 4,164,440 miles. The amount of wheat carried fell 75,000 tons, or 9.7 per cent., and that of maize 50,000 tons, or 11.7 per cent., but the less important items of oats, linseed, and barley showed considerable increases. It is explained that the reduction in the wheat tonnage is mainly due to the lack of shipping facilities, and a large part of the 1916 crop has still to come forward. With regard to maize, low prices made it unremunerative in many cases for the farmers to harvest their produce, and as a matter of fact, it has been extensively used for stock feeding, being much cheaper than either hay or bran. Unfortunately, the outlook is not very encouraging, and the general manager does not reckon to carry more than 162,000 tons this season, or about half the amount in 1915-16. Wheat prospects, however, are brighter with a larger area sown, and generally favourable weather. As to working expenses, there was an increase of £25,000 in maintenance of way, £40,000 in locomotive maintenance, of £83,000 in running expenses, and of £16,000 each in traffic and general charges, but a saving of nearly £120,000 in miscellaneous expenditure. Considering the increased cost of fuel and materials, these figures may be regarded as very satisfactory, and the ratio to receipts has declined from 59.67 to 58.22 per cent. The reserve fund has been reduced £36,000 to £848,720, but the renewals, &c., funds are up £90,000 at £992,000, and the company is certainly in a strong financial position.

Apparently Argentina is still liable to those waves of trickery or dishonesty which have more than once cost the country dear. Under the Mitre Law the railways, whatever the date of their concessions, are exempt from "all national, provincial, and municipal taxes" until the end of 1946, subject only to a contribution equal to 3 per cent. of their nett receipts. Nothing could well be clearer than the wording of the Article in question, and ten years ago, when an attempt was made to impose additional taxation, the National Supreme Court declared it to be contrary to the provisions of the law and the National Constitution. Recently, we understand, the Supreme Court has reversed this decision, holding that municipal taxes are excluded from the Mitre Law. On what grounds this conclusion has been arrived at passes our comprehension to fathom, but the railways are not in such a flourishing condition that they can tamely submit to this perfectly dishonest exaction which is actually claimed to be retrospective. What steps the directors of the different railways affected will adopt to resist such an unfair imposition, we do not know, but it is certainly imperative that prompt and united action should be taken.

Sir Robert Harvey had many encouraging points to put before the shareholders of the Anglo-South American Bank, Ltd., although the business of the bank has not by any means been all plain sailing. Profits depend very largely on the margin of interest obtainable in South America over the rates current here, and, with war borrowings up to 6 per cent., it has happened at times and in places that money was actually cheaper on the other side than it is here. However, there have been compensations. Direct trade between South America and the United States has been stimulated, and there has been a satisfactory increase in the earnings of the New York office. Moreover, the bank continues to extend its connections, and a new branch will commence business in Barcelona on the 1st prox. Prospects for the future are, on the whole, good. Rain is badly wanted in certain districts of Argentina, but wheat is likely to prove at least an average crop, and a considerable portion of the last harvest has still to come forward. Maize is normal, but the outlook for linseed is extremely poor. Conditions have greatly improved in Chile, and it is satisfactory to learn that Peru is making headway under the Government of President Pardo, who, it is stated, inspires universal confidence.

This is reflected in a substantial improvement in the exchange, and there can be little doubt that the country would develop rapidly under a stable and trustworthy Government.

In its year closed June 30, 1916, the working of the Paraguay Central Railway yielded nett receipts of £56,300. Gross receipts were £125,923, and working expenses £69,623, the one being £25,149 and the other £8,536 higher, so that the nett income was £16,613 better. Adding in the profit on exchange and transfer fees, there was £59,235 available, or £19,534 more, and although income-tax absorbed £5,750 more at £9,750, there was some slight saving on interest, so that the expenditure was brought down to £76,640, making the deficit £17,405, or £25,601 less. Altogether, therefore, the shortage now amounts to £43,523. These are the figures as they stand, but the interest has not been paid, and apparently the only actual disbursement has been that for income-tax, and the money, it is explained, would have been recoverable if the company had been able to pay the interest. It is further explained that a charge of 5 per cent. for maintenance is now set aside to make provision for renewals instead of leaving the matter to chance. For the past year it was £6,296, and as no such deduction was made in the previous year the accounts but for that would have been better still. It looks rather a hopeless business, however, when we are told that the average premium on gold last year was 3,645, or 22.6 per cent. higher than that of the previous year. On June 30 last the premium was down to 2,750, and it has since stuck near that figure. Nevertheless, conditions in Paraguay are said to be improving, and politically the country is tranquil, but there have been some strike troubles with the company's servants which brought traffic for several weeks to a standstill. And yet the property shows progress, and one day, when the world is at peace again, and able to devote its attention to earning its living, Paraguay may begin to make a better show.

In their report for the 12 months ended June 30 the directors of Dick, Kerr and Co. state that the Government entrusted to them the construction, equipment, and management of one of the national factories, but we do not gather that any of the profit for the period was derived from that source. The company's own works at Preston and Kilmarnock were kept fully occupied with contracts for the supply of war material, and that in itself was probably sufficient to account for the handsome increase of £24,780 shown after provision had been made for extra depreciation, special taxation, &c. Including £18,347, or £7,179 less, brought in, the amount available was £17,601 larger at £90,087, out of which the ordinary shares get a dividend of 6 per cent., their first distribution since 1910-11, when 5 per cent. was paid. A further £25,000 is then transferred to the special reserve for contingencies, making that fund £50,000, and the balance carried forward is increased by £2,050 to £20,397. The amount due for work done, stocks of materials, &c., under contracts is £263,865 larger at £724,231, but other stocks and work in progress have been reduced by £17,628 to £128,418. Sundry debtors owe £50,351 more at £128,393, cash has risen by £14,507 to £50,317, and investments are £7,566 up at £143,646. As the result of the large increase in contracts, liabilities to sundry creditors and bills payable are £266,474 higher at £560,898. Property and goodwill account has been reduced by another £18,125 to £565,100, against which there are reserves of various kinds aggregating £250,000. During the year the company acquired control of Willans and Robinson, Ltd., which it is expected will be of considerable value in the future expansion of the business.

Hurst, Nelson and Co., the well-known firm of railway wagon builders and makers of railway plant of Motherwell had a highly successful year's trading, the accounts for the 12 months to July 15 showing a gross

profit of £73,426, an increase of £11,607, as compared with a year ago, and the highest in the history of the company. It may be noted that when the present company was formed in 1909 the profits shown in the prospectus were only £41,173, and the vendors made no charge for goodwill. Depreciation on works for the past year was provided for in a liberal manner, the amount so allocated being £9,113 more at £18,086, and income-tax and interest absorbed £2,783 more at £4,048. Nevertheless, after putting £25,000 to general reserve, thereby raising it to £50,000, the directors are able to pay 12½ per cent., tax free, on the ordinary shares, the highest distribution yet made, as compared with 10 per cent. for the previous year. The carry forward is £707 less at £14,989. In addition to the general reserve already mentioned, there is a special reserve of £36,000 for preference share dividends, equivalent to three years' dividends on such shares. The item ground, works, plant, &c., stands in the balance-sheet at £111,328, a reduction of £11,391. Sundry debtors have risen from £72,076 to £102,345, while on the other side of the account creditors figure for £78,585, or £3,708 less than a year ago. The works have been under the control of the Ministry of Munitions since November 1.

Evidently Baldwins, Ltd., had a most prosperous year to June 30. Profits on manufacturing and trading accounts are stated, after deducting management expenses (which were debited last year at £31,250) and providing for excess profits duty, and they amount to £315,940, an increase of £87,000 over the previous 12 months. This time £5,000 more at £50,000 is written off for depreciation, but nothing is set aside for alterations and improvements, which got £14,530 a year ago, and after paying fixed charges there is an available balance of £305,065 (an increase of £113,330), including £16,840 more brought forward. It is proposed to place £75,000 against £50,000 to reserve (which will then stand at £400,000), and in addition to the dividend of 10 per cent. to pay a bonus of 2½ per cent., leaving £133,190, or £46,450 more, to be carried forward. During the year the paid-up capital has been increased by £225,000 to £1,025,000, besides which there is £500,000 in debenture stock. Sundry creditors are almost exactly doubled at £736,370, the increase being doubtless partly accounted for by the provision for excess profits duty. Stocks are £80,000 higher at £509,945, sundry debtors £135,000 at £492,270, investments £298,000 at £560,000, and cash balances £235,000 at £368,940. Nothing is said in the report about the conditions of business, but everything points to great prosperity, and the company has gained itself an exceedingly strong position.

With a promptitude which we should like to see more frequently copied, the Russian Corporation, Ltd., has already produced its report for the year to September 30. Considering the difficulties which a new venture established only two and a-half years must have had to face, it has done astonishingly well, especially as it has been unable, owing to the war, to introduce any new issues of Russian securities on this market. In these circumstances the profit of £70,130, an increase of £17,500 over the previous 18 months, is extremely creditable. Out of this £10,600 more is placed to reserve fund, raising it to £40,000, and the dividend is increased from 4 per cent. to 5 per cent., which absorbs £10,000 more, and leaves £3,460 to be carried forward, or a trifle more than the amount brought in. Loans against security have decreased £58,000 to £178,140, while a new item of £60,000 appears for acceptances on behalf of customers. Investments are £160,000 lower at £628,000, while cash, short loans, &c., are up £123,000 at £550,000. It is stated that short term securities have been taken at cost, and the remainder of the investments at market value. The sterling cash balances in Russia (£420,000) are said to be fully secured, and the rouble deposits (£85,125) are taken at the current rate of exchange. Everything

points to prudent and able management, and we have every confidence that the company has a useful and prosperous career in front of it.

In spite of the increased cost of materials, and probably some difficulty in raising prices to consumers, A. and F. Pears, Ltd., did remarkably well in the year to June 30. Nett profits increased £11,600 to £90,427, but £4,200 less was brought forward, and the available total is £7,400 higher at £120,430. The dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. is repeated on the ordinary shares, but this time it requires the full amount of £30,000, against £12,650 last year, and the appropriation to reserve is cut in half at £5,000, leaving £25,030, or £5,000 less, to be carried forward. Particulars of the company's trading are, as usual, reserved for the chairman's statement at the meeting, but we should judge that the year must have been a very good one on the whole. Creditors are up £18,770 at £44,785, cash balances £5,000 at £45,450, investments £11,000 at £392,000, and buildings, plant, &c., £11,000 at £520,650, but stocks are £6,000 lower at £162,920, and debtors £5,000 at £78,880. The reserve fund now stands at £105,000, against capital and debentures amounting to £870,000, and we have no fault to find with the balance-sheet except that goodwill might be separately stated and gradually wiped out.

Although no mention is made of it in the report, the directors of the Russian Tobacco Co., Ltd., have been authorised to increase the capital by the issue of 1,000,000 preference shares of £1 each. It is certainly unusual for such an important matter to be omitted from the report, but the terms of the issue are still more peculiar. Originally it was proposed that the directors should be at liberty to issue the shares at 15 roubles each, and to pay an underwriting commission of 20 per cent. At the meeting last week, over which Mr. Chantrey Inghald presided, the price of issue was reduced to par, and the rate of commission raised to 30 per cent. ! It was explained by the solicitor that the changes were necessitated by fluctuations in the exchange, but unless he was very incompletely reported, he made out a remarkably poor case. However, it is stated that the resolution was carried unanimously, and if the shareholders are content there is little more to be said, although we should doubt if such an important alteration made without notice would hold good. In any case, the terms are extraordinary. According to the report, the gross profits for the year to April 30 (O.S.) amounted to Rs. 6,690,720, an increase of Rs. 4,400,000, and the nett profits are up Rs. 1,590,000 at Rs. 3,818,650. Out of this a dividend of Rs. 1.25 has been declared payable in Russian currency without deduction of income-tax. Evidently, therefore, the company is greatly prosperous, but the new preference shares are to get 50 per cent. more dividend than the ordinary, and to have three votes in respect of every two shares. Under these circumstances, why it should be necessary to pay an underwriting commission of 30 per cent. is a mystery which we cannot fathom. In face of it the figures of the balance-sheet have little interest for us, but the position appears to be a fairly strong one, notwithstanding rather heavy liabilities.

The first decisions of the Board of Referees to be given in appeals made under the excess profits duty provisions of the Finance Act (No. 2), 1915, have been promulgated this week. Both decisions related to the oil industry, and were in appeals made by the Assam Oil Co. and the Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields for an increase of the general percentage standard as fixed in the Act. In the former case, the board has raised the percentage standard from 6 per cent. to 8 per cent. for companies working in Assam, and from 7 to 9 per cent. for properties worked by individuals. In the Roumanian appeal the statutory percentage is raised from 6 to 8½ per cent., and from 7 to 9½ per cent. respectively. All industries are dealt with by classes in

appeals to the Board of Referees, and these classes are divided into sub-divisions, so that a ruling in one particular case in a sub-division will apply to all similar companies in that sub-division. Thus these two decisions affect all oil companies operating in Assam and Rumania. A good many appeals are pending on behalf of companies who have no adequate pre-war profits standard, owing to their being only partially developed before the war, and in other cases to the fact that the fixed percentage standard is inadequate compensation for the risks run in particular enterprises. As far as can be determined, the two awards published this week represent the normal earning capacity of both companies. Important rubber and mining decisions are expected to be announced shortly.

No book we have come across this autumn has proved more readable than Mr. Sidney Whitman's "Things I Remember," just published by Messrs. Cassell. And most of it is as interesting as readable, although the dominating impression left on the mind is perhaps one of disappointment that the author has "held himself in" so much. There must be so much more that he might have told had he chosen; that is the feeling. What, for example, could he not have told us about the inner side of German intrigue diplomacy at Constantinople, and how welcome would have been a few character sketches of the leading people who surrounded the court of Abdul Hamid in the days of his most ruthless massacres in Armenia. In the light of present events such indices to character as this able and most adroit special correspondent of the *New York Herald*—we know him to be all that, for we still retain a distinct recollection of our first meeting with him, when, at the instance of the ever-vigilant Mr. Gordon Bennett, he came to us to seek light upon "bimetallism"—could have given us would have been precious. Perhaps he will supply the omission in another volume. In this one he approves himself loyal

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to the death and beyond in his undimmed veneration for Prince Bismarck. That Bismarck was a giant among the political pigmies of his day is unquestionable, and that he had a definiteness of purpose in his scheming, with force of will sufficient to enable him to triumph, is also beyond dispute. But his ideal was at best mediæval; he thought that the robber, if strong enough, could prosper in theft still, and that, provided the thief was unscrupulous and brutal enough to be a terror to the peaceful, or less strong among mankind, he could slay and annex, browbeat and subdue, without fear of retribution. The spectacle Europe presents to-day is beginning to prove even to the Germans that the attainment of the Bismarck ideal, the ideal of the would-be continent, or world, dominator for gain, does not insure either peace, respect, wealth, or happiness. Nevertheless, Mr. Whitman gives us a side of the great robber's life that he contrives to make attractive, which is saying a great deal. But the best portion of the volume to us is that in which he describes the condition of, and ferment in, Moscow in revolt at the close of 1905 and opening of 1906. His limning is vivid and full of touches calculated to make the reader think. What is to be the future of this great Slav people, probably the most truly democratic on earth, when it comes into the full enjoyment of its power? It will be a noble future we fully believe, and what Mr. Whitman tells us of the behaviour of both strikers and struck-at in those eventful weeks is calculated to strengthen our faith. The book is attractive to read all through.

Our Borrowing Muddlements.

Exasperation with the Chancellor of the Exchequer does not grow less in the City, or amongst the nation at large, over that 6 per cent. Exchequer bond issue surprise. Reluctance to do anything to embarrass the authorities while this war is at the height of its agony makes us anxious to say as little as possible to aggravate the blunder, if blunder it be, but there are at least two justifications for the popular view—(1) that the higher rate of interest was adopted without consultation with financial experts and men of wisdom in the City, and (2) that the change was premature. Putting this on one side for the present, there is another subject which is forced into prominence by the emission of 6 per cent. Exchequer bonds, and that is the inadequacy of the expedients by which the Treasury endeavours to raise money. All our war finance is dominated by the necessity our Treasury is under to meet an expenditure averaging at least £5,000,000 a day. Consequently £35,000,000 a week is needed to meet war charges under all heads, and our taxation does not provide one quarter of this. Of the £35,000,000 a week, at least £25,000,000 has to be borrowed; that is to say, £100,000,000 per month of four weeks, or about £1,250,000,000 per annum. How is the Government providing for all this stupendous outpouring of capital? It is providing for it now entirely by the creation of floating debt, and most of all by the sale of three, six, and twelve months' Treasury bills, which are discounted at varying rates of interest, and in some degree the sport of chance. No attempt has been made to create debt in large amounts for a fixed term of years since the 4½ per cent. War Loan was floated.

Apart from Treasury bills and Exchequer bonds, none of the credit devices adopted have been of much fertility. Up to date the total product of Exchequer bond issues has been little more than £370,000,000, as against £1,057,000,000 of Treasury bills. Still less satisfactory have been the results of other amateurish expedients fallen upon for attracting the savings of the people. We first of all had the "War Savings Certificates," advertised for our acceptance by all the devices known to the expert "publicist." These are limited to a maximum of £500, as maximum for the individual buyer, and were designed to draw in the spare moneys of the working classes, of which much larger amounts than usual were understood to be available, owing to the high wages ruling and the ample employment provided by the war, as well as by the liberality

with which dependents of men who joined the fighting forces were provided for.

Up to the end of last week the total amount of War Savings Certificates sold was only £31,800,000, and we are not sure whether this represents the amount that has to be paid back or the amount actually received. These certificates are current for five years, during which no interest is paid. They are sold at the rate of 15s. 6d. for the £1, and at the five years' end the holder gets back the full £1, the compound interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, being paid in a lump at maturity. But the bait had no magical effect, and so another form of borrowing has been instituted, named "War Expenditure Certificates." This form of debt is, practically speaking, a two years' Treasury bill, sold first at 90, and since July 14 last at 89, or, in other words, at a discount first of 10 and next of 11 per cent. for the two years. But the discount in this instance pays income-tax just as on any other portion of his income. By help of this latest project, the Treasury has managed to gather up £25,178,000. Less than £57,000,000 in all has been received on these counts, or not enough to cover a fortnight's war expenditure on last week's scale, and the impression such peddling and unstatesmanlike experiments leave on the mind is that there must be a lack of grasp at the Treasury, an absence of the capacity to take large views, or of a realisation of the perils into which fumbling experiments with fancy or amateur finance may, at the unforeseen moment, throw the Empire.

There is ever a danger that we may be caught in a "credit storm" one of these days, and be brought, in spite of our real strength, to the verge of financial paralysis. In this respect our Treasury management contrasts unfavourably with the German and still more with the French. The Chancellor of the Exchequer and his advisers ought to have laid down their borrowing policy on the broadest possible lines at an early stage in the war. Long usance stocks—10, 15, or 20 years—created by them ought to have been given an amplitude in volume which would have permitted of successive emissions or of continuous sales, for two or three years, or until the war was ended.

And as to the methods fallen upon for catching small savings, they have proved to be just the faint success we predicted. The War Savings Certificates have been at best feebly popular, and as for the War Expenditure Certificates, they cannot be expected to attract many people apart from the credit specialist, the man who knows discount business and can handle it. Something much larger, more courageous and extensive, more continually efficacious also, is required. Not in the spirit of the faddist, or hobby thwacker, at all, but in simple earnestness, we once more insist that the premium, or prize, bond method of gathering small savings ought to be resorted to. There is no financial or other demoralisation whatever involved in that method of borrowing money, if arranged upon the lines familiar in France, in Belgium, in all Latin countries, in fact, as well as elsewhere. The gambling, as we have again and again insisted, which characterised our "lottery loans," especially during the Napoleonic wars at the end of the eighteenth and the beginning of the nineteenth centuries, does not enter into the loans of Paris, Brussels, Liege, Lyons, Marseilles, or other cities, any more than into the discounting of Treasury bills. Supposing the Government issues these bonds in denominations of from £1 up to £20, bearing a quite moderate rate of interest, and so adjusts the annuity assigned to the redemption of these bonds that a proportion thereof is every six months or oftener set aside to provide small premiums or bonuses on a certain number of the bonds drawn for repayment, is that going to start gambling? Nothing of the sort. All the premium or bonus does is to induce the many who would not be attracted at all by the offer of the mere rate of interest, to put by money in these securities on the chance of getting back £2, £5, £10, or it might be on rarer occasions £50 or £500 more than

had been paid. Where is the demoralisation in that more than in the speculation which is involved in the issue of a newspaper, or in the adventure of a man who opens a shop in a new locality, or in rivalry to other shops of the same kind in the same neighbourhood?

Of one thing we are certain, unless better methods are lighted upon than hitherto in order to attract the hundreds of millions of really surplus money passing through the hands of our workers and now in great part being wasted, the chance of our falling into the financial slough of despond becomes greater with every month the war lasts. And arrangements will, we hope, be made soon by Mr. McKenna to help the larger financial interests. The greater money market would be prepared, we are positive, to handle and place by degrees a loan of one thousand, or even two thousand, millions at a considerably lower rate of interest than the Government is now paying if lenders were guaranteed against conversion and reduction for, say, at least five years after the war is concluded.

Mr. Runciman on the Causes of Dear Food.

One of the most important speeches, if not quite the most, Mr. Runciman has ever made, was that in which he set forth the facts about dear food and the causes thereof, in the House of Commons, on Tuesday evening. So cogent and reasonable a speech was it, that we regret space does not permit us to print it in full. We cannot adequately summarise it either, and must be content to string extracts together instead. As everybody knows, there is grumbling throughout the country amongst the working classes, perhaps more than any other, but by the well-off just as stridently, about the advance in prices. A certain type of newspaper has been doing its utmost to foment this discontent, and never a day passes but what we are given to understand that if the Government did this and that, obeyed "we" the all-guiding Sir Oracle, if "we" were only in control of affairs, in short, there would be no dearth or scarcity, and shipowners would have no chance to bolt off with the profits of the robber. Bakers would not be rolling in wealth by charging too much for their bread, or farmers by selling their milk, meat and corn dear. This is the kind of thing we expect from the gnat and mosquito newspapers of our day, but it is none the less perniciously false that it is as expected, and the sooner the lie is countered by instruction the better will it be for the country.

As regards agriculture, the difficulties are enormous, owing to the way the war has withdrawn labour. As Mr. Lambert remarked, efficient substitutes for carters and ploughmen are quite impossible to get in country districts to-day. "It was far easier to find a substitute for a Cabinet Minister than for an experienced carter." On this trouble we once more suggest that surely there are enough enemy prisoners in durance here to render material help. A large proportion of the Germans in our hands are probably accustomed to agricultural pursuits, and ought to be distributed and set to work to help wherever need is or where control is not difficult. We must not, however, stray into questions of that kind, but proceed to deal with Mr. Runciman's speech. Take first what he says about the workers' responsibilities over the shortage and dearth of butchers' meat and fish:—

Proceeding to illustrate how the consuming capacity of the people had increased and its causes, Mr. Runciman quoted from reports sent in to the Board of Trade from munition areas and large industrial centres. Of one munition area it was said:—"The working classes are buying meat freely, and do not object to pay for it. They are paying for the best meat." And again:—"The munition workers are spending money freely, and usually on the best parts. Others are undoubtedly practising economy, buying less meat and of the cheaper cuts." Of a town engaged in general trade the report was:—"The people are well employed, and women who never worked out do so now, which gives them good appetites, and is one of the causes of more meat being purchased." Even in cotton areas there appeared to be larger purchasing of food. "In all parts the people have plenty of money to spend. The sale of is. margarine is well up, but large numbers of people will have

pure butter at high prices, and insist on getting the best." Take a great Midland town:—"Many munition workers are now getting the better cuts of English meat, whereas formerly they had the cheapest foreign meat." One of the reasons for the trouble among railway servants was that in many towns they found themselves working at fixed rates of remuneration alongside men who were earning enormous incomes in comparison. It was largely a question of food; one was able to buy the best cuts, and only the scrag ends were left for the others. Therefore, they must take into account the consuming power of our people, and the fact that it had in a great many districts largely increased, as one of the factors which had led to the increase in prices. Fish was not dearer because there was any undue profiteering out of fish, or because there was an exploitation of the customer; it was dearer because there were not the same number of fishing boats at sea, because they were engaged in trawling for mines instead of for fish. Everybody knew that we got gigantic quantities of eggs from Siberia and Russia. The whole of that supply had been cut off, and naturally eggs were bringing in a much greater price than they ever brought before. There was nothing more grossly unfair than to arouse public indignation on this subject without giving the true explanation for a great many of the rises which had taken place.

What is here said is true, and the rebuke bestowed is well merited. It is not, however, the working classes alone who are the sinners. Some critics, notably Mr. Barnes, urged that the Government must fix the price of milk, but it should have been made evident to everybody that this was much more easily said than done. So many of these grievances represent conflicts of self-interests, with which the Government has great difficulty in interfering. Nevertheless, the Government had already made arrangements for getting in larger returns about the milk supply than it had ever had before, and returns from the "multiple shop companies" were also coming forward more freely. This is apparently with the view of arranging the milk distribution more scientifically so as to cut down expenses. Then as regards meat, which is a kindred agricultural subject, Mr. Runciman, amongst other things, said:—

The meat operations have been on a gigantic scale. Up to the present time our total purchases amount to 60 million pounds sterling. We supply not only our own forces, but the Italian and French Armies also. We do that not because we forced the arrangement on them, but because they asked us to perform the service. We also market an enormous amount of meat here for civilian consumption, and the total amount probably comes to well over 100,000 tons. A distribution so large was bound to be put under control in order to bring the benefit of it to those who wanted it most. We provided a Committee, and arrangements were made whereby the profits of the merchants were strictly limited. We also eliminated altogether the unnecessary middleman, so that the meat we handed over to the merchant, under very rigid conditions, should go out to the retail traders without further profits being made. I am glad that no one has been so unkind this afternoon as to suggest that I have any tender feeling for the shipowners. (Laughter.) So far as British shipowners are concerned, my heart is as cold as steel. (Laughter.) We have not given them a single increase since the beginning of the war; they have gone on rigidly at a fixed rate, and they will have to do so until the war is over. When I come to home supplies we are met by entirely different consideration. If the British farmer withholds his meat he will come under the general head of withholders under the Statute. But at the present moment I see no signs of it, and, indeed, the farmer would be a great fool to keep his meat too long eating up his forage and grass when he might turn it into money in the market.

It should be remembered in this connection that the livestock in the country is at present considerably larger than before the war. "If we were driven to it," the President of the Board of Trade said, "we could afford to kill a great many of our animals without coming down to pre-war level." If the public would also reduce their consumption of meat, as many might very well do with considerable benefit to their health, we should get over much of the difficulty of transport as of other causes of short supply and consequent dearth. Talking of supply, popular abuse falls most heavily on shipping, the rapacious shipowner. But Mr. Runciman was able to demonstrate to the satisfaction of every reasonable mind that the greedy shipowner is well in hand. The Government has done its utmost to prevent tyranny, assuming it to exist. Take the following in proof:—

It would have been impossible for us to have carried through our purchases in Australia on business lines unless we had been prepared to divert vessels into that trade. These are uneconomic operations, because, as the House knows, the outside that you can get in the Australian wheat year is two and a-half trips of a cargo vessel, whereas tramp vessels crossing the

Atlantic get through as much as six or eight voyages in the course of the year. We are, however, prepared to embark on these operations in order to have our supplies here, and not be dependent on one market alone. We are going to do it on the equivalent as near as we can make it of Blue-book rates. The best way of getting despatch out of these vessels, and the most efficient way of holding the balance between tramps and liners, is to pay all wheat cargoes on the basis of a voyage charter. That is being worked out by those who are skilled in making these calculations, and we shall get the whole advantage on the voyage charter basis of the incentive which comes from managers, captains, and engineers hurrying their vessels round, not only in and out of port, but between ports, and we must impose, I fear, on the shipping industry whatever disadvantages may come from that in order that the whole advantage of this transaction shall accrue to the State.

At present there are 297 vessels employed permanently abroad, because we have to provide for our not being put entirely out of the shipping business after the war. In normal times there are thousands of vessels engaged in purely foreign trade, and we have merely kept the skeleton of that connection alive. Then there are cargo liners, loading on berth, and tramps chartered to liner companies while loading on berth—588. That is not a large number to keep alive the connection between this country and other countries; a mere skeleton of the organisation necessary. Last of all, take the free tramps that go cut and take high rates—there are only 233. The House might have thought, from what was said by the member for Attercliffe, that these free vessels getting these abnormally high rates are making them out of the flesh and blood of our people. But only about 60 were engaged in carrying food. I have given the House a total which reaches 1,118 vessels, which are, for good national reasons, free to trade where they will. Out of a total merchant fleet of nearly 10,000 vessels only 1,100 ocean-going vessels are free to conduct their own operations. Then what of the rest? There is a very large number of vessels engaged in the service of the Army and Navy. The Foodstuffs Requisitioning Committee has a very large number of vessels under requisition. There are steamers trading on behalf of the Allied Governments, steamers trading on behalf of the Colonies. Take the last three categories; not one is running under what is known as Admiralty rates. The Requisitioning Committee ordered vessels to go into the trade for the carriage of wheat. They were bound to go. Of course, the freights came down. The rate of freight across the Atlantic for the carriage of wheat, which was up to 18s. a quarter, was brought down to 8s. per quarter.

I have pointed out, first, that the bulk of the mercantile marine is under control, that all except a small part of that which is under control is running at Blue-book rates, and the remainder of that which is under control is running at fixed rates which bear no relation whatever to the open market rate, and that only a small fraction is running at free rates, and of these only threescore are bringing what can, by any stretch of the imagination, be called foodstuffs.

I would like to give some illustrations to the House of the effect of freights on food prices, because that is really the question under discussion. The price of meat appears to have increased by from 4d. to 5d. How much of that has gone in additional freights since the war began? Three-eighths of a penny. The market price of American bacon is from 8d. to 9d. a lb. higher on the average, so far as I can ascertain; the freight is ½d. per lb. higher. The price of Canadian cheese to the purchaser is from 5d. to 6d. a lb. higher, and freight is ½d. per lb. out of that. If you care to take wheat, you find exactly the same thing.

Let the House remember that we have actually lost by enemy action and by marine risks no less than 2,000,000 gross tons of shipping since the war began. That is more than the whole mercantile marine of France or of Spain or of Italy before the war. Is it possible to lose all that vast amount of shipping without its creating, along with all the Government requirements, a most serious shortage? I suppose that comes to pretty nearly 3,000,000 tons dead weight. When you come to the Allied fleets the same has happened there. Heavy losses by enemy action have penalised consumers in every part of the world.

The following on "rationing" the food of the people should surely put an end to much ignorant clamour:—

"The rationing of Germany and Austria has been a vast undertaking. It has led to an enormous number of evils. The rationing of this country would alike lead to great evils, and it would be those with fixed incomes, fixed occupations, and fixed residences who would suffer first. We want to avoid any rationing of our people in food. We have had two examples of rationing, and I think the order paper for to-day shows how seriously both of them have been received by the consumer. We have rationed petrol, and we have had 200,000 letters protesting against it. Then we rationed sugar, and thousands and thousands of letters have come from the poor. God forbid that we should have to ration anything else. The policy of the Government is to provide plenty, to see that we have in this country abundance, and to see that it is brought here under terms which allow no one to exploit it or to become unduly rich at

the expense of the consumer. It is that policy that we intend to pursue."

To clinch the matter and as a succinct *résumé* of the causes of dearness, let us quote at the end, as something for all to ponder over, a few sentences uttered at the beginning of Mr. Runciman's wise speech:—"The marked reasons for prices going up were the restriction of production, the narrowing of markets, the difficulties of carriage, and he might also add the inflation of the currency. There was far too little attention paid to that. The currency of the world was inflated, and values were not now what they appeared to be. They might use all these explanations, but there was another explanation in this country, and that was that we had not restricted our consuming capacity. On the contrary, we had throughout the war increased our consuming capacity."

By-the-Way War Notes.

Quite a sharp spasm of pessimism about Rumania has held club and drawing-room society, and especially the City, for more than a week past. To listen to the gloomy predictions uttered on all sides, one might have supposed Rumania to be on the eve of utter defeat, her grain and her oil forthwith to be at the disposal of the Teuto-Magyar-Turk Powers, and their capacity to resist thereby prolonged for years. "All hope of starving Germany into sense and submission must now be abandoned," people were told. "Rumania had no business to invade Transylvania in the reckless way she did, and her blunder is going to cost the Allies dear, is certain to prolong the war indefinitely." Such is the attitude of minds incapable of reflection, fed on the hash served up to them by the least instructed and least intelligent type of our newspapers.

Is it not about time that a few more people began to think for themselves? Surely by this time the character of German onslaughts, and their results thus far, might have begun to be comprehended of the many. Probably it is true that Rumania was too sanguine at first, and sprang forward into Transylvania too soon, heedless, or unaware, of the preparations for resistance being made there, ignorant also of the stroke against the Dobrudja being got ready for in Bulgaria. But her leaders had excuse for their action in the advance of the Russians from the Bukovina on Hungary through the Carpathians and in the offensive of the Allies in Macedonia. And the danger was soon perceived and soon provided for. The rash first step is, indeed, quite probably capable of being made to appear a master stroke of genius on the part of Rumanian generalship before all is over. For the Germans—and under that designation we now include the Austro-Hungarians, Turks, Bulgars, and other human riff-raff—have only one governing policy in war; they aim at swift triumphs secured by surprise attacks in overwhelming numbers, supported by a dominating artillery. Ever since the war began such "triumphs" as it has given them have been won in this way. Even the defeat of the Russians in the Masurian marshlands and their retreat from Poland were the fruit of surprise tactics, where not the consequences of deficiency in equipment. And in the West, when the sudden dash on France through Luxemburg and Belgium, failed, all failed. Try as they might, the Germans never again got back the mastery of the war. They could only dig themselves in and submit to a process of extermination, vainly endeavouring to free themselves, but dreaming always, hoping still that the foes they had roused to self-defence by their wolvine treachery would tire first, and, from sheer weariness, permit them to keep what they had stolen or designed to steal.

Everywhere the aggressors have been baffled hitherto; it might be soon, it might be late, they have had to recoil. We have been long in getting the upper hand in the Balkans, but while preparing to take it we have been able to arrest the enemy and to prevent him from securing any retainable advantage from his foray through Serbia, his linking up with Bulgar and Turk, and his betrayal of Greece. Is there any reason to fear that the results will be different, any more satisfactory

for him, in regard to Rumania? None that we can perceive. Mackensen and Falkenhayn have both shot their bolts, attempted their swift "knock-out" blow, and both have stuck, as it were, mid-way. Sticking, they are now compelled to give the Allies time to prepare effective resistance, to strike back. And time is just what the robber empires cannot now afford at any point—witness the appeals for gold trinkets in Germany. How is Mackensen going to feed, clothe, and munition his mixed host in the Dobrudja during the winter months, with his enemies in command of the sea and the river, with the delivering armies of General Sarraill resolutely and surely pressing up from the south? Will it be possible for Falkenhayn to maintain himself south of the Transylvanian passes, should he succeed in forcing them, with Russ and Roman on his flanks and an entrenched patriot army ever growing in size in front? No; it looks to-day as if this favourite of the Kaiser had himself been entrapped, not the "rash" Rumanian.

How great a comfort it would be, how helpful in enabling us to bear the afflictions of this war, if the nation would only rise to a more comprehensive understanding of its magnitude. It is not the mere fixed or limited armies of two criminal empires the Allies are engaged in destroying, but the entire able-bodied male population, by whom the Habsburg and Hohenzollern tyranny is sustained. With such an unexampled labour to accomplish the victory cannot be swift. The Germanic oppressors have invited their destruction, have determined, in their unholy greed, to depopulate the territories they rule over rather than abate their pretensions. So we have no help for it but to proceed methodically and resolutely with the killing, thankful that the foe has given facilities for it on so many long fronts. Nothing could excel the skill and care with which the commanders on the Anglo-French fronts husband their men and protect them, and they succeed marvellously in doing that, while causing more and more havoc to the foe than he can inflict on them. But the destruction of a nation's males is a long, long affair. "We have got through the beginning stage to the middle stage," said Sir William Robertson, at the Canada Club dinner to the Duke of Devonshire, on Wednesday. "Let us concentrate on the middle stage, and the end would look after itself. The end would come when the enemy was beaten, and the enemy could only be beaten by hard fighting. If we had that, and if we took timely measures to support those troops of ours who were so gallantly fighting in many parts of the world, he thought we might look forward to victory crowning our efforts, and to our wresting from the enemy such a peace as we had said we meant to have." There is the task before us, and yonder the goal, modestly indicated. But do either the classes or the masses at home realise yet the formidable work that lies before us? We should judge not by the way they write and talk, and squabble, and ever "ask for more" grumbling.

It is only, indeed, when we turn to the arenas of war that confidence grows strong and ever stronger. There the enemy is being mastered, there his defeat appears to be growing more and more certain. Russia, Italy, Serbia, Rumania, France, Belgium, Britain all are united in the inflexible determination to fight on until a recrudescence of Prussian militarism and tyranny is made for ever impossible; and if another 5,000,000 or 10,000,000 of the enemy has to perish ere this end is reached, well, it is pitiful to think of, but the demented barbarians give us no choice. Only this grim murder cannot be accomplished by "press the button" methods. The Allies must also lose men, many men, and for them it is a question how the supply of warriors can be kept up. For Russia and for ourselves there should be no difficulty, but the other comrades in heroism may not be so favourably placed should the coming winter fail, with the help of hunger, to sweep away the foe, or reduce him to subjection.

We do not seem to be doing our full share in the supply of men for our armies, and if that be so then we are by this failure in some measure unfaithful to

our pledge. Our Junkers in Ireland, and the foolish bigots who back them, continue to make the Government a spectacle of helplessness and irresolution matched only by its handling of Constantine the Dane and the Greek venality, but that might not so much matter if Ireland's heroism and Ireland's skill in war were not thereby denied us. Nor so far as numbers are concerned is that the worst of it. The same lack of frank self-abnegating manliness, of loyal adherence at all costs to pledges given, is displayed by the Government in its treatment of India, where millions of "first-class fighting men" stand ready to come and fight the empire's battles if summoned, under proper conditions. They would probably cost in money less than one-fifth of what British-born armies are costing. It is not money, therefore, which can stand in the way; it is the refusal of a reasonable measure of freedom to the peoples of the peninsula. When too late—as it would be if the fecund German stayed us out, making us the while as helplessly bankrupt as himself—Ireland and India would doubtless be offered all they ask or care for, if only they would come to the empire's rescue. "Things will never come to that pass," say the easy-going and careless optimists. Before the war ends probably not, may be answered, for victory is now in the Allies' hands. But after the war; how then? We must keep the empire together, and loyal to great ambitions in its unity, by justice therefore, and by the extension of freedom through all grades and conditions of its citizenship, else by our very victory it will be dissolved.

Answers to Correspondents.

*** A Key to these Answers will be posted early each week for a subscription of ONE GUINEA per annum, 11s. for six months, or 5s. 9d. for three months.**

Deposits against future queries may be lodged with the Publisher.

Felix.—Yes, excellent; but why not try to buy about 70xd.

Canadian Scot.—You must keep these stocks because the market would hardly give you anything for them worth taking. Things must mend some day.

J. A. F.—(1) You cannot, we fear, get 95xd. for these just now, and they are worth holding on to. (2) If you can find a buyer for these bonds let them go at anything over 52 or 53.

Rock.—It is a dredging concern which at present is doing well. The shares look a fair speculative purchase, but as profits may fluctuate sharply don't hold on too long.

F. R. A.—It is impossible to say, but there can be no recovery of any importance for many a long day. If you are thinking of buying with a view to increase in capital there is no hurry, we think. (2) 5¼ per cent. if repaid at longest date.

C. M. W.—The price offered is a good one, and we think you should accept it.

S. D.—Write to the Bank of England. You will receive a form for signature which you can fill up, sign and return.

Don.—We fear you can do nothing but sit still. The directors have done all they can at present. When the war is over there should be a recovery in value.

Layman.—Both (1) and (2) should be worth buying. They are under the same control, and are very moderately capitalised. (3) These also seem a promising lock-up. The company has a large area still to come into bearing, and its crop this year is expected to run over 1,000,000 lbs.

J. Ash.—Look a promising purchase. Progress has been temporarily checked by the thinning out of the trees, but that policy should prove beneficial in the long run.

W. F. J.—(1) Hold these by all means. The company has interests in many undertakings, which should be increasingly profitable as time goes on. (2) These also might be held, as the company is doing well.

European Oilfields.—Production week 15th inst., 80,800 poods.

General Hydraulic Power.—Receipts for quarter ending September 30, £33,363; decrease, £604.

The Standard Bank of South Africa, Ltd., has opened a branch at Tanga, the port on the East African Coast occupied on July 7 by the Forces operating under General Smuts.

In referring to the activity in Nigerian tin shares, the part taken in the past by the Niger Company in assisting the various companies should not be overlooked. At a period when few had a good word to say for the country, and when it seemed that a majority of the companies would have to suspend operations owing to the exhaustion of their financial resources, the Niger Company stepped into the breach and rendered assistance, the result of which has been to place many undertakings on a paying basis.

SEPTEMBER RUBBER OUTPUTS.

Company.	Current Estimate.	Last All-in Cost.	Sept. lbs.	(+) or (-) lbs.	Months.	Aggregate lbs.	(+) or (-) lbs.
Aboyne Clyde	392,629	1/10.26	34,495	+ 1,674	3	99,813	+ 4,852
Allagar	312,000	1/2.05	25,500	+ 3,000	9	202,700	+ 9,100
Alliance	163,716	—	14,441	—	2	96,214	+ 982
Alor Pongsu	270,000	1/0.88	24,000	+ 5,957	9	187,200	+ 31,194
Ampat	130,000	1/3.30	15,340	+ 4,980	12	155,530	+ 67,250
Anglo-Java	1,607,000	—	162,000	+ 116,100	9	1,204,720	+ 708,562
Anglo-Johore	270,000	1/4.20	22,875	+ 1,255	9	124,531	+ 6,809
Anglo-Malay	1,600,000	1/11	162,472	+ 21,402	9	1,204,531	+ 6,809
Anglo-Sum.	840,704	1/11.25	86,763	+ 18,105	9	1,204,531	+ 6,809
Asahan	257,353	1/4.13	35,554	+ 18,152	2	314,194	+ 52,128
As. T. Ceylon.	235,000	1/11.55	18,967	+ 3,591	3	50,974	+ 7,265
Ayer Kuning	595,000	1/2.98	70,785	+ 27,211	9	482,727	+ 203,182
Bagan Serai	348,550	1/0.28	29,000	+ 4,499	9	246,726	+ 57,672
Bah Lias	—	—	11,161	+ 597	11	89,768	+ 34,770
Bajoe Kidoel	110,000	1/0.12	21,000	+ 12,401	6	87,970	+ 27,376
Bakap	337,150	1/4.88	27,400	+ 1,450	3	82,000	+ 6,251
Bambrakelly	260,000	1/1.43	18,641	+ 3,547	6	95,101	+ 17,551
Bandar Sum.	290,550	1/8.45	32,635	+ 9,860	2	61,755	+ 18,605
Bandarsarie	213,000	—	19,460	+ 9,860	9	177,880	+ 69,967
Bandarapola	300,000	—	22,000	+ 1,000	9	131,800	+ 40,000
Bandarawa	220,000	1/7	20,460	+ 6,010	3	53,940	+ 5,640
Bantam	495,000	1/1.80	—	—	2	128,263	—
Banteng	341,000	1/13	31,260	+ 5,650	5	148,610	+ 45,200
Batak Rabil	292,000	1/1.99	27,500	+ 8,676	3	84,000	+ 24,885
Batang Mal.	300,000	1/2.60	27,000	+ 7,545	9	199,760	+ 44,827
Batu Caves	600,000	1/9.13	62,710	+ 7,399	9	485,180	+ 38,983
" Matang	133,016	1/3.64	12,475	+ 595	3	38,010	+ 3,605
" Rata	420,000	1/11.50	41,700	+ 11,000	3	112,830	+ 31,800
" Tiga	750,000	1/3.39	62,600	+ 1,326	9	550,164	+ 74,849
Be'uf'rt'rn'o	231,500	1/5.75	21,500	+ 2,500	5	99,500	—
Bekoh	299,715	1/2.61	34,900	+ 7,000	3	98,200	+ 20,645
Bentota	210,000	1/0.33	22,290	+ 7,314	9	150,568	+ 31,958
Bernang	208,700	1/7.95	24,141	+ 9,077	3	75,976	+ 28,267
Bernam-P'k	260,000	—	21,100	+ 4,100	3	67,600	+ 14,600
Bidor	—	1/1.83	33,750	+ 4,450	6	198,650	+ 21,650
Bikam	310,000	1/4.24	35,500	+ 13,105	9	292,650	+ 95,533
Bode	100,360	1/6.98	17,490	+ 7,660	9	135,504	+ 44,827
Bradwall	400,000	1/5.08	49,699	+ 22,320	9	278,231	+ 82,894
Braunston	360,000	1/1.10	38,600	+ 10,894	12	369,000	+ 63,000
Brit Born Para	260,000	1/1	22,650	+ 1,150	5	107,450	+ 11,950
British Malay	280,000	—	30,100	+ 23,100	9	181,307	+ 145,247
Brooklands	397,007	1/11.26	43,062	+ 14,544	3	137,806	+ 53,857
Broome	249,496	1/3.77	34,248	+ 13,577	3	98,993	+ 40,650
Bukit Cioh	290,000	1/10.39	27,500	+ 2,500	9	173,500	+ 18,500
" Ijok	280,000	1/0.74	26,000	+ 4,000	9	230,500	+ 69,500
" Kajang	738,805	1/0.82	80,600	+ 22,692	3	244,850	+ 62,227
" Lintang	300,000	1/1.12	25,050	+ 1,850	3	75,140	+ 4,810
" Mert'jm	780,000	1/1.08	70,765	+ 19,006	6	354,218	+ 86,418
" Pan'ng	455,000	1/0.7	43,500	+ 3,500	6	355,000	+ 92,240
" Rajah	877,000	1/11.83	90,487	+ 25,331	6	476,295	+ 135,217
" Sembah	850,000	1/0.77	65,000	+ 14,000	9	513,300	+ 136,600
Carey United	283,000	—	40,805	+ 8,267	12	234,912	+ 1,744
Castlefield	475,161	1/10.70	47,132	+ 6,370	3	137,627	+ 10,084
Cent. Trav.	240,000	1/3.08	25,122	+ 3,268	9	131,688	+ 29,233
Ceylon Para	682,034	1/4.23	75,354	+ 15,703	9	567,380	+ 116,889
Ceylon T. & R.	260,000	1/3.92	16,491	+ 2,009	9	157,405	+ 1,729
Changkat-Sal.	630,000	1/1.39	73,000	+ 10,000	9	568,000	+ 210,000
Chemb Malay	385,000	1/1.32	45,580	+ 11,580	9	291,683	+ 57,300
Cheras	170,000	1/6.62	18,700	+ 9,700	9	119,500	+ 57,705
Chersonese	720,000	1/11.44	63,692	+ 2,621	9	497,751	+ 34,951
Chiviot	370,000	1/3.48	47,147	+ 23,970	9	251,870	+ 72,265
Chimpul	150,000	1/1.75	16,775	+ 4,165	6	86,741	+ 20,169
Chota	190,000	1/2.34	19,666	+ 5,643	9	154,577	+ 46,002
Cicely	345,000	1/1.08	31,000	+ 3,000	6	176,424	+ 21,740
Cluny	225,000	1/3.01	21,629	+ 3,000	9	164,552	+ 34,390
Cons. Malay	809,000	1/11.93	77,517	+ 7,799	9	564,575	+ 68,587
Dalketh	400,000	1/0.79	39,600	+ 12,100	9	245,800	+ 40,487
Damansara	650,000	1/11.95	68,172	+ 13,308	9	569,847	+ 122,102
Dangan	225,000	1/2	20,554	+ 4,996	3	57,590	+ 14,246
Dennistoun	580,500	1/12	51,564	+ 3,720	9	421,465	+ 66,900
Deviturai	320,000	1/0.27	24,570	+ 1,530	9	203,590	+ 2,160
Dimbula	340,000	1/0.36	32,000	+ 3,000	9	219,632	+ 10,225
Djasinga	242,120	1/4.51	22,000	+ 16,086	3	73,398	+ 43,717
Djember	80,000	—	16,400	+ 11,000	9	159,000	+ 64,200
Doranakande	210,000	1/2.30	18,200	+ 3,854	9	114,942	+ 1,270
Duff Develop.	400,400	1/7.40	55,000	+ 12,000	9	443,000	+ 160,000
Dusun Durian	520,000	1/11.47	69,000	+ 32,780	9	517,821	+ 252,265
E. Ind. & Cey.	175,540	1/3.36	17,175	+ 1,270	9	118,050	+ 9,706
Edinburgh	327,000	1/9.71	39,000	+ 9,000	9	303,000	+ 90,500
Elphill	170,000	1/8.21	13,563	+ 4,011	9	129,915	+ 51,971
Emerald	320,000	1/2	35,800	+ 14,888	8	215,700	+ 82,800
Eow Seng	170,000	1/1.20	14,030	+ 450	9	114,108	+ 4,113
Escot	180,000	1/2.32	16,900	+ 2,433	12	210,936	+ 94,539
Fed. Malay S.	1,538,982	1/9.50	163,000	+ 41,000	4	637,003	+ 154,468
Fed. Selangor	345,000	1/0.01	30,347	+ 2,199	6	172,800	+ 19,466
Galaha	103,144	—	11,971	+ 1,698	9	73,551	+ 8,554
Galang Besar	388,730	1/8.24	34,500	+ 4,800	1	65,500	+ 4,800
Gan Kee	135,100	1/5.37	14,020	+ 3,430	3	42,430	+ 3,364
Garing	150,000	1/3.49	13,300	+ 1,250	12	157,330	+ 33,395
Gedong	184,000	1/0.68	17,380	+ 4,738	9	166,754	+ 54,432
Gen. Ceylon	835,000	1/10.10	76,180	+ 5,776	9	576,870	+ 86,605
Gen. Berwie	220,000	1/2.57	24,448	+ 3,514	12	237,588	+ 33,793
Glendon	240,000	1/1.96	23,570	+ 1,119	12	232,100	+ 19,600
Glenshiel	295,600	1/3.06	37,400	+ 17,050	9	264,450	+ 109,321
Goldconda	498,000	1/11.86	55,631	+ 12,190	9	445,413	+ 89,190
Golden Hope	225,000	1/2.04	25,276	+ 8,896	9	186,019	+ 41,950
Grand Cent.	4,000,000	1/0.72	365,949	+ 85,240	9	2,743,635	+ 472,395
Gula Kal'p'g	1,269,000	1/18	108,783	+ 10,484	9	826,882	+ 100,852
Harpender	432,000	1/11.23	52,260	+ 16,160	9	376,610	+ 82,725
Hayoep	451,000	1/4.59	37,806	+ 3,326	9	365,110	+ 123,860
Heawood	200,000	1/3.28	19,625	+ 7,288	9	140,666	+ 18,708
Hewagam	650,000	1/2.80	63,000	+ 19,000	9	460,700	+ 56,100
Hid. Streams	190,000	—	20,500	+ 500	9	169,223	+ 53,223
Highlands	1,233,000	1/11.22	121,215	+ 6,668	9	952,857	+ 110,135
Inch-Kenneth	354,000	1/3.41	38,701	+ 17,770	4	139,920	+ 53,870
Insulind	175,140	1/8.92	21,000	+ 8,050	3	37,760	+ 21,510
Java Amal.	450,000	—	49,700	+ 27,600	9	372,570	+ 130,600
Java R. & Prod	240,000	—	23,900	+ 16,800	9	218,333	—
Java Para	250,000	1/1.20	27,100	+ 18,200	9	181,365	+ 77,155
Jeram	—	—	26,274	+ 4,713	6	124,447	+ 20,181
Johore Para.	167,100	1/1.80	14,732	+ 2,032	3	43,332	+ 1,923
" Rub. Lds	1,056,000	1/0.6	94,549	+ 49,885	9	580,532	+ 306,308
Jong Lander	551,715	1/8.27	57,073	+ 18,629	3	169,540	+ 51,323
Jugra Estate	350,000	1/0.60	32,308	—	6	175,733	—
Jugra Land	1,090,000	1/1.35	112,414	+ 41,382	5	427,295	+ 144,958
Kajang	160,000	1/1.95	32,150	—	9	174,925	—
Kali Glagah	200,000	—	18,000	+ 12,300	6	83,300	+ 31,149
Kamp Kua't'n	350,000	1/0.93	28,500	+ 10,000	9	257,700	+ 25,700
Kamuning	725,650	1/1.93	76,400	+ 8,180	3	215,630	+ 23,980
Kapar Para	762,800	1/0.62	77,401	+ 23,348	9	370,353	+ 200,278
Karak	138,201	2/1.88	22,452	+ 8,245	9	143,932	+ 46,772
Kasintoe	200,000	—	29,000	+ 24,238	9	180,715	+ 136,244
Kawie Java	450,000	—	33,100	+ 19,100	6	218,100	+ 56,600
Kepitigalla	594,000	1/4	57,861	+ 16,922	6	297,400	+ 53,790
Kepong	300,000	1/5.53	26,500	+ 4,500	9	215,000	+ 20,500
Kerala	215,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
Khota Tamp'n	200,000	1/3.30	18,500	+ 3,850	9	129,160	+ 28,002
Killinghall	220,879	1/2.12	24,115	+ 4,835	3	71,066	+ 16,866
Kuniman	263,000	2/1.39	27,500	+ 14,900	9	173,500	+ 102,730
Kinta Kellas	445,000	1/2.81	36,536	+ 8,836	6	235,894	+ 97,194
Klabang	220,000	1/4.15	21,055	+ 7,804	9	157,901	+ 37,901
Klanang	—	1/0.91	36,065	+ 14,202	9	293,146	+ 19,501
Kombok	419,000	1/1.59	48,536	+ 17,480	9	381,510	+ 149,600
Kuala Klang	175,000	1/1.57	17,418	+ 1,359	12	190,000	+ 22,822
" Kubu	129,921	2/2.35	12,828	+ 3,077	3	37,244	+ 9,307
" Lumpur	1,409,230	1/0.55	133,650	+ 15,150	3	410,850	+ 39,000
" Nal	210,000	1/2.36	20,000	+ 8,500	9	137,800	+ 52,000
" Pahi	160,000	—	15,993	+ 6,403	8	98,697	+ 37,199
" Selangor	600,000	1/9.					

Tanj. Malim	1,100,000	1/2.97	95,040	+ 35,278	3	252,450	+ 79,413
Tandjong	1,206,336a	1/2.28	114,963	+ 24,287	3	357,552	+ 104,653
Tangoei	222,825a	1/4.85	25,740	+ 20,493	3	54,670	+ 34,598
Tebrau	933,041a	1/1.95	99,604	+ 31,235	3	270,536	+ 56,637
Teekoo	222,170a	1/5	25,744	+ 7,380	2	48,050	+ 15,874
Telorejo	237,000	—	36,392	+ 12,552	9	245,570	+ 205,527
Tenomb'rneo	530,000	1/11.93	53,000	+ 11,500	2	411,150	+ 89,050
Third Mile	425,000	1/0.30	34,984	+ 4,287	9	321,423	+ 95,248
Tremelbye	550,000	1/0.80	60,000	+ 10,000	3	176,000	+ 36,150
Trolak	225,000	1/3	24,463	+ 8,220	12	266,010	+ 79,894
Ulu Rantau	227,648a	1/2.49	25,508	+ 6,611	9	181,769	+ 22,277
U. Sua Betong	800,000	1/2.77	72,431	+ 30,531	9	568,990	+ 294,370
U. Serdang	2,913,800a	1/11.79	272,256	+ 32,482	1	272,256	+ 32,482
U. Sumatra	800,000	1/0.7	77,743	+ 18,196	9	587,362	+ 129,746
U. Temiang	387,830a	1/3.28	49,050	+ 21,520	2	94,780	+ 37,670
Uva	154,450a	—	31,485	+ 9,000	9	137,620	+ 23,190
Val d'Or	250,000	1/3	29,000	+ 9,000	11	262,631	+ 111,859
Victoria	164,000	1/5.28	11,595	+ 8,875	3	34,540	+ 27,325
Windsor	253,000a	1/4.21	26,000	+ 8,266	9	187,860	+ 88,712
Woodend	180,000	—	16,296	+ 3,938	9	116,248	+ 23,835
Yam Seng	300,000	1/2.75	33,716	+ 7,012	11	322,589	+ 100,020
Yatiantota	—	—	45,723	+ 6,764	9	274,159	+ 12,729

a Last year's crop.

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down	Oct. 13	£ 3,305	+ £ 220	*	£ 154,682	+ £ 5,695
Grand Canal	" 13	991	+ 118	†	15,002	+ 1,584
Great Northern	" 13	24,035	+ 1,085	*	988,883	+ 30,333
Gt. Southern and Western	" 13	36,808	+ 3,041	*	1,357,701	+ 24,282
Midland Great Western	" 13	14,872	+ 272	*	537,042	+ 8,176

* From Jan. 1. † From July 1.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

Assam Bengal	Aug. 26	Rs. 1,30,000	+ Rs. 29,948	†	Rs. 26,29,411	+ Rs. 1,11,567
Bengal & N.W.	Sept. 9	2,79,070	+ 11,856	†	95,47,392	+ 13,91,498
Bengal Nagpur	" 16	9,01,000	+ 1,59,000	†	2,25,21,425	+ 39,63,289
Bombay, Baroda	Oct. 7	10,50,000	+ 1,02,000	†	10,50,000	+ 1,02,000
Burma	Sept. 9	3,94,576	+ 51,008	†	89,20,247	+ 2,66,957
Delhi Umballa	" 23	58,100	+ 4,949	†	16,91,871	+ 1,27,388
East Indian	Oct. 14	20,17,000	+ 16,000	†	40,06,000	+ 1,63,000
Gt. Indian Penin.	Sept. 30	18,13,800	+ 5,68,720	†	4,92,82,274	+ 53,19,889
Lucknow-Bareilly	" 9	30,965	+ 3,551	†	9,89,437	+ 1,09,409
Madras and S.	" 16	8,75,000	+ 53,100	†	2,36,16,152	+ 18,98,740
Mahratta	" 16	1,27,929	+ 18,397	†	29,09,493	+ 1,45,989
Nizam's Gd. (Broad)	" 9	56,550	+ 3,681	†	14,48,671	+ 39,293
Robilkund and	" 9	28,327	+ 1,804	†	9,51,978	+ 1,30,607
Kumaon	" 9	6,02,087	+ 26,323	†	1,44,71,718	+ 11,04,610
South Indian	" 9	—	—	†	—	—

a 13 days. † April 1. ‡ October 1.

COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

Beira	July *	£ 34,768	+ £ 439	†	£ 34,768	+ £ 439
Canadian Northern	Oct. 14	\$847,700	+ \$79,900	†	\$12,412,100	+ \$409,400
Canadian Pacific	" 14	\$3,034,000	+ \$46,000	†	\$43,363,000	+ \$104,900,000
Gr. Trk. Main Line	" 14	\$125,294	+ \$2,303	†	\$7,19,935	+ \$1,138,901
Gr. Trk. Western	" 14	\$38,528	+ \$4,357	†	\$1,517,056	+ \$25,766
Detroit G. H. & M.	" 14	\$13,321	+ \$1,068	†	\$537,446	+ \$106,086
Gr Trk Pac Prairie Sc	Sept. 30	\$22,902	+ \$4,304	†	\$62,079	+ \$5,730
Mashonaland	June *	\$9,685	+ \$6,012	†	\$803,079	+ \$88,804
Mid. of Westn. Aus.	Aug. *	\$5,604	+ 1	†	\$10,706	+ 366
New Cape Central	Sept. 16	\$1,362	+ 186	†	\$7,453	+ 7,751
Rhodesia	July *	\$7,807	+ 522	†	\$170,230	+ 7,241

a 9 days. * Months. † July 1. ‡ Jan. 1. c From Oct. 1.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Chesapeake & Ohio	Sept. 30	\$ 1,365,000	+ \$ 3,000	†	\$ 12,361,000	+ \$ 700,000
Chicago G.W.	" 30	354,000	+ 49,000	†	4,163,000	+ 553,000
Colorado & South'n	" 21	322,000	+ 15,000	†	3,557,000	+ 320,000
Denver & Rio Gran.	Oct. 7	565,000	+ 16,000	†	7,420,000	+ 192,000
Louisv'e & Nashv'e	Sept. 30	2,038,000	+ 524,000	†	18,617,000	+ 2,452,000
Minn. S.P. (Soo) §	" 21	699,000	+ 65,000	†	8,420,000	+ 1,423,000
Missouri Kansas	" 30	1,096,000	+ 258,000	†	9,535,000	+ 1,737,000
Northern Pacific	Aug. 31	2,107,000	+ 67,000	†	13,576,000	+ 2,150,000
Southern	Sept. 30	2,038,000	+ 233,000	†	18,358,000	+ 1,938,000

§ Includes Wisconsin Central. † From July 1.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—HOME.

Bristol	Oct. 14	£ 10,321	+ £ 1,039	†	£ 415,109	+ £ 20,932
Dublin United	" 13	6,549	+ 307	†	249,786	+ 1,454
Hastings and Dist.	" 13	959	+ 4	†	44,350	+ 2,811
Isle of Thanet	" 14	336	+ 6	†	674	+ 112
Lancashire United	" 11	1,873	+ 139	†	75,532	+ 3,692
Provincial	" 14	2,373	+ 129	†	4,655	+ 188
Yorks. (Wst. Rding.)	" 15	1,803	+ 223	†	74,153	+ 7,282

* From Oct. 1. † From Jan. 1.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.

Anglo-Argentine	Oct. 14	£ 53,349	+ £ 56	Ms.	£ 2,085,249	+ £ 2,063
Auckland Electric	Sept. 22b	20,884	+ 618	a	62,858	+ 561
Brazilian Traction	Aug. §	\$3,982,000	+ \$175,000	a	\$30,670,000	+ \$10,919,580
Brisbane Elec. Inv.	Sept.	32,530	+ 2,170	9	297,660	+ 22,586
British Columbia	Aug. §	\$550,293	+ \$43,167	2	\$1,017,849	+ \$70,737
B. A. Lacroze	"	36,431	+ 5,037	—	74,870	+ 6,058
Burmah Electric	Sept. 16b	Rs. 23,749	+ Rs. 1,586	—	—	+ Rs. 839
Calcutta	Oct. 14	Rs. 64,042	+ Rs. 5,450	*	Rs. 26,23,061	+ 130,534
Cordoba Light	"	—	—	—	—	—
P. & T.	Aug.	£ 13,852	+ 307	4	71,165	+ 469
Hongkong	Sept. 9	£ 15,747	+ £ 3,676	*	£ 524,702	+ £ 129,430
La Plata	Aug. 5	3,792	+ 373	8	33,627	+ 358
Lima	"	14,996	+ 240	4	125,505	+ 3,423
Madras Electric	Oct. 15c	Rs. 32,305	+ Rs. 2,776	*	Rs. 62,02,071	+ Rs. 44,501
Mexico	Nov. §	\$215,256	+ \$108,669	*	\$3,193,106	+ \$197,227
Puebla	Dec. §	\$40,000	+ \$45,600	*	\$669,500	+ \$44,500
Rangoon	Sept. §	4,137	+ 308	*	36,479	+ 2,001
Singapore Electric	Aug. §	\$14,223	+ \$2,169	*	\$358,597	+ \$42,324
Toronto	Sept. §	\$427,662	+ \$9,522	4	\$4,557,555	+ \$391,899
United of Monte V.	Sept.	26,711	+ 1,041	11	319,043	+ 15,626
Vera Cruz	May	\$85,200	+ \$35,468	6	\$372,600	+ \$178,200
Winnipeg	Aug. §	\$85,935	+ \$17,258	*	\$791,030	+ \$21,156

b 28 days. * From Jan. 1. § Nett. a From July 1. c Two weeks.

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
	Week ending	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	Wks.	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.
Alcoy and Gandia	Oct. 14	Ps. 7,500	+ 16,070	1	Ps. 522,300	+ Ps. 29,100
Antofagasta (Chili)	" 15	38,995	+ 16,070	1	1,398,050	+ 410,255
Arauco	Aug.	10,500	+ 6,750	1	102,738	+ 24,416
Argentine N.E.	Oct. 14	6,800	+ 556	1	102,102	+ 3,292
Bilbao R. and Canta	Aug. *	6,457	+ 1,235	7	36,518	+ 2,366
Bolivar	Sept. *	8,000	+ 148	3	23,500	+ 1,116
Brazil	July *	M3,357,000	+ M78,935	3	M242,600	+ M212,970
Brazil Gt. Southern	June *	M18,35,800	+ M7,350	1	M214,690	+ M5,640
B. Ayres & Pacific	Oct. 14	57,000	+ 9,000	1	1,269,000	+ 30,000
Do. Gt. South'n	" 15	104,000	+ 7,000	1	1,469,254	+ 175,346
Do. Western	" 15	55,000	+ 6,000	1	776,000	+ 101,000
Central Argentine	" 14	111,600	+ 4,400	1	1,700,900	+ 47,400
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte V.	" 14	11,784	+ 245	1	167,197	+ 1,547
Do. East'n Ex.	" 14	4,147	+ 377	1	55,691	+ 2,376
Do. North'n Ex.	" 14	1,557	+ 429	1	26,720	+ 639
Do. West'n Ex.	" 14	2,058	+ 261	1	25,081	+ 593
Colombian National	Aug. *	13,760	+ 1,062	8	90,940	+ 8,600
Cordoba Central	Oct. 14	25,200	+ 550	1	495,900	+ 10,270
Costa Rica	Sept. 9	5,085	+ 76	1	54,877	+ 4,478
Cuban Central	Oct. 14	8,554	+ 1,116	1	140,268	+ 21,551
Dorada Extension	Aug. *	9,500	+ 400	1	64,000	+ 1,100
Egyptian Delta	Sept. 10a	5,095	+ 786	1	79,096	+ 14,063
Entre Rios	Oct. 14	11,600	+ 300	1	180,100	+ 36,700
French Sante Fé	July	90,972	+ 15,010	7	619,079	+ 91,201
Gt. South. of Spain	Oct. 7	Ps. 83,277	+ Ps. 32,676	1	Ps. 2,944,485	+ Ps. 555,909
Gt. West. of Brazil	" 14	15,400	+ 6,400	1	383,800	+ 5,100
Havana Central	" 7	6,307	+ 384	1	86,954	+ 9,294
Inter. of C. Amer.	Aug. c*	15,411	+ 3,052	1	243,104	+ 91,241
La Guaira and Car.	"	7,500	+ 1,750	1	65,000	+ 10,250
Leopoldina	Oct. 14	35,282	+ 407	1	1,002,111	+ 203,651
Manilla (N. & Sth.)	Sept. 23	7,574	+ 795	1	359,525	+ 10,715
Midland Uruguay	Aug.	8,362	+ 4,010	2	18,043	+ 4,913
Mogiana	July *	M2,819,000	+ M221,678	7	M116,605	+ M100,781
N.W. of Uruguay	Sept. *	\$27,000	+ \$4,564	1	\$66,250	+ \$6,249
Nitrate	" 30b	27,363	+ 10,748	1	742,550	+ 257,273
Paraguay Central	Oct. 14	2,770	+ 210	1	34,550	+ 100
Paulista	July *	M4,000,000	+ M31,867	10	M152,500	+ M98,366
Peruvian Corp.	"	\$835,430	+ \$10,592	10	\$10,798,927	+ \$1,514,384
Salvador	Oct. 14	\$13,700	+ 5,800	1	\$303,595	+ \$15,453
S. Paulo (Brazilian)	"	36,351	+ 9	1	1,064,113	+ 74,279
Sorocabana	May *	M1,269,000	+ M23,000	1	M 6,960,000	+ M292,000
Taitai	Aug. *	19,688	+ 1,470	2	39,308	+ 12,930
United of Havana	Oct. 14	29,532	+ 4,584	1	456,591	+ 84,175
West'n of Havana	" 14	5,191	+ 1,111	1	89,529	+ 13,840
Zafra and Huelva	Aug. *	13,099	+ 3,488	1	91,505	+ 26,688

* Months. † From Jan. 1. ‡ From July 1. c Nett. b 15 days. a 10 days.

MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

NAME.	NETT EARNINGS FOR MONTH.			No. of Mths.	NETT EARNINGS TO DATE.		
	Month.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year.		Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year.	
		Dols.			Dols.		
Atchafalaya & S. Fé	Aug.	5,139,000	+ 1,538,000	2	9,208,000	+ 2,258,000	
Atlantic Coast Line	"	516,000	+ 427,000	2	976,000	+ 649,000	
Baltimore & Ohio ..	"	3,268,000	+ 126,000	2	6,355,000	+ 116,000	
Canadian Northern	"	1,072,400	+ 614,300	2	2,269,400	+ 1,325,300	
Canadian Pacific ..	"	5,468,000	+ 2,025,000	2	9,485,000	+ 3,242,000	
Chesapeake & Ohio	"	1,355,000	+ 213,000	1	1,355,000	+ 213,000	
Chicago & N.W. ..	"	2,448,000	+ 800,000	1	2,448,000	+ 800,000	
Chicago Burl. & Q. ..	June	2,881,000	+ 697,000	12	40,654,000	+ 9,962,000	
Chicago G.W. ..	Aug.	475,000	+ 143,000	2	6,485,000	+ 1,174,000	
Chicago Mil. & S.P.	"	3,306,000	+ 796,000	1	1,389,000	+ 379,000	
Chicago, Rock I. & P.	June	1,473,000	+ 419,000	12	16,811,000	+ 2,771,000	
Colorado & Southern	May	447,000	+ 227,000	11	5,317,000	+ 1,457,000	
Cuba	June	607,000	+ 147,000	12	6,815,000	+ 1,609,000	
Do.	May	261,131	+ 482	11	2,314,953	+ 626,709	
Delaware & Hud. ..	July	655,000	+ 121,000	7	4,860,000	+ 462,000	
Denver & Rio Gran.	"	756,000	+ 226,000	1	756,000	+ 226,000	
Erie	Aug.	2,026,000	+ 243,000	8	12,414,000	+ 1,855,000	
Gr. Tr. Main Line ..	"	3,305,650	+ 556,950	8	2,731,500	+ 223,950	
Grand Trunk Westn	"	4,44,700	+ 65,000	8	3,333,600	+ 2,488,800	
Detroit G.H. & Mil.	"	67,400	+ 6,900	8	39,650	+ 534,950	
Gt. Northern ..	July	3,088,000	+ 722,000	1	3,088,000	+ 722,000	
Illinois Central ..	"	1,023,000	+ 491,000	1	1,023,000	+ 491,000	
Kansas City Southn.	"	534,000	+ 68,000	1	534,000	+ 68,000	
Lehigh Valley ..	"	1,222,000	+ 194,000	1	1,222,000	+ 194,000	
Louisville & Nashvl.	"	1,433,000	+ 250,000	1	1,433,000	+ 250,000	
Minn. S.P. (Soo)§ ..	June	1,043,000	+ 493,000	1	1,043,000	+ 493,000	
Miss. K. & Texas ..	July	617,000	+ 145,000	1	617,000	+ 145,000	
Missouri Pacific ..	June	601,000	+ 491,000	1	601,000	+ 491,000	
New York Cent. & H.	June	11,511,000	+ 2,790,000	7	35,358,000	+ 12,600,000	
N. Y. N. Haven & H.	June	2,130,000	+ 752,000	12	22,382,000	+ 3,647,000	
New York Cent. & W.	July	406,000	+ 24,000	1	406,000	+ 24,000	
Norfolk & Western.	"	1,816,000	+ 128,000	1	1,816,000	+ 128,000	
Northern Pacific ..	June	2,592,000	+ 430,000	12	31,032,000	+ 9,482,000	
Pennsylvania East	"						
and West Lines ..	Aug.	12,547,000	+ 1,742,000	8	74,210,000	+ 24,842,000	
St. Louis & San F.	May	1,201,000	+ 310,000	11	12,343,000	+ 1,747,000	
Seaboard Air Line ..	July	213,000	+ 167,000	1	6,991,000	+ 1,591,000	
Southern	Aug.	1,945,000	+ 514,000	3	3,227,000	+ 431,000	
Southern Pacific ..	"	5,680,000	+ 1,083,000	3	19,728,000	+ 1,539,000	
Union Pacific ..	"	4,374,000	+ 971,000	3	7,828,000	+ 1,576,000	
Wabash	"	1,044,000	+ 197,000	3	2,040,000	+ 709,000	

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The Investors' Review.

Money and Credit Notes.

BANK RATE 6 PER CENT. (Increased from 5 per cent. on Thursday, July 13.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

All the week money has been in strong demand, and fresh or additional advances have cost borrowers from $5\frac{1}{4}$ to $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on day-to-day loan. Week-to-week money has also cost $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. sometimes, and only in the afternoons have unengaged balances been lent overnight for $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. less than the morning rate. The market, however, has struggled through the week without going to the Bank, but is hardly likely to succeed in avoiding it next week. Discount rates were naturally firm also, and $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. has been the fine rate as a rule for three months' remitted paper. December Treasury bills have changed hands at $5\frac{5}{16}$ - $5\frac{3}{8}$.

Why is money so much in demand? Two main influences are at work, the demand for 6 per cent. Exchequer bonds, Treasury bills, and the subscriptions to the new French loan. Other causes contributing to dearness may also exist, but it is impossible to trace out the intricacies of all the influences now powerfully affecting the credit market. We hope, however, that great stringency will be avoided, not only at the end of this month, but throughout the rest of the year. Instead of growing dearer, it would be of advantage, not only to Governments that have to borrow, but to all users of credit, if rates could be kept from going much higher than they now are.

It is, therefore, pleasant to see another improvement in the gold stock of the Bank. The increase in the coin and bullion held was last week £759,000, so that the total stock is now £56,455,000, a figure still £2,430,000 below that of a year ago, but when we take note of the gold in the country held outside the Bank of England, we ought to feel comforted in the fact that after more than two years of war we should have so much cash in hand to strengthen credit. Other movements in the Bank return are not of great significance, but the increase in the coin and bullion has helped to improve the reserve by £945,000 to £38,237,000, and as the deposits, Government and customers' taken

together, show a reduction of £410,000, the proportion of reserve to liabilities is $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. up at $23\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. That figure, however, is $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. below a year ago chiefly because of the enormous increase in liabilities which has taken place in the interval. Public deposits, for example, at £55,589,000 are £9,461,000 larger than they were a year ago, and the liability of the Bank on "other" deposits, now £108,496,000, is £10,115,000 larger. How has this increase been brought about? Government securities alone are £23,292,000 more than last year at this date, and even other securities are £2,771,000 larger. On the other hand, the reserve is £6,525,000 down. It may again be pointed out that all attempts to interpret the meaning of most of these colossal movements would be labour wasted.

According to the *Matin*, which bases its statement on information which has reached the Ministry of Finance, the second French War Loan has met with greater support than the first. Comparing the first ten days of the two subscriptions, the present one shows "a considerable increase in payments, especially in cash." We are glad to hear also that something considerable is being done here to provide our Ally with the sinews of war, and as the lists are still open we again take the opportunity to impress upon those who can spare the money, or whose credit is solidly based, the duty of subscribing as fully as they can. The cause of France in this war is identical with the cause of the United Kingdom, and a loan to France may be said to be a loan to ourselves, for so interlinked now are all the political and economic interests of the two countries that one could not pause or hang back in the struggle without vitally embarrassing the other. Therefore must we stand shoulder to shoulder in all things. As we said when the loan was first announced, it is a pity, looking at the identity of our perils and the unity of our aim, that arrangements could not be made to create a common debt for all of us Allied to fight for liberty. We should like, therefore, to repeat the counsel that a common war debt created under the guarantee joint and several of all the Allies now engaged in beating down the hydra-headed monsters of barbarism ought if possible to be arranged for, a debt to help in whose augmentation for war purposes all the world should be invited.

It is never wise to subscribe too unreservedly to any agitation patronised by the effete and wholly unreformed corporation of London City. Therefore, when we see the Common Council of the inner square mile passing resolutions and raving without discrimination or knowledge against German traders, above all against German banks, our natural instinct would be to take up the defence of the interlopers. But that is impossible. One has only to look back over the career of the London branches of the German banks and note their development during the last quarter of a century to understand that with them there can be no room for compromise. The German banks must be driven out of the United Kingdom, and out of all the countries of the Allies where they have established branches. We do not say this in any spirit of hate, but merely in obedience to the instinct of self-preservation. It was not fair, honest banking which the Germans carried on here. The spirit obeyed by the banker was identical with that of the warrior who brooded and schemed to ravage and annex. He was intent always on the problem, how to filch away our business. That being so, no small sympathy must be expressed with those who shout, "Expel! expel!" At the same time, there is no need to hurry things, and the denunciations by Sir Henry Dalziel and others in the House of Commons represent an exaggerated view of the danger, as also a mean spirit of censoriousness towards the Government. It is not true that the German branch banks in London are still carrying on business as if nothing had happened, and those who make that allegation are slandering Sir William Plender and his staff. Sir William took charge of these bank offices soon after the war began, and has been engaged during the past two years in liquidating their engagements, in paying

the debts due to British creditors, and in storing with the Official Trustee, or in the Treasury, such surplus moneys as may have come into his hands, against the day of the reckoning that is coming. It is much the same with other German businesses here. Many of them are so interlinked with British interests that their summary extinction would hurt our own people sometimes more than the Germans themselves. Let us, therefore, be reasonable, and also exercise patience. The mock furies roused by a gutter Press ought to have no echo in the serene business atmosphere of the City.

It is understood that Mr. J. P. Morgan, who recently arrived in London from New York, is completing arrangements for the issue of another British loan of £50,000,000, to be raised next month, after the elections have been disposed of. The recent loan of the same amount, secured by the deposit of £60,000,000 of securities as collateral, was really the first of a series of similar operations designed to maintain the exchange value of the pound sterling at its present figure. Meanwhile, the policy of keeping money rates low in New York as a means of contributing to the stabilisation of exchange is being continued, further large shipments of gold having been made this week to New York from Ottawa. Since the beginning of May about £70,000,000 in gold has been sent to New York, and this movement has no doubt contributed in no small measure in keeping money rates in New York on a low level. The immediate benefit of this operation has been to bring surplus funds from New York to London, and to keep them here, mainly in the shape of Treasury bills. Hence, if the Bank rate here was lowered below a certain limit, this money would tend to return to New York. It is fear of this which has induced the Bank, it is believed, to maintain the Bank rate at 6 per cent. But if the Bank rate were reduced to the former level of 5 per cent., it is not believed in the market that much, if any, American money would be withdrawn, since the margin between London and New York money rates would still be very marked. If we are not to derive any appreciable benefit from having a low money rate in New York, the price we are paying for it, in shipping huge amounts of gold, is, in the opinion of many people, too high.

SILVER.

A few orders from China, coupled with the steady demand for coinage purposes, sent the price of silver to 32¹/₁₆d. per oz. Supplies from America were then increased, and as the special inquiry ceased the quotation relapsed to 32¹/₁₆d. per oz. The coinage requirements, however, have been sufficient to absorb all the metal offered, and the market closes a shade harder at 32³/₁₆d. per oz.

Applications for the Rs. 40,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 4,25,00,000. Of these Rs. 93,000 were allotted in bills, Rs. 11,75,000 in deferred transfers, and Rs. 27,32,000 in immediate transfers, tenders for bills and deferred transfers at 1s. 4-32d., and for immediate transfers at 1s. 4¹/₂d. receiving about 9 per cent. Special sales were also made of Rs. 25,00,000 in deferred transfers at 1s. 4¹/₂d., and of Rs. 27,00,000 in immediate transfers at 1s. 4-32d. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is again Rs. 40,00,000. Since April 1 the total sales have been Rs. 11,71,16,332, realising £7,857,117.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, October 18, 1916.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued	£	Government Debt..	£
72,986,265		11,015,100	
		Other Securities ..	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	54,536,265
		Silver Bullion ..	
£72,986,265		£72,986,265	

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital ..	14,553,000	Government Securities ..	42,187,840
Rest ..	3,157,252	Other Securities ..	101,389,822
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts) ..	55,589,446	Notes ..	36,318,405
Other Deposits ..	108,495,580	Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,918,886
Seven Day and other Bills ..	19,675		
£181,814,953		£181,814,953	

Dated Oct. 19, 1916.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year.

Last year. Oct. 20.		Oct. 11, 1916.	Oct. 18, 1916.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,184,384	Rest ..	3,177,521	3,157,252	—	20,269
46,128,445	Pub. Deposits ..	55,135,356	55,589,446	454,090	—
98,380,914	Other do. ..	109,360,502	108,495,580	—	864,922
29,659	7 Day Bills ..	27,515	19,675	—	7,840
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
18,895,781	G.v. Securities.	42,188,051	42,187,840	211	—
98,618,396	Other do. ..	102,773,484	101,389,822	1,383,662	—
44,762,225	Total Reserve ..	37,292,359	38,237,291	—	944,932
				1,837,963	1,837,963
£		£	£	Increase.	Decrease.
32,573,345	Note Circulation	36,854,070	36,667,860	—	186,210
58,885,570	Coin and Bullion	55,696,429	56,455,151	758,722	—
31 p.c.	Proportion ..	22.7 p.c.	23.3 p.c.	.6 p.c.	—
5 "	Bank Rate ..	6 "	6 "	—	—

CURRENCY NOTES.

Return of Currency Notes for the week ended October 18, 1916.

	Issued.	Cancelled.	Outstanding.
	£	£	£
£1 notes ..	3,045,775	3,056,358	93,587,717
10s. notes ..	1,105,714	1,088,755	20,236,051
Note certificates ..	400,000	—	12,320,000
Previous total ..	446,379,562	311,852,169	—
	450,931,051	315,997,283	134,933,768

Ratio of gold held against notes: this week, 23.25 p.c.; last week, 23.24 p.c.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For 7 days ended Oct. 14.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE
£	£
Customs ..	National Debt Service ..
Excise ..	Interest, &c., on War Debt ..
Estate, &c., Duties ..	Development & Road Impvt.
Stamps ..	Payments to Local Taxation
Land Tax and House Duty.	Other Consolidated Fund
Property and Income Tax ..	Charges ..
Excess Profits Tax ..	Supply Services ..
Land Values ..	Bullion Advances ..
Post Office ..	For Advance for Interest
Crown Lands ..	on Exchequer Bonds under
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	Capital Expenditure
Miscellaneous ..	(Money) Act, 1904 ..
Bullion advances repaid ..	For Treasury Bills (net amt.)
For Treasury Bills (net amt.)	For Exchequer Bonds issued
War Loan, 1925-8 ..	under the War Loan Redem-
War Loan, 1925-45 ..	ption Act, 1910 ..
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919 ..	Issues under Section 1 of
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920 ..	War Loan Act, 1915 ..
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1921 ..	Under Telegraph (Money)
6% Exchequer Bonds, 1920 ..	Act, 1913 ..
War Expenditure Certificates	Under Post Office (Lon-
War Savings Certificates ..	don) Railway Act, 1913 ..
Other Debts created under	Under Housing Act ..
War Loan Act, 1915 ..	Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8 ..
Telegraph Money Act, 1913	Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11 ..
Under Post Office Rly. Act,	For Redemption of Ex-
1913 ..	chequer Bonds, 1904 ..
Under Military Works Acts,	Exchequer Bonds, 1916 ..
1897-1903 ..	Cunard Loan repayment is-
Under Housing Act ..	ssued to reduce debt under
Redemption of Exchequer	the Cunard Agreement ..
Bonds, 1904 ..	Deficiency advances repaid
Cunard Loan—repayment on	ways and Means Advances
account of principal ..	repaid ..
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	Increase in Exchequer
Ways and Means Advances	balances ..
Decrease in Exchequer	
balances ..	
£72,845,031	£72,845,031

SHORT TERM GOVERNMENT LOANS.

	Sales Last Week.	Sales This Week.	Total Outstanding.
	£	£	£
Treasury Bills ..	1,065,000	43,000,000	1,083,423,000
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919 ..	—	—	34,222,000
Do. 1920 ..	300,000	350,000	237,655,500
Do. 1921 ..	91,000	6,000	62,464,000
6% Exchequer Bonds ..	20,621,000	16,006,000	36,627,000
War Expenditure Certificates	1,008,600	816,900	25,178,400
War Savings Certificates ..	1,000,000	1,100,000	31,800,000

* Decrease.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1916.	1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
January	1,071,948,000	918,685,000	153,263,000	—
February	1,107,655,000	960,743,000	146,912,000	—
March	1,364,599,000	1,231,392,000	133,207,000	—
April	1,090,356,000	976,264,000	114,092,000	—
May	1,447,416,000	1,164,194,000	283,222,000	—
June	1,147,630,000	960,209,000	187,421,000	—
July	1,239,193,000	1,316,605,000	—	77,502,000
August	1,364,783,000	1,352,519,000	12,263,000	—
September 6	298,577,000	255,092,000	43,485,000	—
" 13	273,357,000	254,607,000	18,750,000	—
" 20	285,301,000	239,471,000	45,830,000	—
" 27	279,355,000	250,838,000	28,517,000	—
October 4	337,388,000	291,855,000	45,533,000	—
" 11	326,880,000	269,450,000	57,430,000	—
" 18	338,823,000	270,932,000	67,891,000	—
Total ..	11,973,260,000	10,712,906,000	1,463,375,000	—

FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	Sept. 29, 1916.	Sept. 22, 1916.	Oct. 1, 1915.
Gold coin and certificates ..	£ 52,169,000	£ 51,472,200	£ 45,452,600
Gold Redemption Fund ..	358,800	388,200	240,400
Gold Settlement Fund ..	24,884,200	23,558,200	11,036,000
Legal tender notes, silver, &c.	1,562,200	1,525,400	3,298,600
Total reserves ..	79,004,200	77,217,000	60,027,600
5% redemption fund against F. R. bank notes ..	100,000	100,000	—
30-day bills and loans ..	4,281,600	4,875,600	1,155,400
60-day bills and loans ..	4,649,000	4,847,600	2,454,800
90-day bills and loans ..	7,305,400	7,578,600	3,153,400
Maturities over 90 days ..	4,776,400	4,718,800	1,775,400
Total ..	21,315,600	22,318,000	8,980,400
Investments—			
U.S. Bonds ..	9,308,800	9,510,600	1,865,600
One year U.S. Treasury notes ..	1,385,400	1,607,800	—
Municipal Warrants ..	4,805,600	4,827,400	5,476,200
Federal Reserve notes—nett.	2,850,000	3,216,000	3,075,600
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—nett.	6,273,000	5,853,200	2,198,600
All other assets ..	1,508,600	1,690,200	663,600
Total assets ..	126,548,200	126,340,200	82,287,800
Paid-up capital ..	11,078,600	11,084,600	10,945,600
Government Deposits ..	7,797,000	7,989,400	3,000,000
Reserve deposits—nett.	104,348,000	103,691,200	64,949,400
Note circulation—nett.	2,643,200	2,921,000	2,859,000
Fed. Res. notes in circulation	666,600	582,800	—
All other liabilities ..	74,800	71,200	533,800
Total liabilities ..	126,548,200	126,340,200	82,287,800
Gold reserve against nett liabilities ..	71.4 %	69.6 %	82.7 %
Cash reserve against nett liabilities ..	72.8 %	71.0 %	87.5 %

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	Oct. 14, 1916	Oct. 7, 1916.	Sept. 30, 1916	Oct. 16, 1915
Loans ..	£ 668,822,000	£ 669,902,000	£ 667,910,000	£ 574,342,000
Reserve held in own Vaults ..	83,254,000	86,056,000	87,524,000	102,634,000
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk.	33,698,000	33,492,000	34,624,000	30,216,000
Reserve held in Other Depos.	10,704,000	10,784,000	10,894,000	6,494,000
Nett Demand Deposits ..	656,666,000	660,544,000	660,518,000	586,440,000
Nett Time Deposits ..	33,096,000	33,264,000	33,774,000	27,618,000
Circulation ..	6,268,000	6,232,000	6,238,000	7,128,000
Excess Lawful Reserve ..	14,464,000	16,504,000	19,272,000	37,842,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits.

NEW YORK STATE BANKS & TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.)

	Oct. 14, 1916.	Oct. 7, 1916.	Sept. 30, 1916.	Oct. 16, 1915.
Loans ..	£ 145,262,000	£ 143,882,000	£ 144,076,000	£ 119,162,000
Specie ..	11,910,000	11,712,000	11,932,000	10,272,000
Deposits ..	154,444,000	153,250,000	152,904,000	124,444,000
Legal Tenders ..	1,998,000	1,934,000	1,854,000	1,820,000

IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Oct. 14, 1916.	Oct. 6, 1916.	Sept. 29, 1916.	Oct. 14, 1915
Notes in reserve ..	£ 8,790,000	£ 10,740,000	£ 9,590,000	£ 7,677,000
Gold ..	155,420,000	155,620,000	155,330,000	159,515,000
Gold in reserve abroad ..	205,490,000	205,500,000	205,510,000	3,741,500
Treasury Bonds ..	514,450,000	503,430,000	481,850,000	—
Circulation note issue ..	758,710,000	744,260,000	730,410,000	497,000,000
Treasury deposits ..	20,190,000	22,590,000	20,120,000	20,335,800

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Oct. 14, 1916.	Oct. 7, 1916.	Sept. 30, 1916	Oct. 15, 1915
Total Coin & Bullion ..	£ 125,961,100	£ 125,563,550	£ 125,180,800	£ 123,127,150
Treasury Notes ..	17,021,400	18,503,650	19,604,600	41,539,600
Bills discounted ..	373,946,050	373,493,050	337,941,550	219,518,850
Advances ..	546,450	546,650	520,800	688,800
Note circulation ..	350,342,350	361,527,250	368,514,800	288,863,000
Deposits ..	164,483,750	160,816,950	131,322,650	283,880,550

Clearing House returns during Sept., £282,125,250 against £266,331,160 in Aug.

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Oct. 19, 1916.	Oct. 12, 1916.	Oct. 5, 1916.	Oct. 21, 1915.
Gold in hand ..	£ 195,431,400	£ 194,261,360	£ 193,617,840	£ 187,706,960
Silver in hand ..	13,142,400	13,291,480	13,404,200	14,531,680
Bills discounted ..	18,086,000	17,409,080	20,486,200	10,733,040
Advances ..	47,024,680	47,092,760	47,433,760	23,020,480
Note circulation ..	672,000,400	681,155,760	680,445,760	553,279,760
Public deposits ..	3,178,040	1,931,920	2,364,320	3,303,760
Private deposits ..	101,670,240	93,833,760	90,016,680	102,961,120
Foreign Bills ..	71,000	72,300	80,080	58,800

Proportion between bullion and circulation 31.03 per cent., against 30.47 per cent. last week. Advances to the State £344,000,000, unchanged. The adjourned payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium, £25,075,440, decrease £47,200, and at the branches £30,028,240, decrease £43,080.

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Oct. 7, 1916	Sept. 30, 1916	Sept. 23, 1916	Oct. 9, 1915
Gold ..	£ 47,177,097	£ 46,939,246	£ 45,650,297	£ 30,414,961
Silver ..	29,806,777	30,193,076	30,231,783	29,316,463
Foreign Bills ..	4,045,304	3,966,786	3,893,388	4,259,743
Discounts and Short Bills ..	24,257,772	24,448,954	24,024,617	27,316,753
Treasury Account, &c. ..	29,583,825	28,758,267	29,098,306	29,251,506
Notes in Circulation ..	92,154,937	90,368,764	89,670,190	82,623,617
Current Accounts, Deposits ..	30,618,663	30,355,378	30,815,970	25,276,305
Dividends, Interests, &c. ..	1,845,226	2,355,661	1,363,659	1,776,870
Government Securities ..	1,822,328	1,871,053	2,699,974	1,821,674

NETHERLANDS BANK (12 Florins to the £).

	Oct. 14, 1916	Oct. 7, 1916.	Sept. 30, 1916	Oct. 16, 1915
Gold and Silver ..	£ 49,245,750	£ 49,461,916	£ 49,476,416	£ 32,964,202
Bills and Advances ..	14,597,000	14,453,166	14,669,333	13,237,326
Note circulation ..	59,248,750	59,248,750	58,621,333	45,642,368
Deposits ..	7,339,333	8,050,416	8,830,083	1,556,365

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	Sept. 10, 1916	Aug. 31, 1916	Aug. 20, 1916	Sept. 10, 1915
Total cash ..	£ 43,130,520	£ 43,996,120	£ 43,896,400	£ 55,491,960
Inland Bills ..	19,514,520	19,331,080	18,980,880	22,713,840
Foreign Bills ..	833,520	833,280	833,160	832,280
Advances ..	7,548,800	7,713,920	7,518,640	8,332,280
Government securities ..	8,828,320	8,801,080	8,866,920	7,465,680
Circulation ..	138,103,560	136,584,200	135,192,360	111,586,540
Deposits at notice ..	14,127,640	14,845,520	13,865,630	10,860,560
Current accounts ..	15,878,640	13,939,280	15,514,680	18,109,280

BANK OF NORWAY.

	Oct. 7, 1916.	Sept. 30, 1916.	Sept. 22, 1916.	Oct. 7, 1915.
Gold ..	£ 6,272,000	£ 6,274,000	£ 6,279,000	£ 3,555,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	5,499,000	5,621,000	5,724,000	3,657,000
Gov't Securities ..	767,000	767,000	772,000	781,000
Discounts & Loans ..	6,447,000	6,791,000	6,365,000	4,142,000
Notes in Circulation ..	12,601,000	12,661,000	12,272,000	8,322,000
Deposits at notice ..	3,818,000	4,200,000	4,195,000	1,301,000

BANK OF SWEDEN.

	Oct. 7, 1916.	Sept. 30, 1916.	Sept. 23, 1916	Oct. 9, 1915.
Gold ..	£ 9,494,000	£ 9,499,000	£ 9,504,000	£ 6,300,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	9,347,000	9,390,000	9,489,000	6,750,000
Swedish and Foreign Gov't Securities ..	3,743,000	3,754,000	3,762,000	3,043,000
Discounts and Loans ..	4,061,000	3,929,000	3,732,000	5,040,000
Notes in circulation ..	20,341,000	21,493,000	19,252,000	16,357,000
Deposits at notice ..	5,013,000	4,137,000	5,627,000	4,342,000

SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	Oct. 7, 1916.	Sept. 30, 1916.	Sept. 23, 1916.	Oct. 7, 1915.
Gold and silver ..	£ 13,725,388	£ 13,758,944	£ 13,858,712	£ 12,191,520
Bills ..	7,997,400	7,697,208	7,326,556	5,697,448
Note circulation ..	18,535,100	18,650,340	17,587,864	17,109,520
Current and deposit accounts ..	5,370,254	4,746,164	5,710,000	3,112,016

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.
Paris	cbqs.	27.81	27.79	Antwerp	short	—	—
Brussels	cbqs.	—	—	Italy	sight	30.79	30.97
Amsterdam	sight	11.63	11.55	Constantinople	3 mths	—	—
Christiania	—	17.22	17.12	Rio de Janeiro ..	90 dys	12.2	12.2
Stockholm	—	16.84	16.82	Buenos Aires	90 dys	50.4	50.4
Copenhagen	—	17.70	17.57	Calcutta	T.T.	1/4	1/4
Petrograd	3 mths	152	153	Bombay	T.T.	1/4	1/4
New York	cable	4.76	4.76	Hong Kong	T.T.	2/4	2/4
Lisbon	sight	34	34	Shanghai	T.T.	3/4	3/4
Madrid	sight	23.62	23.50	Singapore	T.T.	2/4	2/4
Switzerland	—	12.15	12.09	Yokohama	4 mths	2/4	2/4

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Oct. 17, 1916.	Oct. 19, 1916.
		Sellers.	Buyers.
Amsterdam ..	Cable transfers ..	11.60	11.63
	Three months' bills ..	11.75	11.85
Paris ..	Cable transfers ..	27.64	27.81
	Three months' bills ..	28.15	28.25
Marseilles ..	Cable transfers ..	28.15	28.25
Switzerland ..	Cable transfers ..	25.10	25.20
	Three months' bills ..	25.45	25.55
Petrograd ..	Cable transfers ..	153	154
Genoa, &c. ..	Cable transfers ..	30.85	30.95
	Three months' bills ..	31.30	31.40
Spain ..	Cable transfers ..	23.55	23.65
	Three months' bills ..	24.8	24.9
Lisbon and Oporto	Cable transfers ..	34	34
Copenhagen ..	Cable transfers ..	17.55	17.65
Christiania ..	Cable transfers ..	17.10	17.20
Stockholm ..	Cable transfers ..	16.78	16.88

TREASURY BILLS.

	Last week.	This week
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months ..	5 1/2	5 1/2
Six months ..	5 1/2	5 1/2
Nine months ..	5 1/2	5 1/2
Twelve months ..	5 1/2	5 1/2

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Last week.	This week
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted	5 1/2	5 1/2
Three months ..	5 1/2	5 1/2
Four months ..	5 1/2	5 1/2
Six months ..	5 1/2	5 1/2
Three months fine inland bills	6 1/2	6 1/2
Four months ..	6 1/2	6 1/2
Six months ..	6 1/2	6 1/2

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Last week	This week
Bank of England minimum discount rate	6	6
short loan rates	6½	6½
Bankers' rate on deposits	4	4
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	4½	4½
" 7 and 14 days' notice	4½	4½
Current rates for 7 day loans	5	5
" for call loans	5	4½-5

The Week's Stock Markets.

Dull and stagnant markets have been the rule this week, and the record of transactions has barely exceeded 3,000 per day. At first almost everyone seemed unduly alarmed about the Rumanian position, and fears were widely expressed that our latest Ally might have to suffer the fate of Belgium and Serbia. On more favourable news from the Eastern front the tone became more cheerful, but it brought little accession of business, and we see small hope of much improvement in this respect while the war lasts. A smart recovery in Consols and the continued advance in War Loans were very welcome, but they do not bring much grist to the mill, and Mr. McKenna's warning that the country might have to shoulder still greater burdens of taxation naturally had a rather depressing influence. Look where one will there are few bright spots on the financial horizon, and we must just set our teeth with the firm determination to win through somehow. It is decidedly unfortunate at the present juncture that harvest prospects should be so poor in many directions, but failing the forcing of the Dardanelles Argentina has a large surplus of wheat from last season available for export, and when the Government has completed its Australian deal it will doubtless turn its eyes in this direction. Meantime we have nothing very useful to say about Stock Market prospects, as war requirements will absorb all the free capital and credit that can be collected or created for a long time to come.

The Stock Exchange was inclined to take a gloomy view of the Balkan situation, and with business restricted prices sagged, but markets closed with a distinctly firmer appearance on the more reassuring news from Rumania. The principal incident in the gilt-edged market has been the selling of Consols by holders who wish to exchange into other Government securities giving a higher return, which was persistent enough to drive the price down to 56½, or the lowest point touched since the conversion into a 2½ per cent. security. Buyers, however, came in and a rally to 57 followed. The 3½ per cent. War Loan relapsed to 85, but the 4½ per cent. recovered to 95½ on the Chancellor's statement that a long-dated War Loan would be made on a favourable opportunity. Local Loans stock was bought and further improved to 60, but Irish Land 2¾ per cent. stock has fallen to 54½, and India 3 and 3½ per cents. are both ½ lower. Changes in Colonial Government stocks were few, and the only ones of importance were a rise of a point in Canada 4 per cent. 1940-60 and a loss of like amount in Queensland 3½ per cent., 1921-4. Realisations have been the order of the day in the Foreign bond market, and Brazilian loans especially, which were also affected by the weakness of the Rio exchange, have relapsed sharply, while one or two Argentine and Chilean issues were marked down. Russian loans continue weak, and there has again been selling of Chinese stocks, but Japanese 5 per cent. of 1907 rallied to 88½. Greek loans were offered, the Monopoly dropping to 47½ and the 4 per cent. rights to 41.

In the Home Railway market there has been complete absence of support, and with moderate amounts of stock coming into the market prices have dwindled. North-Western has gone back to 90 and Midland preferred and deferred are 1 to 1½ lower, and Great Northern preferred and deferred and Brighton deferred are all substantially lower. Underground stocks have also been weak, Metropolitan dropping to 22½ and District to 16½, while Underground income bonds are ½ down at 89. Canadian Pacific shares have hardly moved, but finished lower at 183½, while Grand Trunk stocks show only trifling changes. American Railroad shares went back in the beginning of the week, but there was the usual rally later. International Mercantile Marine common and preferred show substantial recoveries, and United States Steel are higher at 119½. The Argentine Railway reports were rather better than had been expected, and Buenos Ayres Great Southern improved to 85 after touching 84, but fell back later on the crop news, and Buenos Ayres and Pacific and Buenos Ayres Western also close below the best.

Bank shares have been dull, and changes in price are few. In the London group National Provincial £12 paid fell ½, and Lloyds, London City and Midland, London County and Westminster, London Joint Stock, and Parr's are all ½ down. Union Discount dropped ½, and National Discount ¼. Except for a drop of ½ in Canadian Bank of Commerce the movements in the Colonial and Foreign group were trifling. Shipping shares have been very quiet and prices generally have been weak, but there was a fair business in Prince Line, which left off ½ up at

4½, and Furness, Withy also met with support. Brazilian Traction shares relapsed to 55½, but recovered to 59 on the usual dividend being paid on San Paulo Tramway common, one of its subsidiaries, and the maintenance of its own quarterly dividend of 1 per cent. Hudson's Bay shares were ½ easier at 67½, and the preference dropped to 48, while Forestal Land ordinary declined to 48s. on a little selling. Alby Carbide shares were a little harder, but British Oil and Cake Mills receded to 29s. Engineering shares were generally quiet and a shade lower, but

	Last Week	This Week		Last Week	This Week
Consols.....	58	57	N.S.W. 4½% 1922-7	90½	93½
War Loan 3½%	85½	85	" 5% 1921-2	97	97
India 3%	59½	58½	" 5½% 1921-2	2 dis.	2 dis.
Australian 5½%, 1920-22	69½	68½	New Zealand 4%	85½	85½
Canada 4%, 1940-60	81	82	Queensland 4%	82	82
N.S.W. 4%	95½	95½	" 4½% new	84	94
" 4½% 5 yr. bds.	93½	95½	Union of S. Africa 4½%	93½	92
Belgian 3%	61	61½	Victoria 4½%, 1920-5	93½	93½
Brazil, 1913	62	61	Westn. Aus. 4%	82	82
" New Funding	70½	76	French War Loan, 5% ..	81	81
Chinese 1896	89½	88½	Japan 4½% (1st)	95	95
" 1912	73	72½	" (2nd)	95	95
Egypt Unified 4%	78	77½	Russia 4%	68½	68
Brighton defd.	66	64	" 4½%	79½	78½
Caledonian defd.	98	98	" 5%	89½	89½
Chatham ord.	93	9	London and S.-W. dfd. ..	23½	23½
Gt. Central dfd.	15	14	Do. new pf.	98	98
" dfd.	78	78	Metropolitan	23½	23½
Gt. Eastern	30½	30½	Do. 5% New pf.	90	90
Gt. Northern dfd.	38	37	Met. District	17½	16½
Gt. Western	92	91	Midland dfd.	59	57½
Lancs. and Yorks.	68½	68	Nth. British dfd.	14½	14
			Nth.-Eastern	102½	102
			Nth.-Western	101½	99
			Sth.-Eastern dfd.	27½	27½
Canadian Pacific	184	183½	Chesapeake	69½	72½
Do. 6% Notes	107½	108½	Erie	40½	40½
E. Indian Guar. 4½% debs.	93	93	Milwaukee	99½	99½
Grand Trunk ord.	11	11½	N. Y. Central	114½	113½
Do. 3rd pf.	26½	26½	Southern	29½	30½
Do. 5½% 3-yr. Notes	96	96	Southern Pacific	104½	106½
Do. 5½% 5-yr. "	96	96	Union Pacific	155	157½
Atchison	110½	111½	U. S. Steel	116	119½
Baltimore	91½	92½			
Antofagasta dfd.	131	130	Cent. Argentine ord.	78½	78½
Do. 6% Notes	101½	101½	Do. 5% Notes ..	95	96
Brazil Common	1	5½	Do. 6% " ..	100½	100½
B. A. & Pacific	45	44½	Leopoldina	19	35½
B. A. Gt. Southern	84½	84½	Mexican ord.	19	19
B. A. Western	86	85½	San Paulo (Brazilian) ..	192	197½
			United of Havana	84½	84½
Bank of Australasia	117	117	London City & Midland ..	7½	7½
Barclay & Co. "A"	7½	7½	London County & West.	15½	15
Do. "B"	11	11	London Joint Stock	22½	22½
Capital & Counties	23½	23½	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (£10½ pd)	26½	26½
Chartered of India	59½	58	Do. (£12 pd) ..	31	30½
Hongkong & Shanghai	78	78½	Parr's	30½	30
Lloyds	24½	24	Standard of S.A.	102	102½
London & Provincial	10½	10½	Union & Smiths	24	24
London & S.W.	12	12			
Apollinaris ord.	1½	1½	Forestal Land	50½	48½
Armstrong, Whitworth	39½	38½	Furness, Withy	51½	52½
Associated Cement	38	38	Hudson's Bay	61½	61½
Birmingham Small Arms	45½	44½	Imperial Tobacco 'B' pf.	22½	22½
Borax dfd.	34½	34½	Do. 'C' pf.	35½	34½
Bovril	20½	20½	Kynochs	30½	30½
Brazil Traction	56	59	Lever Bros. "C" pf.	20½	20½
British Amer. Tobacco	44½	44½	Lyons, J.	47½	47½
Brown (John), & Co.	35½	35½	Marconi	28½	28½
Brunner, Mond	47½	47½	Maypole Dairy dfd.	20½	20½
Cammell-Laird	68	62	Mond Nickel ord.	38	32
Castner-Kellner	37½	37½	National Steam Car.	19½	20½
Coats	68	68	Pears, A. & F.	14½	14½
Cunard	88½	86½	P. & O. dfd.	338½	338½
Dennis Bros.	35½	36½	Royal Mail	121	121
Dorman, Long	33½	33½	South Durham Steel	36½	35½
Eastmans	7½	7½	Underground Inc. Bds.	89½	89
English Sewing Cotton	43½	43½	Vickers	37½	37½
Fine Cotton Spinners	29½	29½			
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	10½	9½	Mexican Eagle pf.	35½	36½
Baku (ros.)	3½	3½	North Caucasian	26½	26½
Burmah	47½	47½	Roumanian Cons.	14½	15½
Lobitos	42½	41½	Royal Dutch (100 gulden) ..	45	44
Maikop Combine (ros.)	3½	3½	Shell	57½	58
Maikop Pipeline	4½	4½	Spies (10/-)	14½	14½
Mexican Eagle	35½	35½	Ural Caspian	33½	32½
Anglo-Java Rub. (2/-)	64½	5½	Malayalam £1	33½	34½
Anglo-Malay 2/-	11½	11½	Merlimau 2/-	6½	5½
Ayer Kuning £1	37½	36½	Pataling 2/-	35½	33½
Bukit Mertajam 2/-	5½	5½	Port Dickson 2/-	3½	3½
Bukit Sembawang 2/-	3½	3½	Rubber Trust £1	26½	25½
Carey United £1	42½	43½	Sapumalkande £1	22½	22½
Grand Central £1	26½	26½	Sialang £1	71½	68½
Gula Kalumpung £1	32½	32½	Singapore Para 2/-	3½	3½
Highlands £1	55½	53½	Singapore United 2/-	34½	3½
Java Para £1	34½	30½	Taping 2/-	3½	3½
Johore Rubber Lands £1	33½	31½	Tandjong £1	85½	80½
Langen Java £1	51½	46½	Tandjong Malim £1	30½	30½
Linggi 2/-	22½	21½	Tebrau £1	75½	74½
London Asiatic 2/-	7½	7½	United Serdang 2/-	12½	11½
Malacca £1	88½	87½	Vallambrosa 2/-	18½	18½
Abbottiakoon (10/-)	6½	6½	De Beers dfd. (£2 10s.) ..	12½	12½
Brakpan	44½	44½	East Rand	16½	16½
Broken Hill Prop. (8/-)	54½	54½	Gt. Boulder (2/-)	12½	12½
Cam & Motor	11½	11½	Meyer & Charlton	5½	5½
Central Mining (£12)	6½	7½	Modder "B"	68½	64½
Chartered	12½	12½	Do. Deep	7½	7½
City Deep	44½	44½	New Modder (£4)	19½	19
Cons. Gold Fields	18½	18	Rand Mines (5/-)	31½	34½
Cons. Langlaagte	25½	25½	Rio Tinto (£5)	63½	63½
Crown Mines (10/-)	37½	3	Van Ryn Deep	37½	38½

Canadian Steel shares hardened. Aerated Breads slumped heavily to 17½ on the absence of a final dividend. Textiles were dull, Coats being lower at 6.

Oil shares have been more or less neglected. "Shell" ordinary fell ½ and the preference ½, and Royal Dutch were 1 lower, while Anglo-Egyptian "B" relapsed to 9s. 6d. Roumanian Consols after relapsing to 12s. 9d. rallied sharply on the better war news, and closed at 15s. 6d. Lobitos were offered and dropped to 40s. 6d., but recovered to 41s. 6d. The Rubber

share market was affected by the report of Dutch proposals with regard to taxation, and if anything selling predominated. Here and there, however, the movements were in an upward direction, Tremelbye being better on the report and United Sua Betong improving to 60s. on the interim dividend. Java descriptions were naturally heavy, and although they recovered a little towards the end Telogoredjo closed with a loss of 4s. 6d. at 37s., and Langen were 5s. down at 46s. Java Investments were also lower at 21s. 3d., and Rubber Trusts relapsed to 25s. 6d.

LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

SUGAR.—Quotations were kept at recent level and a good demand continued for all descriptions. Stocks of raw descriptions in the three chief ports of the United Kingdom amount to 63,400 tons, against 47,000 same time last year.

COFFEE.—With no appreciable recovery in trade requirements, a fair quantity catalogued in auction was only partially disposed of at slightly easier prices. Some attractive consignments from Costa Rica, however, elicited fair patronage. The terminal market proved very quiet. December, sold, 45s. 9d.; March, 47s. 9d.

COCOA remained in the same dull and featureless state, and no auctions were held this week.

TEA.—Good and well-distributed competition prevailed this week, and full to occasionally dearer rates were secured, especially for the better liquoring grades. Some 48,000 packages Indian, 23,300 packages Ceylon, and 3,000 packages Java were offered.

SPICE.—Only a limited trade resulted in most directions, but rates held together fairly well as sellers refrained from pressing. White Singapore pepper, afloat, steamer, sold, 9d. Fair Zanzibar cloves, on spot, changed hands at 6½d. Tapioca moved off slowly on former terms.

RICE.—Actual business was of a retail character, at late values. Bran dearer, and beans maintained a firm level.

FIBRES were firm to dearer, as shippers adopted increased reserve. Of Manila hemp, fair October-December sold, £53 to £53 10s.; coarse ditto, £50 to £51. New Zealand, H.P.F., October-December, sold, £49 10s. to £51. Of jute, native first marks assortment, afloat, steamer, sold, £35 10s.; Daisee, No. 2, spot, £35. Native firsts, October-November, steamer, done, £35 to £35 15s.

SHELLAC slightly unsettled and weaker. T.N., December, done, 121s. 6d., 116s. 6d., and 118s. 6d.

RUBBER remained very quiet and without new feature. Crepe-spot, sold, 2s. 5½d., 2s. 4½d., and 2s. 4½d.; December, 2s. 5½d., 2s. 4½d., and 2s. 5½d.; January-March, 2s. 6d., 2s. 5d., and 2s. 5½d. Ribbed smoked sheet, spot, sold, 2s. 4½d., 2s. 3½d., and 2s. 4½d. Fine hard Para, spot, done, 3s. 4d.

COPRA market firm to rather dearer, and there was more doing this week.

METALS.—Copper: In the standard market a moderate business has been done, cash delivery improving by Tuesday to £123 10s., and three months to £119 10s. Some forward buying prevailed during the middle of the week, three months improving to £120. At Thursday's session cash was finally fixed at £124, and three months to £120. Tin: Realisations of near positions and forward offerings led to a declining market until Tuesday, when standard cash settled down at £178 10s., and three months at £179. The tendency strengthened until Thursday's meeting, when values of these dates moved up to £179 10s. and £180 5s. respectively, forward participating most. Spelter rather easier. G.O.B., October, £53; January, £50. Lead steady. Soft foreign, October, £30 10s.; January, £29 10s. Quicksilver, £17 15s.

CORN (Mark Lane).—The tendency was again in an upward direction since last Monday, small supplies, both spot and near, rendering sellers indifferent in their offers. Demand fair. Wheat: English whites and reds, delivered up, range to 74s. per qr., 504 lbs. Imported grades, No. 1 Northern Manitoba (old), 79s. 6d., ex ship. Flour: Minneapolis first spring patents, 56s. upwards, and Manitoba patents, 55s. 6d. to 56s. 6d., both landed. Grinding barley: American and La Plata nominal; Indian, 52s. 6d. upwards, landed. Oats: La Plata, landed, 35s. 6d. upwards. Maize: La Plata (sound), 52s. 6d. landed.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—There seems to be no end to the upward movement of prices in the market, and spinners and manufacturers have again been forced to raise their quotations in view of the stronger feeling in raw cotton circles. All along the line a stiff feeling has prevailed, and buyers have found very few opportunities of purchasing, except by paying full rates. Bullish news has continued to be circulated with regard to the American crop, and advices as to the probable output of Egyptian cotton this season are by no means favourable. The wages question in the weaving section of the trade has not yet been settled, but a further joint conference is to be held next week. With regard to the amount of business passing in piece goods for export, rather mixed reports have been received from manufacturers, and operations can only be described as irregular. Certain shippers have rather resisted the higher figures, but there is a fear of nursing orders in view of the general expectation of prices going further than ever against buyers. For India rather more inquiry has come through in grey goods, and occasional sales have been mentioned in jaconets, dhooties, and low shirtings. China buyers have provided a little more business in fancies and specialities, but standard makes in grey descriptions are still decidedly slow. The trade coming round for most of the minor outlets has not been of an important character, but fair sales from day-to-day total in the aggregate to very fair dimensions. Engagements tend to be increased in printed and dyed goods, and long delivery has now to be given in certain bleached cloths. Steady buying has occurred in home trade fabrics, and surprise is

expressed from time to time at the prices paid for cloths made from Egyptian yarns. American yarns for home consumption have been stiffly held at the advanced quotations. Producers of fine twists have rather strengthened their position, and certain numbers

CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 20, 1916.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
Sugar —per cwt. duty 14½, 98% polarisation	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Wool —per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tate's Cubes No. 1	2 7 1½	2 7 1½	Australian	1½-3 10	2 1½-3 10
Ditto, H.T.S.	2 6 7½	2 6 7½	Scoured Merino	1 8-2 9½	1 8-2 9½
Fine granulated	nom.	nom.	Scoured Cr'ssbr'd	1 3½-2 4½	1 3½-2 4½
Lyle's granulated	41 7½-42 1½	41 7½-42 1½	Greasy Merino	5-2 3½	5-2 3½
Foreign granulated, first marks f.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	1 1-1 9½	1 1-1 9½
German Cubes f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Cape snow white	1½-3 4	2 1½-3 4
French Cube	nom.	nom.	Indiarubber —per lb. Plantation, Spot	0 2 5½	0 2 5
Crystallised, West India	nom.	nom.	Crepe	0 2 5½	0 2 5
Beet, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Coal —per ton Durham, best	nom.	nom.
Tea —per lb., duty 7½ lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Indian Pekoe	0 8½-1 1½	0 8½-1 1½	East Hartlepool	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 9½-1 3½	0 9½-1 3½	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Orange	0 9-1 2	0 9-1 2	Steamers, best	4/1	37/6
Broken	0 9½-1 9	0 9½-1 10½	Seconds	3/1	3/1
Pekoe Souchong	0 8½-1 1½	0 8½-1 1½	Lead —per ton	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Ceylon Pekoe	0 8½-1 0½	0 8½-1 1½	English Pig	32 5 0	32 5 0
Broken	0 9½-1 3½	0 9½-1 10½	Foreign soft	30 10 0	30 10 0
Orange	0 8½-1 0½	0 9-1 1	Quicksilver —per bottle firsthand	£ 17½	£ 17½
Broken	0 10-1 2½	0 9½-1 2	Tin —per ton		
Pekoe Souchong	0 8-0 10	0 8-0 10½	English Ingots	£ 182-£ 183	£ 181-£ 182
Cocoa —per cwt. duty 6d. per lb.	£ s. s.	£ s. s.	Do. bars	£ 180-£ 181	£ 182-£ 183
Trinidad—per cwt.	31 0-85 0 81 0-85 0		Standard cash	£ 170 10 0	£ 170 10 0
Grenada	73 0-82 0 73 0-82 0		Tin Plates, per box	nom.	nom.
West Africa	70 0-74 0 70 0-74 0		Copper —per ton		
Ceylon Plantation	72 0-91 0 72 0-91 0		English, Tough	nom.	nom.
Guayaquil Arriba	96 0-98 0 96 0-98 0		per ton	nom.	nom.
Coffee —per cwt. duty 42½ per cwt.			Best Selected	£ 146-£ 143	£ 145-£ 143
East India	67 0-95 0 67 0-95 0		Sheets	£ 166	£ 166
Jamaica	62 0-120 0 62 0-120 0		Standard	£ 123	£ 124
Costa Rica	62 0-84 0 62 0-84 0		Jute —per ton		
Provisions			Native firsts for shipment Oct-Nov	£ 33 12 6	£ 36 0 0
Butter , per cwt.			Oils		
Australian finest	nom.	nom.	Linseed, per ton	£ 39½-£ 40½	£ 41-£ 42½
Irish Creameries	194/-196/-	192/-200/-	Rape, ref. English, barrels	£ 49-£ 51	£ 49-£ 51
Dutch ditto	194/-196/-	192/-196/-	Brown English, naked	£ 46	£ 46 0 0
Russian finest	nom.	nom.	Cott'n Seed, orange	£ 36 10 0	£ 39 10 0
Nonmandy baskets	nom.	nom.	Ditto, refined	£ 42-£ 52	£ 49-£ 52
Danish finest	206/-208/-	208/-210/-	Petroleum Oil, per 8 lbs.	1/1½	1/1½
Brittany rolls	17/6-20/6	17/6-20/6	Water White	1/2½	1/2½
doz. lb.			Oil Seeds, Linseed	—	—
Bacon —per cwt.			Calcutta—per 40 lbs., Oct-Nov	4 1 6	4 4 0
Irish	103 0-115 0 105 0-115 0		Rape, Toria	7/4	7/4
Continental	96 0-114 0 96 0-114 0		Iron —per ton		
Canadian	94 0-108 0 96 0-108 0		Cleveland Cash	nom.	nom.
American	98 0-102 0 98 0-101 0		Tobacco —duty, unmanufactured 5/6 to 6/2½ per lb.		
Hams —per cwt.			Maryland & Ohio	0 6-0 10	0 6-0 10
Irish	140/-152/-	142/-156/-	per lb. bond	0 8-1 6	0 8-1 6
Canadian	109 0-113 0 110 0-112 0		Virginia leaf	0 6½-0 10	0 6½-0 10
American	67 0-114 0 68 0-114 0		Kentucky leaf	1 0-3 0	2 0-3 0
Cheese —per cwt.			Latakia	1 0-3 0	1 0-3 0
Dutch	76 0 104 0 78 0-108 0		Havana	1 0-0 0	1 0-0 0
Canadian	110 0-114 0 112 0-114 0		Manilla	0 6-2 0	0 6-2 0
English Cheddar	112 0-116 0 118 0-124 0		Cigars, duty 10/6 per lb.	2/ upds.	2/ upds.
Wilt's loaf	nom.	nom.	Timber —Wood		
New Zealand	110 0-112 0 110 0-112 0		Pitch Pine	250/-270/-	250/-270/-
Rice —per cwt.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Ludian Teak	400/-600/-	400/-600/-
Garden Siam	17 9	17 9	Turpentine		
spot	17 9	17 9	American Spot	2 4 3	2 4 6
Rangoon 2 stars	17 0	17 0	Copra		
Eggs —per 120.			Malabar, London	nom.	nom.
English	25 0-27 0	27 0-29 0	Oct-Dec	nom.	nom.
Irish	23 0-23 6	23 6-24 6	Ceylon, London	34 10 0	35 2 6
Danish	24 0-26 0	24 0-27 0	South Sea	33 10 0	34 7 6
Spelter			F.M.S.	33 17 6	34 7 6
G.O.B. as to position	£ 56-£ 51½	£ 54-£ 51			
Flour —per sack.					
Town Households	57/	58/			
Official	57/	58/			
American First	nom.	58/ upds.			
Patents	nom.	58/ upds.			

are getting quite scarce. The general demand has been healthy. There has not been much doing in export yarns. Bolton spinnings have not been particularly active, but in view of the extremely high prices which prevail the turnover has been of fair extent.

Messrs. Fox, Fowler and Co., bankers, of Wellington, Somerset, and elsewhere, have taken into partnership Mr. Francis Hugh Fox (chairman) and Messrs. Thomas Fox and Charles Leslie Fox (directors), of Fox Brothers and Co., Ltd., woollen manufacturers, Wellington, Somerset.

GLENBOIG UNION FIRE-CLAY CO., LTD.—Including £4,034, or £869 more, brought forward, the nett profits for the year ended August 31 showed an increase of £12,868 at £30,277. Of this an extra £1,000 at £5,000 is written off for depreciation, and the dividend, which a year ago was reduced from 20 per cent. to 10 per cent., is now restored to the former level. Nothing is written off compared with £2,030 for depreciation of Cansols, but the balance carried forward is £2,992 up at £7,027. Stocks are £7,150 down at £26,763, but investments and cash have risen by £14,233 to £40,277, and sundry debtors owe £12,424 more at £34,047, against an increase of only £2,423 to £14,860 in current liabilities.

American Business Notes.

It is surely unfortunate for the people of the United States that nearly every public action of their authorities in foreign affairs should emphasise a meanness of attitude towards the conflict now raging in Europe, on the issue of which civilisation in the United States depends as much as our own. Especially has the attitude of the Washington Government been mean all through the series of heartless crimes perpetrated by Germany on the ocean. No infamy, not even the *Lusitania* atrocity, has been condemned by the President with the emphasis of a man roused to honest, nay, to holy, indignation by the crime. And as in large things, so in small. Could anything be more pettifogging than the attempt to quarrel with us over our right to search American mails? The contention of the French and British Governments in their reply to the Washington Government's memorandum of May 24 last on this subject of complaint is unanswerable, is based on America's own claims, but its deliverance will not prevent Washington pedants from continuing to snarl and mouth threats.

And look at this last tale of a United States destroyer attending the German submarine, and obeying its orders, guarding it, as it were, while the sinking of unarmed merchant vessels proceeded unchallenged. The Yankee ship was not, to be sure, superintending a great act of war, but merely assisted at a demonstration of spitefulness by an inhuman enemy at bay. The narrative telling how the trick was done is said to be by an officer, Lieut. William C. Carey, on board the commandeered United States destroyer *Benham*, and it is a yarn well calculated to add to the distrust, not to say the contempt, with which officialism in the United States has contrived to adorn itself when it handles extraneous affairs.

And on this submarine affair it would be folly to expect anything like straightforward, manly behaviour on the part of an administration which is in the throes of a Presidential fight. President Wilson probably could not act like a man of character and conscience even if he would until his party permits him. What can be the future of a great country whose behaviour as a member of the high comity of civilised nations is thus made to appear contemptible because of the frequently recurring vote cast by ignorant, passion-ridden mobs? It will be a future "rather mean," as John Mitchel said that of Ireland would probably be. [Washington officials deny the "obedience" to Germany and assert "humanity"—and the case looks rather worse than before.]

The Union Pacific Railroad earned gross \$104,717,000 last year, or \$17,759,000 more than in the year before, while working expenses expanded only \$6,446,000 to \$58,583,000. This accordingly gave the nett revenue from working an increase of \$11,312,000, making it \$46,134,000. When various adjustments have been made, however, and taxes to the amount of \$5,311,000, or \$670,000 more than for 1914-15, deducted, the available nett income of \$54,127,000 showed an improvement of no more than \$10,644,000. The company gave an extra \$2,441,000 to additions and betterments, raising the assignment in that direction to \$3,524,000, and kept down the dividend on the common stock to 8 per cent., thereby increasing the surplus carried forward by \$7,944,000 to \$13,488,000, which looks a commendable policy on the part of the directors. Most of last year's increase arose from freight; in fact, it alone gave over \$16,000,000 more. The mileage worked was 134 miles more, or an average of 7,918 miles.

A decrease of three miles is observable in the lines of the Illinois Central Railroad, bringing the average mileage worked down to 4,767. Such a change could have no influence on the earnings one way or another, and the company prospered sensibly in all branches of income, freight alone giving an increase of more than \$5,000,000. Altogether the earnings came to \$69,077,000, or \$6,966,000 more, and working expenses increased by only \$3,199,000 to \$51,174,000. Nett revenue from all sources was therefore \$4,939,000

larger at \$23,776,000, nearly \$900,000 more having been received as interest, dividends, &c. The 5 per cent. dividend was thus paid with the utmost ease, and the balance left to carry forward was larger by nearly \$5,000,000 at \$6,190,000. A mere \$41,000 was assigned to additions and betterments.

Insurance News.

Provisional arrangements have been made for the fusion of the Reliance Marine Insurance Co. with the Guardian Assurance Co. The latter is one of the very few composite insurance offices which hitherto have not transacted marine business, and the Reliance is one of the very few marine offices which have not been associated with fire offices. During the past few years many marine offices have joined forces with composite fire offices, the idea being that the connections of each company were of advantage to the other. The existing size of the Guardian company's capital made a further increase to pay for the Reliance business undesirable, and it has been decided to ask shareholders to contribute up to one-fourth of their ordinary shares for allotment to the Reliance shareholders. Further, the capital of the company, which at present consists of £2,000,000 in shares of £10, on which £5 has been paid, is to be divided into 200,000 fully-paid 5 per cent. non-cumulative preference shares of £4 each, and 400,000 ordinary shares of £3 credited with 10s. paid, or together £1,000,000, which is the present total amount paid up. Reliance shareholders are to be offered in exchange for each of their shares of £10 each with £2 paid, two of the Guardian new ordinary shares, plus 10s. in cash, this arrangement being conditional on not less than 80 per cent. of the Reliance shares being exchanged. It is estimated that this offer represents a market value of £10 a share, or about £1 above the level to which the Reliance shares have recently risen in anticipation presumably of some agreement. Guardian shareholders apparently may reckon on a similar capital appreciation with the prospect of receiving at least as much in dividend in the future as in the past year. The arrangement will thus appeal to all parties concerned as an attractive one. It will be necessary to obtain the sanction of the Court to the arrangement.

Another insurance amalgamation scheme is also announced. A recent advance in the price of the shares of the Legal Insurance Co. was assumed to be due to a pending arrangement with another office, and it is now stated that the Royal Insurance Co. has entered into an agreement to acquire by purchase the shares of the smaller office at 22s. 6d. a share. Established in 1907, the Legal has built up a premium income of some £200,000 on a paid-up capital of £100,000 in 100,000 shares with £1 paid, the issued capital being half a million. The Legal transacts all kinds of insurance except life, and its fire department has been considerably developed during the past two years. A few days ago there were dealings in the shares of the Legal on the basis of 16s. a share.

Advices from New York state that although confidence has been restored in insurance circles, underwriters and shippers are still cautious. War insurance rates have been reduced for South America and Panama voyages. From Holland the news comes that marine

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LIBERAL CONDITIONS.

WORLD-WIDE POLICIES.

Every Year a Bonus Year. Whole-life Policies, 20 years in force, show average increase of the sum assured by Bonus exceeding 50 per cent.

ENDOWMENT ASSURANCE RESULTS ALSO UNSURPASSED.

37, Threadneedle Street, London, E.C.

insurance premiums for Dutch ships to England have been doubled, and higher premiums for America are under consideration. The Norwegian War Insurance Club has also raised premiums considerably because of heavy losses sustained during September and October, amounting to over two millions sterling.

Tea, Oil and Rubber.

After dipping to 2s. 4½d., the price of standard crêpe has recovered a fraction, and a rather better demand has been experienced from consumers. Nevertheless stocks continue to accumulate, and although they represent only a little over two months' normal consumption, the tendency to increase is somewhat disconcerting to the bulls. The share market is getting over the flurry caused by the Dutch taxation proposals, but the market is still curiously uninformed about the actual position. It is said that the new tax was actually adopted some four months ago, although no mention was made of it until quite recently. How it came to be overlooked so long, and then suddenly to create such a furore, is a bit of a mystery; but the explanation probably is that the market had been going ahead too fast, and was ready to boil over on the slightest excuse. The reaction will do no harm, as it will help to impress buyers with the necessity for a reasonable amount of prudence in their purchases.

At the meeting of Harrisons and Crosfield, Ltd., the chairman, Mr. C. Heath Clark, mentioned the interesting fact that the average price of rubber for the past nine months was 2s. 10½d., against 2s. 4½d. for the corresponding period. It is the average price that mainly counts in company results, because as a rule the product of the estates can only be marketed gradually, but in any case the majority of companies must have done extremely well so far this year. Statistics with regard to United States consumption are always interesting to the industry, and Mr. Clark stated that in the year to June 30, 1915, America imported \$53,000,000 worth of rubber from Great Britain and the East Indies, while in the following 12 months the imports were \$123,000,000 (nearly £25,000,000). Exports of manufactured rubber from the States, however, only increased \$20,000,000 in the same period, and it seems obvious that by far the largest part of America's increased consumption is internal and not accounted for by purposes directly connected with the war. This furnishes better grounds for optimism with regard to the future of the industry than if war requirements were the principal contributing factor in America's huge absorption of the commodity.

The Inch Kenneth Rubber Estates has continued its policy of thinning out its trees during the year ended June 30, and as it was also hampered by shortage of labour the crop was only 28,144 lbs. larger at 283,546 lbs. Estate expenditure was heavier, owing to the inclusion of a considerable outlay on coolie lines, buildings, &c., which has been charged to revenue, and the "all-in" cost was further increased by higher charges for freight, war risk insurance, &c., with the result that it showed an increase of .95d. at 1s. 3.41d. Thanks, however, to an improvement of 4.91d. to 2s. 7.17d. in the price realised, the nett profits, including £572, or £447 more, brought forward, were £8,216 larger. Out of this the dividend is doubled at 40 per cent., £2,000 is again transferred to the debenture redemption fund, and £1,500 is placed to reserve, compared with £582 written off the cost of shares in the Reko Hospitals Association, leaving £5,669 more at £6,241 to be carried forward. During the year a further £2,000 of the debentures were redeemed, leaving £13,000 outstanding, against which the redemption fund is now brought up to a like total, and the investments representing it have been increased by £2,089 to £8,198, in addition to which the company holds £12,437, or £5,097 more, in Treasury bills and cash. For the current year a crop of 354,000 lbs. is expected.

Like the Inch Kenneth, the Bukit Lintang Rubber Estates is gradually cutting out trees on the older por-

tions of its property, and owing to this and to labour troubles the crop for the year ended June 30 was a trifle down at 279,121 lbs. The gross price was 3.85d. better at 2s. 6.78d., and although the "all-in" cost rose by .76d., it was still satisfactory at 1s. 1.12d. Nett profits were £3,648 better at £21,152, and with £2,631 brought in gave an available total of £23,783, or £4,580 more, out of which the dividend is again increased by 10 per cent. to 50 per cent., and a further £3,000 is transferred to reserve, leaving the balance carried forward £3,005 up at £8,480, which, however, is subject to excess profits duty, &c. During the year another £2,713 was spent on the Bemban Division, and after providing for depreciation the cost of the property was increased by £2,855 to £48,780. The crop for the current year is estimated at 300,000 lbs.

Excellent results were obtained by the Tremelbye (Selangor) Rubber Co. in its year ended June 30. The crop was 80,971 lbs. larger at 624,327 lbs., and although the "all-in" cost was .42d. higher, owing to the heavier freight charges, it was still very moderate at 12.80d. With an improvement of 3.56 to 2s. 7.09d. in the gross price, the profits, after writing off £2,546 for depreciation, amounted to £49,101, or an increase of £15,256, and to this was added £3,861, or £796 more, brought forward. The dividend is only increased by 5 per cent., but amounts to the comfortable figure of 50 per cent., and brings the total distributions since the company entered the dividend-paying ranks in 1909-10 up to 275 per cent. After transferring the usual £2,000 to reserve, the balance carried forward is increased by £12,602 to £16,463, in order to provide for excess profits duty. On balance the property account has been reduced by £768 to £95,619, and against this the reserve, including premium on shares, will now stand at £37,710. The crop for the current year is estimated at 650,000 lbs.

Very good progress was made by the Bernam-Perak Rubber Plantations in the year ended June 30, and it seems a pity in these circumstances that the directors still fail to come into line with the majority of plantation undertakings in the matter of giving the "all-in" cost. The output of rubber was 74,100 lbs. larger at 222,400 lbs., and the nett price realised was 4.57d. better at 2s. 5.35d., with the result that after again writing off £500 for depreciation, the nett profit is £7,673 up at £13,332. A much smaller balance of £389 was brought forward, but the surplus available is still large enough to permit of the payments of dividends of 13 per cent., tax free, on both the preference and ordinary shares, compared with 6 per cent. on the preference shares only a year ago. The reserve, however, gets £2,000, as compared with £7,000, and the balance carried forward is increased by £4,182 to £4,571. Capital expenditure was moderate at £1,984, making a total of £64,335, and the company has ample funds in hand, cash balances being £4,712 up at £5,228, in addition to which £3,000 is held in Treasury bills. For the current year a crop of 260,000 lbs. is expected.

It might do good if the shareholders in the Anglo-Roumanian Petroleum Co., Ltd., bestirred themselves, for the report just issued is such as to bring the English management of Rumanian ventures into contempt. In the year 1915 the output of crude oil was 13,200 tons, or only 385 tons less than in the previous twelve months, but the gross profit was nearly £18,000 less at a beggarly £2,760. And of this amount directors' fees absorb £1,050! These gentlemen, with Mr. J. C. Williamson as chairman and Mr. George Tweedy as managing director, do themselves well, however the shareholders may fare. After providing £7,450 for depreciation there is a loss of £7,380 on the year's trading, and the balance forward is reduced from £8,397 to £1,017. We cannot believe that this is the result of competent management, in spite of the difficulties that have had to be faced, and we are of opinion that the interruption to business caused by the war provides a favourable opportunity to try to put the concern on a proper footing.

SELETAR RUBBER.—A considerable amount of thinning-out was done during the year ended June 30, with the result that the crop fell considerably short of the estimate, and was only 2,187 lbs. larger than the previous year's output at 166,000 lbs. The gross price realised was 2.19d. better at 2s. 5½d., while the cost, f.o.b., Singapore, was reduced by 1.39d. to 1s. 0.72d., and nett profits consequently showed an increase of £1,529 at £6,059. A year ago provision had to be made out of the profit for the debit balance of £2,884 brought forward, so that the total now available is considerably larger, but instead of paying a dividend the directors write off £3,986 to extinguish preliminary expenses and carry forward £2,073 more at £3,720. Calls in arrear, amounting to £3,238, which had been regarded as a bad debt, were recovered during the year, so that the paid-up capital is now £75,000. A further purchase of the company's own debentures has been made, and including these the investments show an increase of £8,299 at £10,254. In the current year a crop of 200,000 lbs. is expected.

SUNGEI DANGAR (MALAY) RUBBER.—Tapping was recommenced in the year ended June 30, and a crop of 46,821 lbs. was obtained, as against an estimate of 30,000 lbs. The gross price realised was 2s. 7.07d., and the proceeds have been deducted from development expenditure. After allowing for this the outlay on development amounted to £7,510, making the total cost £68,640, exclusive of buildings, machinery, &c., on which £2,195 was spent, bringing the cost up to £2,955. A further £10,000 was received on first mortgage convertible debenture stock, but the directors say that further working capital is required, and although the agents are meantime financing the company, they consider that permanent arrangements for the balance of the capital required to bring the company to a dividend stage should now be made.

MARUDU RUBBER, LTD.—For the year to March 31, this company had a revenue of £9,100 and a nett profit of £4,955. Only £600 is absorbed in payment of a dividend of 5 per cent., while £2,000 is placed to reserve (subject to excess profits duty, which must surely be remitted, as the company has had a hard struggle for 24 years to make ends meet), and £2,355 is written off development account. The capital is £12,000 in £1 shares, but there is a loan (with interest) of £6,936 from the British North Borneo Co., and further expenditure will have to be incurred for new buildings, &c., this year to treat the estimated crop of 100,000 lbs. What a struggle with adversity is epitomised in these figures!

DJABOONG (JAVA) RUBBER.—In the early days of this company its coca crop was a useful source of revenue, as is shown by the fact that in its first year 491 piculs of leaves and 93 piculs of branches realised £5,041. The demand for this product, however, has now so entirely disappeared that, although the company has over 1,000 piculs of leaves in hand, it has failed to find a market, and has had to take the crop into the accounts at the nominal value of 1s. This big gap in the revenue-earning resources has been partly filled by the output of coffee, which in the 12 months ended March 31 yielded £2,272, as against nothing in the previous year. A small crop of 22,720 lbs. of rubber was also obtained, and altogether the profits rose by £921, to £2,074, of which £1,216 was retained as nett profit, and was carried forward, together with £460 brought in.

BATAVIA PLANTATION INVESTMENTS, LTD.—Rubber outputs for August, 73,890 lbs.; increase, 10,142 lbs. Eight months, 488,261 lbs.; increase, 43,644 lbs.

The Week in Mines.

Business in the Mining Markets this week has been less lively, and with a disposition to take profits in those shares which have recently shown bullish activity, prices have naturally shown a tendency to decline. Interest has revived in Central Minings, the Court sanction of the capital reduction scheme, granted this week, having given rise to anticipations that the promised dividend on the new shares will be forthcoming before very long. Central Chili coppers have spurted sharply, on the official forecast of a dividend, to 5s. 6d. The last distribution was one shilling a share, made nine years ago. The "boom" in Nigerian tin shares has not lasted long, profit-taking having given the market an easier appearance.

SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

In the South African market, in addition to Central Minings, which have risen $\frac{1}{8}$ to 7½, Modder Leases have been in good demand, and are 1s. 3d. higher at 52s. 6d. Oceana Developments have also been in request and are 6d. higher at 7s. 3d. Simmer Deepes have been active at just over 5s., and Sub Nigels have risen $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1¾. Nigels, however, have declined further to 2s. 6d. on the poor prospects of the company. Considerable offerings of City Deepes forced the price down to 49-32, but a recovery to 411-32 ensued, a decline of $\frac{1}{2}$ being shown on the week. Geduld have also relapsed $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2¾, Knight Centrals 1s. to 11s. 6d., East Rand Mining Estates 1s. to 16s. 6d., New Modders $\frac{1}{2}$ to 18½, Springs $\frac{1}{4}$ to 3¼, and Van Ryn Deepes $\frac{1}{8}$ to 3½. In the Rhodesian section, Falcons have risen 9d. to 14s. 6d., but Shamvas have fallen $\frac{1}{8}$ to 1¾. Tanganyikas have continued to meet with support, and are a shade higher at 2 23-32, while Zambesias have risen to 19s. 6d. Diamond shares have been very firm, on the increasing activity of the industry. De Beers deferreds have risen $\frac{1}{2}$ to 12½, Jagersfontein $\frac{1}{4}$ to 4½, and Premier deferreds $\frac{1}{2}$ to 5½. West

Africans have eased off slightly, notably Amalgamateds at 17s., Presteas at 8s. 3d., and Taquahs at 20s.

COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

A slight reaction in the Metal Market has weakened Copper shares. Rio Tintos have fallen $\frac{1}{2}$ to 63½, Mons Cupris 1s. to 6s. 9d., and Mount Lyells 1s. to 27s. Hampdens, however, have recovered 1s. 3d. to 35s. 9d. Broken Hills have strengthened on less pessimistic views being taken of the excess profits tax proposals of the Commonwealth Government. Norths, helped by the report, have risen 2s. 3d. to 46s. 3d., Proprietarys have recovered to 54s. 6d., and Sulphides 1s. to 25s. 9d. Tin has relapsed 30s., and the shares have moved downwards in sympathy under pressure of profit-taking sales. Dolcoaths have declined 9d. to 10s. 6d., East Pools $\frac{1}{2}$ to 15½, Jos Tins 9d. to 5s. 6d., Naraguta Extendeds 9d. to 7s. 9d., Rayfields (Nigeria) 1s. to 7s. 9d., and Siamese $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2½. South Bukerus, however, have advanced 1s. 3d. to 6s. 3d., and Rayfields (Cornwall) have jumped 9d. to 2s. 4½d. In the American section, St. John Del Reys have reacted to 16s. 6d., and El Oros 9d. to 8s. 9d. Alaska Treadwells have changed hands down to 2½.

Russian shares have been out of favour, especially Spasskys, which have fallen $\frac{1}{8}$ to 1½, and Russo-Asiatics, which are $\frac{1}{2}$ lower at 5½. In the Westralian department Lake View and Oroayas were sold on the report and declined 1s. to 11s. Active buying of Burma Corporations has lifted the quotation to 4½. Among Indian shares, Mysore declined 1-32 to 3 23-32 on the reduction in the dividend from 3s. 6d. to 3s. per share. Balaghat at 4s. 6d. and Nundydroogs at 27s. 3d. are also lower.

MINING NEWS.

NORTH BROKEN HILL.—In the half-year ended June 30, 70,200 tons of ore were treated for a production of 13,910 tons of concentrates, as compared with 138,484 tons, yielding 28,370 tons of concentrates in the preceding six months. The cause of the decrease was a strike, which reduced the amount of time worked to 12½ full weeks. Working costs rose from 18s. 2½d. per ton to 22s. 7d. per ton, owing to higher rates of wages, increased cost of materials, and general disorganisation caused by the strike. The smelting works at Port Pirie are now sufficiently enlarged to enable the output of the mine to be treated. Of the amount carried forward at December 31, £121,332 has been transferred to an equalisation reserve, and the balance, £11,403, is brought into the present accounts. The profit on working was £166,715, as compared with £196,059 in the second half of 1915; of this £10,000 has been placed to depreciation reserve, and provision has been made for income-tax, land tax, and royalty, but none for the war-time profits tax of 5s. per cent. Dividends amounting to 20 per cent. have again been paid, £6,666 is placed to debenture sinking fund, and £16,289 is carried forward.

LAKE VIEW AND OROYA EXPLORATION.—The report of this company for the year ended June 30 last is a cheerless sort of document. No dividends since December last have been received in respect of the large shareholding in the Lake View and Star, and, mainly in consequence of this, it has not been possible to continue the regular payment of dividends by this company. The profits declined from £35,910 to £12,971, and £7,500 was taken from reserve, and £22,295 was brought forward, making £42,766. The payment of two dividends of 5 per cent. each, the same as in 1914-15, absorbed £36,095. £6,007 is written off doubtful debts, and the carry-forward is reduced from £22,295 to £164. Portions of some of the company's holdings have been realised, but the interests in the Baldwin Syndicate, Burma Corporation and Zinc Corporation remain unchanged.

CENTRAL CHILI COPPER.—The report for the year ended December 31 states that the average price of standard copper during 1915 was about £72 11s. per ton, as compared with £59 10s. in 1914. Consequently, instead of a loss of £5,599, as in 1914, the mining and smelting operations resulted in a profit of £37,087. After making the usual provision for depreciation and London expenses, and deducting the debit balance of £27,874 brought forward from 1914, there remains a credit balance of £705 to be carried forward, subject to excess profits duty, if any, and income-tax. The tonnage smelted was 8,973 metric tons larger, and the fine copper produced increased by 246 metric tons. Gold and silver recovered amounted to £10,097. The directors add that the profits being earned by the company justify the expectation that the directors may be able to begin the payment of dividends, starting in the coming year, with a payment on account of profits earned during 1916.

British Burmah.—September production, 63,400 barrels.

British Maikop.—Week ended October 2, 2,649 poods (43 tons).

Maikop Combine.—Week to September 30, 11,271 poods (182 tons).

A branch of the National Bank of India, Ltd., has been opened at Tanga, East Africa.

Colonel Sir John Walter Otley has joined the board of the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway Co., Ltd., vice the late Colonel Sir William Bisset, R.E.

The directors of Lloyds Bank, Ltd., announce that Mr. Oswald Sanderson, of Hesse Mount, Hesse, East Yorkshire, has been elected to a seat on the board. Mr. Sanderson is a member of the council of administration of the Suez Canal Co., managing director of Messrs. Thomas Wilson, Sons and Co., Ltd., and a director of the North-Eastern Railway Co.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

Acme Tea Chest.—Final of 1s. 6d. per share on the ordinary, making 12½ per cent., less tax, for year, against 10 per cent., less tax.

Aerated Bread.—In view of the present unfavourable trading conditions the directors announce that they do not deem it advisable to recommend the payment of any balance dividend.

American Mortgage of Scotland.—Interim on the ordinary at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, same as last year.

Anglo-India Jute Mills.—Final of 15 per cent. on the ordinary, making 30 per cent., less tax, for the year. Last year 10 per cent. and a bonus of 5 per cent., both less tax.

Baker, Duncombe, and Co.—The balance-sheet, dated Sept. 30, shows:—Deposits and loans and bills re-discounted (including rebate and sundry accounts), £5,463,999, against £6,927,137; investments, £9,200, against £518,250; bills discounted (including re-discounts) and war expenditure certificates, £5,499,499, against £6,457,031; cash in hand and at bankers, £80,135, against £77,587.

Bradwall (F.M.S.) Rubber.—Interim on account of year ending Dec. 31 of 5 per cent., less tax, payable Nov. 9. For the whole of last year the dividend was 10 per cent.

Brazilian Traction, Light and Power.—1 per cent. on the ordinary, payable on Dec. 1, against ½ per cent.

Bristol United Breweries.—Final of 12s. per share for year ended Sept. 30, payable Nov. 16, making 10 per cent. for year, same as last year.

Burmah Oil.—Interim of 1s. 6d. per share, or 7½ per cent., free tax, on the ordinary, same as last year.

Consolidated Signal.—On the ordinary of 6d. per share (less tax) for year. For the preceding year only the preference dividend was paid.

Consolidated Trust.—Interim of 4 per cent. on the deferred, payable Nov. 17, same as a year ago.

Dusun Durian Rubber.—Interim of 5 per cent. (actual), less tax, payable Nov. 1.

International Banking.—At the rate of 6 per cent. per annum for half-year ended June 30; \$302,785 added to undivided profits, which will then amount to U.S. \$681,774. Last year the dividend was at the same rate.

Kamuning (Perak) Rubber and Tin.—Final of 10 per cent. (actual), less tax at 3s. 10½d., in respect of year ended June 30 last, making 20 per cent. for the year; placing £20,000 to reserve; forward, approximately, £6,352; payable Nov. 23; against 15 per cent. for previous year, £7,500 to reserve, and £5,651 forward.

Kinneil Cannel and Coking Coal.—Final of 7½ per cent., free tax, making 10 per cent. for the year; £5,000 to depreciation, £1,000 to reserve, and £1,514 forward, against 2½ per cent.

Kombok (F.M.S.) Rubber.—Interim on the ordinary of 7½ per cent. (actual), less tax at 4s. 6d., in respect of year ending Dec. 31, equivalent to 1 4.5d. per share, payable 28th inst., against 5 per cent.

Langkat Sumatra Rubber.—Interim of 10 per cent. (actual), or 2s. per share, in respect of year ending Dec. 31, payable 25th inst., less tax at 4s. 6d., against 7½ per cent.

Moss Isaacs.—For year ended Sept. 8 of 7½ per cent., same as a year ago, and share bonus distribution equal to 20 per cent. declared July 6, 1916.

Mysore Gold Mining.—Second interim of 3s. per share, less tax at 4s. 6d., on account of year ending Dec. 31, payable Nov. 10.

National Bank of Australasia.—On the ordinary for half-year ended 30th ult. at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, same as a year ago.

National Bank of South Africa.—Interim at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum (6s. per share) for six months ended Sept. 30, payable Nov. 27, same as a year ago.

Nizam's Guaranteed State Railways.—For six months ended March 31, 1916, at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, less tax, making 5 per cent. for year 1915-1916, payable Oct. 31, same as a year ago.

Norfolk and Western Railway.—Quarterly of 1 per cent. on the adjustment preferred, payable Nov. 18.

Nundydroog.—Interim of 1s. 2d. per share (less tax at 4s. 6d.) on account of year ending Dec. 31, payable Nov. 16, making 2s. 2d. per share (less tax) in respect of current year, being the same as for the corresponding period last year.

Province of Buenos Aires Waterworks.—At the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, free tax, for six months ended June 30 on the cumulative preference, payable Nov. 1.

Rio de Janeiro Tramway, Light and Power.—1½ per cent. on the issued capital stock, payable Nov. 1, same as a year ago.

Royal Bank of Canada.—3 per cent., being at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, for three months to Nov. 30, payable Dec. 1.

Sao Paulo Tramway, Light and Power.—2½ per cent. on the common, payable Nov. 1.

Seremban Rubber.—Interim of 5 per cent., less tax, against 3 per cent.

South Indian Railway.—Final of 1½ per cent., less tax, from surplus profits, payable Jan. 1, in addition to the guaranteed interest of 1½ per cent. for half-year ending Dec. 31, making 3 per cent. for half-year, and, together with the payment that was made on July 1, a total of 5½ per cent. for year, against 4½ per cent.

Spillers and Bakers.—Interim on the ordinary in respect of six months to Aug. 31 of 6d. per share, being at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, less tax at 4s. 10d., same as a year ago.

Trust and Agency of Australasia.—Interim of 6d. per share, free tax, on account of 1916 on the called-up ordinary, being at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, payable Nov. 17.

United River Plate Telephone.—Interim of 3 per cent. on the ordinary, free tax, for half-year to June 30, same as a year ago.

United Siam Betong Rubber.—Interim of 10 per cent. (actual), less tax, at 4s. 6d., in respect of year ending Dec. 31, payable Nov. 2, against 7½ per cent.

Virginia (Carolina) Chemical.—Quarterly of 2 per cent. (being at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum) on the preferred, payable Oct. 16.

Wolhuter Gold Mines.—7½ per cent. (1s. 6d. per share) for six months ending Oct. 31, against 6½ per cent.

Yorkshire Insurance.—The directors announce the payment on the 19th inst. of the second half of the dividend declared in May, being 2s. 6d. per share on the £5 shares (10s. paid) and 5s. on the fully-paid £1 shares, free tax, same as a year ago.

What Balance Sheets Tell.

NORTH OF SCOTLAND AND TOWN AND COUNTY BANK, LTD.

Profits for the year ended September 30 show a satisfactory increase of £4,818 at £122,648, and with £41,424 more brought forward, the amount available for distribution is £46,242 up at £216,147. The directors have never been in the habit of distributing anything like the full amount of the profits and maintain the dividend at the rate of 12½ per cent. This is paid less tax, and takes £12,225 less, but a sum of £17,319 is this time included for income-tax on dividends, so that the increase in the balance carried forward is £41,148 at £134,647. Notes in circulation show an expansion of £299,748 at £1,354,308, and deposits, etc., are £2,205,054 up at £11,611,969, while other liabilities have been reduced by a small amount. On the other hand, cash and money at call is £618,003 up at £2,282,058, but bills discounted, advances, etc., come to £575,878 less at £3,361,973. Further reductions have been made of £253,246 to £552,342 in loans to London brokers, and £193,820 to £529,285 in direct loans on stocks and other marketable securities, and investments in miscellaneous securities are also £333,349 down at £924,798, but the directors have increased their holding of Treasury bills by £2,990,000 to £3,750,000, and as war stock and other Government securities are up, the total investments are £2,503,134 higher at £8,550,439.

CENTRAL URUGUAY RAILWAY CO. OF MONTE VIDEO, LTD.

This company and its subsidiaries in the year to June 30 showed a welcome recovery over the results of the previous 12 months, although it could scarcely be expected that the pre-war level would be completely restored. Gross receipts were £79,500 up at £654,770, while working expenses were £78,000 higher at £432,780, leaving a nett profit of £221,990, or £1,500 more. To this has to be added the balance brought forward (up £3,800), profit on exchange (new) £17,200, and interest receipts, making the total available £328,610, an increase of £22,000. There is a small saving of £1,000 on fixed charges, and the free balance of £80,750 is £23,000 higher. This allows of the payment of a dividend of 1 per cent. against nil on the ordinary stock, and the balance forward is £6,300 higher at £64,250. On the main line the expense ratio advanced from 61.67 per cent. to 66.10 per cent., but on the combined system the increase was only 2 per cent. at 61.45 per cent. The Eastern Extension showed an increase of £23,074 in receipts, of £10,036 in expenses, and of £13,038 in nett profit. On the Northern Extension receipts were up £21,446, expenses £8,716, and nett profit £12,730. On the Western Extension receipts rose £18,190, expenses £9,790, and nett profit £8,400. All these figures may be regarded as encouraging, and they do not require further analysis. In the first half of the year Uruguay suffered from a visitation of locusts, which did considerable damage to the maize crop and interfered with pastoral industries, while the prolonged drought and cold weather adversely affected the herds of cattle. Severe financial and commercial depression was also experienced, and with the high cost of materials, increased wages, &c., it is surprising that the results are not more indifferent than we have shown to be the case.

MIDLAND URUGUAY RAILWAY CO., LTD.

For the year to June 30 the gross receipts were £124,950, an increase of £11,820, while expenses were £4,020 lower at £97,920, so that the nett profit was £15,840 up at £27,030. With the Government guarantee and a small profit on exchange there is an available balance of £107,300, which is sufficient to provide for fixed charges as well as £2,390 for conversion of coaches, leaving a balance of £6,665, which has been transferred to reserve account as provision for renewals, &c. A year ago £10,000 had to be withdrawn from special reserve to meet interest and other charges, and a small debit balance of £70 odd was carried forward. General business in Uruguay, it is stated, remained seriously restricted, and both passenger and goods traffic fell off, but the transport of cattle was favourably affected by the extensive purchase of animals for the European markets. On the other hand, the improved condition of the line and better weather allowed of considerable economies in permanent way expenses, and other working charges were kept as low as possible. All things considered, it is not a bad record.

H.H. THE NIZAM'S GUARANTEED STATE RAILWAYS CO., LTD.

A recovery of Rs. 5,50,413 to Rs. 37,60,979 in the gross earnings of the broad gauge system for the six months ended March 31 was unfortunately more than offset by an increase of Rs. 5,69,001 to Rs. 21,09,793 in working expenses, or 57.69

per cent. as against 49.86 per cent. a year ago, which was due to the much heavier outlay on maintenance of way, &c. When converted into sterling, however, the nett earnings were only £671 down at £106,079, of which £6,079 is payable to the Indian Government on account of the Bezvada extension, leaving £100,000, or the same as a year ago, to meet the debenture charges for the half-year, together with 5 per cent. on the capital stock. Much better results were obtained on the metre gauge system, where there was an improvement of Rs. 7,20,446 to Rs. 27,19,838 in gross earnings at the cost of an increase of only Rs. 1,45,367 to Rs. 13,22,013 in working expenses, the proportion being 10.24 per cent. down at 48.61 per cent. Nett earnings in sterling were £38,553 up at £93,188, and after deducting £3,871, or £871 more, paid to the Nizam's Government on account of the Hingoli branch and providing for debenture charges, £44,242, or £22,137 more, is available for division between the Government and the company. A dividend at the usual rate of 5 per cent. is declared payable on October 31.

BARSI LIGHT RAILWAY CO., LTD.

In the year ended March 31 there was a further decrease of Rs. 1,01,434 in passenger traffic and sundry receipts, which was only partly offset by an increase of Rs. 50,306 in goods traffic, but working expenses were reduced by Rs. 19,704, so that the nett earnings were only Rs. 31,424 down at 5,96,646. In sterling the nett revenue was £2,522 smaller at £38,142, and after providing for debenture interest and other charges the balance, including £12,749 brought in, was £2,667 down at £39,645. Of this £6,617, or £4,796 less, is transferred to the dividend equalisation fund, making it £65,000, and an extra £1,500 at £3,500 is set aside as provision for income-tax on undistributed profits. The dividend and bonus are then made up to 8 per cent., or the same as a year ago, leaving £11,128, or £1,771 less, to be carried forward. The directors state that the contract with the Secretary of State for India with regard to the proposed extensions to Lonand and Miraj has been duly executed, but that the question of raising the further capital for these lines must necessarily remain in abeyance while the present conditions continue.

BEIRA RAILWAY CO., LTD.

In its year closed September 30, 1915, a date which seems a long way off, the railway made a profit of £6,405, which, together with £7,420 brought forward, was credited to the depreciation and renewals account. Gross receipts for the year were £155,914 smaller at £342,663, while expenditure shrunk only £40,588 to £158,651. The nett revenue, however, was £115,326 down at £184,012, and all this disastrous-looking state of affairs is attributed to the war, doubtless with good reason. The traffic returns for the line from Beira to Salisbury, subject to audit for the ten months ending July 31 last, show an increase of £45,867, while expenditure has risen only £20,331, receipts being £339,737, and expenses £159,317; consequently, the nett revenue of £180,420 is £25,536 up. There is, therefore, a distinct improvement, which, we hope, will continue, and become much more pronounced after the war.

FREDERICK HOTELS, LTD.

War influences are again prominent in the report for the year ended June 30. The total business done exceeded that of the previous year, and the receipts showed an improvement of £6,588 at £289,617, but working expenses and cost of provisions, &c., consumed were £19,388 heavier at £224,824. After providing for repairs and maintenance and administration charges, the profit was £15,665 smaller at £40,014, and with £22,549, or £3,019 more, brought forward, the available surplus was £11,646 down at £62,563, out of which interest charges are met and £1,750 is reserved for income-tax. The directors are unable to repeat even the payment of the half-year's dividend on the preference shares, so that this is now 18 months in arrears, but they carry forward £23,726, or £1,177 more. During the year the French Government discontinued the use of the Hotel Bristol, Beaulieu, as a military hospital, and negotiations are proceeding with a view to settling the company's claim.

BOWDEN BRAKE CO., LTD.

This company was largely employed on war work in its year ended August 31, but the directors state that the increase in profits was mainly due to the extension of its ordinary trading, which necessitated the further extension of buildings and plant. In these circumstances the company is to be congratulated, seeing that the gross profits amounted to £34,842, or an increase of £17,277, and after providing for all charges the nett balance was £9,179 up at £14,663. With £3,646 brought forward and £59 written back from litigation reserve, the available total was £11,740 better at £18,368, and in addition to raising the dividends on the participating preference and ordinary shares from 6 per cent. to 10 per cent., an extra £2,000 at £3,000 is transferred to reserve, and £500 is again written off lands and buildings, leaving £12,106, or £8,460 more, to be carried forward, subject to excess profits duty. Extensions of the factory cost £3,017, making a total of £14,553, and machinery, &c., was increased by £5,016 to £16,740, against which the reserve will now stand at £5,000. Stocks are £8,220 up at £24,006, debtors owe £3,427 more at £12,254, and cash has risen by £736 to £1,032, while, on the other hand, sundry creditors and loans have risen by £11,211 to £21,526, but the bank overdraft has been reduced by £3,282 to £247.

THOMAS SMITH'S STAMPING WORKS, LTD.

Although this company only became a "controlled establishment" as from March 6, it placed the whole of its resources at the disposal of the Government throughout the 12 months ended August 5, and has done very well. After making provision for liabilities under the Munitions of War and Finance Acts, income-tax and depreciation, the profits were £8,399 larger at £41,299, out of which a dividend of 4s. per share, tax free, is paid, compared with 2s. and a bonus of 1s. in the previous year, and £20,000, or £2,163 more, is written off goodwill account to extinguish that item, leaving £5,155 to be carried forward, as against £3,856 brought in. Sundry creditors and special reserves have risen by £34,739 to £59,050. On the other hand, investments, cash and bills are £39,924 up at £71,322, while debtors owe £15,790 more at £44,474, and stocks are £3,480 up at £22,803.

GOODE, DURRANT AND CO., LTD.

In spite of the difficulties caused by war conditions this company benefited from the good harvests throughout Australia to such an extent that its nett profits for the 12 months ended July 20, after providing for excess profits duty showed an increase of £5,006 at £33,771. The dividend, which a year ago was reduced by 2 per cent. to 8 per cent., is now restored to the 10 per cent. level, and the appropriations to general reserve are resumed with £5,000, leaving £3,196, which is added to the balance of £30,335 brought forward, and transferred to a balance of profit reserve to meet the requirements of the Australian income-tax authorities. Liabilities to sundry creditors and on bills payable have risen by £67,134 to £247,923, against which stocks are £53,239 larger at £392,436, debtors and bills receivable come to £284,135, or £15,655 more, and cash is £4,090 up at £5,960.

BRITISH CANADIAN TRUST, LTD.

In accordance with the request of the Government, this company released a portion of its American investments and brought home the money, part of which was used in paying off liabilities and part invested in Government securities. Investments in mortgage loans in Canada and the United States, therefore, show a reduction of £11,447 at £384,991, and bonds, stocks and shares of railroad and other companies are £15,491 down at £101,619, against which £11,780 has been invested in British Government securities. As a result of these changes there was a reduction of £2,148 to £29,972 in the gross revenue, and after providing for interest and other charges the available balance, including £3,314, or £1,102 more, brought forward, was £2,291 smaller at £18,665. The ordinary shares again get a dividend of 5½ per cent., but £1,500 less at £5,000 is transferred to contingent fund, leaving £3,696, or £382 more, to be carried forward. A few properties, chiefly in Canadian cities, have fallen into the company's hands through foreclosure, and the item of real estate is £7,280 up at £8,913, but the directors say there is no expectation of any loss thereon.

ROSARIO DRAINAGE CO., LTD.

A third section of this company's new area was completed in the year ended June 30, and the number of house connections was further increased by 724 to 7,649. Gross receipts rose by £5,234 to £62,809, and as working expenses were only £1,369 up at £14,128 the nett revenue of £48,681 was £3,865 better. After providing for interest and other charges and adding £13,114, or £2,980 more, brought in, the disposable total was £3,911 better at £30,707, out of which a dividend of 3 per cent. is again paid and £5,000, or double last year's amount, is transferred to reserve, leaving £1,411 more at £14,631 to be carried forward. Capital expenditure amounted to £34,616, and as a further £2,000 of the prior lien debenture stock was redeemed the debit balance on this account is now £74,321, against which there are sinking funds for redemption of the debenture stock and share capital aggregating £26,266. Cash and bills are £8,592 down at £15,066, and in addition the company has had to obtain a loan of £16,500.

HOPE BROTHERS, LTD.

A little recovery from the sharp set-back experienced a year ago is shown in the profits for the 12 months ended August 31. The total, after providing some £300 more for depreciation and redemption of leases, being £2,719 up at £37,063. Most of the improvement, however, was swept away by the larger amount spent on advertising, and as £1,239 less at £14,451 was brought in the available balance is £625 smaller at £42,327. The dividend on the ordinary shares is maintained at the 4 per cent. to which it was reduced last year, and £625 less at £13,827 is carried forward. Stocks are £11,420 up at £205,085, but debtors show a decrease of £2,301 at £11,663 and cash is £1,051 down at £15,607 against an increase of £3,708 to £35,365 in sundry creditors. In order to facilitate the working of the business it has been decided to terminate the company's financial year at the end of February in future.

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COMPANY MEETINGS.

THE ANGLO-SOUTH AMERICAN BANK,
LIMITED.

BUSINESS IN ARGENTINA AND CHILE.

THE twenty-eighth annual general meeting of the Anglo-South American Bank, Ltd., was held on Wednesday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Sir Robert Harvey, the chairman of the company, presiding.

The Manager and Secretary (Mr. Albert K. Raphael) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' certificate.

The CHAIRMAN said: Gentlemen,—Before commencing my customary address on the pecuniary subjects which interest us directly in connection with our business I would like to refer to the members of our staff who are serving with his Majesty's Forces. The number who have joined from the beginning is now 146, of whom, I have with great regret to state, 12 have been killed, 15 wounded, two are prisoners, and five have left the Forces medically unfit. I am sure you will agree with the board in sincere expressions of regret that these men, who have devoted themselves to the service of their country, have in so many cases lost their lives and in others suffered from disablement or imprisonment. You can imagine that such a depletion of our staff has been attended with considerable inconvenience. In replacing the absentees we have given preference to men ineligible for the fighting forces, and after exhausting the list of suitable candidates of that description have engaged a staff of ladies in London, whose services are giving entire satisfaction, although allowance has to be made in many cases for the absence of business experience.

THE GOVERNMENT BORROWINGS.

The success of our bank depends very much on the margin in interest obtainable in South America over that which is current here, and as the latter is fixed during this war-time by the Government borrowing operations, which have been many and varied during the last 12 months, including a variety of Exchequer bonds, of War Savings certificates, and Treasury bills, on some of which as high a rate as 6 per cent. per annum interest is paid by the British Government, you can realise that it has been no easy task for us to obtain a reasonable margin of profit at our branches abroad.

In passing, I would like to refer to the interesting fact that the total amount of Government Treasury bills issued here rose quite recently to as much as £1,000,000,000—a volume of floating debt which, even although it has cost from 5 per cent. to 6 per cent. per annum, is, I believe, a wonderful evidence of the confidence of the country in the ultimate successful outcome of the hostilities. (Hear, hear.)

THE NEW YORK OFFICE.

When we last met I referred to the many changes in business methods which we had to face during the preceding year, and I alluded in particular to the increase of direct transactions between South America and the United States. I am happy to tell you that the figures which are given in our balance-sheet now before you include a very satisfactory improvement in the earnings of our New York office as the result of the development of these operations.

AN OFFICE OPENED IN BARCELONA.

The policy of our bank has for some years included the opening of our own offices in such places on the European Continent as have a sufficient volume of direct transactions with Chile and Argentina to encourage the hope that a profitable business might be developed. In pursuance of this policy we have made arrangements for the opening of an office in Barcelona, at 2, Paseo de Gracia, which we expect will commence business on November 1, and as we are the only British bank established in Spain we look forward with confidence to receive the support of all our compatriots trading with that country. You will be glad to hear that this step has met with the cordial approval of his Majesty's Government.

PROSPERITY IN THE ARGENTINE DESPITE DIFFICULTIES.

In the Argentine all bankers have had special difficulties, although the country has prospered. The enormous increase in currency produced by the heavy exports of recent years at high prices has produced a plethora of money, resulting in a great fall in the rate of interest, which is now below that current in England. The crops in general came up to expectations, but owing to the difficulties in procuring tonnage to bring away the produce the wheat export was slow, and some has not even yet been shipped. The crop for this year in wheat, oats, barley, and linseed was estimated to produce about the same exportable quantity as last year, but the quantity of

maize is undoubtedly less. The most recent telegraphic advices regarding the weather have been unfavourable, indicating drought, especially in the northern cereal zone, whilst the locust has also appeared, and may do more damage than in average years.

CROP PROSPECTS IN THE ARGENTINE.

We have a telegram from our Buenos Aires manager giving the following information regarding the prospects of the coming crops:—"Wheat prospects south and west so far generally good. Cordoba and Santa Fé bad, but not yet hopeless. Oats generally good. Linseed largely lost, and outlook extremely poor. Maize so far normal. Immediate good rains wanted all over Republic. Business conditions inclined to improve, but subordinated to crops outlook." The meat export, as well as cereals, is taken, to a very large extent, for account of the Allied Governments, and the finance does not naturally leave as satisfactory a percentage of profit for the bank as we were able formerly to obtain from commercial houses, so that we are, perforce, obliged to be content with a much smaller remuneration in this respect.

The exchange has risen to a price which is quite a record for recent years, being quoted at 49 9-32d. for cable transfers, after having been as high as 49 7-8d. per dollar. As you may know, in pre-war days the rate of exchange was adjustable by the import and export of gold, but to-day it is not possible to operate in that direction, and consequently there is nothing to prevent the value of the Argentine currency from following the course of trade without limitation. The result, unfortunately, is that a larger price has to be paid for our British importations, and it is to be hoped that some means may be adopted whereby this may be avoided.

The commercial situation in Mendoza province, which depends on the wine industry, has not changed materially since last year. For the first time a certain amount of wine has been exported from Argentina to France, and we understand that the result encourages a further trial. The prices obtainable locally are somewhat better than they were previously, and the condition of the leading firms is thereby to a certain extent improved.

EXPANSION OF BUSINESS IN CHILE.

With reference to Chile, I am pleased to inform you that the volume of the bank's business has shown considerable expansion, with results which are entirely satisfactory; indeed, there is abundant evidence to show that the bank's credit and the bank's capacity to undertake any desirable business which may offer never stood higher than at the present day. (Cheers.) As you are aware, the principal Chilean export is nitrate of soda. During the past year the price of this commodity has fluctuated considerably, but it has never reached the low level that it did two years ago. When I last addressed you it was at 9s. 3d. per quintal; it has been, since then, for a time slightly under 7s., but during recent months there has again been a gradual rise, and to-day it stands at about 8s. 10d. for ordinary, or 95 per cent. nitrate, for early delivery—a price which is remunerative to most producers, although the fact that the cost of materials of all kinds has risen considerably must be borne in mind. The future delivery price is about 8s. 2d. Production has shown extraordinary expansion; for the year ended September 30 last it was 63,000,000 quintals, as against 30,500,000 quintals for the previous year; and the fact that the f.o.b. price is maintained is evidence that the consumption fully corresponds to the production notwithstanding the great scarcity and the high cost of freights.

CHILEAN LOCAL INDUSTRIES.

Shipping business, coalmining, sugar refining, and other local industries are in a flourishing state. The price of wool—of which Chile grows large quantities in the south—has been maintained at a high level, as have likewise prices for frozen mutton and other produce, whilst copper—another staple product—has, as you know, commanded very high prices for a long time past. To these facts, in conjunction with a restricted general import business, is due the prosperity which the country is enjoying to-day.

One result of this is the very great appreciation which has been witnessed in exchange. After remaining more or less stationary for a long time in the neighbourhood of 8d. per dollar, there has been a gradual, but by no means uniform, tendency to a higher level. During the last month or two this upward tendency has been accentuated, and to-day we see the rate at 10 13-32d. When I say that this rise from 8d. to 10 13-32d. represents an appreciation of 30 per cent. in the value of the bank's currency capital employed in Chile you will, I think, fully realise how gladly we welcome it. As you are aware, that capital has been written down in our books from time to time, and now stands at 10d. per dollar. The fact

that the rate has risen to its now comparatively high level seems to present a favourable opportunity for putting the currency of the country on a sound and stable basis. The matter is one which has received, and no doubt will continue to receive, the close attention of the Chilean Government.

INTERESTS ELSEWHERE IN SOUTH AMERICA.

All I have had to tell you so far deals with the countries where we are directly established—that is, where we have our own branches; but, as you know, we have interests elsewhere in South America—especially in Peru and Bolivia. With regard to the former country, it is gratifying to observe that one result of the European war is that they have been able to obtain very good prices for their produce, such as sugar, copper, &c. In spite of the fact that the Peruvian Government has, so far, failed to obtain the loan which they are seeking in the United States, nevertheless, by means of the newly-created export taxes on sugar and minerals, they have been able to set their house in order. They are at the present moment endeavouring to make internal financial arrangements which will have the effect of lessening the tension, and the situation is gradually, but very definitely, improving. The universal confidence, both at home and abroad, that the Government of President Pardo inspires has contributed not a little to these satisfactory conditions, and the economic measures which he has introduced already have proved that such confidence is not misplaced. The general improvement is, indeed, reflected in the exchange, which shows Peruvian currency at a premium of nearly 5 per cent.

In Bolivia we find very much the same position, in that the greatly increased volume of exports over imports, and the very high prices that their produce has commanded, have found their reflection in the exchange. During the last 18 months the dollar has risen from 15d. to as high as 19½d., or actually above the intrinsic value of the Boliviano; and the economic situation of the country may therefore be regarded with the liveliest satisfaction.

It may, perhaps, not be out of place to mention once more to you that our interests in Mexico, where a state of chaos still prevails, are small.

THE BALANCE-SHEET.

I would like to refer now to the accounts. You will observe that our bills payable have increased by £1,000,000, whilst our current accounts and fixed deposits are £1,100,000 higher, and the total additional liability on these two items is almost entirely represented on the other side of the account by an addition of £1,900,000 to bills receivable, of which, I may mention, over £1,000,000 are English Government Treasury bills. (Hear, hear.) Our cash in hand is £100,000 less, but this is equalised by the increase in English Government securities of £128,000. Holdings in foreign banks have decreased by £50,000, owing to certain sales during the year. Our advances have gone up by £390,000, and we are glad to welcome a moderate return of safe and liquid business, which had in the previous year shrunk considerably.

THE PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT: THE INVESTMENTS.

The profit and loss account shows that we earned in gross profits £49,000 more than last year, but about £11,000 of this is absorbed by rebate and £25,000 by additional income-tax, so that, after allowing for an increase in charges of £24,000, to which I will refer in a moment, our nett profit for the year has decreased by £11,000. We greatly regret that the charges have had to be increased, but I am sure you will not grudge any part of the amount when I tell you that £12,000 goes to pay the allowance to men who are fighting for us, and an additional sum also has to be provided for salaries in consequence of the greatly increased cost of living.

As regards the distribution of the profit, we have provided a sum which enables us to say that our investments were worth, at the date of the balance-sheet, the full sum which they represent in the accounts; they are to-day of the same and possibly a slightly higher value. I hope that in due time a good part of the amount now and previously provided may be recovered by a rise in values. The depreciation is not peculiar to any particular class of holding, but common to all. We suggest a final dividend of 5s. per share this half-year, making a total of 9 per cent. for the year, less income-tax, as against 8 per cent. last year, which will leave us with a slightly higher amount to carry forward—namely, £140,000. We are sure that you will approve of this moderate increase of dividend, which will compensate the shareholders for the higher rate at which income-tax has to be deducted.

APPRECIATION OF THE SERVICES OF THE STAFF.

I desire, in conclusion, to express our appreciation of the services of our staff, abroad and at home. With so many of

the trained officials absent from their posts, the difficulties of those who remain are quite abnormal, and in carrying on the work of the bank they are contributing, as far as in them lies, to the national work of the moment. Their duties are carried out cheerfully and loyally, and their labours have produced, I think we may say, a very excellent result in the balance-sheet which you now have before you. I am pleased also to say that the result of the quarter ended at September 30 has been fully up to our expectations.

I now beg to move the resolution, and when it has been seconded I shall invite any comments which you may have to make in reference to the report now submitted. I beg to move:—"That the report and balance-sheet as distributed be adopted, and that a final dividend at the rate of 5s. per share, less income-tax, be and is hereby declared, payable on the 25th inst." I will ask Mr. Barclay to second that.

Mr. E. E. Barclay seconded the motion, which was at once unanimously agreed to.

The Chairman: The next resolution I have to move is: "That Mr. Robert John Hose and Mr. Alfred Naylor, two of the retiring directors in accordance with the articles of association, be, and hereby are, re-elected." I will ask Mr. Woodsend to second that.

Mr. Thomas Woodsend seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. A. G. Gumpert, seconded by Colonel Westropp, Messrs. Price, Waterhouse, and Co. were re-elected auditors of the company for the year ending June 30, 1917.

The Chairman: That concludes the business of the meeting.

A CORDIAL VOTE OF THANKS.

Mr. J. W. Woodthorpe: Ladies and Gentlemen,—Before we separate, I think you will agree with me that our thanks are due to our worthy chairman for the very lucid and interesting exposition he has given us of the state of the bank's affairs. I also think that our thanks are due to our board of directors—which, of course, includes Mr. Hose, our managing director—for the very close attention they must have given to matters connected with the bank during the critical times through which we are passing. Further, I venture to think that our thanks are also due to the managers and the members of the staff, not only in London, but also to those abroad, because without their assistance the satisfactory results which we have to-day could, I venture to suggest, never have been attained. In conclusion, I beg to propose that the thanks of the meeting be given to the chairman, the board of directors, the managers, and the members of the staff, both at home and abroad, for the valuable services they have rendered, and are continuing to render, in the interests of the bank. (Cheers.)

Mr. Lionel Barber seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman: Gentlemen,—On behalf of my colleagues and myself, as well as of the staff at home and abroad, I beg to thank you most sincerely for your kind vote of confidence and thanks. I am especially pleased to know that the proposer of the resolution mentioned particularly the managing director. (Hear, hear.) As you must know, in an undertaking of this description, the principal part of the burden of administration falls on the shoulders of the gentleman who holds that important position. With respect to ourselves, the directors, our efforts would be quite useless were we not so well backed by a remarkably good staff, who have willingly and most energetically carried out all our wishes and desires. I beg to thank you most sincerely, gentlemen, and I hope that the next time we meet we shall have a still more satisfactory balance-sheet than that which we have presented to you to-day. (Cheers.)

The proceedings then terminated.

BRITISH BANK FOR FOREIGN TRADE.

FAVOURABLE SALE OF RUSSIAN BANK SHARES.

DIRECTORS' POLICY UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

An extraordinary general meeting of the members of the British Bank for Foreign Trade, Ltd., was held on Monday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., for the purpose of submitting a resolution providing for the reduction of the capital of the company. Mr. C. Birch Crisp (the chairman) presided.

The Chairman said: Gentlemen, this company was established at the beginning of the year 1911. Its founders did not foresee the war of 1914, wherein they were no wiser than the rest of mankind. Nevertheless, speaking for myself, I can say that German aggressiveness was regarded as a menace, but my Russian friends assumed with me that the development of closer relations between Great Britain and Russia would be a counterpoise, and would make for the preservation of peace. The pene-

tration of Germans into every sphere of commercial activity, and their growing intolerance of British enterprise in Russia, was most marked. My Russian friends were concerned at the growth of German influence in London, and the consequent disfavour extended to Russian loans, even of the best class. It was suggested that a new bank should be formed by British capitalists favourable to Russia, which was to be quite independent of those London issuing houses which favoured Berlin rather than St. Petersburg. As no foreign bank could, under Russian laws, open a branch in Russia, our friends there advocated the acquirement of shares in a Russian bank, thereby obtaining a status in Russia and propitiating Russian sentiment. The inducement held out to us to start the enterprise was a promise of business which would assure to the new bank large deposits and a substantial revenue. The promise was redeemed to the fullest extent right down to the outbreak of war. I may remind you that between the years 1911 and 1914 this bank figured upon the prospectuses of the issues of bonds guaranteed by the Russian Government and Russian municipal bonds for £19,761,480. Besides acting as an issuing house, like the London merchant bankers, whose names are world famous, the bank was to grant acceptance credits to traders, and support was to be accorded to the market for Russian bonds by the bank granting loans against such bonds. If we assume that the scheme of operations I have described was sound, I may be faced with the inquiry: Were the bank's operations conducted with prudence? An examination of our figures, taken after many of the transactions entered upon in the pre-war period had run off or had been adjusted, supplies, in my opinion, an answer which every fair-minded critic will consider to be conclusively satisfactory.

I will not detain you by reciting the reasons which determined your board to sell 30,000 of the bank's holding of Russian commercial and industrial shares. A suggestion has reached me that by selling these shares the bank's *raison d'être* is gone. I do not admit that the bank has thereby lessened its chance of resuming, after the war, the issue of those Russian bonds of the highest class with which its name was identified before the war. The Entente between Russia and Great Britain is now so strong as not to require further sacrifices on our part, and for us to have remained the owners of the shares would have entailed upon the shareholders of this bank greater risks than your directors cared to face.

The committee recently appointed by the Board of Trade, and presided over by Lord Faringdon, recommends in its report the establishment of a British Trade Bank. A study of that report may lead you to recognise a similarity of aim between the future programme of the projected bank and the avowed objects for which this company was formed. If the report should lead to the establishment of the bank on the lines recommended by the committee, it will be welcomed by many. It should not be given subsidies or privileges denied to others, nor should it receive a promise of exclusive Foreign Office support for its overseas dealings. If, however, Parliament in its wisdom should decide to vote public moneys to subsidise the newcomer, or if Parliament should countenance the granting of exceptional privileges, such action would react to the detriment of British trade. Others not so favoured would be driven from the field, and free competition, which is the life-blood of sound business, would be eliminated. After the sporadic activity imparted to a mere section of trade had evaporated, there would be less facilities rather than more for everybody.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks to the chairman and directors closed the proceedings.

MITRE SHIPPING CO.

The annual general meeting of the Mitre Shipping Co., Ltd., was held on Tuesday at their registered office, 17, St. Helen's Place, E.C., Mr. Howard Houlder, J.P., the chairman of the company, presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. E. A. Nightingale) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report, and other formal business having been disposed of,

The Chairman said: The nett profit for the year is £49,421 16s. 3d., which, with the balance of £2,756 12s. 6d. brought forward, leaves £52,178 8s. 9d. to be dealt with. Dividends amounting to 15 per cent. per annum upon the subscribed capital have already been distributed, absorbing £27,117 7s. 6d., leaving a balance of £25,061 18s. 3d. to be carried forward. The vessels of the company's fleet generally have efficiently performed their work, although the directors deplore the total loss of the s.s. *Linda Fell* with all hands in a hurricane in September, 1915, and the fire on the s.s. *Wisley*, with consequent stranding, in May, is a matter of great regret, involving the loss of her earning power for several months. As regards the future, it is well to speak with diffidence and reserve. The conditions at present are so unprecedented that the directors

feel their first duty to be the conservation of the resources of the company. There would appear to be very little prospect of any reduction in the cost of shipbuilding for a long while, but at the same time, for various reasons, the freight market may not be maintained at a level proportionate to the cost and upkeep of tonnage. The extent of taxation and the possible restraints placed upon shipping by Government action may seriously affect the industry, and render caution necessary. But, however this may be, it is in the national interest that shipping companies should build up their reserves to the greatest extent possible, in view of the future competition with the ship-owners of other nations, many of whom have been making profits vastly exceeding those of British shipowners, which competition is sure to be acute at no very distant date. It is not too much to say that the maintenance and expansion of our overseas commerce, upon which the development, and even the very existence, of the British Empire depends, is wrapped up in the supply and efficiency of our Mercantile Marine. Much is being said about key industries at the present time. If there is such a thing as a key industry for this country, surely it is that of shipping! There is ground, fortunately, for thinking that the responsible members of the Government fully recognise the importance of this question, and will not so act towards shipping in response to the clamour of possibly well-meaning, but uninstructed, people as to prejudice gravely a vital interest of the nation. But those who control our shipping companies must do their part, which is to strengthen the financial position of the industry committed to their charge. It is for this reason that your directors think that the dividend already paid for the year under review is all that they are justified in recommending, and in their view excessive distribution to shareholders, which is the practice in some quarters at the present time, is much to be deprecated. The directors are of opinion that the services rendered under trying circumstances by the masters, officers, and engineers in the employment of the company should be recognised in some special manner. The nation at large owes a great debt to the courage and spirit of those responsible for the navigation of our ships, and I feel sure that all the shareholders will be only too glad to show their appreciation in this tangible manner.

Mr. Frank E. Dixon seconded the resolution, which was unanimously agreed to.

The Chairman then proposed: "That the sum of £1,500 be distributed among the captains, officers, and engineers of the fleet for services rendered by them during the year ended June 30, 1916, the respective proportions being left to the discretion of the managers."

Mr. T. L. M. Rose seconded the resolution, which was unanimously carried.

ASSAM RAILWAYS AND TRADING.

The 36th ordinary general meeting of the Assam Railways and Trading Co., Ltd., was held on Wednesday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Lord Ribblesdale (the chairman) presiding.

The Secretary, Mr. S. Maclean Jack, having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman first dealt with the railway accounts. The profit shown, £37,303, was, he said, a substantial advance on the previous year, and was well above the average of the last five years. The income of the railway showed an increase of £8,400, every item in the accounts, excepting the coaching traffic, being higher than in 1915. The coaching traffic had suffered a little because they had not had any movement of troops during the year, and also because the tea industry had been importing fewer coolies—both points special to the year and showing no indication of being anything more than temporary drawbacks. The expenditure showed an advance, but as they had handled a larger volume of traffic, that was only to be expected. Apart from this natural increase, owing to the behaviour of the River Brahmaputra the transshipment at the Ghat had been much more expensive, and a very large amount of extra shunting had been incurred. Then, again, the whole of the materials used for the maintenance and repair of their rolling stock and other property had advanced in cost. On this question of the rolling stock it would be seen from the accounts that they had put 50 covered goods wagons into service, which represented an additional stock, and 140 high-sided wagons, which were chiefly replacements of old worn-out vehicles. Two new bogey passenger coaches had been completed and put into service and six more frames would shortly be shipped, and when the bodies for those had been erected at their workshops in Dibrugarh the whole of their coaching stock would be of a design which would compare favourably with that of any metre-gauge railway in India, or even in Egypt, where the same sort of railway existed. There could be no doubt that this improvement in their coaching stock was responsible for a corresponding improvement in the returns they got from their passenger traffic. Regarding their collieries, their output was not quite so large as last year, but it was well up to the figure which under present conditions they regarded as their normal average—namely, 300,000 tons. The sales showed a satisfactory increase, while the expenditure was practically the same. As to their investments, the dividends in the Rivers Steam Navigation Co. and the Assam Oil Co. were on the same lines as the previous year, though the dividend paid by the first was now less income-tax. The Makum Co. had been able to increase its dividend, and had had a very successful

season. Next they came to the question of tea and to their own tea garden. This garden had been registered at Somerset House as the Namdang Tea Co., and as soon as they got the permission of the Treasury the shareholders of this company would be given the first chance of subscribing for the shares. It had not been found possible to offer them an opportunity of subscribing for the debentures placed in Calcutta. The garden itself was developing satisfactorily, and they had no reason to change their opinion of its future. They could not look for any returns for a year or two, but he thought that probably in 1919 they would begin to pay dividends and would begin with a substantial distribution, which he hoped would be maintained. To sum up, the company's own enterprises, railways, colliery and timber were all doing well, and he thought the shareholders could look to the future with quiet confidence. He moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. Walter Butler seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

ERICSSON SHIPPING CO.

The annual meeting of the Ericsson Shipping Co., Ltd., was held on Wednesday at the company's offices, 4, St. Nicholas' Buildings, Newcastle, Mr. A. F. Ericsson presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the directors' report and statement of accounts, already published, said the result of the year's trading would have been very much better if the *s.s. Monitoria* had not been lost, and another had not been doing Admiralty work, but he was glad they had been able to render good and effective service to the country for nearly two years. It should be borne in mind that British shipowners were subject to excess profits duty and heavy income-tax, together 77 per cent., so that all that remained for the shipowner was 23 per cent. of the profit in excess of pre-war standard. That was a very different position from that of neutral owners. With respect to the present position of the freight market, it stood to reason that with such a large proportion of the mercantile marine doing Government work, the serious detention at various ports, higher cost of insurance, increased working costs, and, above all, the enormously increased cost of replacing lost tonnage, freights must rule high. As regarded the loss of the *Monitoria*, they recovered an amount that would fall far short of the cost of replacing her to-day. With respect to the new steamer for which this money would be used, they had been called upon to pay the builders an increase of 40 per cent. above the original contract price, which the directors considered fair and reasonable under the existing state of things, although this steamer should have been delivered in 1915, and had not even been begun at this moment. They heard a great deal about British trade after the war, but what about the most important question of British shipping when the war had been won by the Allies? That the Germans were fully alive to the vital importance of the future of their shipping was proved by the reports that had appeared in the Press recently as to amalgamations. In view of those prospective plans of Germany it would seem that it was not only necessary, when the time came, to insist upon the enemy's replacing ship for ship the tonnage belonging to the Allies which had been lost owing to the enemy's piratical methods, but to consider the question whether the whole of their merchant tonnage as well as their naval tonnage should not be taken in part payment of the indemnity. If that was taken in part payment the Allies would obtain a good twelve months' start of the Germans in the future competition for sea traffic. Until such time as full compensation had been made, and the war indemnity fully liquidated, why should the enemy's flag be allowed on the sea at all, bearing in mind the manner in which it had disgraced all records of maritime warfare? Without ships Germany would have to pay freights to British, Allied, and neutral shipowners according to the market conditions for the time being. He concluded by pointing out that during the seven years' existence of the company the shareholders had received an average dividend of 13 per cent. per annum, which could not be considered excessive for such a fluctuating and highly speculative investment as shipping.

Mr. Louis Zollner seconded, and alluded to the fabulous values of shipping shares in neutral countries, but when all the shipping of the world, in a great measure tied up in war-business, was released, it might be quite possible that the fleets of the world would be very nearly adequate to the demand. He thought the English valuation of shipping was a far sounder one than that obtaining abroad.

The report was adopted.

On the motion of Mr. C. W. Ormston, seconded by Mr. R. Christopher, a dividend of 15 per cent., free of income-tax, for the half-year ended September 30, 1916, making with the interim dividend paid in March, 20 per cent. for the year upon the ordinary shares, was declared.

Mr. Louis Zollner was re-elected a director of the company.

Mr. E. A. Neville, secretary of the Bengal and North-Western Railway Co., having joined the board vice the late Colonel Sir William Bisset, R.E., has been appointed managing director.

Spies Petroleum Co., Ltd.—The production, including 1,640 poods from ambars for week October 15, was 147,595 poods, or about 2,381 tons. Total production for year from January 14 to October 15 was 6,624,265 poods, or about 106,843 tons. The total production for the corresponding period last year was 10,831,310 poods, or about 174,699 tons.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1916, and Oct. 14, 1916:—

	Estimate for the Year 1916-1917. (See note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1916, to Oct. 14, 1916.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1915, to Oct. 16, 1915.
Balances in Exchequer on April 1—	£	£	£
Bank of England	—	25,111,065	81,898,728
Bank of Ireland	—	463,941	1,552,224
REVENUE.		25,575,006	83,450,952
Customs	71,000,000	34,872,000	23,271,000
Excise	65,000,000	26,281,000	30,520,000
Estate, &c., Duties	30,000,000	16,282,000	17,972,000
Stamps	7,000,000	3,951,000	3,394,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,650,000	320,000	340,000
Property and Income Tax and Super Tax	195,000,000	37,935,000	18,688,000
Excess Profits Duty	86,000,000	37,737,000	—
Land Value Duties	475,000	121,000	51,000
Post Office	36,100,000	17,000,000	16,800,000
Crown Lands	550,000	240,000	210,000
Receipts from Suez Canal Shares and Sundry Loans..	5,000,000	2,386,011	767,960
Miscellaneous	3,500,000	3,249,402	2,351,471
Revenue	502,275,000	180,374,413	114,365,431
Total, including Balance		205,919,419	197,816,383
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion		2,230,000	850,000
For Treasury Bills (net amount) ..		389,519,000	8,722,000
For Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 ..		3,087,600	—
For War Loan, 1925-1928		—	35,798,408
For 3% Exchequer Bonds, 1920 ..		—	242,345
For War Loan, 1925-1945		424	566,000,000
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919 ..		34,222,000	—
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920 ..		83,964,500	—
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1921 ..		62,464,000	—
For 6% Exchequer Bonds, 1920 ..		36,627,000	—
For War Expenditure Certificates ..		25,178,650	—
For War Savings Certificates		30,550,000	—
For other Debt created under the War Loan Act, 1915, and Finance Act, 1916 ..		23,842,319	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 ..		180,000	1,000,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 ..		160,000	—
Under Housing Act, 1914		45,200	—
East Africa Protectorate Loan Repayments on account of Principal and Interest ..		—	3,825
Temporary Advances—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £345,000,000 in 1916-1917 and £231,150,000 in 1915-1916)		431,896,500	232,150,000
Total		1,329,916,462	1,042,582,961
EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Estimate for the Year 1916-17. (See note.)	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1916, to Oct. 14, 1916.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1915, to Oct. 16, 1915.
EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£
Permanent Charge of Debt ..	12,818,000	14,421,888	16,496,471
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	114,436,000	60,961,591	5,201,513
Road Improvement Fund	—	—	694,395
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c.	9,500,000	3,953,755	4,177,521
Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,700,000	1,272,820	1,183,425
Supply Services	1,687,529,000	890,606,535	718,533,360
Expenditure	1,825,983,000	971,216,589	746,286,685
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion		2,490,000	1,275,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		91,370	91,370
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan (Redemption) Act, 1910		—	16,395,500
For Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	£4,060,900	3,087,600	—
Less: paid off by the National Debt Commissioners	973,300		
For Exchequer Bonds under Section 61 of the Finance Act, 1916		38,100	—
For Issues under Section 1 (5) of the War Loan Act, 1915		—	170,143,313
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 ..		180,000	1,230,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 ..		160,000	160,000
Under Housing Act, 1914		44,500	500,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8, issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1908		38,000	50,000
Old Sinking Fund—1910-1911: Issued under the Finance Act, 1911—			
Section 16 (1) (b)		23,160	80,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1911-1912—Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Co. (Acquisition of Capital) Act, 1914		250,000	250,000
East Africa Protectorate Loan Repayments—Issued to reduce Debt under the Finance Act, 1911		—	3,825
Temporary Advances repaid—Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £243,900,000 in 1916-17 and £88,098,000 in 1915-16)		317,796,500	88,098,000
Balances in Exchequer—	£	£	£
Bank of England	33,427,601	17,426,429	—
Bank of Ireland	1,073,042	592,839	—
Total		1,329,916,462	1,042,582,961

MEMO.—Treasury Bills outstanding on Oct. 14, 1916... £1,056,887,000.

* Includes £300,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the Account.

NOTE.—Estimate as in House of Commons Paper No. 50 of 1916, and Supplementary Grants.

Treasury, October 16, 1916.

["LONDON AND DUBLIN ISSUE."]

NATIONAL LOAN OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC.

ISSUE OF FIVE PER CENT. RENTES.

Both Capital and Interest will be exempt from all taxes, present and future, of the Government of the French Republic. Interest payable Quarterly on the 16th February, 16th May, 16th August, and 16th November, the first Coupon (for a full quarter's interest) being payable on the 16th February, 1917.

PRICE OF ISSUE—£3 4s. 6d. per FCS. 100 NOMINAL CAPITAL.

(Being the approximate equivalent, at the exchange of 27.50, of Fcs. 88.75c., the price at which the Loan is being issued in Paris.)

Applications, which must be accompanied by a deposit of Eleven Shillings per Fcs. 100 applied for, will be received at the Bank of England, Threadneedle Street, London, E.C., and at the Bank of Ireland, Dublin. Applications must be for multiples of Fcs. 100 nominal Capital (i.e., Fcs. 5 of Rente).

The amount payable in respect of each Fcs. 100 will be required as follows, viz. :—

	s.	d.
On application	11	0
On, or before, Saturday, the 16th December, 1916.....	17	6
" " Friday, the 16th February, 1917	18	0
" " Monday, the 16th April, 1917	18	0
Total	£3	4 6

or the whole of any amount applied for may be paid up in full at the time of application by a single payment of £3 3s. 8d. in respect of each Fcs. 100 applied for.

THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND, and the GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF THE BANK OF IRELAND, with the consent and approval of His Majesty's Government, are authorised by the Government of the French Republic to receive applications for this issue.

The conditions of the Loan will be identical with those of the National Defence Loan, the French Government undertaking that the issue shall not be redeemed prior to the 1st January, 1931, but reserving to themselves the right to redeem it in whole or in part at any time on or after that date.

Both Capital and Interest, which will be exempt from all French taxes, present or future, will be a charge upon the general revenues of the Government of the French Republic.

French Government Sterling Treasury Bills, due 15th January, 1917, may be tendered in lieu of cash where payment in full for an allotment of this issue is made at the time of application. For the purpose of such payments the Bills will be accepted at the rate of £99 3s. 7d. cash for each £100 nominal of Bills surrendered, being the equivalent of par less interest at 5 per cent. from the 16th November, 1916 (the date from which interest accrues in respect of the new issue), to the 15th January, 1917.

A declaration, which is embodied in the Form of Application, will be required in the case of Treasury Bills so tendered, to the effect that they have not been in enemy ownership and have remained in physical possession in the United Kingdom since the date of their issue.

In any case in which the sterling equivalent of Treasury Bills tendered does not represent the exact amount required to secure an allotment which is a multiple of Fcs. 100 nominal capital, the additional sum necessary to secure such an allotment must be provided in cash.

In case of default in the payment of any instalment by its proper date, the deposit and any instalments previously paid will be liable to forfeiture.

A commission at the rate of two pence per Fcs. 100 nominal capital will be allowed to Bankers and to Members of the London and Provincial Stock Exchanges on allotments in respect of applications made on forms bearing their Stamp, whether payment in respect of such applications be made in Cash or Treasury Bills.

Application will be made in due course for the admission to a Quotation on the London and Dublin Stock Exchanges of Bonds of the "LONDON AND DUBLIN ISSUE." Such Bonds will not be negotiable in France until after the conclusion of Peace.

The necessary Forms of Application, viz. :—

1. For Subscriptions by Single Payment, whether in Cash, Treasury Bills, or both,
 2. For Cash Subscriptions payable in Instalments,
- may be obtained at the Bank of England, London, E.C., at the Bank of Ireland, Dublin, and at any of the Branches of those Banks; of Messrs. Mullens, Marshall and Co., 13, George Street, Mansion House, E.C.; at any Stock Exchange in the United Kingdom; and at offices in the United Kingdom of the following Banks:—

Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris.
Crédit Industriel et Commercial.
Crédit Lyonnais.
Société Générale.

The List of Applications will be closed on, or before, Friday, the 27th day of October, 1916.

4th October, 1916.

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD FOUR PER CENT. CONSOLIDATED MORTGAGE STERLING BONDS (1908).

The COUPONS due on the 1st November next on the above-named Bonds will be paid at the Financial Agency of the Company in London, THE LONDON JOINT STOCK BANK, LIMITED, 5, Princes Street, London, E.C., where the customary lists may be obtained.

The Coupons must be left three clear days for examination.

Applications for payment must be made between Ten and Two o'clock.

The Transfer Books for the Bonds Registered as to Principal and Interest are closed, and will remain so until the 1st proximo inclusive.

THE LONDON JOINT STOCK BANK, LIMITED,
5, Princes Street, London, E.C.

18th October, 1916.

COUVERNEMENT IMPERIAL DU JAPON, BONS DU TRESOR 5 PER CENT. DE 1913.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the COUPONS due 1st November, 1916, will be PAID on and after that date (Saturdays excepted), between the hours of 11 and 3, by the Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited, from whom lists may be obtained.

Coupons must be left three clear days for examination prior to payment.

For the Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd.,

K. TATSUMI,

7, Bishopsgate, London, E.C.,

Manager.

17th October, 1916.

CITY OF OSAKA FIVE PER CENT. STERLING BONDS FOR £3,084,940.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the COUPONS due 1st November, 1916, will be PAID on and after that date (Saturdays excepted), between the hours of 11 and 3, by the Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd., from whom lists may be obtained.

Coupons must be left three clear days for examination prior to payment.

For the Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd.,

K. TATSUMI,

7, Bishopsgate, London, E.C.,

Manager.

17th October, 1916.

The Investors' Review.

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NEW SERIES.

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Passing Events.

During the last four weeks the Treasury appears to have been compelled to renew floating debt to the amount of about £100,000,000. Last week it was obliged to pay off about £24,827,000 by exchanging new bits of paper for old. That was the amount only of the temporary advances repaid, and there are always other forms of I.O.U.'s coming up for renewal. Now look what that must mean, not only in trouble to the Bank of England and the other banks, but in the way of added expense on account of our floating debt. Also consider what a nuisance, to put it on no other ground, this continual shuffle of paper in and out again must be to officials whose energies are, or should be, all absorbed in providing for the new wants daily to be met. Last week, for example, ordinary expenditure rose to the unprecedented figure of £54,253,000. That was equal to £7,750,000 a day as compared with £4,614,000 a day in the previous week, and the greater part of this money was absorbed by our military requirements. Why the amount should have been so enormous it is impossible to guess, but probably enough the demands of Russia and Roumania for additional supplies of artillery and ammunition may have had something to do with it, and also the increasing effectiveness of our own and the French offensive in France and Belgium. The Italian offensives may also have involved us in greater disbursements, and awakened Greece has had to be armed and provided for. But apart from all guesses of this description, the broad fact stares us in the face that as the war reaches the height of its devouring agony in all parts of the field, our share of the outlay must become greater. We have to sustain the Serbian and Belgian armies all through in their heroic fights, and will probably have to take our full part in equipping and maintaining the armies of Rumania, therefore we must look for the expenditure of perhaps the next three months to be above the average of the past year or more, and ought to wake up to the fact that rough-and-tumble debt financing, dependent on Treasury bills and short-term Exchequer bonds, does not appear to embody the wisest way to make provision for our liabilities.

Last week the revenue from taxation and public services was given at £11,015,000, which was only equal

to £1,570,000 per day, whereas our expenditure was well on to £8,000,000 a day. And the 6 per cent. rate now offered—with great generosity, as was probably thought by Mr. McKenna—on Exchequer bonds only brought in £13,279,000 last week. That is nearly £3,300,000 less than was netted in the previous week, and £7,300,000 less than the first week the experiment was tried. That it was an impulsive experiment, or at least a premature one, would seem to be inferable from the fact that 5 per cent. certificates continued to sell last week and produced £100,000, so that the Government has actually been compelled to announce that no more would be offered. Would not the bulk of lenders have continued to be satisfied with 5 per cent.? When we come to the amateurish devices of Expenditure certificates and War Savings certificates we find the same absence of fertility in providing resources for the war. The Savings certificates last week brought in £1,000,000 instead of £1,100,000, and the Expenditure certificates gave only £352,000, so that the Government was short, and had to borrow not only £1,000,000 from an unspecified quarter, but to reduce its Exchequer balances at the Bank by £6,358,000 in order to balance the week's accounts. Excess profits duty, we are glad to see, brought in £3,779,000, and its yield ought to be increasingly fertile from now on to the end of the fiscal year; but however prolific, neither this tax nor the ordinary property and income taxes, nor yet the higher Customs and Excise duties now levied, will yield enough to make much difference to the magnitude of our necessities which must be provided for by borrowing. Therefore, we continue to insist that this "Johnny-head-in-the-air" fashion of making provision for our necessities cannot go on much longer without putting the country in peril of an embarrassing financial tangle. Large necessities demand statesmanlike measures to insure their satisfaction.

After the statements made in the House of Commons on Tuesday by Dr. Addison, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Munitions, and the other speakers for and against, we hope the last of the dirty linen requiring cleansing in that department will have been disposed of for some time to come. We have no desire to take sides, and think it probable that the con-

tractors have a good deal to say for themselves. On the other hand, it is pleasant indeed to take note of the new vigilance with which those who have control of the spending of the nation's borrowed millions are awakening to the necessity of preventing extravagance and waste. They appear to be acquiring business habits, and we hope that the improvement will continue until the millions saved in the cost of munitions will be doubled by reducing the expenditure upon food and clothing for our troops. Dr. Addison defended Mr. Lever with energy and effect, but we do not gather from his narrative that the munition manufacturers were very recalcitrant when asked to reduce their prices. The worst that can be said of them seems to be that they did not adopt the lower scale of charges until invited to do so. This, however, is a characteristic of manufacturers at all times, and the spirit of self-denying patriotism has not yet penetrated very deeply into the habits of thought either amongst contractors or their workmen. All are much "on the make" when opportunity offers. That being so, it is surely to the credit of the munitioners that they acceded so pleasantly to Mr. Lever's suggestion that the price to be paid for certain kinds of shells should be brought down nearer the cost of production, so all's well that ends well.

Good, we trust, will spring from the Coal Miners' Conference which assembled on Wednesday to hear Mr. Asquith, Mr. Samuel, Mr. Robert Smillie and Mr. Robert Nimmo explain the position. The spirit of the meeting seems to have been excellent, and there can be no doubt that the miners as a class, masters and men, are willing and anxious to do their utmost. Briefly, the position is this. More coal is wanted both at home and by our Allies, but less is being produced. In 1913, Mr. Asquith explained, we exported coal valued at over £73,500,000, in 1914 only £43,500,000 worth went abroad, and this year the export will not exceed £40,000,000. We are 15,000,000 tons below the quantity wanted, and that shortage could be made up, it was explained, but for absenteeism. An allowable, perhaps inevitable, margin of 5 per cent. of the workmen is apparently accepted as the average of absentees from work, but the actual average time lost by non-attendance is 9.9, or say 10 per cent. We want 5 per cent. of this back in the mines, Mr. Herbert Samuel explained, and there are 153,000 fewer miners available owing to the draining away of men by the war. "Only give us the 5 per cent. of those left who could work and don't, and we shall be able to meet the entire deficiency of 15,000,000 tons." This view of the position was accepted by the miners, and nothing could be better than the spirit revealed by the men's leaders. We trust the response of the men will be equally noble. But might we ask if enough is being done with machinery to supplement and take the place in the mines of the manual labour now in short supply? Many years ago we used to endure from a competent authority infinite jeering at the backwardness of British coal mine proprietors as contrasted with the go-ahead, up-to-date Germans. "The British get their coal by methods a century behindhand," we were often tauntingly told, and the contrast between modern German methods and ours was exultingly emphasised. We should like to know whether and to what extent this criticism still applies. Are the colliery owners, most of whom are rich, still leaving their pits unfurnished with the latest helps to labour? Perhaps the Home Secretary will turn his attention to that side of the question in order to discover whether machinery could not be utilised to assist in reducing or obliterating our shortage of output.

From the *Australasian Insurance and Banking Record* we, as usual, extract the following summary exhibiting the position of the 22 banks in Australia and New Zealand, and of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia at the ends respectively of the June quarters of 1915 and 1916. The figures are valuable for comparison and re-

cord, and it is shown by the table that the liabilities have risen nearly £23,000,000 during the year. Of this increase nearly £20,000,000 may be ascribed to expanded advances. Another £10,000,000 arises from the multiplication of Australian Commonwealth notes, the total of which held by the banks on June 30 last was £30,495,000. Coin and bullion, on the other hand, has in the twelvemonth shrunk by £6,244,000, so that the total has become little more than £4,500,000 larger than the total of the notes. Credit, in other words, is replacing cash to a marked extent, and must continue to do so as long as the necessity for raising loans to carry on the war remains paramount. Happily nothing as yet indicates an overstraining of credit, and the way in which the people of Australia have been able to subscribe to the various war loans issued by the Commonwealth is eminently satisfactory. Altogether some £56,000,000 has been raised on the spot, and that without appealing to the home Money market.

AUSTRALASIAN BANKING.—A YEAR'S CONTRAST AND COMPARISON.

	June Quarter, 1915.	June Quarter, 1916.	Movement.
LIABILITIES.	£	£	£
Deposits—			
Not bearing interest	92,643,092	113,163,867	+ 20,520,775
Bearing interest	104,789,154	107,153,896	+ 2,364,742
	197,432,246	220,317,763	+ 22,885,517
Saving bank deposits (C'wealth Bank)	6,801,534	8,683,092	+ 1,881,558
Perp. inscribed stock (E., S. and A. Bank)	1,988,017	1,968,730	— 19,287
Notes in circulation	3,100,490	4,175,954	+ 1,075,464
Bills in circulation	1,237,416	1,325,470	+ 88,054
Balances due to other banks	3,417,263	4,480,246	+ 1,062,983
Total liabilities.....	213,976,966	240,951,255	+ 26,974,289
ASSETS.			
Coin and bullion	41,296,474	35,052,138	— 6,244,336
Australian notes	20,461,289	30,494,735	+ 10,033,446
Notes and bills of other banks	1,926,738	2,614,195	+ 687,457
Balances due from other banks†	4,615,815	5,539,714	+ 923,899
Advances, &c.*	147,706,574	167,317,063	+ 19,610,489
Government and municipal securities (Commonwealth Bank)	5,125,684	7,922,636	+ 2,796,952
Landed property, &c.....	5,613,227	5,825,802	+ 212,575
Total assets	226,745,801	254,766,283	+ 28,020,482

* Including Government and municipal securities, except those held by the Commonwealth Bank, which are shown separately in the next line.

† Including balances due from other banks to Commonwealth Bank, June, 1915, £1,978,659; June, 1916, £3,496,412.

Reports have been set afloat recently to the effect that the financial position of the Brazilian Republic will not allow its Government to resume cash payments upon the foreign debt at the close of the present moratorium. In less than a year hence the whole weight of debt interest will have to fall upon the taxes once more, and it is in no spirit of depreciation that friends of Brazil have been predicting and the creditors of Brazil expressing willingness to accept a renewal of that moratorium. The Ministry, however, has caused to be issued a semi-official statement, so the circular of the British Bank of South America tells us, to the effect that "the Government never thought, does not think, and will not think of renewing the funding scheme. Brazil should, can, and will re-continue the service in gold of the foreign debt." These be excellent resolves, and we shall be sincerely glad if circumstances permit them to be adhered to, but in spite of language so resolute, we must be permitted to retain our doubts. Brazil is no doubt willing to pay, and the Government is strenuously endeavouring to set its house in order with a view to resumption of payment. It is increasing taxation on drinks, tobacco, hats, shoes and tinned stuffs, on coffee roasted for local consumption and on butter, on mortgages, too, and raising to 55 per cent. the proportion of the Customs duties henceforth payable in gold. All this is interesting from the creditors' point of view, and we hope it will put an end to the ever-recurring deficit on the Budget; but is the trade of Brazil sufficiently developed and sufficiently remunerative to give its Government the means to stand year

in and out a drain of several millions to pay debt interest due abroad? That is the real question which time alone can answer. At present, as usual, the commercial outlook is chequered, but money is not too dear, first-class commercial paper being discounted at 6 to 6½ per cent., and if disaster does not overtake the coffee crop of San Paulo owing to the drought, or the livestock suffer too much through the consequent shortage of fodder, there may be an increased favourable balance in exports over imports, this to give basis for hope that cash payments will after all be resumed on the debt in August next. If not, a remedy more effective than any debt-swelling moratorium will have to be discovered and applied.

Little need be said about the display of the Cordoba Central Railway Co., Ltd., for the year closed June 30 last. Already the stockholders are fully conscious of the disappointing position. Indeed, we may say that the report should give a certain measure of comfort to the stock and debenture-holders because it discloses a less disquieting state of affairs than many people feared. Gross receipts amounted to £1,544,538, or £147,176 less than for the previous year, when the revenue was £277,306 below that for 1913-14. There is thus a continuous decline, and this time the reduction in working expenses was only £96,734, whereas a year ago it was £145,536, so that the nett revenue of £438,810 is £50,442 lower. Nevertheless, for the two years there is a decrease of fully £172,000. Consequently the total amount available, £439,061, is £140,009 short of the charges to be met, and as the debit balance brought forward was £60,743, it follows that the company is on the two years £200,752 behindhand. What is the meaning of this apparently disastrous story? Is there anything absolutely wrong with the condition of the company? Nothing whatever that we can see; but its traffic has been injured by the effects of the European war, and still more by the destruction of the Tucuman sugar cane crop by frost. It was severely injured last year, and in the current year it has again been smitten. The direct loss to the company in gross receipts from sugar and sugar cane traffic was £203,117 compared with the previous year. Sundry compensations were given by the increased carriage of firewood in demand in Buenos Aires because of the scarcity of coal and of £32,146 in the revenue from general merchandise, but with it all the company could not meet its charges, and has to provide for interest on its 6 per cent. three-year notes and 4½ per cent. second debenture stock by the issue of deferred warrants. An arrearage of debt to be cleared off is thus in process of accumulation, but the amount thus far is not formidable, and with better times, the substitution of the harder Java cane for the sensitive species hitherto cultivated in Tucuman, together with the gradual improvement in general business through the growth of the country, should put the company in a better position by and by. More cannot be advanced with confidence, but the general manager speaks hopefully in his review of the past year's business and prospects. "Our railway," he says, "is now equipped for dealing successfully with a much heavier traffic; our locomotive, coaching and wagon stock is in good order; our working expenses have been brought down to a satisfactory level, and we only await the return of normal conditions, or even good sugar and grain crops, in addition to our present business, to ensure our obtaining greatly increased nett results."

Although the United Railways of the Havana and Regla Warehouses, Ltd., is content to maintain its dividend at 5 per cent. for the year (the final distribution being 3 per cent., less tax), it has evidently enjoyed very gratifying prosperity, and the report is certain to disclose a very strong position. The appropriation to reserve is doubled at £300,000, general renewals reserve again gets £100,000, insurance fund £5,000, and £10,000, against £5,000, is placed to pension account, leaving £12,115, or only £2,000 less, to be carried forward. Business in Cuba must have been very

flourishing owing to the increased demand and higher prices for sugar, and probably the tobacco industry has also done well, in spite of many of the estates being replanted with cane. The Western Railway of Havana, Ltd., again pays 7 per cent., after placing £10,000 to reserve and £5,000 to renewals reserve, the same appropriations as last year. Cuban Central Railways, Ltd., again pays 4 per cent., and places £35,000, or £10,000 more, to reserve, while £25,000 is this time written off permanent way suspense account. Both these companies are now controlled by the United Railways, and the whole system is well and prudently managed.

Under the scheme of arrangement sanctioned on November 23, 1915, the financial year of the South Brazilian Railways Co., Ltd., was altered to end on September 30, instead of March 31. Accordingly the accounts for the past year will not be ready for presentation till February or March next, but the sixth ordinary general meeting will be held next week immediately after the adjourned fifth meeting to elect directors, appoint auditors, and transact the other business of the company. The accounts now available cover the 18 months to September 30, 1915, and are too belated to be of much interest, especially as there is no proper basis of comparison for the figures submitted. As a matter of record, we may mention that the gross receipts were Rs. 1,770,870, and the operating expenses Rs. 1,184,470, leaving a profit of Rs. 586,400, or, converted at an exchange of 16d., £39,090. This is whittled down to a nett profit of £13,284, and after paying 5 francs (3s. 7d.) interest on the second debentures, and transferring £18,800 debenture interest during construction to capital expenditure, there is a debit balance of £9,300. It is a sorry enough display, but the company has been badly hit by the financial crisis in Brazil, and we need not be too hard on it. There is even the promise of some improvement, for the gross earnings to March 31 last are given as Rs. 601,200, an increase of Rs. 20,000, or 3.4 per cent., but we are not told how the expenses work out. However, there is nothing for it but to hope for the best.

In the year to June 30 the English, Scottish and Australian Bank made a gross profit of £331,930, or £50,930 more than in the previous 12 months, but expenses were £40,420 higher, and the nett profit comes out at £110,695, or £10,510 up. After again placing £50,000 to reserve fund (raising it to £450,000), it is proposed to pay a final dividend of 4 per cent., making 8 per cent. for the year, and to carry forward the slightly larger balance of £33,885. As formerly, £14,385 was set aside for the purchase of £17,000 deferred inscribed deposit stock, which has been cancelled, and the amount passed to the credit of bank premises. There are other evidences that the bank has done an increasing and prosperous business. Deposit accounts are up £435,750 at £4,170,600, current accounts have increased £171,000 to £3,494,850, and bills payable are £92,600 higher at £625,100. Cash in hand and at short notice has fallen £568,000 to £2,619,380, but investments are £84,000 up at £447,980, bills and remittances are £67,000 higher at £1,310,480, and advances have increased £1,164,000 to £7,243,000. Altogether the balance-sheet total is £730,000 larger at £11,894,000, and on the whole the progress made must be regarded as satisfactory.

A substantial improvement is shown in the report of the Auckland Electric Tramways Co. for the year ended June 30. The number of passengers carried rose by nearly 1,000,000 to 42,352,534, and the traffic receipts, which a year ago fell off by £3,908, were £6,990 up at £274,784, while the total income, including miscellaneous receipts, was £8,635 better at £280,876. Expenses, however, were heavier, mainly because New Zealand income and land taxes took £9,040 more, and after providing for the amount payable to the City Council, and setting aside an extra £2,500 at £25,000 to renewals and depreciation account the nett surplus

was only £1,166 up at £54,570. The amount brought forward was £1,221 smaller at £4,655, so that the balance of £59,225 available for distribution is practically the same as last year. Reserve again gets £10,000, making that fund £132,500, and the dividend of 1s. 7d. per share on the ordinary shares is repeated, leaving £4,600 or £55 less to be carried forward. During the year £6,345 first mortgage debenture stock was bought for cancellation at an average of about 94½ per cent., compared with £5,851 at slightly over par in 1914-15, reducing the amount outstanding to £396,211. Capital expenditure amounted to £10,884, principally in connection with the Upper Queen Street extension, which is now practically completed, and after allowing for various deductions the cost of the property, including £12,684 for old tramways, and £20,682 for real estate in Auckland, stands at £1,151,065, or an increase of £10,446.

Satisfactory progress continues to be made by Trafford Park Estates, Ltd., and the company is steadily improving its position. For the year to June 30 the nett profit was £30,173, an increase of £9,400, and with £40,000 more brought forward, there is an available balance of £75,240. The directors, however, prudently retain the dividend at 4 per cent., absorbing £24,890, and leaving £50,350, or £5,280 more, to be carried forward. Capital expenditure (mainly on new buildings) amounted to £128,580, but the accounts are not credited with the capital value which has been assured to the company by the creation of chief rents and long leases. Last year, it may be mentioned, there was a profit of £44,760 on the redemption of chief rents. During the year debentures for £7,300 were paid off, but the company had to get an overdraft, of which £2,470 is outstanding, and the financing of the business is evidently a somewhat difficult problem. Sundry creditors, however, stand at only £11,570 (an increase of £3,780), while sundry debtors are £22,770 higher at £40,080. No provision has been made for any duties which may have accrued under the Finance Act, 1910, or for excess profits duty, but these items are amply covered by the large amount carried forward. At the same time, cash in hand, which a year ago stood at £39,000, has been reduced to a mere £144, and it looks as though additional capital would be urgently required before long.

During the year to July 31 the General Motors Co. of Detroit and its subsidiaries sold 132,088 cars for \$156,900,000, as compared with 76,068 cars for \$94,425,000 in the previous 12 months, so we are not surprised to find the nett profits practically doubled at \$29,146,000. After paying the preferred dividend there is a surplus of \$27,740,000, to which has to be added \$19,986,000, or \$13,295,000 more brought forward. Dividends of 65 per cent. have been paid on the common stock, absorbing \$10,730,000, and there is still an undivided surplus of \$36,995,000, enough to pay a dividend of 200 per cent., and leave a trifle of £600,000 for the poor box. And the directors, among whom we notice a sprinkling of German names, do not even start a peace mission *à la* Ford to keep their prosperity within measurable bounds. But wouldn't Mr. McKenna like to get hold of them!

At the seventh series of colonial wool sales, which commenced this week, the quantity catalogued was something like 110,000 bales, and at the outset dealers were rather anxious as to whether the bulk of this huge amount could be lifted. It was soon evident, however, that the demand was keen, and prices on the average advanced from 5 to 7½ per cent. over the September level. The firmness of the market in face of exceptionally heavy supplies, especially from New Zealand, was generally attributed to Government requirements, not only for British troops, but for the Allies as well. Mills are working at full pressure, and as in so many other industries the chief complaint is the lack of sufficient skilled operatives to cope with the orders

in hand. It is said the Government has come to the rescue in some cases, but we are afraid the Tribunal machine for fitting square pegs into round holes will go on bungling till the end of the chapter.

The most encouraging point in the Tanganyika report is the marked progress recorded in the copper production of the Union Minière. The output exceeded the estimate of 14,000 tons by 190 tons, and in the first nine months of 1916 the production amounted to 16,749 tons. To judge of the progress made it is necessary to point out that the production in 1911 was 997 tons, in 1912 2,492 tons, and in 1913 7,407 tons. The new furnaces are working very well; they give a higher output together with a lower working cost. Two more furnaces should come into operation next year, and the output increased by about 1,200 tons a month. It is not explained what profit the Union Minière made, though with copper at its present high level it ought to be very considerable. The Benguela Railway yielded a profit of £44,062 as against £15,807 in 1914, and for the first nine months of this year the revenue amounted to £88,223 against £107,013 for the whole of 1915. The Rhodesia-Katanga Junction Railway, now leased to the Mashonaland Railway Co. for a minimum rental of £44,000 per annum, which is allocated to the payment of debenture interest, made a profit on working of £41,066, and for the first eight months of this year a profit of £47,000. Smelting operations at the Kansanshi Mine are still suspended owing to the war. The accounts show a deficiency of £142,099 as against £136,825 for 1914, and this deficit is again charged to the share premium account, reducing this to £159,251. Of the deficiency, £116,454 is for debenture interest, which, however, has not been paid, under the arrangement for deferring payment until six months after the termination of the war. The accounts of the Zambesia Exploring Co. for 1915 show a credit of £869, which brings the total credit balance, shown in the balance-sheet, up to £260,672. In view of the depreciation in the market price of some of the shares held in other companies the directors have written these down from £1,201,841 to £1,188,103, being cost price or under.

Protectionist Traitors and How to Treat Germany.

As the war draws towards the stage when possibilities of peace begin to tint the horizon, the clamour for a Protective tariff in this country increases. All manner of influences and degrees of greed are enlisted to further the plot against peace and concord, and the exhibition of unscrupulous selfishness, class esurience and hatreds of all types this Protectionism gives is both saddening and repulsive. One after the other our colonies send over their political spokesman of the hour to tell us that we must have a tariff of offence against the world and a preferential tariff between them and ourselves. The arguments by which they support their demand will not bear examination, but the iteration and reiteration of them are such as to make it not improbable that the multitude will be captured once more by the specious fallacies disseminated by people within the Empire who are in reality, though doubtless unconsciously, traitors to its best interests.

The contention mainly relied upon now is the necessity of shutting out the Germans. No German as an individual must be allowed in any of the territories of the British Empire; no German goods must be admitted on any terms, that is the cry. To take up an attitude of this kind is to exhibit folly quite as great as any found in the wildest dreams of Pan-Germanism. We cannot, to begin with, shut out from all intercourse with us a population of between seventy and eighty millions, the German provinces of the Habsburgs included; and it would be sheer insanity to attempt to do so if we could, because it is only by utilising the assiduity in labour of the German serf that the Allies involved in this liberty-vindicating war

can hope to get any of their costs back from the would-be robbers. Even during the Thirty Years' War the free communities inside Germany continued to produce articles that they sold abroad even in the lands of their enemies. But for that the German race might have then almost vanished from off the earth.

But the folly of this attitude is emphasised by the fact that no tariff, even a prohibitive tariff, has ever yet been able to prevent the passage of barred or prohibited commodities into the country that has set up the barrier. The experience of France in her colonies may be cited in demonstration of the truth of this statement. France, with good reason, has always been jealous of Germanic expansion in any form, and has erected, as far as the Treaty of Frankfort would permit her, tariff barriers against Germany nearly as severe as those fatuous economists in the United States of North America have contrived to establish, so as to keep it a cruising ground of international hate. In spite, however, of severe tariffs and kindred efforts to block out the Germans, the trade of Germany with French colonies has gone on increasing year after year. German shipping, too, pushed aside the shipping of France, both in her home and in her colonial ports. In the year before the war it looked almost as if Germany would become the master of Morocco and of other French possessions in North Africa merely by persistence in pushing her goods. Is there any reason to suppose that the Allies, acting all together, would be able to prevent a similar result by a tariff fence erected to stop trade with Germany? There is none; the idea is absurd; and it would be in the highest degree suicidal on the part of the United Kingdom or any of our comrades in the warfare of freedom to adopt any such policy. We fight for the deliverance of mankind, not for its enslavement.

And there is another reason which the citizens of our colonies ought to weigh before trying to fling us back into serfdom. Their politicians have always, naturally enough, resolutely shut their eyes to the facts about protection, but the people should not. Let Australians, New Zealanders, Canadians also, ask themselves whether they would have been able to maintain their existing tariffs, or any revenue-yielding tariffs, if they had been obliged to depend entirely, and throughout their short history, on their own resources. This journal has told them often enough when their political shepherds have been clamouring for increased Customs duties in order to conceal the effects of their extravagance, that they were simply devising a system whereby, by means of loans raised here, they made their creditors, through their Customs duties, furnish the means to sustain the deception. There can be no doubt about the truth of that proposition. If the colonies had been deprived of the continual assistance provided by the home capitalist they could never by any possibility have sustained the ill-adjusted weight of their Customs tariffs, or made any show of prospering by the help they were alleged, and falsely alleged, to give. They had no means with which to pay the tax-swollen prices; they would simply have insured for themselves a condition of poverty that might in time have led to their extinction as free and progressive communities.

Now, looking at the subject from these points of view, would it not be wiser on the part of our would-be political leaders, home and colonial, to try and expand their minds so as to be able to assimilate some grander conception of the future when peace returns than the one they now cling to? Surely we have had enough of international jealousies and rivalries, and surely the weight of debt which the war is laying upon us all demands a different, a broader, nobler, less self-seeking outlook on life than this on the part of every citizen, from the highest to the lowest. Our colonies might be assisted in their efforts to take this manlier view by the reflection that they cannot expect to get help from the Mother Country to enable them to maintain their serf and strife-breeding tariffs after the war is over, for the simple reason that said Mother Country will not then have two sixpences to rub against each other in the way of money to lend to anybody. Thrown

back on their own resources, the dependent States of the Empire will tend to become chaotic in their domestic affairs unless they change their ideal. Their citizens must rise to a consciousness that the world is bigger than any State or any colony, that, just as there are intimate relations between individuals and communities the world over which demand co-operation, not rivalry, if those who compose them are to live together in harmony, so are there national relationships that imply a mutual helpfulness and unceasing co-ordination of effort, leaving no room for the tiffs and bickerings that grow into rancour and wars.

Because of facts and opinions like these, we continue to insist that in preparing for the peace that is to be, the Governments of the Allies who are fighting this war against barbarism must strive to educate their peoples to accept a common policy and mutuality of endeavour in the development of their resources, in the arrangement and marshalling of their industries, and in the control of their trade solely for the public good altogether in ways not hitherto regarded as within the range of practical politics. Every country possesses something which is more valuable to it than to any other country because more useful to its neighbours. Or one country can produce and vend abroad to better advantage within certain areas than any of its neighbours. Every country has some natural advantage in some direction. Ought there not, then, to be an international commission or governing body and appeal tribunal in one got together, selected with the utmost care, first of all to study the question of trade from this interlinking of interests point of view, so that when peace comes each nation among those of the *Entente* might be able to know what its place is to be, what its range and scope, in the international economy, whether as merchant, as owner of shipping, as miner, as worker in brass and iron, as weaver, as food supplier, and so forth? To this Commission, and to the separate bodies affiliated to it in each country, we should assign the entire supervision of the peace activities within every country, with a view to the common good, not to the aggrandisement of the multi or other millionaire here and there.

Into the hands of this same international body—commission, or conference, call it what you please—we should at once assign the control of the trade and industries of the destroyed Habsburg and Hohenzollern Empires, whose emancipated nationalities would, in token of their deliverance, be brought within the confraternity of the free. Only the profit of the trade of these delivered races should also pass direct into the hands of the international body, to be distributed among the Allies, according to their claims, until the war costs in money and material damage had all been refunded. A policy of this kind would not only permit the indefatigable working capacity of the slave peoples of these two empires to get ample scope, but it might very well also alleviate the condition of the workers therein by delivering them from the exactions of intermediaries. The disappearance of the German capitalist and the German finance banks might be a consequence of Allied domination, but the people at large might easily be much better off than before. And nobody in any part of the globe would much bemoan the disappearance of the German banks, except, perhaps, in places where they had not yet got a great enough hold to be able to disclose their real character.

Surely we have here a grander conception of the ordered and man-elevating peace that is to be than anything the Tariffites can advance for our acceptance. Their view is always that of classes, groups, individuals actuated by pure selfishness, and their loud clamour for what they call "the industrial interests" of the country is, with most of them, unmitigated hypocrisy. Therefore the policy of the Protectionists now being dinned into our ears by men of all qualities and in all positions is the policy which breeds wars, nurtures hatred between class and class, nation and nation, above all between employers and employed. It is, therefore, a policy which the democracies in all countries must educate themselves to repudiate without hesitation or compromise. Beyond all, let the working man mistrust the man masquerading as "a

Radical," who bawls "Tariff Reform," "Protection," "Keep out the foreigner," and professes to think only of the working man's interests. A man of that type cannot be thought of as an unconscious impostor.

Viscount Grey's Warning to Friends and Foes.

Excellent and timely were the words of the Foreign Secretary spoken at a lunch given to him by the Foreign Press Association in London on Monday last. It may be, as his captious and unscrupulous enemies assert, that Viscount Grey has not been the wisest of human beings at all moments in all the crises of this war, for he is not yet a god; but it ill-becomes those who attack him like wolves, without thought of anything except to bring down the quarry, to thus advertise their malignancy. We have all erred and all made miscalculations and mistakes in this great crisis, the snarlers might try to remember. Lord Grey was not alone in misapprehending before the war broke out the intensity of the perils likely to threaten the French and British Empires through neglecting the Near East. "Serbia did not concern us," he then said, and the bulk of the newspapers agreed; but neither he nor any other statesmen think that now, and surely nothing could be more satisfactory than the magnanimity of mind displayed by his Lordship on Monday. He was as consistent as far-seeing, and he has always spoken with no uncertain accent as a man who has from the outset of the war grasped, and has ever since always kept before him, the one and only goal the Allies must strive to attain.

Gladly would we reprint all the speech, but that is impossible. A few extracts, however, deserve to be preserved. We need not repeat what Lord Grey said about the true originator of the war, for nobody outside the derelict Empires, and soon, we believe, few within their boundaries, will continue to maintain that the Prussian General Staff were forced into a war of self-defence in August, 1914; but it is well to emphasise the fact that the Allies, not the aggressors of the *Entente*, have the duty, as they mean to have the power, to exact guarantees against another lava flood of Teutonic savagery. The war of aggression, started with deliberate, fell intent by an anarchist people, has to be ended in one way, and its prolongation is probably a blessing in disguise to the Allies. The Germans reckoned on a swift victory; and all along have been baffled in all their aims, beaten on every field, if not by actual slaughter, by the very fact that they have, apart from petty larceny, been denied a single shred of the successful plunderer sort of victory they aimed at when they sallied forth to conquer the world, armed for destruction as never people were before. The delay has tried the Allies, but it has also united them, and steeled their resolution to accept no peace which does not ensure future generations from all possibility of a recurrence of the crime. With people like the Germans, whose minds are dwarfed and distorted by their insane egotism and gloating self-admiration, there can be no other arrangement except that of complete subjugation. Therefore, said Lord Grey:—

Into this struggle we have put, rightly and necessarily, all our resources; all our wealth; all our material; and all our labour. Now, when we have had time to equip and train a large Army, we are putting into it all the best life's blood of the nation to shed it on the Continent, side by side with our Allies, in emulation of them, stimulated by the courage and self-sacrifice which they themselves are showing in defence of their own country. We are doing it because we know that their cause and ours is one: that to the end and for the future we fall or stand together; that the separation of one from the other is the destruction of the one separated, and not its safety, and that for all of us unity is essential, not merely to victory, but to our future life and success. Germany has been trying throughout the war to separate one from the other—now one, now another. Not a week passes that does not confirm our resolve to go through with our Allies to the end, and theirs to go through with each other. I trust that the memory of the suffering we have undergone together, the memory of the joint courage which is carrying us through all that we have been through side by side, will be a perpetual bond of alliance and sympathy between our Government and peoples.

To that aspiration do we not all cordially say, Amen! With regard to neutral nations and what their line of conduct should be in view of the coming peace, Lord Grey had weighty words to utter: "If the nations in the world after the war are to do something more effective than they have been able to do before, to bind themselves together in the common object of peace, they must be prepared not to undertake more than they are prepared to uphold by force, and to see when the time of crisis comes that it is upheld by force." Which is true, but it will have to be a force in common, moved by, upheld by and used for the common good.

Here is a description of the Kaiser's "great Ally" which should not be allowed to pass into immediate oblivion, any more than the prospect such satanic combinations of demon foes opens for mankind:—

Since the outbreak of war, since Turkey entered the war, she has been the vassal of Germany. Enough has leaked through to make it clear that there has gone on, and is going on, in Turkey on a scale unprecedented, and with horrors unequalled before, an attempt to exterminate the Christian population; horrors which Germany could have prevented, and which could only have gone on with her toleration. Perhaps some day some neutral nation who knows the full story will make it known to the world. All these things have been happening during this war, and what a prospect it opens for the future! Are all the resources of science to continue to be devoted after this war to invent means of destroying the human race, with no restriction upon their use? It is a prospect which threatens civilisation and existence of the race itself.

And what fitter or more just than the stigmatising of Germany as "the great anarchist who has let loose on the world a greater and more terrible anarchy than any individual anarchist ever dreamed of"? It is in the interest of all civilised peoples that this kind of world-shattering anarchy should be henceforth made impossible. We doubt though if it can be done by rules framed for the purpose. A loftier conception of the relation of man to man, of class to class, of nation to nation will have to be cultivated, so that the conscience of peoples may be civilised and enlarged until a horror of war, most of all of aggressive, thieving war, becomes a barrier against criminality.

His Lordship finished on the following exalted note of hope and expectation. Can we deem a peace such as we work and pray for long in coming if it should take yet another year to bring the anarchist maniac of brutality to his knees?

This generation in its prime is giving its life, but it is giving it that the older generation now among us may live out its years after this war in peace, freedom, and honour, and that the generation, which is now children, and the generations who are yet to come, may enjoy life and develop the national life, free from the stifling oppression of the domination of Prussian militarism. For years before this war we were living under the deepening shadow of Prussian militarism extending itself over the whole of Germany, and then extending itself over the whole Continent. There must be no end to this war, no peace except a peace which is going to ensure that the nations of Europe live in the future free from that shadow in the open air and in the light of freedom. (Cheers.) For that we are contending. We know that if mankind has any birthright, as we believe it has a birthright to peace and to liberty, then our cause is just and right, because it is for that we are fighting. When they ask us, "How long is the struggle to be continued?" we can but reply that it must be continued till these things are secured, and if it be hard that the present generation in its prime should be called on to sacrifice all, it is for the sake of the future of the nation and the generations that come after. It is our determination, which the progress of the war but deepens, in common with our Allies, to continue the war until we have made it certain that the Allies in common shall have achieved the success which must and ought to be theirs, until they have secured the future peace of the whole Continent of Europe, until they have made it clear that all the sacrifices we have made shall not have been in vain. (Cheers.)

The National Bank of South Africa, Ltd., have received a cable from South Africa to the effect that light rains are falling generally. This should considerably improve the prospects of the grain production next season.

Mr. Alfred Hoare, of Messrs. Hoare and Co., bankers, of 37, Fleet Street, E.C., has been elected to a seat on the board of the Notting Hill Electric Lighting Co., Ltd., in the place of the late Sir Richard B. Martin, Bart.

Northern Assurance Co.—The following arrangements have been made in connection with the staff, to take effect from January 1 next:—Mr. H. E. Wilson, general manager, to retire after 51 years' service; Messrs. H. S. Gayford and J. Robertson, secretary of the London board and manager in Aberdeen, respectively, to become joint general managers of the company.

not neglect our agricultural education after the war, but it must permeate to the very lowest ranks. Farming is skilled work. The handling of crops and stock is skilled work. The selection of manures for the different soils is an operation in which science and experience should be united. There is scope for progress and development in this direction. A quickened intelligence and a consciousness that the products of a man's industry are secure to him will work wonders in time. These things will stimulate co-operation and combination which in the case of smaller holdings are essential to success. It by no means follows that we should copy Germany with slavish imitation. Far from it. More humane ideals of life and conduct animate our outlook. We must give free play to our own national genius. Our ideals are furthered by settling on our own countrysides a prosperous, independent, dignified race of intelligent cultivators of the soil.

Germany's Financial Position.

We have received the following letter from an esteemed correspondent in Dundee, an expert in finance, and propose to utilise it as a text for a few observations on sundry financial aspects of the war:—

DEAR SIR,—I refer you to your letter of September 28, 1914,* and thank you for the trouble you took in writing me so fully. I found your letter very interesting indeed, but the subject with which it deals was so difficult to grasp that I did not attempt to answer it, and laid it aside to watch developments. Now we have been two years at war since that date, and although we are surely nearer the end than we were, still so much remains to be done that some people talk gravely of another year and another million of men with untold sums of money still to find and still to spend. I wonder what your views are now. Evidently the Germans have much more money than they got credit for, and their service—both military and civil—has proved equal to the strain. In one way their financial position is much better than ours, because I suppose everything is paid in paper, and their gold is still adequate for settlement of all they buy from neutral nations. As long as gamblers settle their debts with I.O.U.'s they can live without money, and could go on for years. Is not this the German position, and are they not in this respect better qualified for standing financial strain than any of the Allies? Of course, we are the strongest and richest of them all, but there are people who have been apprehensive that we might not be able to maintain a gold standard. Our paper money now amounts to £130,000,000, and if before the war anybody had predicted that this huge amount would have been accepted and carried as easily as it is, he would have been laughed at, and the whole thing regarded as an impossibility. So far as I can judge we can continue to carry this and anything additional that may be emitted, but that is a big question, and one of which you are a much better judge than I. Doubtless you recognise its importance, and have studied and continue carefully to study this very important question.

Yours faithfully,

WILLIAM MACKENZIE.

Dundee, October 18, 1916.

It is quite probable that the war will go on another year, because, as we often say, another winter of semi-starvation will probably be necessary to bring the debased tyrant-consumed Germans to their senses. Unquestionably, therefore, the prospect is one of the utmost gravity for us all. It is not true, however, that "the Germans have evidently much more money than they got credit for," nor is it altogether the fact that their organisation, civil and military, is standing the strain with that success they are delighted to have us believe. No doubt everything the Germans purchase or manufacture within their borders can be paid for after a fashion with paper, but that does not mean that

they are not ruined, though able to hold out. It surely rather implies a more complete state of economic poverty when the war ends than anything imaginable here or in France. When the day comes to attempt the conversion of that paper into cash, what will there be to offer in exchange?

How much, or what denominations of, paper money Germany is utilising at the present time no one knows, but it is as certain as anything will ever be that there is nothing but paper the whole country through for even the smallest payments, and although much of that paper is only an indirect Government liability—the creation of municipalities, corporations, trusts, &c.—it all stands to become valueless because the people have been stripped of all the substantial wealth they possessed before the war. How, then, is the mass of valueless paper to be endowed with a real value? The Government can have nothing to give, for it has made no provision for payment of interest on its war debt. "Real value"—that is just what Germany does not possess. Look at her trade. How often has it been insisted on by us that a country like the German Empire could not hope to maintain a position of apparent solvency before the world after the almost complete loss of a foreign trade which, before the war, exceeded £1,000,000,000 a year. Much of that trade has probably gone for ever; most assuredly it cannot be got back again in our generation; could not be if Germany were partially the victor, which she cannot be. So all the German vapourings about resuming their place in the world's commerce, conquering new markets and extending them is simply another permanent manifestation of the hopeless madness of the nation. Their reverses in the war have not yet cured them of their conceit.

What will be the position of the German iron and steel industries when the war is over? Assuming their raw material left to them, which it must not be, where are they going to get orders abroad? or at home—for at home buyers will only have paper to offer in payment? What are they going to do with the stocks of shells and guns and bullets, &c., &c., they will probably have on hand when the native military devastators of the country are no longer able to thrust them into the jaws of death as offerings to their Moloch of universal dominion? Is there to-day any free, realisable wealth in Germany, anything unpawned, unencumbered with paper, perhaps three or fourfold thick? We do not know for certain, but we should fancy that there will be nothing but debt left when this war ends—state debt, banking debt, industrial debt, trader debt, municipal debt, and private debt. The Junker landowners may have cash, they having profited by the nation's hunger; but they will not give gold for paper on any terms, of that we may be sure. A free people, or a people resolved to be free, might kill them and take the gold, but the Teuton is not built that way.

"As long as gamblers settle their debts with I.O.U.'s they can live without money, and could go on for years," says Mr. Mackenzie. Could they? What do "gambling debts" generally imply? That the winner obtains something to spend which gives him the gratification of his senses in whatever way he pleases. But is it not true that the impossibility of exchanging "gamblers' paper" in Germany for nothing worth having whatsoever is continually on the increase? It is not all shortage of food which causes the cost of living to be so high there, higher than here or in any country of the Allies. It is the increasing and now perfectly hopeless depreciation of the paper currency by which the Government tries to keep the amenities of civilisation in existence. In Austria it is even worse than in Germany, and the coming winter in the Habsburg Empire, if the war lasts to next spring, will probably mean that the poor of the towns and the harried rural population will have died of starvation in millions. The actualities of life cannot be played with after the manner the Germans are doing without suffering for it.

The Germans need not pay anything in gold, says Mr. Mackenzie, or if they do their gold is still adequate

* See INVESTORS' REVIEW, Vol. XXXIV., p. 360.

for settlement of all they buy from neutral nations. Well, perhaps it is, but if it be then are we warranted in holding the belief that the gold paraded as being in the Reichsbank is not all there—is a fraudulent misrepresentation intended to deceive. For not only must goods bought from neutrals be paid in gold, but much also of what is supplied to the dupes of the Germans in other countries. The Bulgarian army has not been created and maintained since its smashing defeats in 1913 merely with German paper money; nor has Turkey been able to gather together her last elements of strength in order to massacre her down-trodden Christians, and to furnish troops to assist Germany in her self and civilisation-destroying career, merely by paying out scraps of paper stamped and issued in Berlin. The story went round the papers the other week that since the war began £10,000,000 had been laid out by the Wilhelmstrasse bunglers in espionage and Press corruption at home and abroad. Nobody can say what the amount was, but whatever went abroad would have to be sent in gold or in something that could be exchanged for gold. Looking at the matter from this point of view, is it not reasonable to infer that the sustenance of so many "allied" armies, and the shoring up of decrepit Austria, as well as the suborning of Greece, have cost Germany many tens of millions sterling in the past two years, and that payment of the obligations thus incurred could not have been made otherwise than in gold or gold's unchallengeable equivalent, because German foreign commerce of the profit-yielding sort has practically ceased? Her exports, except to Austria and Hungary, and to some extent perhaps to Switzerland and the Scandinavian States, have been completely stopped. The resulting internal condition of the empire must be something wholly inconceivable to the citizen of a free country. No doubt the insane beings who inhabit that empire, or their rulers, are resolved to bluff to the last, to brag, to swagger, and to conceal the truth, but economic laws cannot be abrogated by falsehood and make-believe. They will, on the contrary, assert themselves with all the more deadly energy, the more the foolish ones try to suppress or defy them.

As for our position, that is too long a story, but it is surely worth remembering that our foreign trade is unfettered, that it is growing larger, that it is yielding profit more or less helpful to us in the meeting of our commitments abroad, and that when the war ends it will, in unison with the trade of our Allies and dependencies, control the markets of the world as it never did before in the whole course of our history.

What Is To Become of the Book Trade?

In the October number of the *Book Monthly*, its editor, Mr. James Milne, has been at pains to gather up from a variety of more or less authoritative sources opinions on the influence of the war upon the future of books. The majority of the men and women consulted avoid the expression of dogmatic opinions, and only a few of them say anything on the mere business, or economic, side of the subject, which alone interests us. The Rev. Sir W. Robertson Nicoll does, indeed, assert that "serious books costing, say, from 6s. to 12s., on theology, history, criticism, and the like, have gone down a great deal, but I see no reason why they should not rally again"; but he does not tell us how he reaches this conclusion. Mr. John Murray is almost equally useless as solvent of a problem which must become more and more peremptory as we begin to reap the harvest of war's devastation. Mr. Murray is a publisher of wide experience, and a high-principled man, therefore one who must know even more about the inside working of the business of book issuing than even Sir W. Robertson Nicoll. Yet he seems to us to fail to grasp the core of the problem now beginning to press for examination at least. Here is what he tells us in the pages of Mr. Milne's valuable magazine:—

No one can tell what will happen after the war, or whether normal prices will return in the days of the present generation,

but the extraordinary popularity of cheap books, especially of cheap reprints, gives cause for considerable anxiety. It is hardly realised by the public that very few books of considerable size and of permanent literary value have ever attained to success in a shilling edition, unless they have first made their reputation in a more expensive form. Many people imagine that a shilling edition, regardless of the cost of production, is a sure passport to wide circulation and financial success, instead of being, as it is, a consequence of success. A shilling does not admit of the expensive advertisement which is generally necessary to bring a book into notice. In other words, to create a demand is a costly process and a book must at the outset be sold at a price which will cover this cost.

If Mr. Murray is right, then the future outlook for the book trade, for author and publisher alike, is indeed bad. But is he right? Is there no way out of the *impasse*? What does Mr. Murray's statement amount to? Surely to little more than that publishers are the serfs of the lending libraries still. They appear to advertise high-priced books at great expense in order to force these libraries to "stock up," and in doing so too often contrive to sweep away or seriously reduce the profits to at least the author's hurt, and with all their efforts they have often to fall back on the cheap edition in order to bring a book within reach of the great public. Surely this is a clumsy method of doing business as well as a costly. To mulct the lending libraries, and so to assist them to become insolvent when reading is brisk and books are many, the publisher issues his books at high prices to begin with. He puts them all, good or bad, large or small, in cloth covers, also to obey the demands of the lending library, and after spending a sum of money, more or less large, he sells, beyond the libraries, perhaps one dozen, perhaps six dozen, to private buyers. If the book has "caught on" with the circulating library public, he brings out a "cheap edition," which he also binds as if for the lending library at a cost that reduces its profitableness.

The whole process is antiquated, costly, and the reverse of profitable for the author. Ay, even for the publisher the waste must often be disgusting, even should he have protected himself by exacting a contribution towards costs from the author, or provided a wide margin against loss by his commission on the advertising bill. And all the time it is the cheap, or comparatively cheap, book that brings grist to the mill. But the cheap book is looked down upon by most high-class publishers. Apparently they would rather sell ten copies at the high price to the lending libraries than ten thousand to the public at a low. It is folly, it is a slavishness of mind towards old habits that the world will soon no longer have room for. We remember the days when the "cant price," as we might call it, for a novel was 3rs. 6d., said novel issued in three volumes for behoof of the lending library, whose chance of revenue was thereby supposed to be increased. When a novel prospered among those who read, it did often get reprinted in a cheap (and generally nasty) form, but old custom of issue held the publishers to the grotesque unreality of the guinea and a-half until the lending libraries themselves struck against it.

It was replaced by the 6s., i.e., the 4s. 6d., novel, and neither publisher nor lending library seem to have grown poorer in consequence. But we have now come upon times of dear paper and heightened compositors' charges, and the 6s.=4s. 6d. novel is giving place in some quarters to the 5s. nett, in others to the 2s. nett, and thus the trade muddles and flounders along. Why cannot our publishers and booksellers study the habit of our Allies, the French, in the book trade? It is much more logically sound than ours. There are expensive, sumptuously got-up books published in France, but even the most expensive can be had in paper covers, because the producer has not a lending library fashion to obey, because private tastes are left free with the binding. And the overwhelming majority of the books issued in France are low-priced at the outset. The translations of French books, though, when issued here, are almost invariably high-priced. Take M. Yves Guyot's "Les Causes et les Conséquences de la Guerre," a solid and important book. It soon reached

a second edition in the original French, published at 3*fr.* 50*c.* How many editions will the English translation run to, published, bound in the usual boards, at 10*s.* 6*d.*? The lending and other libraries will buy a few, and that will be about all. It is just the same with pamphlets. One of the most valuable and suggestive little books called forth by the war is M. Emile Hovelague's essay entitled "*Les Causes Profondes de la Guerre.*" It was issued in Paris by Felix Alcan in paper covers, as usual, at 1*fr.* 25*c.* (1*s.*), but when the author brought his own translation to be issued here—and an admirable translation it is—he apparently could not find a publisher capable of producing it at less than 2*s.* 6*d.* in cloth. It is just the same with Henry Davray's well-balanced story of England's feats and position in this war. In the original it can be had for 2*s.* 8*d.* or less (3*fr.* 50*c.*); in English the price is 6*s.* It is thus throughout, and the consequence is that we buy books in French when we want them; in English we borrow at the library. This writer buys at least a dozen books in French for one he buys new in English.

But Mr. Murray says, "A shilling does not admit of the expensive advertisement which is generally necessary to bring a book into notice." Now, is that really true? Can Mr. Murray or any other publisher produce an authentic instance of a book being lifted merely by expensive advertisements into the popularity that implies a great sale? Profuse advertising, we rather imagine, may give a fillip to the demand for a book, but no amount of outlay of this kind will ever create and sustain the sale of a book that is not in itself, for one reason or another, attractive. Do the French publishers spend large sums on newspaper advertisements? They do not; they never have done. Efforts large and sustained have been made by the *Times* and other British journals to establish among French publishing houses a habit of advertising, and every now and then you see, as it were, a transient gleam of French book advertisements here. But they always drop out, and come to nothing. There can, indeed, be no continuity in such attempts—because they are not needed in the first place, and, above all, because they do not pay, never can pay.

When the pinching times of peace return, few, indeed, will there be to buy expensive books. Our publishers, therefore, would do well to consult together and elaborate a new and better system of distribution. They are now the slaves of the lending library and of a worn-out, an antiquated routine in business, and should be easily able to elaborate a better way to place their wares before the buyer. Some beginning of wiser usages have been made at the railway bookstalls and the shops of W. H. Smith and Son, but the trade of bookselling in this country is a mean and poverty-stricken one compared to what it is in France or what it used to be in Germany. We are improving, no doubt, but we are a long way yet from being in England book-lovers and book-buyers. In Scotland it is otherwise, and always has been. It is time the publisher opened his eyes and went to the counter.

American Business Notes.

It is officially announced that the receiver of the International Mercantile Marine Co. has been discharged and the company fully reinstated in its assets. Under the new arrangement Mr. Harold A. Sanderson has been appointed chairman of the board of directors of the International Mercantile Marine Co., which owns the stock of the White Star Line, American Line, and the various other subsidiary companies. Associated with Mr. Sanderson is Mr. P. A. S. Franklin, of New York, who has been appointed president of the company; Mr. E. C. Grenfell, of London, continues to fill the position of vice-president, the other member of the board on this side being Lord Pirrie. The boards of the subsidiary companies will all be composed of British subjects approved by H.M. Government, and no change is in contemplation as regards the directorships

of the White Star Line, and but few in connection with the boards of the other subsidiary companies.

During the last three years the New York, Ontario and Western Railway Co. has spent \$2,247,000 on capital account, which has been provided for from earnings or by the issue of equipment notes, and Mr. Howard Elliott, the chairman of the board, claims that in consequence of this outlay the property was never in a better condition or better able to do its work with efficiency. Unfortunately, the nett results were not particularly better. The clear income from all sources after paying \$260,000 in taxes, or about \$18,000 more than for the preceding year, was \$332,000 up at \$2,666,000, and there were savings in various outgoings, interest on the floating debt, for instance, having taken more than \$20,000 less, so that the board was able to pay a small dividend on the common stock partly by reducing the balance brought forward from \$612,000 to \$402,000. Trade was not good in all directions, and the company at best is a miserable affair, but it at least got a little of the wealth pouring into the United States last year.

The "Soo" Railway, the Minneapolis, St. Paul and Sault Ste. Marie, to give it its full name, is the property of the Canadian Pacific, or entirely its creature, but is none the less a United States road with an American directorate and officials whose head office is in Minneapolis. It has a Chicago division, however, called the Wisconsin Central, and is therefore a powerful agent in the Canadian Pacific Co.'s prosperity. Its gross earnings on the "Soo" line system last year ended June 30, including the income of this Chicago division, was \$35,010,000, and its expenses \$19,081,000.

The Chesapeake and Ohio Railway was apparently unable to pay any dividend for the past year and only gave 1 per cent. for 1914-15, but the surplus remaining after meeting interest and other charges was increased by \$4,843,000 to \$6,879,000, so that it was not poverty which dictated the abstention from paying anything to the holders of the common stock. Traffic income, in fact, was \$8,775,000 up at \$48,239,000, but nearly half the increase was absorbed by the larger working expenses, which at \$31,789,000 were \$4,233,000 up. The final nett revenue, after the usual debit and credit adjustments, was accordingly \$4,707,000 up at \$17,631,000, most of which was carried forward undistributed. There is no mention of any money having been assigned to improvements out of revenue, but the working expenses were down to 65.9 per cent. of the receipts as compared with 70.5 per cent. two years ago.

The income of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad was \$60,318,000 last year, or \$8,712,000 more than in 1914-15, while the working expenses were only \$358,000 up at \$39,790,000, the proportion of working costs to earnings having tumbled in one year from 76.41 to 65.97 per cent. There does not seem to have been any pinching either in order to attain this economy, although maintenance of way, &c., shows a decline of nearly \$700,000. By such means nett revenue was augmented, and at \$22,722,000 was \$9,261,000 up, and although the dividend was raised by 1 per cent. to 6 for the year, the surplus remaining to carry forward was no less than \$8,374,000 larger at \$9,634,000. Two years ago the dividend was 7 per cent., and that might easily have been again paid, but it was obviously thought better to keep the money in hand.

It is curious to note how the average revenue earned per ton per mile varies on the railways of the United States. For example, the Union Pacific earned .885 cents per ton mile last year, which was .083 cents less than in the preceding year, but the receipts per revenue train mile rose from \$4.21 to \$4.28, thanks to the increase in the train load, which became 492 tons, compared with 442 tons for the preceding year and 430 tons for 1912-13. But the Chesapeake and Ohio earned only .380 cents per ton per mile. It, too, however, increased its earnings per freight ton mile by 33 cents to \$3.81, thanks to the heavier load hauled, which rose from 906 to 1,003 tons. Three years before the train load was only 843 tons. When we come, though, to a road like the St. Louis South-Western, whose

main business is to carry cotton, we find the earnings per ton per mile up to 1.03 cents. True, that is also lower than in the previous year, but still much above the other two instances given. The higher freight, however, did not much augment the earnings per freight train per mile, which were \$3.57, against \$3.25 in the preceding year.

Tea, Oil and Rubber.

Except for the advance to 2s. 5½d. in the price of standard crêpe, there has been nothing very cheerful in connection with the rubber market, although individual shares benefited by the announcement of excellent dividends. But markets were not in a mood to put quotations better in any direction, and as some nervous holders were inclined to sell on the war news, the tone has been flat. It may be noted, however, that there was very little selling pressure, and the few bold spirits who hoped to pick up bargains found that there was not so much stock about as might have been expected. The rise in the commodity is less easily explained. It is true there has been a trifling decrease in stocks, but not to an extent that would justify any material movement in price. On the other hand, the end of the war does not look so near as it did some time ago, and so long as it lasts there is little probability of the price having to be substantially reduced.

Very satisfactory progress was made by the Kamuning (Perak) Rubber and Tin Co. in its year ended June 30. Although the average yield per acre was reduced by 24½ lbs. to 445½ lbs., through thinning-out operations and young areas coming into bearing, the total crop was 65,499 lbs. larger at 733,776 lbs., and the "all-in" cost was further reduced by .44d. to 1s. 1.49d. At the same time the price realised rose by 5d. to 2s. 7.76d., and with £1,441 received from tin under the tributing arrangements the nett profits amounted to £57,768, or £20,165 more. The dividend is again raised by 5 per cent. to 20 per cent., and £20,000 is transferred to reserve, compared with £7,500 a year ago, leaving £6,352 to be carried forward as against £5,079 brought in. During the year £2,670 was spent on upkeep of the immature area and £628 on buildings and machinery, but £2,727 was written off the second item, so that the total cost of the estate was only increased by £570 to £214,119. The crop for 1916-17 is estimated at 810,000 lbs.

In the year ended June 30 the Brooklands Selangor Rubber Co. brought in a number of young trees, and the output rose by 222,957 lbs. to 397,007 lbs., or 27,000 lbs. more than had been expected. Owing partly to the increased cost of freight, but more to the larger proportion of young trees brought into bearing, the "all-in" cost was 2.21d. heavier at 1s. 1.47d., while the gross price was only 2.30d. better at 2s. 4.84d. Thanks, however, to the increase in the crop the nett profits were £16,106 larger at £27,725, out of which £2,000 has been written off for depreciation and £2,000 transferred to reserve as against £1,500 in each case a year ago. After providing for debenture interest and administration charges and adding £2,888, or £2,048 less, brought in, there was an available balance of £23,528, and the dividend is raised from 9 per cent. to 15, leaving £6,794, or £3,906 more, to be carried forward. During the year £15,895 of debenture stock was converted into shares at the rate of 2s. 9d. per 2s. share, making an increase of £11,560 in the issued share capital. The transaction yielded £4,393 from premiums, which has been utilised in the reduction of development expenditure, leaving a nett increase of £4,701 to £120,214 in the cost of the property. Since the close of the year a new property consisting of about 750 acres, of which 150 acres were already felled preparatory to planting, has been purchased for £1,500, and as further capital will be required for the planting and development of this estate as well as for completing the development of the new block of land acquired from the Government, the

directors ask for authority to issue not exceeding 150,000 of the unissued shares as and when they may consider it desirable. The crop for the current year is estimated at 570,000 lbs., of which 137,806 lbs. were secured during the first three months, and although there has been a further rise in the cost of freight, which is now at the rate of £6 18s. 6d. per ton of 50 cubic feet, as compared with £3 6s. previous to the commencement of the war, the "all-in" cost is estimated at 1s. 1d.

A further increase of 59,813 lbs. to 476,047 lbs. was obtained by the Castlefield (Klang) Rubber Estate in its year ended June 30. The nett price realised was 6.17d. up at 2s. 7.64d., and the profits showed an improvement of £14,850 at £41,501. Adding £6,090 brought forward, the disposable total was £15,608 up at £47,592, out of which £5,000 is again transferred to reserve, and the dividend is increased from 45 per cent. to 65 per cent., leaving £13,702, or £6,248 more, to be carried forward, subject to excess profits duty. In October an estate of 251 acres, of which 230 acres are under rubber planted mostly in 1914, was purchased for £1,500, and including this the cost of the property was increased by £8,409 to £7,412. Further calls of 4s. per share on 8,000 shares brought the paid-up capital to £44,673 and the premium account to £17,474, in addition to which the reserve will now stand at £22,500. A crop of 555,000 lbs. is expected for 1916-17, and in the three months ended September 30 137,627 lbs. were harvested.

Why do the controllers of the "Addinsell group" of undertakings not adopt the practice now almost universal of giving the "all-in" cost? Results recently published show that they need not fear comparisons in this respect, and further testimony to their careful and economical management is afforded by the report of the Sungei Kari (Sumatra) Rubber Estate for the year ended June 30. The crop amounted to 310,126 lbs., or an increase of 22,616 lbs., and with an improvement of 5.54d. to 2s. 6.38d. in the nett price, the income was £9,612 larger at £39,372. After providing for London office expenses and other charges, including £460 more for income-tax in Sumatra, the nett profits were £8,507 up at £28,533, and the dividend on both the participating preference and ordinary shares is increased from 22½ per cent. to 30 per cent. A provisional assessment of £1,888 for excess profits duty was deducted from the balance brought forward, and in view of the uncertainty as to the exact liability under this head, the directors, instead of repeating last year's appropriation of £2,500 to reserve, have decided to carry forward the whole of the balance of £11,566. During the year £2,565 was spent on development, making the cost to date £61,037, exclusive of buildings and machinery. Stocks of rubber, &c., are valued at £13,801, or £4,386 more, and in addition to an increase of £1,688 to £12,249 in cash, £2,000, or say half the reserve fund, has been invested in War Loan, while on the other hand current liabilities are £2,408 up at £8,223. The crop for the current year is estimated at 330,000 lbs., of which 83,360 lbs. were secured in the first three months.

A young producer which is making rapid headway is the Bekoh Rubber Estates. The company has 1,692 acres under cultivation, of which 637 acres are in bearing and 829 acres partly in bearing, and in the year ended June 30 it harvested a crop of 300,237 lbs., or an increase of 80,062 lbs. A gross price of 2s. 9.30d., or 6.55d. more, was obtained, and as the "all-in" cost was only slightly heavier at 1s. 2½d., nett profits showed an increase of £12,887 at £21,571. Out of this dividends aggregating 20 per cent. have been paid, as compared with 7½ per cent. for the previous year, and after providing for depreciation £3,539 is carried forward as against £1,753 brought in. In the current year a further substantial increase to 420,000 lbs. is expected in the crop.

Less progress has been made by the Straits Plantations, Ltd., than might reasonably have been expected. Both coconuts and rubber fell off, and profits were only maintained because the prices realised were so high.

No explanation is given in the report to June 30 for the decreases, but this will doubtless be furnished at next week's meeting. The number of coconuts harvested was 3,818,500, a decrease of nearly 800,000 as compared with the estimate, and of 600,000 as compared with the crop of the previous twelve months. Manufactured copra cost £11 12s. 10d. per ton, against £9 10s. 5d., and 140 tons less at 964 tons were produced, but it fetched an average of £20 4s. 5d., against £16 3s. The estimated output for the current year is 4,400,000 nuts. Rubber yielded 52,450 lbs., against an estimate of 54,000 lbs. and a crop of 68,930 lbs. for the previous year. Costs were 1s. 4d., against 1s., but the nett price realised was 2s. 5.24d., against 2s. 0.21d. For the current year the output is estimated at only 50,000 lbs., so that rubber seems to be fading gradually into the background. In the case both of copra and rubber costs have been increased by a larger proportion of general charges being debited against them. Gross profits were £9,200 higher at £34,147, but freight and other charges absorbed £7,200 more, and the nett profit of £11,289 is £2,000 up. The dividend is maintained at 6 per cent., and £5,000 is again placed to reserve. After providing for directors' additional remuneration, the balance of £4,200 to be carried forward is practically the same as last time. Nothing in the balance-sheet need detain us, but the cash position is considerably stronger than it was a year ago.

RUBBER ESTATES OF JOHORE.—The directors have decided to make a distribution in kind of a portion of the capital assets, consisting of part of the 20,132 fully paid £1 shares of the North Labis (Johore) Rubber and Produce Co., Ltd., at present standing in the name of this company. The distribution will be in the proportion of one share of the North Labis Co. for every complete seven shares held in this company.

NORTH HUMMOCK (SELANGOR) RUBBER.—During the year ended June 30 the number of trees in tapping was increased by 40,445, of which 27,297 were brought in on January 1, and the crop harvested was 145,830 lbs. larger at 523,025 lbs. The all-in cost, in spite of selling charges being about ½d. up, owing to freights, showed a satisfactory reduction of 1.43d. at 1s. 1.18d., and as the price realised rose by 3.26d. to 2s. 6.13d., the nett profits improved by £18,059 to £17,723. Out of this a dividend of 30 per cent. is paid, as against 20 per cent. for the previous year, £3,000, or £1,000 more, is transferred to general reserve, and £15,704, or £10,723 more, is carried forward, subject to excessive profits duty. Property account is £1,100 up on balance at £103,581, against a paid-up capital of £80,000, and reserves, including share premiums, of £33,700. The crop for 1916-17 is estimated at 570,000 lbs., of which 156,044 lbs. were harvested in the first three months.

TILLYFOUR RUBBER.—The crop of rubber for the year ended June 30 showed an increase of 34,786 lbs. at 98,325 lbs., and the directors say that this figure would probably have been exceeded had not the unusual shortage of rainfall during the monsoon caused a certain amount of illness amongst the tapping coolies. Tea yielded a trifle more at 59,818 lbs. The gross price of rubber was 5.745d. better at 2s. 8.65d., but the nett price realised for tea dropped by 1.77d. to 8.43d., and against these the "all-in" costs were respectively 1s. 7.35d. and 5.42d. Including £1,191 brought forward, the available surplus was £3,265 larger at £7,462, out of which a first dividend of 6 per cent., less tax, was paid, £500 is written off preliminary expenses, and £1,500 is transferred to reserve, as against £2,506 off preliminary expenses a year ago, leaving £341 more at £1,532 to be carried forward. The crops for the current year are estimated at 120,000 lbs. rubber and 50,000 lbs. tea, and forward sales have been made of 30,240 lbs. rubber at 2s. 9d. per lb. It is proposed to split the shares, which are at present of £1 denomination, into 10 shares of 2s. each.

NEW DIMBULA.—Owing to a reduction of 64 lbs. to 596 lbs. in the yield per acre the tea crop for the year ended June 30 fell off by 116,783 lbs. to 1,503,632 lbs. At the same time the nett price dropped by .44d. to 9.56d., while the f.o.b. cost rose by 3 cents to 30.66 cents, and after writing off £701 for tea extension account the nett profit was £23,600, or a decrease of £6,529. Nothing is written off compared with £1,090 for depreciation of investments, and after setting aside £800, or £200 less, as reserve against income-tax, the directors repeat the dividend of 20 per cent. and a bonus of 6 per cent., leaving £7,274 to be carried forward as against £5,002 brought in. Current liabilities are £15,233 up at £31,649, and against this cash and loans have risen by £13,171 to £28,195, debtors owe £5,246, or £4,330 more, and £1,989 has been invested in War Loan, while stocks have fallen £7,630 to £19,612. Investments are still carried at £17,379, but the market value shows a further depreciation of £581 at £12,924.

MATURATA TEA AND RUBBER.—This company owns two estates, one under tea and the other under rubber and coconuts. For the year ended June 30 the tea crop was 221,096 lbs., or an increase of 25,529 lbs., but the nett average price was 1.28d. lower at 8.72d., and rubber yielded 2,433 lbs. more at 51,069 lbs., which realised 2s. 5.94d. against 2s. 0.4d., while the coconut crop fell off by 22,534 nuts to 244,919 nuts, but fetched 2s. more per 1,000 at 65s. Nothing is written off coast advances this time compared with £250. and after again providing £250 for depreciation the nett profits were £430 up at £6,921, giving with £2,882 brought in an available total of £9,803, or £1,961 more. The dividend on the ordinary shares is increased from 15 per cent. to 20 per cent., less tax, but instead of transferring £4,000 to reserve £4,643, or £1,761 more, is carried forward to provide for two years' excess profits duty. The crops for the current year are estimated at 180,000 lbs. tea, 60,000 lbs. rubber, and 275,000 coconuts.

EASTERN SUMATRA RUBBER.—During the year ended June 30 this company purchased the property and assets of the Sakoeda Tea and Produce Syndicate, bringing its planted area up to 2,721 acres, of which 2,195 acres are under rubber and 526 acres under tea. The company is not yet producing either rubber or tea on a large scale, but during the period under review harvested 41,221 lbs. of rubber and 36,560 lbs. of tea, while the coffee crop was increased by 1,987 cwt. to 2,352 cwt. The average gross prices realised were 2s. 8½d. per lb. for rubber and £3 16s. 6d. per cwt. for coffee, and after providing for all charges, including one-third of the local management and general expenses, the whole of the London administration expenses, and £1,500 for depreciation, there was a balance of £3,092, which was carried forward. During the year 153,500 2s. shares and £9,375 debenture stock were issued in connection with the purchase of the Sakoeda property, making the paid-up capital £144,192 and the debenture debt outstanding £25,156. Including the cost of Sakoeda, the property account was increased by £36,814 to £137,618, and buildings and machinery by £2,721 to £14,327, but the item of £10,200 for shares and debentures in the Sakoeda Co. appearing in the last balance-sheet has now disappeared. Crops for the current year are estimated at 90,000 lbs. rubber, 60,000 lbs. tea, and 4,700 cwt. coffee, and 6 tons of rubber have been sold forward at 3s. 1½d. per lb.

UKUWELA ESTATES.—In the year ended June 30, the tea crop showed a small increase of only 7,000 lbs. at 290,436 lbs., and the price realised was .47d. smaller at 7.98d., while the f.o.b. cost rose by .57d. to 6.22d. Rubber, however, gave 24,469 lbs. more at 96,599 lbs. at an f.o.b. cost of 8d., or ½d. less, and realised 4½d. more at 2s. 5d., and including receipts from cocoa and coconuts, the nett profits, after writing off £504 for bad and doubtful debts, were £2,260 up at £13,308. Out of this £1,000 is transferred to debenture redemption account, but nothing is written off compared with £1,050 to coast advances reserve, and the dividend and bonus are increased from 40 per cent. to 50 per cent., tax free, which, the directors point out, is equivalent to a distribution at the rate of 60.60 per cent., less tax, or 16.47 per cent. more than a year ago. The balance left to carry forward is £556 up at £632. For the current year the crops are estimated at 280,000 lbs. tea, 100,000 lbs. rubber, 248 cwt. of cocoa, and 50,000 coconuts.

JAVA AMALGAMATED RUBBER.—In announcing the payment of an interim dividend of 6 per cent. (actual), less tax, in respect of the year ending December 31, the directors state that the crop of rubber harvested in the nine months to September was 372,570 lbs., against 241,970 lbs. for the corresponding period of the previous year. Of this crop 168,558 lbs. have been sold to date at an average gross price of 2s. 5.37d. per lb. (London equivalent). The estimate for 1916 of 450,000 lbs. has been raised to 480,000 lbs. Forward contract deliveries arranged from date to the end of the financial year cover a further 35,840 lbs. at an average gross price of 3s. 1½d. per lb. (London equivalent). In addition, contracts have been concluded for the delivery of 53,760 lbs. of rubber in 1917 at an average gross price of 2s. 9½d. per lb. For the nine months the coffee crop was 8,978 cwt., as against the estimate of 8,000 cwt. for the year to December 31. The bulk of the first-grade coffee has been sold, delivered in Sourabaya, at an average gross price of 59s. 7d. per cwt., and, in addition, 3,600 cwt. of the 1917 coffee crop have been sold, delivered in Sourabaya, at an average price of 54s. 11d. per cwt.

ABACO (SELANGOR) RUBBER.—This company only began tapping in July, 1915, and between that time and March 31 it harvested 15,197 lbs., as against an estimate of 12,500 lbs. An average nett price of 2s. 8.66d. was obtained, and, after writing off £62 for depreciation, a profit of £290 was left, which the directors have carried forward. The company has an estate of 1,010 acres, of which half is under cultivation, and at the date of the balance-sheet the capital expenditure amounted to £16,143, or just under £32 per planted acre. For the current year the crop is estimated at 58,000 lbs., of which 26,537 lbs. were obtained in the first six months.

RUDGE-WHITWORTH, LTD.—The directors are unable to present the usual accounts for the year ending July 31, 1916, owing to the impossibility of making a reliable estimate of stock values, and also to the uncertainty as to the incidence of taxation under the Munitions and Finance Acts. The volume of business transacted has naturally been far greater than in any previous year of the company's history, but the output of the staple products has been, and remains, practically suspended. A dividend of 10 per cent. is paid on the ordinary shares, tax free, or the same as a year ago.

IRISH RAILWAYS.

		£	+	£	+	£	+	£
Belfast and County Down.	Oct. 20	3,334	+	188	+	138,016	+	5,883
Grand Canal.	" 20	960	—	266	+	16,862	—	1,850
Great Northern	" 20	23,835	+	385	+	1,012,718	+	30,718
Gt. Southern and Western.	" 20	37,894	+	3,415	+	1,395,595	—	18,867
Midland Great Western	" 20	15,768	+	1,995	+	552,750	+	10,171

* From Jan. 1. † From July 1.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

		Rs.	+	Rs.	+	Rs.	+	Rs.
Assam Bengal	Aug. 26	1,30,000	+	29,948	+	26,29,411	—	1,11,567
Bengal & N.W.	Sep. 16	2,76,530	+	10,191	+	96,79,989	+	19,57,756
Bengal Nagpur	Sep. 16	9,04,000	+	1,59,000	+	2,25,21,425	+	39,03,289
Bombay, Baroda	Oct. 14	10,04,000	+	1,48,000	+	20,54,000	+	2,50,000
Burma	Sep. 9	3,94,516	+	51,008	+	89,20,247	+	2,66,957
Delhi Umballa	Oct. 21	77,500	+	13,270	+	2,15,000	+	13,769
East Indian	" 21	22,47,000	+	5,41,000	+	62,53,000	+	3,78,000
Gt. Indian Penin.	" 14	15,49,800	+	38,200	+	30,95,800	+	3,51,700
Lucknow Bareilly	Sep. 16	30,141	+	5,484	+	10,38,137	+	1,33,452
Madras and S.	" 16	8,75,000	+	53,100	+	2,36,16,152	+	18,88,740
Mahratta	" 9	1,27,929	—	18,397	+	29,09,493	+	1,45,989
Nizam's Gd. (Broad)	" 9	56,550	—	3,681	+	14,48,671	—	39,293
(Metre)	" 9							
Rohilkund and	" 16	28,712	+	2,342	+	9,95,910	+	1,48,169
Kumaon	" 9	6,02,087	+	26,323	+	1,41,71,718	+	11,04,610
South Indian	" 9							

a 13 days. † April 1. † October 1.

COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

		£	+	£	+	£	+	£
Beira	Aug. *	37,523	+	2,832	+	72,791	+	3,271
Canadian Northern	Oct. 14	\$839,700	+	\$47,900	+	\$13,251,800	+	\$4,142,400
Canadian Pacific	" 14	\$2,932,000	+	\$136,000	+	\$46,295,000	+	\$10,354,000
Gr. Trk. Main Line	" 21	198,475	+	35,395	+	7,718,400	+	1,174,296
Gr. Trk. Western	" 21	35,951	—	1,603	+	1,552,707	+	324,165
Detroit G. H. & M.	" 21	12,458	—	1,541	+	549,904	+	104,545
Gr Trk Prairie Sc	" 21	27,034	—	17,762	—	290,350	—	22,992
Mashonaland	Aug. *	64,185	+	9,328	3			
Mid. of Westn. Aus.	" *	5,804	—	1	2	10,706	—	366
New Cape Central	Sep. 16	1,362	—	186	+	57,453	—	7,751
Rhodesia	" 16	93,554	+	11,216	3	263,784	+	18,457

a 9 days. * Months. † July 1. † Jan. 1. c From Oct. 1.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

		\$	+	\$	+	\$	+	\$
Chesapeake & Ohio	Oct. 14	—	+	70,000	+	—	+	790,000
Chicago G.W.	" 14	345,000	+	28,000	+	4,838,000	+	607,000
Colorado & South'n	" 7	—	+	28,000	+	—	+	421,000
Denver & Rio Gran.	" 7	565,000	+	16,000	+	7,420,000	+	192,000
Louisv'e & Nashv'e	" 7	1,305,000	+	219,000	+	17,415,000	+	2,352,000
Minn. S.P. (Soo)§	Sep. 21	699,000	—	65,000	+	8,426,000	+	1,423,000
Missouri Kansas	Oct. 14	—	+	174,000	+	—	+	2,222,000
Northern Pacific	Aug. 31	2,107,000	+	87,000	+	13,576,000	+	2,150,000
Southern	Oct. 7	1,540,000	+	167,000	+	10,906,000	+	2,095,000

§ Includes Wisconsin Central. † From July 1.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—HOME.

		£	+	£	+	£	+	£
Bristol	Oct. 20	10,358	+	875	+	425,467	+	21,807
Dublin United	" 20	6,341	+	279	+	256,121	—	1,215
Hastings and Dist.	" 20	935	+	61	+	45,286	+	2,872
Isle of Thanet	" 21	292	+	5	+	966	—	107
Lancashire United.	" 18	1,850	+	132	+	77,397	+	3,815
Provincial	" 21	2,251	+	146	+	6,905	+	334
Yorks. (West. Rdng.)	" 22	1,756	+	320	+	75,909	+	7,603

* From Oct. 1. † From Jan. 1.

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.		GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
		Week ending	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	Wks.	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.
Alcoy and Gandia	Oct. 21	Ps. 8,000	—	Ps. 1,000	†	Ps. 530,300	—
Antofagasta (Chili)	" 22	41,170	+	13,820	†	1,439,520	+
Arauco	Aug.	10,500	+	6,750	†	162,738	+
Argentina N.E.	Oct. 21	6,700	—	1,215	†	108,802	—
Bilbao R. and Canta	Aug. *	6,457	+	1,235	7	36,518	+
Bolivar	Sep. *	8,000	—	1,48	3	23,550	—
Brazil	July *	M3,357,000	+	M78,935	†	M242,600	+
Brazil Gt. Southern	June *	M18,35,500	—	M7,350	†	M214,600	—
B. Ayres & Pacific	Oct. 21	10,000	+	10,000	†	1,313,000	+
Do. Gt. South'n	" 22	106,000	+	11,000	†	1,575,254	+
Do. Western	" 22	58,000	+	10,000	†	834,000	+
Central Argentine	" 21	112,000	—	5,700	†	1,824,900	—
C. Ur'g'ay of Mts V.	" 21	12,948	—	665	†	180,140	—
Do. East'n Ex.	" 21	4,030	+	108	†	60,321	+
Do. North'n Ex.	" 21	2,131	+	118	†	28,851	—
Do. West'n Ex.	" 21	2,272	—	61	†	27,353	—
Colombian National	Aug. *	13,760	+	1,062	8	99,910	+
Cordoba Central	Oct. 21	26,000	—	765	†	520,530	—
Costa Rica	Sep. 9	5,085	+	76	†	54,877	+
Cuban Central	Oct. 21	9,215	—	743	†	19,483	—
Dorada Extension	Aug. *	9,500	—	400	†	64,000	—
Egyptian Delta	Sep. 30a	6,519	+	1,151	†	91,031	+
Entre Rios	Oct. 21	11,800	+	600	†	191,900	+
French Sante Fé	July	90,972	+	15,010	†	619,079	+
Gt. South. of Spain	Oct. 14	Ps. 83,896	+	Ps. 35,791	†	Ps. 3,028,381	+
Gt. West. of Brazil.	" 21	10,200	+	5,300	†	400,000	+
Havana Central	" 21	6,350	+	663	†	99,612	+
Inter. of C. Amer.	Aug. *	15,411	+	3,052	†	243,104	+
La Guaira and Car.	" *	7,500	+	1,750	†	65,000	+
Leopoldina	Oct. 21	31,100	—	3,850	†	1,033,211	—
Manila (N. & Sth.)	Sep. 23	7,574	+	795	†	359,255	+
Midland Uruguay	Aug.	8,362	—	4,010	†	18,043	—
Mogiana	July	M2,819,000	—	M221,678	†	M11,605,000	—
N.W. of Uruguay	Sep. *	27,000	—	4,564	†	666,250	—
Nitrate	30b	27,363	+	10,748	†	742,550	+
Paraguay Central	Oct. 21	3,800	+	1,160	†	38,350	+
Paulista	July *	M4,000,000	—	M31,867	†	M15,500,000	—
Peruvian Corp'n	" *	S835,430	—	S120,592	†	S10,798,927	—
Salvador	Oct. 21	13,800	—	2,300	†	817,325	—
S. Paulo (Brazilian)	" 15	31,061	—	3,039	†	1,126,827	—
Sorocabana	May *	M1,269,000	—	M23,000	†	M6,960,000	—
Taita	Aug. *	19,688	—	1,470	†	39,308	—
United of Havana.	Oct. 21	31,224	—	5,427	†	487,795	—
West'n of Havana.	" 14	5,191	—	1,111	†	89,529	—
Zafra and Huelva.	Aug. *	13,099	+	3,488	†	91,505	+

* Months. † From Jan. 1. † From July 1. c Nett. b 15 days. a 10 days.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.

		£	+	£	+	Ms.	+	£
Anglo-Argentine	Oct. 21	53,160	+	2,406	+	2,13,409	+	343
Auckland Electric	Sep. 22b	20,884	—	618	4	62,838	—	563
Brazilian Traction	Aug. §	M3,982,000	+	M175,000	8	M30,670,000	+	M10,950
Brisbane Elec. Inv.	Sep. 1	32,530	+	2,170	9	297,660	+	22,586
British Columbia	Aug. §	550,293	+	43,167	2	1,017,849	+	70,737
B.A. Lacroze	"	36,431	—	5,037	2	74,870	—	6,058
Burmah Electric	Sep. 16b	Rs. 23,749	+	Rs. 1,586	—	—	+	Rs. 839
Calcutta	Oct. 21	Rs. 65,596	—	Rs. 723	+	Rs. 26,89,657	+	129,811
Cordoba Light	"							
P. & T.	Aug.	13,852	—	307	4	71,165	—	469
Hongkong	Sep. 9	15,847	—	3,676	4	524,702	—	129,430
La Plata	Aug. 5	3,792	—	373	8	33,627	—	358
Lima	"	14,996	+	240	4	125,565	—	3,423
Madras Electric	Oct. 15c	Rs. 32,305	+	Rs. 2,776	+	Rs. 62,071	+	Rs. 44,501
Mexico	Nov. §	215,256	—	108,669	+	3,193,106	—	107,227
Puebla	Dec. §	40,000	—	23,600	+	666,500	—	444,500
Rangoon	Sep. §	4,137	—	308	+	36,479	—	2,001
Singapore Electric	Aug. 5	14,223	+	2,169	+	358,597	+	42,324
Toronto	"	427,662	—	29,521	4	3,457,555	—	391,899
United of Monte V.	Sep. 1	26,711	—	1,641	11	319,043	—	15,626
Vera Cruz	May	85,200	+	35,400	+	372,600	+	178,200
Winnipeg	Aug. §	85,935	+	17,258	+	791,030	+	21,156

b 28 days. * From Jan. 1. § Nett. a From July 1. c Two weeks.

MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

NAME.	NETT EARNINGS FOR MONTH.			No. of Mths.	NETT EARNINGS TO DATE.		
	Month.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year		Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year	
		Dols.	Dols.		Dols.	Dols.	
Atchafalpa T. & S. Fé	Aug.	5,139,000	+ 1,538,000	2	9,208,000	+ 2,258,000	
Atlantic Coast Line	"	516,000	— 427,000	2	976,000	— 649,000	
Baltimore & Ohio ..	"	3,268,000	— 126,000	2	6,355,000	— 116,000	
Canadian Northern	Sep. 1	731,600	— 177,300	3	3,002,000	— 1,148,000	
Canadian Pacific ..	Aug.	5,468,000	+ 2,025,000	2	9,485,000	+ 3,242,000	
Chesapeake & Ohio	"	1,355,000	+ 213,000	1	1,555,000	+ 213,000	
Chicago & N.W.	"	2,448,000	+ 800,000	1	2,448,000	+ 800,000	
Chicago Burl. & Q.	July	2,524,000	+ 564,000	12	36,187,000	+ 9,609,000	
Chicago G.W.	Aug.	475,000	+ 143,000	2	6,485,000	+ 1,174,000	
Chicago Mil. & S.P.	"	3,300,000	+ 796,000	1	1,389,000	+ 378,000	
Chicago, Rock I. & P.	"	2,662,000	+ 1,111,000	2	4,619,000	+ 2,130,000	
Colorado & Southern	"	566,000	+ 180,000	2	1,007,000	+ 353,000	
Cuba ..	"	264,000	+ 67,000	2	523,000	+ 115,000	
Delaware & Hud. ..	"	696,000	— 120,000	8	5,205,000	+ 376,000	
Denver & Rio Gran.	"	75,000	+ 131,000	2	1,631,000	+ 357,000	
Erie ..	"	2,026,000	— 243,000	8	12,414,000	+ 1,855,000	
Gr. Tr. Main Line ..	"	£305,650	+ £56,950	8	£1,731,300	+ £223,950	
Grand Trunk Westn ..	"	£44,700	+ £5,000	8	£333,600	+ £248,800	
Detroit G. H. & Mil..	"	£7,400	+ £6,900	8	£39,650	+ £32,950	
Gt. Northern ..	"	3,403,000	+ 780,000	2	6,491,000	+ 1,502,000	
Illinois Central ..	"	1,471,000	+ 347,000	1	2,494,000	+ 818,000	
Kansas City Southn.	"	327,000	+ 39,000	2	692,000	+ 84,000	
Lehigh Valley ..	"	1,207,000	+ 117,000	1	2,429,000	+ 310,000	
Louisville & Nashvl.	"	1,809,000	+ 488,000	1	3,241,000	+ 738,000	
Minn. S.P. (Soo) ..	"	1,335,000	+ 502,000	2	2,746,000	+ 1,164,000	
Miss. K. & Texas ..	"	706,000	+ 29,000	2	1,223,000	+ 174,000	
Missouri Pacific ..	"	1,653,000	+ 508,000	1	2,374,000	+ 682,000	
New York Cent. & H. N. Y. N. Haven & H.	"	11,511,000	+ 2,790,000	7	35,358,000	+ 12,600,000	
New York Cent. & W.	"	2,366,000	+ 251,000	2	4,743,000	+ 435,000	
Norfolk & Western.	"	377,000	+ 39,000	2	783,000	+ 53,000	
Northern Pacific ..	"	2,147,000	+ 333,000	2	3,963,000	+ 461,000	
Pennsylvania East and West Lines ..	"	2,772,000	+ 305,000	1	5,161,000	+ 1,336,000	
St. Louis & San F.	"	1,631,000	+ 375,000	8	74,210,000	+ 24,842,000	
Seaboard Air Line ..	"	521,000	+ 175,000	1	2,272,000	+ 401,000	
Southern ..	"	1,945,000	— 514,000	1	734,000	+ 7,000	
Southern Pacific ..	"	5,080,000	+ 1,083,000	2	3,227,000	+ 431,000	
Union Pacific ..	"	4,374,000	+ 971,000	2	19,728,000	+ 1,539,000	
Wabash ..	"	1,123,000	+ 214,000	8	7,828,000	+ 1,576,000	
					7,856,000	+ 4,370,000	

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The Investors' Review.

Money and Credit Notes.

BANK RATE 6 PER CENT. (Increased from 5 per cent. on Thursday, July 13.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

Money has been much wanted all the week, mainly because of the multitude and urgency of credit demands upon our market originating in the necessities of the Allies. We have not only to discount paper for our own Government or to finance it by Exchequer bonds, but we have to give large and continuous assistance to Russia, and occasionally aids in passing to our other Allies. So money has been dear at 5 per cent. for the whole week, and when the banks call in money, as they were doing yesterday, it is not possible to get even afternoon sweepings of the market at less than 5 per cent.

Discount rates keep fairly steady, there being no cause beyond the credit pressure just mentioned for their variation. The finest quotations given are three and four months' bank bills $5\frac{9}{16}$ to $5\frac{5}{8}$, and sixes $5\frac{5}{8}$ — $1\frac{1}{8}$, but as a rule the rates have been as given in our table. They imply slight easing off, which is natural, especially on bills of long usance, but really the market is at the mercy of the Governments united in the war of liberation. Treasury bills of short dates falling due within the year have been in good demand most days, with some tendency to a slackening off towards the end of the week. For November bills the quotation is $5\frac{1}{4}$ to $5\frac{5}{8}$, and for December bills just $\frac{1}{8}$ more. The only really interesting point in the Bank return is a renewal of the decline in our stock of gold, but it amounts to no more than £392,000, and when we recollect that we have to pay about £12,000,000 a week in the United States alone, it is really a marvel that we should still possess a Bank reserve of £37,827,000, which is only £410,000 less than that of a week ago, and £4,658,000 below last year's figure at like date. In other respects the return indicates nothing more than the movements induced by Government financial necessities. Public deposits are down £3,046,000, and other deposits up £3,676,000, the one total being £52,543,000 and the other £112,172,000, both totals being rather more than £12,500,000 higher than they were a year ago. In this also there is something to marvel at and admire, seeing what stupendous creations of credit have been rendered necessary by the war.

In view of what has just been said about our weekly payments in the United States, no surprise can have been caused by the announcement that another £60,000,000 loan has to be raised in the United States for our Government. This makes the third borrow, the first loan having been for £100,000,000, half of which was for France, the second one for £50,000,000, and the third for £60,000,000. We will, therefore, in all, have borrowed £160,000,000 in the United States on our own account, besides help obtained in various ways through banking combinations and sales of securities.

It is a wonderfully small amount, all things considered, and this latest loan is apparently to be issued on somewhat more favourable terms than the last one—that is to say, half the bonds will be repayable in three years' time and half in five years, whereas the last loan of £50,000,000 is repayable in two years, but the interest is to be $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. higher, and securities of a value giving a margin of 20 per cent. will have to be lodged to guarantee the loan. No one can blame the United States for trying to secure the utmost protection possible for their money, but the terms do not betray any real disposition on the part of the American people to come really to the help of civilisation in this war. The issue price is said to be 99 or 99½, which is also good for the lender.

To-day the term for subscribing to the new French loan expires. We hear in various directions that the response of the British investor has been much larger even than expected, and we hope the news is true, for it is not merely our duty, but it should be our privilege, to help the French people generously, and to the utmost of our power, even without particular regard to the rate of interest offered. France has done as much on land as we have done at sea to repel the barbarian and deliver mankind from a blighting and soul-destroying tyranny. Something of gratitude, of a sentiment of thankfulness and loyalty of comradeship, ought to enter into the feelings of those who hand over their money to France just now and at any time.

Mr. McKenna's explanation of the apparent delay in winding up the affairs of enemy banks who possess branches or agencies in London is completely satisfactory. The outcry raised over the matter is only a manifestation of party rancour when not an exhibition of ignorance of business humiliating to witness. British, Allied, and neutral creditors of the three big German banks have been paid £20,000,000 or thereby. The liabilities in these directions of the Deutsche Bank have been fully liquidated, and those of the other two, the Dresdner and the Disconto-Gesellschaft, nearly so. Two years is not a long time in which to complete an intricate labour of that kind. And now there remains, as Mr. McKenna also explained, the apportionment of securities among their real owners, the collection of debts due on pawned securities in the custody of the banks, and an enormous mass of accountants' problems to solve or unravel before the whole business can be finished. To clamour now for the instant shutting up of the German banks, who are allowed to do no new business whatsoever, and the dismissal of the few Germans left in their offices, men whose knowledge of the business renders their services indispensable for the time being, is surely an exhibition of party passion, of war "funk," or of mere mob stupidity that sensible men ought to be ashamed of. But the truth is that the strain of the war is upsetting many minds, and causing multitudes to become whiney and anarchic in purpose, just when most the nation requires to maintain a calm, courageous front to the foe. Happily the great majority of the nation is courageous, does keep its head in stern resolve to "fight the fight to a finish," no matter what it costs. Let us have done with croaking.

SILVER.

Supplies of silver coming into the market from America this week were again on a large scale, and as there was practically no outside demand, the price relapsed to 32½d. per oz. Purchases for coinage purposes, however, were sufficient to absorb all the metal offered, and the market has been steady. As regards the outlook, Messrs. Mocatta and Goldsmid say that—

"The China exchange has remained remarkably steady, and has not followed the recent movements of the silver quotation, which means that it is now much nearer to parity; buying for that quarter is therefore within the range of possibility, though the limited means of exporting produce from there is undoubtedly a hindrance to this."

Applications for the Rs. 40,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 4,36,50,000. Of these Rs. 13,000 were allotted in bills, Rs. 14,18,000 in deferred transfers, and Rs. 25,69,000 in immediate transfers, tenders for bills and deferred transfers at 1s. 4-32d., and for immediate transfers at 1s. 4½d., receiving about 9 per cent. Special sales have

also been made of Rs. 30,50,000 in deferred transfers at rs. 4½d., and of Rs. 68,00,000 in immediate transfers at rs. 4 5-3ad. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is Rs. 50,00,000. Since April 1 the total sales have been Rs. 13,03,66,332, realising £8,748,039.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, October 25, 1916.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued	£ 72,628,275	Government Debt	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	54,178,275
		Silver Bullion	—
	£72,628,275		£72,628,275

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 42,187,852
Reserve	3,171,954	Other Securities	102,444,757
Public Deposits (including		Notes	35,942,255
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,885,191
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	52,543,213		
Other Deposits	112,171,721		
Seven Day and other Bills	18,167		
	£182,458,055		£182,458,055

Dated Oct. 26, 1916.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year.

Last year. Oct. 27.		Oct. 18, 1916.	Oct. 25, 1916.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,207,448	Rest	3,157,252	3,171,954	14,702	—
39,885,367	Pub. Deposits ..	55,589,446	52,543,213	—	3,046,233
99,670,341	Other do. ..	108,495,580	112,171,721	3,676,141	—
39,455	7 Day Bills ..	19,675	18,167	—	1,508
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
18,895,502	Gov. Securities.	42,187,840	42,187,852	—	12
96,565,260	Other do. ..	101,389,822	102,442,757	—	1,052,935
41,885,849	Total Reserve ..	38,237,291	37,827,446	419,845	—
				4,100,688	4,100,688
				Increase.	Decrease.
£	Note Circulation	£	£	£	£
32,794,860	Coin and Bullion	36,667,860	36,686,020	—	186,210
56,230,709	Proportion	56,455,151	56,063,466	758,722	—
30 p.c.	Bank Rate	6 " "	6 " "	—	—
5 " "				—	—

CURRENCY NOTES.

Return of Currency Notes for the week ended October 25, 1916.

	Issued.	Cancelled.	Outstanding.
£1 notes	3,061,958	2,886,117	93,563,558
10s. notes	1,007,948	1,048,296	29,185,703
Note certificates ..	250,000	—	12,570,000
Previous total ..	450,931,051	315,997,283	—
	455,250,957	319,931,696	135,319,261

Ratio of gold held against notes: this week, 23.22 p.c.; last week, 23.25 p.c.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For 7 days ended Oct. 21.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
Customs	National Debt Service ..
Excise	Interest, &c., on War Debt ..
Estate, &c., Duties	Development & Road Impvt.
Stamps	Payments to Local Taxation
Land Tax and House Duty.	Other Consolidated Fund
Property and Income Tax ..	Charges
Excess Profits Tax	Supply Services
Land Values	Bullion Advances
Post Office	For Advance for Interest
Crown Lands	on Exchequer Bonds under
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	Capital Expenditure
Miscellaneous	(Money) Act, 1904
Bullion advances repaid ..	For Treasury Bills (net amt.)
For Treasury Bills (net amt.)	For Exchequer Bonds issued
War Loan, 1925-8	under the War Loan Re-
War Loan, 1925-45	demption Act, 1910
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919 ..	Issues under Section 1 of
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920 ..	War Loan Act, 1915
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1921 ..	Under Telegraph (Money)
6% Exchequer Bonds, 1920 ..	Act, 1913
War Expenditure Certificates	Under Post Office (Lon-
War Savings Certificates ..	don) Railway Act, 1913
Other Debts created under	Under Housing Act
War Loan Act, 1915	Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8 ..
Telegraph Money Act, 1913	Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11 ..
Under Post Office Rly. Act,	For Redemption of Ex-
1913	chequer Bonds, 1904
Under Military Works Acts,	Exchequer Bonds, 1916
1897-1903	Canard Loan repayment is-
Under Housing Act	ued to reduce debt under
Redemption of Exchequer	the Canard Agreement
Bonds, 1904	Deficiency advances repaid
Canard Loan—repayment on	Ways and Means Advances
account of principal	repaid
Suez Canal Drawn Shares..	Increase in Exchequer
Ways and Means Advances	balances
Decrease in Exchequer	
balances	

SHORT TERM GOVERNMENT LOANS.

	Sales Last Week.	Sales This Week.	Total Outstanding.
Treasury Bills	£ 43,000,000	£ 45,965,000	£ 1,129,358,000
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919 ..	—	—	34,222,000
Do. 1920	350,000	100,000	237,755,500
Do. 1921	6,000	—	62,464,000
6% Exchequer Bonds	16,006,000	13,279,000	49,906,000
War Expenditure Certificates	816,900	352,900	25,531,401
War Savings Certificates ..	1,100,000	1,000,000	31,550,000

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1916.	1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
January	£ 1,071,948,000	£ 918,685,000	153,263,000	—
February	1,107,655,600	960,743,000	146,912,000	—
March	1,304,599,000	1,231,392,000	133,207,000	—
April	1,090,356,000	976,204,000	114,092,000	—
May	1,447,416,000	1,164,194,000	283,222,000	—
June	1,147,630,000	960,209,000	187,421,000	—
July	1,239,193,000	1,316,695,000	—	77,502,000
August	1,364,782,000	1,352,519,000	12,263,000	—
September	1,136,599,000	1,000,008,000	136,582,000	—
October 4	337,388,000	291,855,000	45,533,000	—
" 11	326,880,000	269,450,000	57,430,000	—
" 18	338,823,000	270,952,000	67,871,000	—
" 25	301,780,000	258,662,000	—	43,127,000
Total	12,275,049,000	10,971,568,000	1,599,957,000	—

FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	Sept. 29, 1916.	Sept. 22, 1916.	Oct. 1, 1915.
Gold coin and certificates ..	£ 52,169,000	£ 51,472,200	£ 45,452,600
Gold Redemption Fund ..	385,800	388,200	240,400
Gold Settlement Fund ..	24,884,200	23,558,200	11,036,000
Legal tender notes, silver, &c.	1,562,200	1,528,400	3,298,600
Total reserves	79,001,200	77,217,000	60,027,600
5% redemption fund against			
F.R. bank notes	100,000	100,000	—
10-day bills and loans	4,281,600	4,875,600	1,155,400
30-day bills and loans	4,649,000	4,847,600	2,454,800
60-day bills and loans	7,305,400	7,578,600	3,153,400
90-day bills and loans	4,776,400	4,718,800	1,775,400
Maturities over 90 days ..	303,200	297,400	441,400
Total	21,315,600	22,318,000	8,980,400
Investments—			
U.S. Bonds	9,308,800	9,510,600	1,865,600
One year U.S. Treasury			
notes	1,385,400	1,607,800	—
Municipal Warrants	4,805,600	4,827,400	5,476,200
Federal Reserve notes—nett.	2,850,000	3,216,000	3,075,600
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—			
nett.	6,273,000	5,853,200	2,198,600
All other assets	1,508,600	1,699,200	563,600
Total assets	126,548,200	126,340,200	82,287,800
Paid-up capital	11,078,600	11,084,600	10,945,600
Government Deposits	7,797,000	7,989,400	3,000,000
Reserve deposits—nett. ..	104,348,000	103,691,200	64,942,400
Note circulation—nett. ..	2,643,200	2,921,000	2,859,000
Fed. Res. notes in circulation	606,600	582,800	—
All other liabilities	74,800	71,200	531,800
Total liabilities	126,548,200	126,340,200	82,287,800
Gold reserve against nett			
liabilities	71.4 %	69.6 %	82.7 %
Cash reserve against nett			
liabilities	72.8 %	71.0 %	87.5 %

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	Oct. 21, 1916.	Oct. 14, 1916.	Oct. 7, 1916.	Oct. 23, 1915.
Loans	£ 664,146,000	£ 668,822,000	£ 669,902,000	£ 601,254,000
Reserve held in own Vaults ..	83,022,000	83,254,000	86,056,000	103,710,000
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk.	33,870,000	33,698,000	33,492,000	31,770,000
Reserve held in Other Depos.	10,668,000	10,704,000	10,784,000	9,248,000
Nett Demand Deposits	652,156,000	656,666,000	660,544,000	615,832,000
Nett Time Deposits	33,086,000	33,096,000	33,264,000	27,842,000
Circulation	6,326,000	6,268,000	6,232,000	7,136,000
Excess Lawful Reserve	15,202,000	14,464,000	16,504,000	38,126,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits.

NEW YORK STATE BANKS & TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.).

	Oct. 21, 1916.	Oct. 14, 1916.	Oct. 7, 1916.	Oct. 23, 1915.
Loans	£ 146,256,000	£ 145,262,000	£ 143,882,000	£ 120,450,000
Specie	12,120,000	11,910,000	11,712,000	10,312,000
Deposits	156,176,000	154,444,000	153,450,000	125,986,000
Legal Tenders	1,932,000	1,998,000	1,934,000	1,842,000

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Oct. 26, 1916.	Oct. 19, 1916.	Oct. 12, 1916.	Oct. 28, 1915.
Gold in hand	£ 196,879,160	£ 195,431,400	£ 194,261,360	£ 189,199,160
Silver in hand	13,121,880	13,142,400	13,291,480	14,529,810
Bills discounted	19,186,880	18,086,000	17,409,080	11,210,800
Advances	47,414,040	47,024,680	47,092,760	22,718,840
Note circulation	663,566,000	672,000,640	681,155,760	554,702,160
Public deposits	8,039,080	3,178,040	1,931,920	1,538,040
Private deposits	109,233,600	101,670,240	93,833,760	101,834,520
Foreign Bills	156,160	71,000	72,300	51,160

Proportion between bullion and circulation 31.64 per cent., against 31.93 per cent. last week. Advances to the State £344,000,000, unchanged. The adjourned payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium, £25,034,080, decrease £41,360, and at the branches £29,983,040, decrease £45,200.

IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Oct. 21, 1916.	Oct. 14, 1916.	Oct. 6, 1916.	Oct. 21, 1915
	£	£	£	£
Notes in reserve ..	10,530,000	8,790,000	10,740,000	7,921,300
Gold	155,600,000	155,420,000	155,620,000	159,463,500
Gold in reserve abroad ..	205,500,000	205,460,000	205,500,000	3,718,300
Treasury Bonds ..	527,800,000	514,450,000	503,430,000	
Circulation note issue ..	771,979,000	758,710,000	744,260,000	507,000,000
Treasury deposits ..	21,570,000	20,190,000	22,590,000	20,765,900

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Oct. 14, 1916.	Oct. 7, 1916.	Sept. 30, 1916	Oct. 15, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Total Coin & Bullion ..	125,961,100	125,563,550	125,180,800	123,127,150
Treasury Notes ..	17,021,400	18,503,650	19,604,600	41,539,600
Bills discounted ..	373,946,050	373,403,050	537,941,550	219,518,850
Advances ..	546,450	546,650	520,800	688,800
Note circulation ..	350,342,350	361,527,250	368,514,800	288,863,000
Deposits ..	164,483,750	160,816,950	313,322,050	283,880,550

Clearing House returns during Sept., £282,125,250 against £266,331,160 in Aug.

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Oct. 14, 1916	Oct. 7, 1916	Sept. 30, 1916	Oct. 16, 1915
	£	£	£	£
Gold	47,344,088	47,177,097	46,939,246	30,944,171
Silver	29,675,088	29,866,777	30,193,076	29,348,646
Foreign Bills ..	4,044,715	4,045,364	3,966,786	4,136,054
Discounts and Short Bills ..	24,074,708	24,257,772	24,448,954	27,214,033
Treasury Account, &c. ..	31,161,820	29,583,825	28,758,267	29,326,770
Notes in Circulation ..	92,531,610	92,152,937	90,368,764	82,918,310
Current Accounts, Deposits ..	31,055,650	30,612,663	30,355,378	25,417,494
Dividends, Interests, &c. ..	1,724,392	1,845,226	2,555,661	1,639,915
Government Securities ..	1,609,545	1,822,328	1,871,053	1,637,983

NETHERLANDS BANK (12 Florins to the £).

	Oct. 21, 1916	Oct. 14, 1916	Oct. 7, 1916.	Oct. 23, 1915
	£	£	£	£
Gold and Silver ..	49,172,250	49,245,750	49,461,916	32,995,146
Bills and Advances ..	15,049,333	14,597,000	14,453,166	13,815,294
Note circulation ..	59,867,833	59,810,666	59,248,750	45,958,440
Deposits ..	7,442,666	7,339,333	8,050,416	1,567,893

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	Sept. 20, 1916	Sept 10, 1916	Aug. 31, 1916	Sept. 20, 1915
	£	£	£	£
Total cash	42,496,720	43,130,520	43,996,120	55,156,120
Inland Bills	20,448,680	19,514,520	19,331,080	21,307,560
Foreign Bills	834,400	833,520	833,280	832,600
Advances	7,047,120	7,548,800	7,713,920	8,458,560
Government securities ..	8,831,040	8,828,320	8,801,080	7,455,240
Circulation	139,766,920	138,103,560	136,584,200	111,579,640
Deposits at notice ..	15,479,120	14,127,640	14,845,520	10,968,200
Current accounts ..	15,174,520	15,878,640	13,939,280	18,701,260

BANK OF NORWAY.

	Oct. 15, 1916.	Oct. 7, 1916.	Sept. 30, 1916.	Oct. 15, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	6,262,000	6,272,000	6,274,000	3,684,000
Balance abroad and ..				
Foreign Bills ..	5,588,000	5,499,000	5,621,000	3,694,000
Gover'n't Securities ..	767,000	767,000	767,300	781,000
Discounts & Loans ..	6,538,000	6,447,000	6,791,000	4,066,000
Notes in Circulation ..	12,698,000	12,621,000	12,661,000	8,338,000
Deposits at notice ..	3,869,000	3,818,000	4,200,000	1,554,000

BANK OF SWEDEN.

	Oct. 14, 1916.	Oct. 7, 1916.	Sept. 30, 1916.	Oct. 16, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	9,494,000	9,494,000	9,499,000	6,300,000
Balance abroad and ..				
Foreign Bills ..	9,212,000	9,347,000	9,390,000	6,677,000
Swedish and Foreign ..				
Govt. Securities ..	3,757,000	3,743,000	3,754,000	3,030,000
Discounts and Loans ..	4,565,000	4,061,000	3,929,000	4,967,000
Notes in circulation ..	20,254,000	20,341,000	21,493,000	16,257,000
Deposits at notice ..	5,558,000	5,013,000	4,137,000	4,664,000

SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	Oct. 14, 1916.	Oct. 7, 1916.	Sept. 30, 1916.	Oct. 15, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold and silver ..	13,712,704	13,725,388	13,758,944	12,187,968
Bills	7,154,400	7,997,400	7,697,208	5,367,156
Note circulation ..	18,331,664	18,535,103	18,850,340	16,885,436
Current and deposit ..	5,023,056	5,370,264	4,746,164	3,197,224

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week
Paris	chqs.	27-79½	27-79	Antwerp	short	—	—
Brussels ..	chqs.	—	—	Italy	sight	30-97½	31-30
Amsterdam ..	sight	11-55	11-63	Constantinople ..	3 mths	—	—
Christiania ..	—	17-12½	17-14½	Rio de Janeiro ..	90 days	12-3½	12-2½
Stockholm ..	—	16-82½	16-70½	Buenos Aires ..	90 days	50-00	50-00
Copenhagen ..	—	17-57½	17-52½	Calcutta	T.T.	1-14½	1-14½
Petrograd ..	3 mths	153	154½	Bombay	T.T.	1-14½	1-14½
New York ..	cable	4-76½	4-76½	Hong Kong	T.T.	2-2½	2-2½
Lisbon	sight	34	33-40	Shanghai	T.T.	3-11½	3-11½
Madrid	sight	23-50	23-49	Singapore	T.T.	2-11½	2-11½
Switzerland ..	—	25-09½	25-05	Yokohama	4 mths	2-11½	2-11½

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Oct. 24, 1916.		Oct. 26, 1916.	
		Sellers.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Buyers.
Amsterdam ..	Cable transfers ..	11-57	11-67	11-59	11-62
Paris	Three months' bills ..	11-73	11-78	11-75	11-80
.. .. .	Cable transfers ..	27-77	27-82	27-77	27-82
.. .. .	Three months' bills ..	28-15	28-25	28-15	28-25
.. .. .	Cable transfers ..	28-15	28-25	28-15	28-25
.. .. .	Three months' bills ..	25-03	25-13	25-00	25-10
.. .. .	Cable transfers ..	25-38	25-48	25-35	25-45
Petrograd ..	Cable transfers ..	153	154	153½	154½
Genoa, &c. ..	Cable transfers ..	31-02½	31-12½	31-15	31-25
.. .. .	Three months' bills ..	31-45	31-55	31-60	31-70
Spain	Cable transfers ..	23-38	23-48	23-38	23-48
.. .. .	Three months' bills ..	48½	48½	48½	48½
Lisbon and Oporto ..	Cable transfers ..	33½	34½	33½	34½
Copenhagen ..	Cable transfers ..	17-50	17-60	17-50	17-60
Christiania ..	Cable transfers ..	17-08	17-18	17-10	17-20
Stockholm ..	Cable transfers ..	16-70	16-80	16-68	16-78

TREASURY BILLS.

	Last week	This week
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months ..	5½	5½
.. .. .	(£98 12 3½)	(£98 12 3½)
Six months ..	5½	5½
.. .. .	(£97 5 1½)	(£97 5 1½)
Nine months ..	—	—
Twelve months ..	5½	5½
.. .. .	(£94 10 0)	(£94 10 0)

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Last week	This week
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted ..	5½-5½	5½-5½
Three months ..	5½-5½	5½-5½
Four months ..	5½-5½	5½-5½
Six months ..	5½-5½	5½-5½
Three months fine inland bills ..	6	6
Four months ..	6½	6½
Six months ..	6½-6½	6½-6½

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Last week	This week
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate ..	6	6
" " short loan rates ..	6½	6½
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	4	4
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call) ..	4½	4½
" " 7 and 14 days' notice ..	4½	4½
Current rates for 7 day loans ..	5	5
" " for call loans ..	4½-5	4½-5

The Week's Stock Markets.

Anxiety about the Rumanian situation after the fall of Constanza has pervaded the atmosphere of the Stock Exchange this week to the exclusion of almost everything else. There is always a tendency in the House to exaggerate the effect of news, particularly bad news, and the depression caused by Rumania's reverse was only slightly dissipated by the magnificent stroke of the French at Verdun. The latter, however, ought to have given a good stimulus to subscriptions to the French loan, the lists of which are now closed. No reliable estimates have been made of the amount subscribed here, but it may safely be put at a satisfactory figure, and doubtless we shall know definitely in the course of a few days. Other Government stocks have been languid and droopy, but Brazilian issues have been an exception on the semi-official statement that cash payments will certainly be resumed next year, as originally contemplated. In spite of this assurance, there are many who doubt Brazil's ability to pay interest in full in cash, and they rather favour the idea that a beginning will be made with 25 per cent. cash next year, 50 per cent. the following year, and the full amount four years hence. In the American market the principal incident was a report that the reorganisation of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas would be carried through without an assessment which has been feared for some time past. We may also note that the receiver of the International Mercantile Marine has been withdrawn possibly to celebrate the arrangement of a British loan for £60,000,000 by the House of Morgan. The threatened strike on the Canadian Pacific has been averted, but Canadian stocks are still under the influence of poor crops, and the prospect of traffic decreases. It is stated that a scheme for the reorganisation of the Lake Superior group will be completed shortly, but although the companies concerned have benefited considerably by war work the bondholders may be prepared for rather heavy sacrifices. The fine dividend statements of the United Havana group caused some disappointment because the distributions are not increased, but we think the directors are to be commended for their prudent policy. Doubtless the same may be said with regard to the Royal Mail

dividend which was not favourably received, but it must be remembered that the regular lines have not the same opportunities of making gorgeous profits as go-where-you-please tramps.

Stock markets have again been under the influence of the news from Rumania, and although there was no great pressure to sell, prices have been marked down. Here and there

Brazilian loans rallied on the semi-official statement that the Government will probably resume cash payments when the Funding scheme comes to an end in August, 1917. Chilean bonds moved irregularly, the $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., 1886, improving to 85 and the 5 per cent., 1910, falling 1. The French Loan was steady at 81, but several Russian issues were again $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 down. Japanese bonds were slightly harder, and one or two Chinese Railway issues improved, but the 1898 Gold loan fell $\frac{1}{2}$, and the Reorganisation issue 1.

Home Railways were inclined to harden at first, but there was very little doing, and in the end they went back with Trustee securities. North-Western finished $\frac{1}{2}$ higher, but North-Eastern and Great Eastern both lost $\frac{1}{2}$, and Great Northern deferred and Midland preferred and deferred were $\frac{1}{2}$ down. South-Western deferred dropped $\frac{1}{2}$, Brighton $\frac{1}{2}$, and South-Eastern deferred $\frac{3}{8}$, but Great Western closed unchanged at 91 after being up to 91 $\frac{1}{2}$. Underground income debenture stock was marked down to 103. Canadian Pacific shares relapsed to 181 $\frac{3}{4}$ on harvest prospects and labour disputes, but rallied and finished unchanged at 183 $\frac{1}{2}$ on the success of the negotiations for averting a strike. Grand Trunk stocks were weak and generally lower. American Railway shares were buoyant in the beginning of the week under the lead of Union Pacific, and although a reaction set in later, substantial gains were shown on balance. International Mercantile Marine common was lifted at one time to 46, but finished 1 down at 42, and the preferred was 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lower at 120 $\frac{1}{2}$, after being up to 123 $\frac{1}{2}$. United States Steel were lifted to 126 $\frac{1}{2}$ on expectations of an increased dividend, but they also close below the best. Argentine Railways have been heavy with declines of 1 each in Buenos Ayres Great Southern, Buenos Ayres and Pacific, and Buenos Ayres Western, while Central Argentine ordinary lost 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ and the preferred 2. International of Central America common and preferred fell 1 and 2 respectively, and Mexican stocks were flat, the first preference especially losing 6. United of Havana ordinary declined to 32, some holders being apparently disappointed that the dividend had not been increased.

Bank shares were hardly mentioned, but National Provincial $\frac{1}{2}$ paid and Parr's dropped $\frac{1}{2}$, and Lloyds, London and Provincial, and London and South-Western all fell $\frac{1}{2}$, while Capital and Counties rose that fraction, and London City and Midland were $\frac{1}{2}$ harder. Hongkong and Shanghai improved $\frac{1}{2}$ and Anglo-Egyptian rose $\frac{1}{2}$ to 124 $\frac{1}{2}$ on the dividend, but London and River Plate and British Bank of West Africa both lost $\frac{1}{2}$. Amongst Shipping shares Royal Mail touched 124, but fell back to 121 on sales following the declaration of the interim dividend. P. and O. deferred also closed unchanged after being dealt in at 339 $\frac{1}{2}$, while Prince Line, which rose early in the week to 5, have reacted to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$. Brazilian Traction was offered freely and fell to 54 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd, but rallied to 54 $\frac{1}{2}$. There was again a strong demand, mainly on Canadian account, for Spanish River Pulp and Paper, which sent the common up to 20 and the preference to 61, but a set-back followed on profit-taking. Hudson's Bay shares have been heavy and have relapsed to 68, but the liquidation of enemy holdings in Forestal Land having come to an end the ordinary recovered to 52s. and the preference to 32s. Engineering shares were quiet and dull without much change, but Collieries improved on amalgamation rumours. Salt Union ordinary were strongly supported, and finish 5s. higher at 57s. 6d. Aerated Bread after their heavy fall in the end of last week came in for support and rallied to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$, but Lyons and Slaters were a shade easier, and Frederick Hotels preference and Gordon Hotels both dropped $\frac{1}{2}$. Textiles were firm, Coats improving $\frac{1}{2}$ and Calico Printers rising 1s. 9d, but Courtaulds relapsed to 6 on the liquidation of an enemy holding.

Oil shares have again been more or less neglected, and prices have been inclined to recede. "Shells" were unaltered at 58, but Royal Dutch improved to 44 $\frac{1}{2}$. Roumanian Consols, after touching 16s. 9d., were offered freely on the war news and relapsed to 11s. 9d., but support was then forthcoming and they recovered to 13s. 3d. In the Rubber shares market the predominant influence has been the excess profits question, and with business reduced to very small proportions prices generally gave way. Sialang and Tandjong both fell sharply, and Tebrau, United Sua Betong, and Carey United were all substantially lower, but Tanjong Malim exceptionally showed improvement. Java descriptions made a further recovery, but most of this was wiped out before the close, and Trust companies' shares were also easier.

LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

SUGAR.—No change was made in official quotations, and there was a good inquiry for all descriptions. Stocks of raw kinds in the three chief ports of the United Kingdom total 63,000 tons, against 42,000 same time last year. Total output of the Cuban crop amounts to 3,007,900 tons, against 2,592,600 same time last year.

COFFEE.—The general situation remained fairly steady, though actual business is still quiet. A moderate assortment in auction was only partially disposed of. The terminal market hardened slightly on stimulating foreign advices, but assumed a quieter tone later. December sold, 46s. 6d.; March, 48s. to 48s. 3d.

COCOA.—Market very dull, and public sales this week embraced some 9,700 bags, of which 7,000 bags consisted of Colonial imports. With want of support only a few odd lots were disposed of. Some cocoa butter, duty paid, sold, from 1s. 9d. to 1s. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.

TEA.—The firmness apparent in this market of late became more pronounced this week, recent quotations not only being fully maintained but in some cases slightly exceeded. During the week 52,700 packages Indian, 21,600 packages Ceylon, and 480

	Last Week	This Week		Last Week	This Week
Consols.....	57	56 $\frac{1}{2}$	N.S.W. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1922-7	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	94
War Loan 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	85	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	" 5% 1921-3	97	96 $\frac{1}{2}$
" 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	" 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 1921-2	2 dis.	2 dis.
India 3%	58 $\frac{1}{2}$	58	New Zealand 4%	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	85
" 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	68 $\frac{1}{2}$	67 $\frac{1}{2}$	Queensland 4%	82	82 $\frac{1}{2}$
Australian 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ %, 1920-22	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	" 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % new	94	93 $\frac{1}{2}$
Canada 4%, 1940-60	82	82 $\frac{1}{2}$	Union of S. Africa 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %		
" 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %, 1920-5	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	1920-5	92	81
N.S.W. 4%	83 $\frac{1}{2}$	83 $\frac{1}{2}$	Victoria 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %, 1920-5	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	93
" 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 5 yr. bds.	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	95	Westn. Aus. 4%	82	81 $\frac{1}{2}$
Belgian 3%	61 $\frac{1}{2}$	61	French War Loan, 5%	81	81
Brazil, 1913	61	63	Japan 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % (1st)	95	94 $\frac{1}{2}$
" New Funding	76	78	" (2nd)	95	95
Chinese 1896	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	89	Russia 4%	68	67 $\frac{1}{2}$
" 1912	72 $\frac{1}{2}$	72 $\frac{1}{2}$	" 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	78 $\frac{1}{2}$	77 $\frac{1}{2}$
Egypt Unified 4%	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	" 5%	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$
Brighton defd.	64	63 $\frac{1}{2}$	London and S.-W. defd.	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$
Caledonian defd.	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	9	Do. new pf.	98	98
Chatham ord.	9	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	Metropolitan	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$
Gt. Central pfid.	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5% New pf.	90	90
" defd.	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	Met. District	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	16 $\frac{1}{2}$
Gt. Eastern	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	Midland defd.	57 $\frac{1}{2}$	57 $\frac{1}{2}$
Gt. Northern defd.	37	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	Nth. British defd.	14	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
Gt. Western	91	91	Nth.-Eastern	102	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lancs. and Yorks.	68	68	Nth.-Western	99	99 $\frac{1}{2}$
			Sth.-Eastern defd.	27 $\frac{1}{2}$	26 $\frac{1}{2}$
Canadian Pacific	183 $\frac{1}{2}$	183 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chesapeake	72 $\frac{1}{2}$	71 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do. 6% Notes	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Erie	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	40 $\frac{1}{2}$
E. Indian Guar. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % debts.	93	93	Milwaukee	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$
Grand Trunk ord.	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	N. Y. Central	113 $\frac{1}{2}$ x	113 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do. 3rd pf.	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	26	Southern	30 $\frac{1}{2}$	30 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 3-yr. Notes	96	96	Southern Pacific	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ % 5-yr. "	96	96	Union Pacific	157 $\frac{1}{2}$	158 $\frac{1}{2}$
Atchafson	111 $\frac{1}{2}$	112 $\frac{1}{2}$	U. S. Steel	119 $\frac{1}{2}$	126
Baltimore	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$			
Autofagasta defd.	130	128 $\frac{1}{2}$	Cent. Argentine ord.	78	75 $\frac{1}{2}$
Do. 6% Notes	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	102	Do. 5% Notes	96	96
Brazil Common	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 6% "	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
B. A. & Pacific	44 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	Leopoldina	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	34
B. A. Gt. Southern	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	83 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mexican ord.	19	18 $\frac{1}{2}$
B. A. Western	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	San Paulo (Brazilian)	187 $\frac{1}{2}$	186
			United of Havana	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	82
Bank of Australasia	117	117	London City & Midland	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Barclay & Co. "A"	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	London County & West.	15	15
Do. "B"	11	11	London Joint Stock	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$
Capital & Counties	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	23	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (£104 pd)	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	26 $\frac{1}{2}$
Chartered of India	58	58	Do. (£12 pd)	30 $\frac{1}{2}$	30 $\frac{1}{2}$
Hongkong & Shanghai	78 $\frac{1}{2}$	79	Parr's	30	29 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lloyds	24	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	Standard of S.A.	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
London & Provincial	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	Union & Smiths	24	24
London & S.W.	12	12			
Apollinaris ord.	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Forestal Land	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	52 $\frac{1}{2}$
Armstrong, Whitworth	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	Furness, Withy	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	51 $\frac{1}{2}$
Associated Cement	38	38	Hudson's Bay	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Birmingham Small Arms	44 $\frac{1}{2}$	44 $\frac{1}{2}$	Imperial Tobacco "B" pf.	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$
Borax defd.	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. "C" pf.	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	34 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bovril	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	Kynochs	30 $\frac{1}{2}$	30 $\frac{1}{2}$
Brazil Traction	59	54 $\frac{1}{2}$ x	Lever Bros. "C" pf.	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$
British Amer. Tobacco	41 $\frac{1}{2}$	41 $\frac{1}{2}$	Lyons, J.	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	40 $\frac{1}{2}$
Brown (John) & Co.	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	Marconi	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$
Brunner, Mond	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	Maypole Dairy defd.	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cammell-Laird	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mond Nickel ord.	32	32
Castner-Kellner	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	National Steam Car.	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$
Coats	6	6	Pears, A. & F.	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cunard	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	P. & O. defd.	338 $\frac{1}{2}$	338 $\frac{1}{2}$
Dennis Bros.	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	Royal Mail	121	121
Dorman, Long	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	South Durham Steel	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	34 $\frac{1}{2}$
Eastmans	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	Underground Inc. Bds.	89	89
English Sewing Cotton	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	Vickers	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fine Cotton Spinners	29 $\frac{1}{2}$	29 $\frac{1}{2}$			
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mexican Eagle pf.	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	36 $\frac{1}{2}$
Baku (ros.)	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	North Caucasian	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$
Burmah	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	Roumanian Cons.	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lobitos	41 $\frac{1}{2}$	41 $\frac{1}{2}$	Royal Dutch (100 gulden)	44	44 $\frac{1}{2}$
Maikop Comline (ros.)	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	Shell	58	58
Maikop Pipeline	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	Spies (10/-)	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
Mexican Eagle	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	Ural Caspian	32 $\frac{1}{2}$	33 $\frac{1}{2}$
Anglo-Java Rub. (2/-)	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	Malayalam £1	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	34 $\frac{1}{2}$
Anglo-Maya £1	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ x	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ x	Merlimau 2/-	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ayer Kuning £1	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	32 $\frac{1}{2}$	Pataling 2/-	33 $\frac{1}{2}$ x	33 $\frac{1}{2}$ x
Bukit Mertajam 2/-	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	Port Dickson 2/-	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bukit Sembawang 2/-	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	Rubber Trust £1	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$
Carey United £1	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	39 $\frac{1}{2}$	Sapumalkande £1	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$
Grand Central £1	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	Sialang £1	68 $\frac{1}{2}$	63 $\frac{1}{2}$
Gula Kalumpungan £1	32 $\frac{1}{2}$	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	Singapore Para 2/-	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Highlands £1	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	Singapore United 2/-	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Java Para £1	30 $\frac{1}{2}$	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	Taipung 2/-	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Johore Rubber Lands £1	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	Tandjong £1	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	73 $\frac{1}{2}$
Langen Java £1	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	Tandjong Malim £1	30 $\frac{1}{2}$	31 $\frac{1}{2}$
Linggi 2/-	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	Tebrau £1	74 $\frac{1}{2}$	73 $\frac{1}{2}$
London Asiatic 2/-	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ x	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ x	United Serdang 2/-	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Malacca £1	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	Vallambrosa 2/-	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 $\frac{1}{2}$
Abbottiakoon (10/-)	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	De Beers defd. (£2 10s.) ..	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Brakpan	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	East Rand	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
Broken Hill Prop. (8/-) ..	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	Gt. Boulder (2/-)	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cam & Motor	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	Meyer & Charlton	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Central Mining (£12)	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	Modder "B"	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Chartered	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Deep	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
City Deep	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	42	New Modder (£4)	19	18 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cons. Gold Fields	18	12	Rand Mines (5/-)	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	34 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cons. Langlaagte	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	Rio Tinto (£5)	63 $\frac{1}{2}$	63
Crown Mines (10/-)	3	3	Van Ryn Deep	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	34 $\frac{1}{2}$

there was a slight recovery on the French success at Verdun, but it was short-lived, and on the whole the tendency remains heavy. Consols closed $\frac{1}{2}$ down at 56 $\frac{1}{2}$, and the 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. War Loan also fell that fraction, while the 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. was $\frac{1}{2}$ lower at 95 $\frac{1}{2}$. Irish Land 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. stock dropped to 54, Local Loans to 50 $\frac{1}{2}$, and India 3 and 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cents. were both lower. Colonial Government securities have hardly been mentioned during the week, but a number of them were marked down at the close. In the Foreign Government market

packages Java were catalogued. There was rather more inquiry for certain China grades.

SPICE.—Very quiet for most descriptions, though price changes were not of much importance. Black Singapore pepper, September-November, sold, 7½d.; Muntok, January-March, 9½d.

FRUIT.—There was a good inquiry for currants, also Valencia and sultana raisins, and holders required full rates.

RICE steady, but rather quiet, bran having hardened on reserved offers, while beans were steady.

FIBRES in quiet support, and prices eased slightly regarding jute. Native first marks, October, Dundee, sold, £35 10s. Of Manila hemp, coarse, October-December, sold, £50 5s. to £50 10s.

CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 27, 1916.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
Sugar —per cwt., duty 14½, 98% polarisation	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Wool —per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tate's Cubes No. 1	2 7 13	2 7 13	Australian	2 13 3 10	6 3 9
Ditto, H.T.S.	2 6 72	2 6 72	Scoured Merino	1 8 2 9 1	9 2 11 1
Fine granulated	nom.	nom.	Scoured Cr. Sabre	1 3 2 4 1	5 2 3 2
Lytle's granulated	41 7 12 13	41 7 12 13	Greasy Merino	1 5 2 3 1	1 1 1 8 1
Foreign granulated, first marks	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	3 0 3 6 3	2 3 6 3
f.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	New Zealand (scoured) Merino	1 1 1 9 1	1 1 1 1 1
German Cubes, o.b.	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	2 1 3 4 2	0 3 6 3
French Cubes	nom.	nom.	Cape snow white	0 2 5	0 2 5 2
Crystallised, West India	nom.	nom.	Indian rubber p. lb.		
Beet, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Plantation, Spot		
Tea —per lb., duty 1½ lb.	d. s. d.	d. s. d.	Crepe	0 2 5	0 2 5 2
Indian Pekoe	0 8 1 1 1	0 9 1 2	Coal —per ton		
Broken	0 9 1 1 3	0 10 1 2	Durham, best	nom.	nom.
Orange	0 9 1 1 5	0 10 1 3	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 9 1 1 10 1	1 1 1 10	East Hartlepool	nom.	nom.
Pekoe Souchong	0 8 1 1 1	0 9 1 1	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Ceylon Pekoe	0 8 1 1 1	0 9 1 1	Steamers, best	37/6	37/6
Broken	0 9 1 1 1	0 10 1 1	Seconds	3/1	3/1
Orange	0 9 1 1 1	0 10 1 1	Lead —per ton.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Broken	0 9 1 1 1	0 10 1 1	English Pig	32 5 0	32 5 0
Pekoe Souchong	0 8 1 1 1	0 9 1 1	Foreign soft	30 10 0	30 10 0
Cocoa —per cwt., duty 6d.	s. s.	s. s.	Quicksilver —per bottle first hand	£ 17 1/2	£ 17 1/2
Trinidad	81 0 85 0	81 0 85 0	Tin —per ton		
Grenada	73 0 82 0	73 0 82 0	English Ingots	£ 181 1/2	£ 183 1/2
West Africa	70 0 74 0	70 0 74 0	Do, bars	£ 182 1/2	£ 184 1/2
Ceylon Plantation	72 0 71 0	72 0 71 0	Standard cash	£ 179 10 0	£ 181 5 0
Guayaquil Arriba	96 0 98 0	96 0 98 0	Tin Plates, per box	nom.	nom.
Coffee —per cwt., duty 42½ per cwt.			Copper —per ton.		
East India	67 0 95 0	67 0 95 0	English, Tongh.	nom.	nom.
Jamaica	62 0 120 6	62 0 120 6	per ton	£ 148 1/2	£ 149 1/2
Costa Rica	62 0 84 0	62 0 84 0	Best Selected	£ 168	£ 168
Provisions			Sheets	£ 124	£ 124 10 0
Butter, per cwt.			Standard		
Australian finest	nom.	nom.	Jute —per ton.		
Irish Creameries	192/250/	up to 202/	Native firsts for shipment Oct-Nov	£ 36 0 0	£ 35 10 0
Dutch ditto	192/195/	194/196/	Oils		
Russian finest	nom.	nom.	Linseed, per ton.	£ 41 1/2	£ 42 1/2
Normandy baskets	nom.	nom.	Rape, ref. English, barrels	£ 49 1/2	£ 50 1/2
Danish finest	208/210/	212/214/	Brown English, naked	£ 46 0 0	£ 47 0 0
Brittany rolls—doz. lb.	17/6 20/6	17/6 20/6	Cott'n Seed, crude	£ 39 10 0	£ 43 0 0
Bacon —per cwt.			Ditto, refined	£ 49 1/2	£ 50 1/2
Irish	105 0 115 0	108 0 118 0	Petroleum Oil, per 8 lbs.	1/1 1/2	1/1 1/2
Continental	96 0 114 0	98 0 118 0	Water White	1/2 1/2	1/2 1/2
Canadian	96 0 108 0	100 0 112 0	Oil Seeds, Linseed		
American	95 0 101 0	98 0 101 0	Calcutta—per 410 lbs., Oct-Nov.	4 4 0	4 6 6
Hams —per cwt.			Rape, Toria	72/	75/6
Irish	142/156/	146/156/	Iron —per ton		
Canadian	110 0 112 0	114 0 116 0	Cleveland Cash	nom.	nom.
American	68 0 114 0	69 0 112 0	Tobacco —duty, unmanufactured		
Cheese —per cwt.			5/6 to 6 1/2 per lb.		
Dutch	78 0 118 0	78 0 118 0	Maryland & Ohio	0 6 0 10	0 6 0 10
Canadian	112 0 114 0	112 0 116 0	per lb. bond	0 8 1 6	0 8 1 6
English Cheddar	118 0 124 0	118 0 124 0	Virginia leaf	0 6 0 10	0 6 0 10
Wilt loaf	nom.	nom.	Latakia	1 0 3 0	1 0 3 0
New Zealand	110 0 112 0	112 0 113 0	Havana	1 0 6 0	1 0 6 0
Rice —per cwt.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Manila	0 6 2 0	0 6 2 0
Garden Siam	17 9	17 9	Cigars, duty 10/6 per lb.	2/ upds.	2/ upds.
spot	17 9	17 9	Timber —Wood.		
Rangoon 2 stars	17 0	17 0	Pitch Pine	250/—270	250/—270/
Eggs —per 120.			Indian Teak	400/—600/	400/—600/
English	27 0 29 0	28 0 30 0	Turpentine		
Irish	23 6 24 6	24 0 26 0	American Spot	2 4 6	2 3 9
Danish	24 0 27 0	25 0 27 6	Copra		
Spelter			Malabar, London	nom.	nom.
G.O.B. as to position	£ 51 1/2	£ 54 1/2	Oct-Dec.		
Flour —per sack.			Ceylon, London	35 2 6	35 5 0
Town Households	58/	58/	South Sea	34 7 6	34 10 0
Official	58/	58/	F.M.S.	34 7 6	34 15 0
American First	58/ upds	60/ upds			
Patents					

SHELLAC firmer, as sellers adopted more reserve. T.N., fair, on spot, sold, 120s. to 122s. Parcels of fine lemon met a good demand. Futures, T.N., December, sold, 120s. to 123s.; March, 123s. to 126s.

RUBBER fully steady, though general business showed a lack of animation. Plantation, spot, crepe, sold, 2s. 4½d. to 2s. 5½d.; November-December, 2s. 5½d. to 2s. 5½d. Ribbed smoked sheet, spot, done, 2s. 4d. to 2s. 5½d. Fine hard Para, spot, 3s. 5d., buyers.

COPRA, after being firm, became quieter, and occasionally weaker.

METALS.—Copper: Tone quiet, but steady. In the standard market cash delivery by Tuesday reached £124, and three months

£120 10s. The latter position declined during the middle of the week on freer offers. Cash settled down at £124, and forward £119 10s. At Thursday's session values of these dates closed officially at £124 to £124 10s., and £119 to £120 respectively. Tin: A fair demand has prevailed since last Monday, when standard, cash, moved up to £180, and three months to £181 5s. With a little selling desire on the following day prices relapsed slightly, closing, spot, £179 15s., three months £181. By the middle of the week the market hardened, sellers being reserved, cash fluctuating to £181 5s., and three months to £182 15s. A further upward tendency prevailed at Thursday's meeting, though rates left off below the best. Cash at £182, and forward £183 10s. Tone irregular. Lead quiet, Soft foreign, October, £30 10s.; January, £29 10s. Spelter steady. G.O.B., October, £54; and January, £51. Quicksilver remains at £17 15s.

CORN (Mark Lane).—Increased strength characterised the tone of this market since last Monday, shortage of supplies being still felt. Business has been on a fairly good scale. Wheat: English whites and reds range to 76s. per qr., 504 lbs., delivered. Imported descriptions, No. 1 Northern Manitoba, ex ship, 83s. Flour: American first spring patents, 60s. upwards, landed. Grinding barley: Indian, 54s. upwards, landed. Oats: Plate, landed, 37s. upwards. Maize: Sound Plate, 56s. 6d., landed.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—It has been a week of rather violent fluctuations in raw cotton rates, and trade in yarn and cloth has been hampered. The outlook is more uncertain than for a long time back, and both buyers and sellers are getting more afraid of arranging transactions of weight. Under the circumstances, the future cannot be considered without some apprehension as to what may happen, and the consequent restriction of trading is not unnatural. Satisfaction has been expressed at the settlement of the wages question in the weaving department, the operatives having received a further rise of 5 per cent., the new rates to come into operation at the beginning of next year. The fall in raw cotton rates towards the close of the week has not been owing to any improvement in the prospects for supplies, but is due to realising on the part of operators. Although the inquiry in piece goods for export has been considerable, rather less success has attended the efforts of buyers and sellers in arranging sales.

An increased demand has been experienced in staple goods for India, but most of the offers have been too low for progress to be made. Some fair sales, however, have been put through in light fabrics for Bombay and Madras. China buyers continue to show more interest in prices, but no general buying has occurred, transactions of any weight being exceptional. Egypt, after providing a healthy trade for several weeks, is now rather quieter, but large shipments are assured during the next few months. The South American outlets have not been idle, but operations can only be described as irregular. In home trade fabrics operations of fair extent continue to take place in fancies and specialties, but heavy materials are not attracting very much attention. Numerous manufacturers are in a better position to present a stiff front to buyers than for a long time back. American yarns for home use have been firm in quotation, but rather less activity has prevailed than in recent previous weeks. Most spinners, however, are independent, and are in no mood to run after orders. Medium and fine counts of twist are particularly strong. Only occasional sales have been put through in shipping yarns. Bolton spinners remain stiff in quotation, and the attitude of sellers is not much affected by the changes in the raw material. Business has been of moderate extent.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

Alianza.—Interim for half-year of 5 per cent., 5s. per share, free tax, payable Nov. 14, against 5 per cent. for whole of preceding year.

Angela Nitrate.—Interim of 5 per cent., 1s. per share, free tax equal to 6½ per cent., with tax, payable Nov. 20. The preceding dividend was 20 per cent. for 1913.

Anglo-American Telegraph.—Interim for quarter ended Sept. 30 of 15s. per cent. on the ordinary and £1 10s. per cent. on the preferred, less tax, payable Nov. 1.

Anglo-Chilian Nitrate and Railway.—Interim on account of 1916 of 10s. per preference and 10s. per ordinary, both free tax, being 10 per cent. on each class of shares, payable Nov. 9, same as a year ago.

Anglo-Egyptian Bank.—10s. per share, less tax, for half-year ended Aug. 31, making 15 per cent. for year, and a bonus of 2s. 6d. per share, free tax. After providing in full for depreciation of securities and appropriating £5,500 bonus to staff, £10,000 to reserve fund, and £5,151 to premises, £52,000 is carried forward. For preceding year the dividend was the same, but no bonus was paid, £20,000 was appropriated for war contingencies, and £5,000 for bonus to staff, with £50,000 for forward.

Anglo-Sumatra Rubber.—Final of 20 per cent., less tax; making 50 per cent. for the year, placing £5,000 to reserve, with £26,536 forward, against 40 per cent.

Babcock and Wilcox.—Interim for half-year to June 30 of 6 per cent., tax free, same as a year ago.

Bank of Montreal.—2½ per cent. for quarter ending Oct. 31, and a bonus of 1 per cent., being at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, same as a year ago.

Bryant and May.—Interim of 3 per cent., free tax, on ordinary for half-year ended Sept. 30, payable Nov. 1, against 5 per cent. a year ago. The directors state that, owing to the high prices necessitated by the tax, the home trade has suffered heavily, and

the company's sales have fallen off over 50 per cent., as compared with the same period of last year. The export and other departments, however, have been more prosperous than usual. The directors are of opinion that the worst has been passed, and that stocks in buyers' hands, which have been exceedingly heavy, are again becoming normal, and, therefore, that orders should steadily improve from now onwards.

City of Buenos Ayres Tramways.—1s. 3d. per share (being at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum), less tax, for three months ended Sept. 30, payable Nov. 16, same as a year ago.

Cuban Central Railways.—Out of the balance of net revenue for the year ended June 30 £996 is placed to credit of expenses of exchange of share capital operation with the United Railways of the Havana; £25,000 to credit of expenditure on relaying permanent way suspense account; £35,000 to reserve account, £25,000 to general renewals reserve, and £5,000 to insurance account, £5,000 to pension account. Dividend of 4 per cent., less tax at 3s. 6d., carrying forward £16,988.

Damansara (Selangor) Rubber.—Second interim of 12½ per cent., less tax, on account of year ending Dec. 31, payable Nov. 17.

Dunville and Co.—7s. per share, making 12s. per share, less tax, for year ended Sept. 30, same as a year ago.

Globe and Phoenix Gold Mining.—First interim of 1s. per share, less tax, in respect of 1916, payable Nov. 15. The directors state that they are able to make this distribution out of the available funds, after the whole of the litigation expenses have been paid up to date and after making proper provision for the John Bull Litigation reserve fund. The first interim dividend last year was 1s. per share, paid in July.

Java Amalgamated Rubber.—Interim dividend of 6 per cent. (actual), less tax at 4s. 6d., in respect of year ending Dec. 31, 1916, payable Nov. 9.

Kaduna Syndicate.—Interim at the rate of 15 per cent. (9d. per share), less tax, for year ending Oct. 31, payable Oct. 31.

Kaministiquia Power.—1½ per share, or at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, for quarter ending Oct. 31, against 1½.

Kuala Lumpur Rubber.—Final of 20 per cent., tax free, making 40 per cent. for year to June 30, against 30 per cent.; £10,000 to reserve, £32,736 forward.

Landscape Rubber.—Interim of 7½ per cent., less tax at 4s. 6d., in respect of year ending Dec. 31, payable Oct. 26, same as last year.

Lanka Plantations.—Final of 5 per cent. (less tax at 3s. 6d.), making 7½ per cent. for year ended June 30, same as a year ago.

London Bank of Australia.—Interim for half-year ended June 30 last at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum on both the preference and ordinary, less tax, payable 3rd prox., same as a year ago.

Mansfield Railway.—Interim at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum on the preference for half-year ended June 30, payable 31st inst. The whole of the main line was opened for goods and mineral traffic on Sept. 4.

Mold and Denbigh Junction Railway.—For half-year ended June 30, interest at the rate of £2 15s. per cent. per annum on debenture stock "B," same as a year ago.

Nechi Mines (Colombia).—Interim of 2s. 6d. per share, payable, less tax at the rate of 4s., Nov. 15.

Nobel's Explosives.—Interim on the ordinary in respect of year ending Dec. 31 at the rate of 5 per cent., free tax, payable Dec. 1.

Park Gate Iron and Steel.—Interim of 1s. 3d. per share (free tax) for half-year ended Sept. 30, payable Dec. 1.

Royal Exchange Assurance.—Interim of 5 per cent., less tax, in respect of half-year ended June 30 last, payable Nov. 6, against 4½ per cent., less tax.

Royal Mail Steam Packet.—Interim for half-year ended June 30 last at the rate of £4 per cent. per annum, less tax, on the ordinary, same rate as last year.

Second Edinburgh Investment Trust.—12 per cent. and a bonus of 3 per cent., less tax, against 12 per cent.

Taital Railway.—After providing £14,959 for redemption of debentures and all other charges, the balance available, including £27,231 brought forward, is £92,023, against £63,231. Of this, £10,000 is transferred to general reserve, £10,000 to reserve for depreciation of investments, and a further dividend of 5s. per share, making 8 per cent. for the year, is paid, carrying forward £27,023. A year ago the final dividend was 4s. per share, making 6s. per share for the year.

Texas Land and Mortgage.—Interim for half-year to Sept. 30 at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, less tax at 5s., same as a year ago, payable Nov. 11.

Travancore Tea.—Interim of 15 per cent., less tax, on account of year ended Sept. 30, payable Nov. 11, against 25 per cent.

United Railways of the Havana and Regla Warehouses.—Out of the net revenue for the year ended June 30 £300,000 is placed to reserve, £100,000 to general renewals reserve, £5,000 to insurance account, and £10,000 to pension account. Final dividend of 3 per cent., less tax at 3s. 6d. in the £, carrying forward £12,115.

Western Railway of Havana.—Out of the net revenue for the year ended June 30 £10,000 is added to reserve, £5,000 to general renewals reserve, and £2,228 to credit of expenses of exchange of share capital for that of United Railways of Havana. Dividend of 7 per cent., less tax at 3s. 6d., carrying forward £12,410.

Western Telegraph.—After transferring £100,000 (against £150,000) towards the reduction of the capital expenditure in excess of the share capital and debenture stock issued, placing £100,000 (against £150,000) to general reserve, £30,000 to land and buildings depreciation fund, and £100,000 (against £50,000) to the provision on account of investment fluctuations, a final dividend of 3s. per share, making 6 per cent. for the year ended June 30, or the same as a year ago, is paid, together with a bonus of 4s. per share, against 2s., tax free.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1916, and Oct. 21, 1916:—

	Estimate for the Year 1916-1917. (See note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1916, to Oct. 21, 1916.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1915, to Oct. 23, 1915.
Balances in Exchequer on April 1—	£	£	£
Bank of England	—	25,111,065	81,898,728
Bank of Ireland	—	463,941	1,552,224
REVENUE.		25,575,006	83,450,952
Customs	71,000,000	36,183,000	25,016,000
Excise	65,000,000	29,896,000	33,229,000
Estate, &c., Duties	30,000,000	16,756,000	18,543,000
Stamps	7,000,000	4,002,000	3,405,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,650,000	320,000	340,000
Property and Income Tax and Super Tax	195,000,000	39,055,000	19,354,000
Excess Profits Duty	86,000,000	41,516,000	—
Land Value Duties	475,000	121,000	51,000
Post Office	36,100,000	17,500,000	16,950,000
Crown Lands	550,000	240,000	210,000
Receipts from Suez Canal Shares and Sundry Loans..	5,000,000	2,386,011	767,960
Miscellaneous	3,500,000	3,414,493	2,643,461
Revenue	592,275,000	191,389,414	120,569,421
Total, including Balance		216,964,420	204,020,373
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion		2,330,000	1,010,000
For Treasury Bills (net amount)		435,484,000	20,330,000
For Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		3,087,600	—
For War Loan, 1925-1928		—	35,798,408
For 3½ Exchequer Bonds, 1920		—	243,345
For 4½ Exchequer Bonds, 1920		—	571,000,000
For 6½ Exchequer Bonds, 1919		424	—
For 5½ Exchequer Bonds, 1920		34,222,000	—
For 5½ Exchequer Bonds, 1921		84,064,500	—
For 6½ Exchequer Bonds, 1920		62,464,000	—
For War Expenditure Certificates		49,906,000	—
For War Savings Certificates		25,531,400	—
For other Debt created under the War Loan Act, 1915, and Finance Act, 1916		31,559,000	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913		23,842,319	—
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913		180,000	1,000,000
Under Housing Act, 1914		160,000	—
East Africa Protectorate Loan Repayments on account of Principal and Interest		45,200	500,000
Temporary Advances—			3,825
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £345,000,000 in 1916-1917 and £231,150,000 in 1915-1916)		432,896,500	251,000,000
Total		1,402,728,363	1,084,904,951
EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Estimate for the Year 1916-17. (See note.)	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1916, to Oct. 21, 1916.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1915, to Oct. 23, 1915.
EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£
Permanent Charge of Debt ..	12,818,000	14,428,874	16,514,128
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	114,436,000	62,680,250	5,355,829
Road Improvement Fund	—	—	694,395
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c.	9,500,000	4,253,755	4,477,521
Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,700,000	1,272,820	1,183,425
Supply Services	1,637,529,000	942,833,535	742,271,360
Expenditure	1,825,983,000	1,025,469,214	770,526,658
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion		2,560,000	1,375,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		91,370	91,370
For Exchequer Bonds under the War Loan (Redemption) Act, 1910		—	16,395,500
For Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	£4,060,900	—	—
Less: paid off by the National Debt Commissioners	973,300	3,087,600	—
For Exchequer Bonds under Section 61 of the Finance Act, 1916		38,100	—
For Issues under Section 1 (5) of the War Loan Act, 1915		—	170,143,313
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913		180,000	1,230,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913		160,000	160,000
Under Housing Act, 1914		44,500	630,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8, issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1908		38,000	50,000
Old Sinking Fund—1910-1911: Issued under the Finance Act, 1911—			
Section 16 (2) (b)		43,160	80,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1911-1912—Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Co. (Acquisition of Capital) Act, 1914		250,000	250,000
East Africa Protectorate Loan Repayments: Issued to reduce Debt under the Finance Act, 1911		—	3,825
Temporary Advances repaid—Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £266,727,000 in 1916-17 and £105,532,000 in 1915-16)		342,623,500	105,532,000
Balances in Exchequer—			
Bank of England	26,848,876	17,891,446	—
Bank of Ireland	1,294,043	545,839	—
Total		1,402,728,363	1,084,904,951

MEMO.—Treasury Bills outstanding on Oct. 21, 1916.... £1,079,887,000

* Includes £162,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the Account.

NOTE.—Estimate as in House of Commons Paper No. 30 of 1916, and Supplementary Grants.

Treasury, October 23, 1916.

By-the-Way War Notes.

We do not pretend to be a military strategist. But it appears to be a science, or art, that demands the exercise of a good deal of that rare mental quality—common sense. And common sense surely warns us that all is not as the Germans would have it appear even in Rumania. The hosts of the Kaiser are, as usual at Berlin, carrying all before them. The Rumanian troops have been driven out of Transylvania, and Falkenhayn, the failure elsewhere, has triumphantly invaded Rumania itself, by the most vitally important pass too. At least, the Predael pass is just south of Kronstadt in Transylvania, and the railway to Bukarest runs through it. All manner of good things for the conquering Germans are therefore now predicted, or dreaded, and when we add to the successes in the north the "dazzling record" of Mackensen's foray in the Dobrudja it is no wonder that the German mobs should jubilate yet once more, or that Mackensen should telegraph congratulations to the Sultan tool in Constantinople, and the Kaiser be unable to contain himself for joy.

The self-glorification, in fact, is so outrageously in excess of even the darkest aspect of the facts that one is compelled to doubt the foundation for so brave a brag, and to recall the memory of past deliriums of Teutonic conceit. So we respectfully submit to the consideration of the thoughtful one or two points and questions. First of all, we ask whether the advance of the Austro-Germans into Rumania from the north would be calculated to render their job easier—the job of subduing Rumania during the coming winter? Surely the further they are from their bases of supply, the greater must be the tax upon their transport resources, and at best these cannot be in prime condition after two years of war. Rumania, on the other hand, should gain by having to fight nearer her base. May not that thought be a strong motive impelling Rumania's Army Staff to withdraw in the Dobrudja so as to lure the foe into positions pre-selected for his defeat?

"But look at the progress already made in the Dobrudja." Well, what of it? Has it put the Germans in possession of anything substantial, or of great strategic importance? Not yet. Constanza seems to have been quietly stripped of all stores before the motley swarms of Germans, Austrians, Hungarians, Turks, Kurds, and Bulgars composing the Mackensen army got possession, and as a port of supply it is useless to him as long as the Dardanelles remain shut. The Allied fleets thus continue to play the master rôle in the larger strategy of the war. "I will let nothing go through the Straits," decrees the Turk at the bidding of his German master. "Very well, then," we shall let nothing go into the Straits," reply the Allies, and while their position stands unchallengable Constanza is of about as much use to the would-be world-subduers as a sand heap in the Sahara. Probably the Rumanians emptied it of everything valuable long ago. "Supposing that true," the answer may be, "is not the enemy in possession also of Tchernavoda, and, as he alleges, of the railway bridge which crosses to the Rumanian side of the river at that spot? Being in that position, will he not now be able to strike at the very heart of the kingdom, and not only to open the road to Bukarest, so as to join forces with Falkenhayn pushing down from the north, but by driving forward also to the north of Tchernavoda, soon be in a position to cut Rumania in two, then surely the doom of that State would be sealed?" Yes, probably it would be, for a time at least, and if all depended upon the campaign in that section of the field of war. But the Rumanians are not of that supine stuff which avoids the ordeal, and nothing so far has happened to indicate that they are at the end of their resources either in men of courage, or in material. Nor are they forsaken by their Allies. Therefore, the all-overrunning Teuton would merely insure himself harder terms when peace comes to be arranged. No rood of territory not his before the war will be left under his heel when this war ends. Of that he may be sure.

We cannot but recall the gloom and predictions of evil which have exuded from time to time from the day of the retreat from Mons until now. Predictions of disaster cropped up at every critical-looking moment in the strife, and were distressingly rife during the Russian retreats last year. Happily the Allies keep on pounding away at the foe, and, heedless of all the grumbling or the occasional clamour, are progressing steadily towards his destruction. And are there not other hypotheses sustainable about Rumania than the one now popular? The Dobrudja is not exactly a hospitable or fat country any more than the marshy lands across the Danube into which Mackensen's troops may now be rushing over the Tchernavoda railway bridge, whether he has captured any rolling stock or not. The whole of Rumania is usually intensely cold in winter, and winter is at hand, has already invaded the passes of the Carpathians to the hampering of the enemy's plan of campaign. Nothing in all the war has been demonstrated more fully or more often than the gullibility of the Teuton. His colossal self-glorification makes him an easy prey, overmasters his cunning, and we therefore shall be sorely disappointed if both Falkenhayn and Mackensen do not discover before long that they have once more cock-a-doodle-dooed too soon.

"Where was the Russian Black Sea fleet?" some of our Press illuminators are shouting, their notion evidently being that Russia has failed to support Rumania at her critical moment. But why should the Russian fleet interfere and help to damage the city and docks of Constanza if it were, as may well have been, the deliberate purpose of the Rumanians to allow the place to be taken by the enemy? Were he less of a swelled-head, that enemy should have been uneasy at that facile surrender. No booty, no military or other stores, little railway rolling stock, would seem to have fallen into his hands. Do not facts like these suggest that the Rumanian armies are not being knocked about just as the enemy thinks fit?

Is there any warrant for assuming that facts accord with the gloomy prognostication about weakness and failure at any point? Very little. Certainly it would be nowise surprising if the troops of our Allies were here and there less well furnished with everything required for the effective and speedy killing of the enemy than they might be. But it by no means follows that they are as short as many allege, and the "slowness" complained of may be excellent strategy. Who will suffer most on the Russian, Hungarian, Rumanian, Balkan, Italian, and Franco-Belgian battle fronts by the prolongation of the war beyond another winter? Why should the allied armies at any point strive too eagerly to force the pace, at great cost to their most valuable asset, their manhood, when the temper of the foe has nowhere as yet disclosed that meekness in speaking of peace which we require before the word can be echoed by us? Has hunger, the great tamer, done its work sufficiently to make the German dolt humble, to evict from his sordid imagination the dream of world-domination? To all these questions the answer is against the "grouser."

Therefore there is no call for over-haste. Our study must be to keep the foe employed, to tempt him to come and be killed, to kill him at diminishing risk and loss to our own troops, just as the French and we are doing in Picardy, all along the front. May it not prove to be all to the good that hunger should slay its millions next winter within the doomed Empires, because the work of the true peace-builders will then be made easier. "Surely, that is a callous thing to say?" Desperate diseases need desperate remedies, and if the spirit of the lawless robber is not bled and bleached out of the Germans they would surely try to be at their old knaveries again, perhaps ere another generation had passed away. Our peace must be arranged between free and liberated peoples, not quilted together between potentates of the sword, between the irresponsible and the enslaved.

The splendid feat of chivalrous war performed by the French troops before Verdun this week should more than counterbalance petty rebuffs—petty in rela-

tion to the great strategic whole—suffered by the Allies in Rumania. It was glorious, and once more demonstrates the measureless superiority of the Frenchman over the German. The victory should not only encourage us all and inspire the home-stayers to further exertions, a higher spirit of self-sacrifice in helping our armies on to final victory, but also lead us to take a less circumscribed view of the theatres of conflict. Events in Picardy have since July absorbed our attention too exclusively, and made us ignore what has been taking place all along the French front. Not alone on the Somme and the Aisne have great feats of war been happening. There is no rest given to the enemy at any point. But we read of the bulletins about Belgian, British, and French attacks at various points along the front with a careless eye which prevents us from realising that the armies of the Kaiser are being "pulped" without pause and with unvarying success all the time, along the whole siege front.

And exhaustion of the foe goes on successfully in other theatres of conflict. Even in the Near East neither the Turk nor the Bulgar and his Teuton master will be able to stand the pressure much longer. Austria is exhausted, and Hungary confronted by a winter of famine whose ravages may tame even the Magyar. Nowhere need we demand undue haste; the foe is destroying himself, because on his head has fallen the judgment of God, because he is a vain and foolish fool. He is now busy even in stirring up new enemies, and may soon have Sweden, Norway, and Denmark at his throat, so great is his insanity. "And Holland?" No; he need not trouble himself about Holland.

Is it not a fact worthy of some emphasis that in all the Habsburg dominions it was only a Jew, a despised Jew, who had the humanity and courage to give his life to help, as he believed, to emancipate his fellow-man, by the assassination of the Austrian Prime Minister? He committed a crime, no doubt, and it may be a fruitless crime so far as rousing the slaves to a sense of their manhood is concerned, but he surely did it in a spirit of self-sacrifice with the calmness of a martyr, and in doing it proved once more the capacity of his persecuted race to hold a much higher place among the civilised than the Teuton. "He is not insane," the gossips say. No, we should think not.

What is said above about the situation in Rumania was written on the mid-week Bulgarian and German accounts of events. We, therefore, assumed that the very worst might have happened, while hoping and expecting that it had not. The hope is justified. Nothing substantial has been gained in the Dobrudja by Mackensen. He has not even, as alleged, secured the railway bridge at Tchernovoda, for the Rumanians blew it up before he could reach it. The whole story from the Rumanian side puts a face on the position much in harmony with what is conjectured above. Our "progress" claimed in the north by the enemy also amounts to nothing. Falkenhayn is baulked of his quarry, and Mackensen too late and probably getting too far from his base to be able to intervene in Moldavia. Exhausted Bulgaria, moreover, is finding more to face than was reckoned on in Macedonia. Germany, therefore, is, as usual, only helping her adversaries by the swagging folly of her plunges all over the Continent. But the doomed oppressors of the people in both Empires must increase in recklessness as their despair increases. That is the law of their chastisement.

Gossip, it seems, has revived about "a separate peace with Austria." "Austria is ready, nay eager, to submit and quit the arena." We daresay. But with Austria *qua* Austria, an oppressor Power, a hoary imposture of infamous record, there can be no peace of any sort. Peace must be made with the delivered races on whose necks the Austrian tyranny has lain for centuries. Try, please, good reader, to grasp that cardinal truth. "Thrones and dominions" of the Habsburg and Hohenzollern type must disappear for ever if our peace is to be enduring.

Does not this view of the peace foundations we must lay govern the decision on when to construct the

Channel Tunnel? We are keenly in favour of that enterprise, and always have been. But, with the results of Prussian savagery before us, dare we say that the time has yet come to bore the tunnel? Surely as preliminary thereto we must have a peace based on the complete disarmament of the madmen beyond the Rhine, an extension of the Belgian frontier to that river, the loyal adhesion of Holland to the side of the Allies, coupled with such a readjustment of her marshes on the Belgian side as will end all friction between the two States, and finally a union among the Scandinavian States in association with the victorious Allies of the *Entente* so frank and complete as to enable us all to abandon militarism except as a moral discipline among free peoples and as the organising agency for an international police. Then when the world is at rest for ever from the Prussian savage and his blunt-witted, lust-ridden Teuton and other dupes, we can bore the Channel Tunnel. The time approaches we are convinced, but it has not come yet.

What can be the motive prompting the Berlin desperados to bully Norway? There may be several motives. Growing hunger in Germany enrages the baffled would-be world-stealers against all three Scandinavian States because they lean more to us than to them and supply us with food. And Norwegian shipping is specially an object of fury, because it is so largely employed in our trade. Then there may lurk an idea among the civil and military Panglosses in Berlin that by threatening Norway they may induce us to send swarms of our submarines and a supporting fleet of large dimensions to patrol the coasts of both Norway and Sweden, giving a chance in so doing to the Wilhelmshafen heroes to convoy an invading force to our shores. Or they may hope to intimidate Norway first, then Sweden, then Denmark, and finally the stolid Dutch to become their slaves. But we have them too securely in our grasp to be deranged in our plans by eleventh-hour furies of any description. "Ah, but Germany has built and built submarines, until she now has more of them than she had before the war begun." Well, her building must indeed have been "colossal," but whatever the feat, it will be countered. What a pity it was, though, that the Dutch, in pious dread of Belgian competition, insisted on holding the mouth of the Scheldt on both sides, for that has enabled the Germans to convert Antwerp into a submarine base and otherwise arrange for piracies along the coast by which we are somewhat bothered. Even so, our serene confidence in our power to hold the mastery is unshaken, and Germany in all her intrigues is helping to make more complete her own discomfiture.

Rubber Companies and the Excess Profits Duty.

Several orders of the Board of Referees appointed to deal with assessments of excess profits under the Finance (No. 2) Act of 1915 have been promulgated this week, and needless to say they have entirely failed to mollify the parties chiefly concerned. The ruling with regard to plantation rubber companies is the only one of wide public interest, but we may note in passing that in the case of Malayan tin-dredging concerns the allowance for interest on capital expenditure is raised from 6 per cent. to 13 per cent. Even so the Referees have not been particularly generous. It would take between seven and eight years on this basis for the capital alone to be repaid, but dredging propositions are notoriously uncertain, and at best their assets are of a rapidly wasting character, so we should not care to estimate how much nett profit their owners are likely to pocket at the end of the run. Of course, there are occasional prizes, but they are few and far between.

It is, however, the case of the younger rubber companies that has been mainly brought to the notice of the public, because the system adopted is so manifestly unfair to them. Perhaps it may be as well to recall the fact that in arriving at excess profits a company has the choice of taking as its standard either the average of the

best two out of three pre-war years, or a fixed rate of interest on its capital expenditure. As it happens, many of the most prosperous rubber plantations entirely escape special taxation on this basis. They had almost reached their maximum output several years ago, and owing to the high price of rubber in 1910-13 they were making considerably larger profits than they are now, although some of them can still distribute dividends of 100 per cent. and upwards. But the Chancellor of the Exchequer cannot touch these fine fellows because their profits are less than before the war. The trouble begins with the younger estates. As everyone knows (not always to his profit), an enormous number of new rubber companies started up in 1909-10, when the boom was at its height, and many of these have begun to earn profits and pay dividends in the past year or two.

In these cases it would be manifestly absurd to estimate excess profits on a pre-war standard because a four or five-year-old company has not earned any. So the basis is adopted of allowing a percentage on capital expenditure and taking toll of everything beyond that. The statutory figure was fixed at 6 per cent., and the Board of Referees was set up to consider exceptional cases such as plantation companies manifestly furnished. Under the most favourable conditions an estate cannot be brought to the dividend-paying stage under five or six years, and conservative boards probably prefer to husband resources for a year or two longer. It scarcely needs to be pointed out that a return of 6 per cent. on the capital is totally inadequate in these circumstances, and the Referees have raised the basis to 10 per cent. The Rubber Growers' Association claimed that it should be at least 12 per cent., and we are not sure they were not right. However, there is no appeal except to Parliament, and for the present the companies must put up with it.

At the same time, it must be admitted that the tax works very unfairly as between different companies and groups of shareholders, and we are inclined to think that experience will show the anomalies to be so glaring that some other system must be adopted. No one has raised any serious objection to the principle of the excess profits duty, but when two people are engaged in exactly the same business, and one has to surrender 60 per cent. of his profit, while the other, who is earning much more, gets off scot free, there is something radically wrong in the method of assessment. Of course, there will probably be hard cases under any system, and hard cases make bad law, but it ought not to pass the wit of the Treasury officials to devise a scheme that would hold the balance more evenly between different groups. Admittedly the rubber plantation industry, by the accidental stage of its development at the outbreak of the war, is in a quite exceptional position, but that is no reason why exceptional regulations should not be applied to it. Several months ago a correspondent (Mr. Rennie) suggested in these columns that rubber companies should pay a poundage tax on production instead of excess profits duty. That would at least have the advantage of placing all the producing estates relatively on the same footing, and it might be fairer and less onerous in other respects, while it would probably insure a larger revenue. Anyhow, the whole question will have to be reconsidered in order to redress the present injustice. We have no desire to carp about mistakes made, for the Chancellor has had to grope in the dark under very trying circumstances, but when glaring inequalities are brought to light the least that can be done is to discover a remedy as quickly as possible.

Insurance News.

From one point of view it cannot be said that the Guardian Assurance Co., Ltd., is buying the business of the Reliance Marine Insurance Co., Ltd., at a low price. The Reliance dividend has lately taken only £17,500 a year, and the Guardian is offering the shareholders £30,000 a year. Probably, however, the business being a fine one, we may assume that the directors of the purchasing company see their way to make the acquisi-

tion profitable. In effecting the purchase, which has yet to be accepted by the shareholders of both companies, opportunity will be taken to rearrange the Guardian Co.'s capital. At present that is £2,000,000 nominal in £10 shares, half, or £1,000,000, paid up. The problem was to buy the Reliance without adding to this capital, and a quite clever scheme has been evolved, as explained last week. The inducement of the fully paid preference share ought to be alone great enough to bring consent for the exchange of 100,000 of the deferred shares for the capital of the Reliance Company.

New rates for annuities are published by the London Life Association, and the terms offered are very attractive. In fact, the directors confidently believe that the new rates are the best issued by any office in the British Empire. As is well known, the expense ratio of this institution is lower than any office in the world, no agents being employed and no commission paid. At age 60 the terms now offered on a male life payable half-yearly are £9 12s. 11d. per cent. per annum, while at age 70 the annuity works out at £13 11s. 9d., the corresponding rates for female lives being £8 13s. 4d. and £12 2s. 7d. respectively.

Six months ago the board of the Hearts of Oak Life and General Assurance Co. was reconstituted and the company placed under a new control, and a report now issued shows that in all departments of the business progress has been made and reforms instituted. All previously outstanding claims have been paid up to date and debentures for £8,000 have been redeemed. The total premium income for the past half-year shows an increase of £11,600, and the number of policies issued was 44,076 as compared with 28,721 for the corresponding period. This expansion has been accompanied by a reduction in the claim ratio on the industrial life business from 48 per cent. to below 40 per cent., and the claim ratio on the fire and general business has made a similar satisfactory reduction, while the premium income in these departments has made a very great increase.

According to the latest returns the number of insurance companies in Japan is 64, although it is only quite recently that insurance business has been formally organised in the country. It is an interesting fact that marine insurance should have prepared the way for other kinds of insurance in Japan as well as in Europe and America. The first marine office was formally established in 1878 and the first complete life office in 1881, which was followed six years later by a fire office. In 1893 the insurance world in Japan showed a marvellous activity throughout the whole country, and dozens of companies were formed as the result of the increasing demand for insurance. Early in 1900 new special insurance laws were enacted, and the authorities took every care to foster the development of the work of the companies, and about the same time the foreign companies doing business in Japan, some 50 in number, were brought under the control of the Government. At the present time the marine offices are doing exceedingly well, but life and other companies are experiencing great financial depression in consequence of war conditions.

The Week in Mines.

The Mining markets this week have been less active owing to the unfavourable news from Rumania, which has restricted business in all departments of the Stock Exchange. Consequently the tone has been dull, with movements in prices generally against holders. Tanganyikas relapsed sharply on the report showing an increase in the year's deficit. The effect of the increased production of copper on the Union Minière's finances is not touched upon in the report, but presumably this important part of the company's interest will be dealt with at the meeting. Malayan Tin shares were marked down on disappointment with the award of a statutory percentage of 13 per cent. given by the Board of Referees in the excess profits duty appeal. American Copper shares developed fresh strength on speculative buying in Wall Street.

SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

The South African market weakened, not from any pressure to sell, but from the withdrawal of the prop of Cape support. New Modders have fallen $\frac{7}{8}$ to 18 $\frac{1}{2}$, Gedulds 13. 6d. to 46s., Springs 3-32 to 3 5-32, Brakpans $\frac{1}{16}$ to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$, Central Minings $\frac{1}{4}$ to

7. City Deeps $\frac{1}{8}$ to 4 9-32, and Van Ryn Deeps $\frac{3}{8}$ to 3 $\frac{1}{2}$. On the other hand, Gold Fields have met with support at 1 23-32, and Modder Leases have risen 1s. to 53s. 6d., Modder B's $\frac{1}{8}$ to 6 27-32, while Cloverfields at 9s. 3d. and Rand Klips at 9s. have attracted some attention. In the Rhodesian section Tanganyikas have declined 9-32 to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ on the report, but Zambesias, after falling in sympathy, recovered to 19s. 6d. Chartered have fallen 6d. to 11s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., but Falcons are firmer at 15s. 3d. Globes have met with support at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ on the declaration of an interim dividend, the first for the current year. Diamond shares have moved irregularly, De Beers deferreds falling $\frac{1}{4}$ to 12 $\frac{1}{2}$, and Premier deferreds rising $\frac{1}{4}$ to 5 $\frac{1}{2}$. Among West African descriptions, Taquahs at 19s. 9d. and Abbotiakoons at 5s. 9d. are weaker, but Fanti Consols have improved to 7s.

COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

With the exception of the American group, which has shown marked strength, Copper shares have declined, in spite of a fresh rise of about £1 a ton in the price of the metal. Rio Tinto declined $\frac{1}{4}$ to 63, and Mount Morgans 1s. 6d. to 32s., but Anacondas show a rise of $\frac{1}{4}$ to 20, and Utahs an advance of $\frac{3}{8}$ to 21 $\frac{1}{2}$. Tin shares failed to receive any stimulus from a further sharp rise in the price of the metal, and Malayan descriptions are mostly lower, a notable exception being a sharp rise of $\frac{1}{8}$ to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ in Tekka-Taiping. Jantors, in the Nigerian group, improved to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. Liquidation of deceased accounts has lowered quotations in the Westralian market. The Alaska group has been subjected to selling pressure. El Oros rose 9d. to 9s. 6d. on the news of the resumption of milling operations, albeit the resumption is compulsory.

Russian shares have been under the influence of the retirement in Rumania. Lenas have fallen $\frac{1}{4}$ to 19 $\frac{1}{2}$, and Russo-Asiatics $\frac{3}{8}$ to 55 $\frac{1}{2}$. Broken Hills have been supported, South Silvers rising $\frac{1}{4}$ to 8 $\frac{1}{2}$, and Norths 1-32 to 2 11-32. Burma Corporations have been subjected to profit-taking sales, and are 5-32 lower at 4 1-32. Minerals Separations have been in request up to £11.

MINING NEWS

RHODESIAN MINERAL OUTPUT.—The production of gold in Southern Rhodesia last month amounted to £322,035, an increase of £950 on September, 1915. The following table shows the production since January, 1912:—

MONTH.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915	1916
January	£ 214,918	£ 220,776	£ 249,032	£ 293,133	£ 318,586
February	209,744	208,744	259,888	286,789	313,769
March	215,102	257,797	273,236	299,686	333,368
April	221,476	241,098	295,907	315,541	339,386
May	234,407	242,452	290,062	318,898	323,783
June	226,867	241,303	306,421	322,473	333,070
July	240,514	249,301	320,670	336,565	322,365
August	239,077	250,576	316,972	344,493	338,001
September	230,573	250,429	309,398	321,085	322,035
October	210,072	247,068	337,241	339,067	—
November	225,057	239,036	311,711	313,160	—
December	218,661	254,687	309,669	331,376	—
Totals.	2,707,368	2,903,267	3,580,207	3,823,166	2,946,363

The number of producers was 225, or 22 less than in August; and the output of other metals was 16,494 ounces of silver, 47,039 tons of coal, 304 tons of copper, 1,415 tons of chrome ore, 669 tons of asbestos, and 82 carats of diamonds.

WEST AFRICAN GOLD OUTPUT.—The production of gold in September amounted to £127,138, a decrease of £8,666 as compared with September last year. The following table shows the monthly production since January, 1912:—

MONTH.	1916.	1915.	1914.	1913	1912.
Jan. ..	£ 140,579	£ 143,649	£ 125,862	£ 144,262	£ 107,262
Feb. ..	137,739	144,034	123,169	137,038	102,270
Mar. ..	150,987	153,770	131,392	150,060	111,376
April ..	135,976	149,978	131,697	146,220	114,796
May ..	132,976	142,123	145,227	142,617	115,678
June ..	127,107	135,289	147,289	125,764	114,697
July ..	128,574	140,290	151,921	129,916	127,800
Aug. ..	125,143	139,364	150,386	126,090	136,407
Sept. ..	127,138	135,744	154,316	132,394	142,397
Oct. ..	—	141,771	159,410	137,153	142,414
Nov. ..	—	122,138	154,674	132,694	137,700
Dec. ..	—	138,323	147,699	127,472	144,382
Totals	1,206,219	1,706,473	1,717,044	1,634,700	1,497,179

TOMBOY GOLD.—This company made a profit of £76,924 in the year ended June 30, as compared with £79,705 in 1914-15 and £81,071 in 1913-14. The dividend is reduced from 3s. per share to 2s. per share; £30,000 as against £52,218 is written off property, plant, and machinery, and the amount carried forward is further reduced from £20,778 to £19,702. During the year 150,488 tons of ore have been milled, from which bullion to the value of \$1,074,088 has been realised, at a cost of \$770,866, resulting in a profit of \$353,222 against \$372,877. Dividends from the Tomboy Tramway and Tunnel Co., and receipts from other sources, bring the total surplus on the year's working up to \$382,788. Working costs averaged \$4.92 per ton. Reserves of ore have been increased from 535,000 to 575,000 tons.

EL ORO MINING AND RAILWAY.—The directors state that on September 16 General Carranza issued a decree that all pro-

perties failing to resume operations by November 14 will be declared forfeited, and that suspension of operations for an aggregate period of three months in one year will involve the same penalty. In these circumstances the directors, after having fortified themselves with influential advice, felt that they had no alternative but to instruct Mr. Main to resume milling operations, and they have received a cable from him stating that 70 stamps of the 100-stamp mill are now dropping.

KAMUNING TIN.—The report of this company for the year ended June 30 naturally shows a marked expansion in the results achieved, because operations were only in progress for 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ months in the preceding year. Net profits, after providing for depreciation of assets and amortisation of capital—the last named an excellent provision that ought to be followed by all mining companies—amount to £38,858, as compared with £10,900. Dividends amounting to 20 per cent., tax free, have already been paid, leaving £16,854, against £3,996, to be carried forward. No provision has been made in the accounts for income-tax and excess profits duty as it is not yet possible to determine the company's liability in respect of these items. But since the report was compiled the Board of Referees has fixed a 13 per cent. dividend as the statutory percentage. During the year 1,150,000 cubic yards produced 621 tons of tin ore, valued at £59,257. The yield was 1s. 0.31d. per cubic yard treated, and the cost of working, including all charges, was 4.337d. per cubic yard.

BROOMHILL COLLIERIES.—The exceptional conditions which have prevailed during the past two years have brought about a marked change in this company's fortunes. In 1914-15 sufficient progress was made to enable it to clear off two and a-half years' arrears of preference dividend, and this record was still further improved in the 12 months ended June 30. Even after setting aside £50,000 for income-tax and excess profits duty the net profits show an increase of £37,018 at £89,764, and the available balance, including £14,962, or £5,108 less, brought in, is £31,819 up at £104,706. Dividends for three years are paid on the preference shares, clearing off all arrears, and the ordinary shares get a dividend of 10 per cent., their first since 1908-9, when 5 per cent. was paid. Out of the surplus £10,000 is again transferred to reserve, together with £722 for 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, leaving £8,779 less at £35,272 to be carried forward. The first mortgage debenture stock has been reduced by £18,980 to £116,355, and property account shows a corresponding decrease of £17,640 at £194,065, while, against the provision for excess profits, book debts and cash are £71,814 up at £112,338. The directors state that it has now been proved that there are eight seams varying in thickness from 2 ft. 4 ins. to 7 ft. 9 ins. between the Bondicar and Hauxley Faults in the company's own Amble Manor Royalty, which will give a large quantity of coal for many years.

MAIN COLLIERY.—The directors think that this is a favourable opportunity to make the company's financial year end on December 31 instead of as heretofore, June 30, and it is accordingly proposed that the accounts for 18 months should be presented early in the new year, and a final dividend covering that whole period paid in February next. They also consider it desirable to divide each of the existing shares of £10 each into ten shares of £1 each, and to alter the articles so that every member shall have one vote for every share held by him, and, further, to fix the minimum holding of any shareholder at 50 £1 shares.

What Balance Sheets Tell.

DORADA EXTENSION RAILWAY, LTD.

In the year ended December 31 there were small improvements in the passenger traffic and miscellaneous receipts, but goods traffic showed a further falling off, and the total income was £6,930 down at £92,302. Working expenses were only reduced by £1,397, leaving the nett revenue, including interest, &c., £6,123 smaller at £50,578, and as income-tax and loss on exchange both took more, the surplus showed a decrease of £9,960 at £18,947. After providing for sinking fund and other charges, and adding £2,468 brought in, £20,146, or £7,822 less, was available, out of which a dividend of 3 per cent. is again paid, but the appropriation to reserve is reduced from £15,000 to £8,000 and £1,646, or £822 less, is carried forward. Payments made to the Dorada Railway (Ropeway Extension), including subscription for 60,000 shares, rose by £51,830 to £67,748, and cash balances were reduced by £46,055 to £25,431. Owing to physical difficulties and other circumstances, the cost of construction of the ropeway will largely exceed the original estimates, but the directors believe that the undertaking will prove remunerative, and they consider that it is in this company's interest to do everything possible to facilitate its early completion. To provide the funds required, it is proposed to increase the second mortgage debentures from £150,000 to £200,000, and at the same time the bondholders will be asked to postpone the repayment of the debentures which fall due on June 1, 1918, for five years.

PATERSON, LAING AND BRUCE, LTD.

Although considerable difficulties were again experienced by this business of Australian merchants in its year ended July 21, trading profits showed a recovery of £8,323 at £62,316, which brought them back to the level of 1913-14. With £26,703, or £2,011 more, brought forward, the nett balance, after pro-

viding for administration charges and debenture interest, is £10,223 up at £75,936, out of which the usual dividend of 6 per cent. is paid on the ordinary shares. The reserve, which last year got nothing, is now increased by £35,000, and an extra £1,500 at £4,500 is transferred to the pension fund, leaving only £436, or £26,267 less, to be carried forward. Including the present appropriation, the reserve stands at £70,000, in addition to which there is an external reserve of £100,000, represented by British guaranteed and other Colonial Government securities and other investments of an aggregate value of £100,062. Current liabilities have risen by £57,106 to £294,991, but on the other hand stocks are £40,748 up at £500,878, and debtors owe £18,349 more at £276,767, while £10,000 has been invested in 4½ per cent. War Loan.

D. AND W. MURRAY, LTD.

The difficulties experienced in 1914-15 owing to the lack of shipping facilities were further increased in the 12 months ended July 19 by the rise in the cost of goods, freights, and other charges incidental to an exporting business. Against these disadvantages, however, there were considerable advantages to be placed, amongst which were the large sums put into circulation in connection with the equipment of troops, the "record" wheat crop, and the high prices realised for wool and metals, so that, on the whole, the balance was well in favour of the company. Nett profits showed an increase of £14,292 at £61,554, but as last year's surplus of £42,072, left after paying a dividend of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, has been transferred to special reserve, the balance now available is £20,528 smaller. The dividend on the ordinary shares is maintained at 10 per cent., £10,000 is again put to debenture redemption fund, and £21,000 is transferred to the special reserve, leaving £544 to be carried forward. Stocks have risen by £76,009 to £541,050, and debtors are £36,324 up at £281,820; but cash and bills receivable come to £51,006 less at £147,852, against which trade creditors come to £149,839, or £61,783 more, bills payable are £3,169 up at £5,683, while £156,349, or £26,392 less, is due to cash creditors. The special reserve will now stand at £182,680.

BRAMPTON BROS., LTD.

During the 12 months ended August 5, this business of makers of cycle accessories, like many other undertakings, seems to have turned its attention to munitions, with highly satisfactory results. After making provision for maintenance and depreciation, the nett profits were £14,266 up at £24,784, and, with £8,318 brought forward, gave £15,134 more at £33,102, which, however, is subject to excess profits and munitions tax. The ordinary shares again get a dividend of 5 per cent.; but this time a bonus of another 5 per cent. is added, and the appropriation to reserve is increased by £4,792 to £7,792, leaving £16,386, or £8,067 more, to be carried forward. With the present transfer from revenue, the reserve is brought up to £44,000, which is sufficient to wipe out goodwill, and is apparently to be devoted to that purpose. The Calais assets have been sold to a new company, Brampton Bros. (Calais), for £30,000 in shares, and the transaction probably accounts in large measure for the reductions of £12,293 to £47,180 in plant, &c., and £6,139 to £39,801 in stocks. Land and buildings in Birmingham have been reduced by £4,890 to £27,584. Debtors owe £9,650 more at £33,612, and cash is £2,833 up at £12,100, against which current liabilities show very little change at £37,911.

SADLER AND CO., LTD.

The manufacture of war materials proved a great boon to this business of chemists and distillers in the year ended June 30, and it not only had to work at high pressure, but also to increase its plant. Mainly through these extensions the profits for the 12 months, after providing for estimated liabilities under the various Revenue Acts, and adding £4,885, or £1,897 less, brought in, were £27,441 up at £40,887. The directors, however, have deemed it expedient, owing to the exceptional conditions, to write off £24,000, as against £3,000 a year ago, for depreciation, and after providing for interest charges they pay a dividend of 7 per cent., less tax, compared with nothing last year and 3 per cent. for 1913-14, leaving £1,311 less at £3,573 to be carried forward. Additions to property account cost £10,070, but the allowance for depreciation leaves the total cost £13,930 down at £224,777. Debtors owe £22,788 more at £59,509, but stocks are £7,576 smaller at £44,081, and cash is £4,780 down at £19,740, against a decrease of £11,649 to £78,863 in sundry creditors.

SECOND SCOTTISH INVESTMENT TRUST CO., LTD.

During its financial year, which ended on October 1, this company presumably realised a good many of its American securities as the investments show a decrease of £113,297 at £673,744. The proceeds were brought home and put into Treasury bills, which appear in the balance-sheet at £121,591, and the trustees, apparently get a rap over the knuckles for so doing from the auditors, who point out that the amount is in excess of the limit allowed by the articles of association for one investment. In view to the changing rates of income-tax it has been decided to give the gross income from interest and dividends and to state the income-tax separately, instead of giving the nett amount as hitherto, and, thanks to this alteration, the revenue, including £2,633, or £405 more, brought in, shows an apparent improvement of £6,440 at £47,435. Income-tax, however, required an extra £6,151 at £8,642, and after providing for debenture interest and other charges the net balance is only £1,406 up at £25,320. Of this £3,000 is transferred to reserve, as against £2,000 last year, and a dividend of 8 per cent. is again paid on the deferred stock, leaving £4,620, or £1,988 more, to be carried forward.

CLYDESDALE INVESTMENT CO., LTD.

The total income for the year ended September 30 showed a comparatively small decrease of £1,160 at £45,786, but owing to the heavier charge for income-tax, the nett revenue was £5,127 smaller at £35,836. Debenture and other interest, however, absorbed £2,953 less at £10,938, and as the dividends of 4½ per cent. on the preference and 5 per cent. on the ordinary stocks are paid less tax, there is a reduction in the amount required. At the same time, nothing is written off compared with £963 off preliminary expenses, leaving the surplus £503 up at £6,098, making with £8,880, or £5,595 more, brought in, a total of £14,988 to be carried forward. Investments in railways, street railways, light and power companies have been reduced by £19,916 to £538,403, and in industrial undertakings by £23,802 to £222,318, against which British and Russian Government securities valued at £38,840 have been bought. In accordance with the Government's wishes, the company has sold large amounts of its American securities, and the percentage of its holdings in that country shows a reduction of 6.32 per cent. at 47.15 per cent.

LIVERPOOL AND NORTH WALES STEAMSHIP CO., LTD.

In November last another vessel was requisitioned by the Government, leaving the company only one steamer with which to carry on its ordinary business. No sympathy, however, need be wasted on the shareholders on that account, as the Government pays liberally, and the company shows an increase of no less than £6,802 at £19,127 in its receipts for the twelve months ended October 6. Of this £10,000, or £3,745 more, is written off for depreciation, but the balance available, including £800 brought in, is still £3,219 up at £8,704, and the dividend is increased from 6 per cent. to 10 per cent., leaving £2,334, or £671 more, to be carried forward. The book value of the fleet has been reduced to £64,950, and of freehold and investments to £33,181; while, on the other hand, the loan from bankers shows a decrease of £11,771 at £6,650.

Letters to the Editor.

"HELP OUR SOUTH AFRICAN WOUNDED."

DEAR SIR,—As president of the South African Hospital and Comforts Fund, I trust you will allow me to make a further appeal on behalf of South Africans serving with their contingent or with other units in Europe.

During the past year the South African forces have rendered signal service to the Empire. They have completed the conquest of German West Africa, their European contingent has fought gloriously in Egypt and France, and their East African army, assisted by other units, has won through to great success in a campaign exceptionally difficult and arduous. The financial strain of these military services has fallen very heavily upon the South African people, and, realising this, we have made every possible endeavour to lighten it by undertaking the very necessary task of providing for the welfare of South Africans serving in Europe, who receive a lower scale of pay than those of other overseas contingents.

Our activities during the past year have been continuous, varied, and increasing. We have built a hospital of 300 beds in Richmond Park, and, in view of the need for further accommodation, as intimated by the War Office, have decided to increase its accommodation to 520 beds, which will include a special installation of baths for medical treatment and an officers' ward. It will be adequately equipped in every respect, and its cost, when completed, will exceed £50,000.

The needs of the wounded are provided for by the Convalescence and Hospitality Committee, and men on sick furlough receive free quarters and board at our expense. Our Comforts Committee has supplied the troops with every possible requirement, and has distributed to the troops over 40,000 separate parcels from South Africa. It also co-operates with various committees in that country in sending food and comforts to South African prisoners of war. For men on leave from the front, we provide free quarters and board; and they, as well as men on leave stationed in this country, are looked after and entertained by the Personal Service Committee.

In order to centralise these committees, we have recently taken a lease of 39, Grosvenor Place, where also South African soldiers can meet their friends and find periodicals and writing materials. These and other undertakings, combined with contributions to the South African Ambulance, King George and Queen Mary's Club for Overseas Forces at Peel House, and to regimental funds, have constituted a severe drain upon our resources, which, we now feel, are not adequate for our future requirements, more especially in view of a probable increase in the number of South Africans serving in Europe after the close of the East African campaign.—Believe me, yours faithfully,

GLADSTONE.

South African Hospital and Comforts Fund,
2, London Wall Buildings, E.C.

Cheques should be crossed "National Bank of South Africa."

Copies of THE INVESTORS' REVIEW can
be obtained in Paris at

Messrs. W. H. Smith & Son's,
248, Rue de Rivoli.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

DICK, KERR AND CO.

LARGELY INCREASED TURNOVER—EXTENSION OF THE WORKS.

The ordinary general meeting of Dick, Kerr and Co., Ltd., was held on Thursday at Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., Mr. Claud T. Cayley (the chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. E. D. Johnson) read the notice and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts (which recommended a dividend of 6 per cent. on the ordinary shares), said: The past year has been a strenuous one for everyone connected with the management of your company. At our last meeting I indicated as far as I thought advisable the nature of the work which we were then employed on and expected to be engaged in during the period now under review. As a matter of fact, the work actually undertaken by the company has been of greater magnitude than the directors then anticipated. Both your manufacturing department and your contracts department are dealing with a larger turnover than ever before, and it is greatly to the credit of the staff that this should be the case in view of the extent to which it is depleted by many members having joined his Majesty's forces. Turning to the balance-sheet, you will have observed that "capital expenditure at the works, including goodwill and patents," has been reduced. To those who know the works this will appear misleading in view of the material extensions which are in evidence. The explanation, however, is found in the item "Contracts due for works, stock of materials, &c." It was considered, for the purpose of comparison, better to keep as far as possible the expenditure in connection with abnormal works separate, and this has been done by dealing with them as separate and independent contracts. When we return to normal times, there will of necessity be an adjustment between this item and that of "capital expenditure at works." The reduction in "capital expenditure, &c., at works" of over £18,000 represents, therefore, roughly speaking, the amount written off this item for normal depreciation. The auditors in their report state that "No provision has been made for the shrinkage of assets due to the present exceptional circumstances, but the usual charges for depreciation have been made." This is, of course, correct as far as the balance-sheet is concerned, but I would draw your attention to certain words in the profit and loss account—namely, "after setting aside reserve for extra depreciation." Everyone who has any experience of manufacturing knows that depreciation of machinery increases with the time it is at work, but not in direct proportion. The more continuously machinery is operated, the less time there is to carry out normal repairs. Consequently the life is shortened out of all proportion to the actual amount of time worked, and your directors consider it necessary to provide amply against this exceptional wear and tear.

SUBSTANTIAL ADDITION TO RESERVE.

The profit earned for the year, added to the sum of £18,346 brought forward from 1915, gives us £79,296 available for appropriation. Out of this sum it is proposed to add £25,000 to the "special reserve for contingencies," which will bring the total of this reserve to £50,000. The work on which we are now engaged is abnormal in great part, and a transition period is bound to come, during which all our energies will have to be directed to re-establishing normal conditions. It is a matter of sound policy, therefore, to build up a reserve to help us over this transitional period, and this we are doing by means of the reserve I have just mentioned. With regard to the question of war taxation, it is impossible to say much at present, except that a sum has been reserved in the accounts which your directors consider sufficient to meet any claims which may be made against us. Advantage was taken during the year of an opportunity to acquire a controlling interest in the shares of Messrs. Willans and Robinson. Many of you know the large amount of business which we have done together and the pleasant relationship which has always existed, and, while it is not proposed to make any alteration in the present directorate and management of Messrs. Willans and Robinson, it will be realised that there is now no obstacle in the way of cementing that relationship by a closer combination of working interests, leading eventually to material benefits for both. It has been a great satisfaction to the board to see the mobile manner in which the members of the staff threw themselves into the work of reorganisation to meet an entirely new class of manufacture, and with no little success, under very adverse circumstances. In these times, when so much is said about "slacking" and loss of time, it is pleasant to be able to state that the time lost by the workers at our Preston works from all causes, illness included, during the twelve months now under review was under 1.4 per cent. This includes men and women, forge and machine shops. As to the future, I am no more inclined to prophesy than I was two years ago, when we met just after the outbreak of war, but I am prepared to say now that, with such a staff as ours has proved itself to be, given reasonable protection of a permanent nature against unfair competition from outside the Empire, there is every reason to look to the future with confidence. (Applause.)

Mr. R. H. Prestwich (deputy-chairman) seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The retiring directors and auditors were re-elected, and a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman, directors, management, and staff of the company closed the proceedings.

BROOMHILL COLLIERIES, LTD.

LORD FURNESS REVIEWS A PROSPEROUS YEAR.

The sixteenth annual meeting of the Broomhill Collieries, Ltd., was held on Friday in the offices, Collingwood Buildings, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Lord Furness, who presided, said:

The report and accounts, of which I shall move the adoption, will, I think, be regarded as generally satisfactory.

The result of the year's working has enabled us not only to clear off the arrears of preference dividend, but also to declare a dividend on the ordinary share capital—in addition to which the increased earnings of the company mean that the State will receive a considerable sum in the shape of excess profits tax. It will also, I am sure, be a source of gratification to you to learn from the report that during the year we have proved the existence of further large reserves of coal in our own royalty.

Without wishing to take too optimistic a view, it would appear that we are at last recovering from the effect of the disastrous years when your company suffered such a severe set back as a result of two great strikes, and also the unfortunate underground fires. It must, however, be remembered that we shall have much to do after the war in the direction of harbour dredging and deepening, electrification, renewals, and of general development and improvement of plant; added to which it is well that we should be fully prepared for any contingencies that may arise in the general course of events which might adversely affect your company's business.

He would be a bold man who could with confidence maintain that after the war we shall have a period of great prosperity, or, on the other hand, one of deep and exhausting depression in trade. Whatever the future may have in store we must not be found unprepared for any eventuality, and it is in pursuance of this policy that your directors have deemed it wise and prudent to carry forward unappropriated the larger sum of £35,271 18s. 11d., as against £14,941 16s. 10d. brought in to the year's accounts. It is perhaps even questionable whether we should not have limited the ordinary dividend to 7½ per cent. instead of 10 per cent. as proposed. Seeing, however, it is so long since there was a distribution on the ordinary share capital, your directors hope you will not consider they have been improvident in this matter. The profit for the year is £89,764 4s., being £16,356 19s. 10d. more than in 1913, the best of the three preceding years. This, I might mention, is partly due to our investments having yielded us £3,256 3s. 10d. for the year 1915-16 more than in 1913. You will observe that the annual sinking fund provisions have reduced the debentures by £18,980, the amount of debentures now outstanding being £116,355.

The report indicates the sums that have been paid to the State in rates and taxes, and also the amounts paid in wages, and in dividends to the preference and ordinary shareholders, over a period of seven years. It will be observed that the total amount paid under the first heading (that is, including the provision for excess profits tax made in the present year's accounts) represents a sum exceeding £100,000, whilst the total amount paid over that period in wages and salaries, &c., is no less than £1,296,733. The amount of interest received by the debenture stockholders over the same period is £40,710 4s., whilst the preference shareholders have received £71,662 10s. and the ordinary shareholders only £14,437 10s. To my mind these figures are most interesting, more particularly at the present time when there is so much talk about the conscription of wealth, as it will be seen that whilst very considerable sums have been paid away in Government taxes, and in wages, &c., the margin of profit to the company on the raising of such huge quantities of coal, has, in reality, been a comparatively small one.

We have delivered, and are delivering, large supplies of coals to munitions works, to electric power producers, both here, in the South, and in Manchester. The British Admiralty have also obtained considerable supplies from our collieries, whilst smaller lots have gone to our Allies; and I need scarcely say that we have felt it a pleasurable duty to in some small measure bear our share of the burden of the war by supplying our Government and the Allies with coal at favourable prices. In this connection, it may be of interest to you to have the comparative figures as to labour and output before the war and at the present time. In July, 1914, the total number of men employed at both collieries was 2,820, when the average daily output was 2,630 tons. In September, 1916, the total number of men employed was 2,060, and the average daily output 1,885 tons. In making a comparison, however, it should be borne in mind that our Newburgh Colliery, which was working immediately previous to the commencement of hostilities, was stopped at the end of October, 1914.

As I have already indicated, one of the most satisfactory features of the report is that we have now definitely proved that in the hitherto unworked portion of the Amble Royalty there are

eight seams from 2 ft. 4 in. to 7 ft. 9 in., which ensures for the future a further large supply of fairly cheap coal, and this, of course, will materially increase our output after the war, when adequate labour is obtainable to work this new area. The underground fires have given very little trouble during the last 12 months. Unfortunately, some foul air came off from one of them last month, and a man working there lost his life. The possibility of such an accident had been foreseen and provided against. The poor fellow, however, neglected to shut a door at the time provided for this very purpose, and it was in attempting to do so a couple of hours afterwards, when the bad air had had time to accumulate, that he lost his life.

The restrictions on coal shipments abroad, due to exigencies arising out of the war, have proved very disturbing, and have affected chiefly our delivery of small coal to Sweden; but the more serious aspect of the matter is that the refusal of licences often causes an accumulation of stocks, which in turn means stoppage of work at the collieries, and consequent loss of earnings to the company—to say nothing of the serious wastage of labour to the country through these men being obliged to “rest” when they might be working full time. In this connection, it is perhaps not out of place to state that during the last six weeks the pits have been thrown idle no less than seven days, owing to the refusal of licences. We recognise, however, that the authorities must have had good reason for imposing these restrictions, and we can only hope that the conditions prevailing in the near future may permit of their removal.

Our steamer *Axwell* is still in the Baltic, but she is in a neutral port. The loss of her earnings has been a serious matter for the company; but this is one of the unfortunate consequences of the war which cannot be avoided, and our losses in that direction are infinitesimal compared to the stupendous loss the enemy must be suffering through the cutting off of all revenue from their mercantile fleet.

I regret to state that 60 of our Broomhill miners and two of our Newcastle clerks have been killed in the war; also that Mr. Merivale, Mr. Earnshaw, of Amble, and Mr. John Grey, of Broomhill, have each lost a son. They died bravely for their country, and we sympathise sincerely with their families.

I should here like to make mention of the fact that I have on several occasions heard, with much pride, remarks in praise of the conduct of our North Country miners. They are described as splendid soldiers in every respect—valiant, hard-working, uncomplaining, ready for any task, however hard or dangerous—and their loyal devotion to duty in their country's hour of need commands the respect and admiration of us all. As promised, we continued to supply houses, or house rent and coals, for the families of our soldiers at the front, who now number about 330.

Gentlemen, I refrain from any forecast of the future. It is most obscure, and defies anything like reasonable anticipation; but with our improved financial position, I feel sanguine that we shall be able to hold our own, and I hope we shall successfully struggle through to the brighter days of peace, regular work, and unhampered trade.

I now move that the balance-sheet, as audited, be adopted, and that the report of your directors be confirmed.

Sir John S. Barwick, Bart., seconded the motion, which was carried. A final dividend of 5 per cent. on the ordinary share capital (making 10 per cent. for the year) was declared. The re-election of the retiring directors, Mr. John E. Rogerson and Mr. George S. Barwick, and the reappointment of the auditors, Messrs. Holmes, Spence and Co., was confirmed. A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the meeting.

NYASSA PLANTATIONS.

The seventh annual general meeting of the Nyassa Plantations, Limited, was held on Thursday at the offices, 23, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall, S.W., Mr. G. St. Lawrence Mowbray (chairman of the company) presiding.

Mr. A. Williams, representing the secretaries (the Indo-Malay and Colonial Agency, Ltd.), having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: With regard to the figures contained in the balance-sheet, which I have no doubt you have all studied, the only items I think which call for any comment from me are the fact that we have been able somewhat to reduce the amount of calls which were still in arrear, and on the other side of our balance-sheet you will find that our development expenditure for the past year has been £4,540, which compares with £3,485 in the previous period, although the period we are now dealing with includes 14 months' working, whereas the previous one only included 12 months. You will also see that the item of live stock, which appeared in our accounts last year for the first time, has now considerably increased. We have taken our stock into the balance-sheet at the actual cost of £837, though in that £837 there is included 165 head of cattle, over 500 sheep and goats, and a pure-bred Shorthorn bull. As regards our funds in hand, we still have

an ample supply. We have been able this year to make an investment in Exchequer bonds of £1,000, an investment which I think you will consider eminently safe, and, considering we had the money at our disposal, you will probably agree we could hardly have put it to better use. As in the previous year, the income for the past year has been derived entirely from interest on our loan and investments, and it has sufficed to enable us to pay one-half of the general administration expenses, and to transfer £75 to the balance-sheet, where it has been used in reducing the somewhat large amount still standing there as balance of London expenses up to 1914. On the first occasion on which I had the pleasure of presiding at a meeting of this company, which was in December, 1912, I made a statement with regard to our coconut plantation at Palma which came in for a considerable amount of somewhat hostile criticism at the time, when I stated that I thought the plantations could be brought into bearing at a cost of not more than £12 10s. per acre. Last year I was able to tell you that the whole of our year's expenses amounted to less than £2 per acre, and we are able to make a similar statement to-day. In addition, we have this last year brought into cultivation two areas of land, each of about 500 acres in extent, and the whole cost of opening up, clearing, and planting that land is included in what, I think you will agree, is the very moderate sum of £4,500 for our year's development expenditure. I have not concealed from the shareholders that in bringing our coconut area into bearing we shall have to exercise a very considerable amount of patience before we obtain any returns, although Mr. Stuart and myself stated four years ago that we anticipated no returns for six years. I think, gentlemen, therefore, that it is exceedingly satisfactory to receive news from our manager that within four years a considerable number of the coconut palms are already showing flower. During the past twelve months we have continued making experiments on a small scale with the cultivation of various crops. I may say that the policy of the board has throughout been to endeavour to find some other things which could be dealt with at the same time as the coconuts, so that we might not have to depend entirely upon one crop. I do not think, gentlemen, that the money which has been devoted to these experiments is money wasted. We have tried, and we have proved, I think, that it is possible in Nyassa to cultivate profitably several crops, but during the past twelve months, as mentioned in our report, it has been exceedingly difficult to obtain native labour, because practically every man has been commandeered for the purpose of carrying goods and material for the Portuguese army. We have, therefore, been able to do practically only two things within the past twelve months—namely, to continue the development of the areas which we had under coconuts, and to grow food crops upon the new land which has been opened up.

It has appeared to us, from the advice which Mr. Dempster, our manager, has given us, that instead of undertaking a great deal more cultivation, we might find an exceedingly profitable business develop in the course of time from the breeding of cattle and sheep. A pure-bred Lincoln ram was sent out last year, and Mr. Dempster, writing to us at the end of June, says that “six crossbred lambs were born last week, which were as large at birth as native lambs about a month old.” He goes on to say that he has discussed the disposal of cattle with one of the captains of the steamers calling at Palma, and that he has no doubt that we shall be able to get up to £10 per head for bullocks; that if we were able to sell the increase of our stock, there would be no reason why the whole of the working expenses of the plantation, including the salaries of the manager and the European staff, should not be met from live stock in this next year. That is a very gratifying statement, gentlemen, but I think you will probably agree with me that, having waited so long for the development of our properties, we do not want to snatch at the first opportunity of making a profit. It will probably in the long run prove to be much better for us if, instead of slaughtering the young stock, we are able to keep up that increase of our flocks and our herds for the purpose of increasing the number year by year. There is one other advantage accruing to us from keeping this quantity of live stock, and that is that we are able to effect a very considerable saving in weeding costs. By having several hundred head of cattle, sheep, and goats grazing through the plantation, we find that weeding becomes practically unnecessary, in addition to which, of course, there is a considerable manurial benefit being derived by the plantation. It has been said that coconuts are the “Consols of the East.” Now, that is a statement which is capable of several meanings. I am afraid a good many people who have got their money invested in Consols, though they may be perfectly well satisfied as to its safety, are not very well satisfied as to the amount of the return they are getting; but we hope that in the course of time our coconuts may be in one sense as safe as Consols for capital investment, and we hope that from the point of view of revenue they may be a great deal more productive.

Mr. Lewis Inledon seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

BALDWINS.

PROPOSED ORDINARY SHARE ISSUE.

The annual general meeting of the shareholders of Baldwins, Ltd., was held on Thursday at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham. Colonel John Roper Wright (chairman) presiding.

The Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and balance-sheet, said: In placing before you the accounts for the past year, I have to say that owing to the uncertainty of the exact amount we shall have to pay away in excess profits—calculation for which is dependent on so many circumstances arising from the accounts—your directors have had prepared the best possible estimate under the circumstances. You will see that after leaving what in our opinion will be sufficient to meet the unknown excess profits claims, we feel we can recommend the payment of the usual final dividend of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., making, with the interim dividend already paid, 10 per cent. for the year, and in addition a bonus of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., all free of income-tax. We have to meet much heavier income-tax charges, as all of you well know. We have carried £75,000 to reserve, making this £400,000, which will give us still more confidence to meet any further Exchequer demands. The usual amount to the sinking fund has been paid, and subject to these unknown demands I may say that we look with confidence to a good result for the current year. At our last meeting I spoke of the erection of blast furnaces, coke ovens, and by-product plant at Port Talbot. The erection of these has been delayed owing to very complicated and prolonged negotiations, but I can now report that the work has commenced, and progress is being made. In looking to the future, it became a necessity to make sure of a good and constant supply of a suitable coal for getting the best result from the by-products; to this end we have bought the whole of the shares in the Cribbar Fawr Colliery which were not already held by us. This has ensured a good and constant supply, and relieved your directors of an anxiety. In addition to the assistance given us by the Ministry of Munitions for the extensions desired by and authorised by them at our various works, in addition to the blast furnace plant, it is clear that the company will require a very large increase of capital, and your directors have therefore called up the £50,000 outstanding on the 100,000 ros. paid ordinary shares, making them fully paid, and purpose, before coming to you for a further increase of capital, to issue the unissued ordinary share capital of 424,996 shares. This we propose to issue to our ordinary shareholders, subject to the sanction of the Treasury, at 25s. per share, offering them one share for each two held by them; what is not taken up by them to be dealt with by the directors at their discretion. This will bring in a further sum of about £530,000, which I trust will carry us on to the end of the war, when we shall have to see how we stand with regard to further requirements. We have kept up the allowances made to our employees who at the early period of the war joined the colours, and it may interest you to know that 1,207 of our men are now serving, and the company is continuing to contribute to the comfort of the dependents. It is with great regret that we have to report that 71 have fallen gloriously and that 64 are wounded.

We have kept up the demand made on us for all classes of steel. All these demands for special steel, and for the extension of our various works to meet requirements of the Government, have caused a great strain on the directors and principals who have had the direction of these matters in hand. I cannot close without expressing, on behalf of myself and the board, our best thanks to the whole of our general staff for what they have done in the past year, which has been more onerous than usual, and which has so willingly been borne.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Stanley Baldwin, M.P., and carried unanimously.

The Chairman next moved a recommendation from the directors that a final dividend of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., making with the interim dividend already paid 10 per cent. for the year, and in addition a bonus of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., all free of income-tax, on the amounts paid up on the ordinary capital on June 30, 1916, be declared.

Mr. Roger Beck seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

Mr. Roger Beck was re-elected a director, and Messrs. Turquand, Youngs and Co. were reappointed auditors for the current year at a fee of £525.

Professor C. E. Martineau, in proposing a vote of thanks to the chairman, directors, and staff, said that nobody unacquainted with the workings could understand what an anxious time the company had had with all its worries, and it was evident that all had worked extremely hard to get the excellent results disclosed by the report.

The vote was seconded by Alderman H. J. Sayer, who said that the absence of discussion on the report was entirely due to its favourable nature, and the warm thanks of the shareholders had certainly been earned by the chairman, his co-directors, and the staff.

The vote was carried with acclamation, and the Chairman, in reply, said the directors had a very heavy year in front of them. An immense amount of work had to be done, but the task was being faced with all confidence, and he believed the result would be at the end of the war good for the company.

BUENOS AYRES GREAT SOUTHERN RAILWAY.

The ordinary general meeting of the Buenos Ayres Great Southern Railway Co., Ltd., was held on Wednesday at River Plate House, E.C., Mr. David Simson, M.Inst.C.E. (the chairman), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. A. Giet) read the formal notice and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that, on the whole, the stockholders were entitled

to congratulate themselves on the results obtained, for, though they were not brilliant, they were better than might have been expected. The principal grain crops had been excellent, and had they been accompanied, as they would have been in peace times, by a corresponding increase in outgoing general goods and passengers and by a normal cost of fuel and materials the company might have earned enough to pay a 6 or 7 per cent. dividend. The effect of the war, however, had been to make maritime transport so costly and difficult, owing to the dearth of tonnage, that the transport of the wheat and oats crops was greatly delayed and the cost of coal and other materials greatly increased. Moreover, the importation of merchandise into the country was greatly restricted, though in this respect there was a slight improvement over the previous year. Passenger travel was also considerably restricted, owing to the general dulness of business and an undoubted tendency on the part of many people to economise. The gross receipts, at £5,549,140, were a great improvement on those of the previous year, being higher than any they had had in the past, except in the record year ended June, 1913. As against the bad effects of the war on the company's revenue there was one source of increased receipts directly attributable to the war, namely, the item "Exchange, interest, &c.," amounting to £66,054. In the previous year the item figured at £38,613, and in 1913-14 it showed a debit of £4,160. As the war had gone on exchange had got increasingly favourable to Argentina on account of the large purchases of grain, meat, &c., made by the Allies. Obviously the working expenses showed an increase of £178,238, but if from that were deducted an increase of £106,992 in the contribution to the renewal funds and the increase of £10,340 in the Mitre Law contribution it would be found that the figure for which the management was really responsible was only some £61,000, which was extremely creditable. There was a balance on capital account of £1,996,253, but this must not be regarded as an available cash balance, as it included working capital in the form of stores, &c. There was, however, no necessity to raise fresh capital yet, although they had gone for nearly three years without it. With regard to the dividend, the board had some hesitation in increasing the final distribution by a half per cent. in view of the uncertain situation, but they came to the conclusion that it was only fair to give the shareholders the benefit of the improvement in the receipts for the year. The fact of their doing this, however, must not be taken as any precedent for the current year, the results of which would depend entirely on the crops and the shipping facilities for moving them. The receipts to date showed an increase of £186,346, and, in spite of higher cost of fuel, the increase in nett receipts for the first three months amounted to some £56,800. Everything, of course, depended on the main cereal crops, and although the reports were quite satisfactory so far, at least two months must pass before these could be considered safe, and many adverse climatic conditions might arise in that time. With regard to the more distant future he had few misgivings, for it was difficult to believe that Argentina, which had hitherto been one of the largest exporters of meat and grain, would not continue to be so after the war.

Sir Henry Bell, Bart., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

BUENOS AYRES WESTERN RAILWAY.

The twenty-seventh ordinary general meeting of the Buenos Ayres Western Railway, Ltd., was held on Tuesday at River Plate House, Finsbury Circus, E.C., Sir Henry Bell, Bart. (chairman of the company), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. Robert Graham) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, observed that the directors had some satisfaction in presenting them because, judging by the comments in the public Press, they were evidently better than had been generally expected, but he wished to make it clear that the company had had some good, as well as a share of bad, fortune. After dealing with the results of the past year's working—to June 30 last—and referring to the changes which had occurred as compared with the results for the previous year, he stated that they had still some important questions pending with the Government. Among these, the pension law and the law they were trying to get passed to define what the Mitre Law really meant were the most important. The Supreme Court of the Argentine Republic had decided that the wording of the Mitre Law did not give them all the exemptions from taxation which they understood it did. The Court had not decided, however, and could not decide, what were the intentions of those who had passed, or the understanding of those who had accepted, the law. In striving for the passage of the explanatory law they were only asking for the fulfilment of the understanding they themselves had when they accepted this law, and also that of the most important members of the Congress which passed it. As to the Pension Law, which they opposed as being unconstitutional, a suggestion had been made to them that if they got the Mitre Acclaratory Law passed as they desired some sort of compromise might be made. He would ask the shareholders to leave it at that. Dealing with the accounts, the Chairman said that their claims on the Provincial Government for properties paid for when they bought the railway, but not properly delivered, had been decided in their favour, as he told the shareholders last year, and they had received bonds for \$3,335,778 paper in settlement. There was also a special award for interest on part of the sum, which meant that they had a nett revenue credit in that connection of some £30,000. Another piece of good fortune appeared in their interest, exchange, and transfer

fees account, which stood at £126,737, as against £59,663. Both those were, however, abnormal credits. Passengers had fallen from 11,955,000 in 1913-14 to 8,138,000 in the year under review, and he would suggest that another reason for the falling off beyond those given by the general manager in the report was the number of people who must have left the country owing to the war. He felt, however, that when things became normal they would regain all the lost passenger traffic and resume the steady increases shown up to 1914. Having read the latest cable from the Argentine and called attention to the traffic increase of £10,000 for the past week, making a total increase for the present year of £111,000, the Chairman concluded with a few words on the prospects. He pointed out that in the past two years the Argentine had accumulated the huge surplus of £100,000,000 of exports over imports. That gave the country enormous buying powers, and the distribution of those imports when buying again began would fill their outgoing wagons with the best paying part of their traffic. Accordingly, with the return of more settled times, he saw no reason why they should not go back to their normal or pre-war profits.

Sir J. White-Todd, Bart., seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

CENTRAL ARGENTINE RAILWAY.

DISAPPOINTING RESULTS—LARGE INCREASE IN EXPENSES.

The ordinary general meeting of the Central Argentine Railway, Ltd., was held on Thursday at River Plate House, Finsbury Circus, E.C., Sir Joseph White Todd, Bart. (chairman of the company), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. F. Fighiera) read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the effects of the titanic conflict still raging were again reflected in the accounts. The results of the year's working were undoubtedly disappointing. At December 31 last their gross receipts had marked an increase of some £242,000, and yet at the close of the financial year, six months later, that increase had been converted into a decrease of £18,000. Moreover, the working expenditure showed an increase of £339,000. Before that latter figure was criticised, however, it had to be borne in mind that they had contributed £40,000 more to reserve funds, while the higher price of fuel and other materials represented an additional £190,000. Accordingly, compared under equality of conditions, working expenses were actually only £109,000 higher, most of which was accounted for by the enhanced cost of machine, axle and cylinder oils, waste, &c. The gross revenue showed a decrease of £410,900 at £2,666,300, but they had brought £94,500 less into the accounts, and they had an extra £100,000 in fixed charges. There had been placed to the credit of accidents and contingencies funds £100,000, and to those accounts had been charged the cost of making good the floods of 1914—namely, about £250,000. Abnormal expenditure such as that was not provided for through ordinary working expenditure. Higher cost of materials and higher wages had not debarred the directors from continuing their policy of fully maintaining the company's property and providing for its future renewal. He was glad to say once again that the road-bed, stations, rolling stock, &c., were in the highest state of efficiency. While they would have liked to see greater profits, they would not like to feel that they had been created at the expense of the property, thus mortgaging the future.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE.

As to capital expenditure, there had been the complaint that they had been too lavish in the past, but, in a new country, if they did not keep pace with its development, their competitors would not only invade their zones and circumscribe their future, but would take from them that which they had. He would not endeavour to portray what their situation to-day would have been had they, at the time of the amalgamation in 1902, decided that capital expenditure should cease. It was their broad yet conservative policy that had enabled them for years to pay 6 per cent., and if to-day they were unfortunately down at 4 per cent., that had been earned out of true profits. He felt confident in forecasting a much lower disbursement under the heading of capital expenditure for the current year. Much of the £1,000,000 spent to June 30 last was due to new locomotives and coaching stock, electrification of part of their suburban lines, and sundry other works in hand when war broke out. It was to be regretted that the year's results had necessitated a reduction in the dividend on the ordinary stock and had deprived the deferred stockholders of any distribution at all, but the directors had done all that the legitimate profits made would allow of. As to the suggestion that they should draw on reserves to maintain the dividends, he would say that the general reserve fund, as stated in the accounts, revealed the effect of the war. It was fortunate that they had not invested more of their reserves in first-class securities; they had put the money into their own business, and had every reason to be thankful for that policy. When normal times returned the company would be among the first to share in the improved conditions, and they would do so in full measure, because owing to the way they had dealt with their investments, they would have no accumulated depreciation to provide for. Dealing with the Mitre Law, the Chairman deprecated the suggestion that the Supreme Court of the Argentine had formed its recent judgment because pressure had been brought to bear upon it by the municipalities. In the view of

the directors, however, the Supreme Court had fallen into grave error in basing its judgment, not upon the very clear and definite enactment of Article 8 of the law, but upon a mere discussion on Article 19 of the law, which could not, or did not, alter an article already unanimously approved without discussion on the very clear explanation given to the House by the late Deputy Mitre some days before. It was for those reasons they had been appealing to Congress to confirm what Article 8 stated in quite unequivocal terms, and that that elucidation would follow they had no shadow of doubt. The Argentine was naturally feeling the restricted importation of new capital, but, on the other hand, there was an accumulation of wealth in the country which would find free circulation when there was a return to normal conditions, and he, for one, retained unshaken confidence in the present and the future of the Argentine. The latest message from the local committee stated that prolonged drought had most prejudicially affected linseed and wheat harvests, and, unfortunately, none of them could avow any remedy to those disappointing prospects beyond continuing to exercise the closest vigilance on expenditure. One consoling feature of the cable was, however, the estimate that there yet remained 900,000 tons of cereals for transportation from last year.

Mr. J. Wilson Theobald seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The retiring directors and auditors were re-elected, and the sum of £1,000 was voted to war charities.

FREDERICK HOTELS.

The eighteenth ordinary general meeting of the Frederick Hotels, Limited, was held on Tuesday at the Hotel Russell, Russell Square, W.C., Mr. Arthur Bird, J.P. (the Chairman), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. A. Macmurchy) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: When we met last year I expressed the opinion that the business at our country hotels was likely to be good, but that the prospects of the London hotels were somewhat uncertain. The course of the business during the year has confirmed my forecast. The Hotel Majestic, at Harrogate, has again had a record year, and at Folkestone, Dover, and Bexhill good business has also been done. Whitby, however, showed no improvement on the previous year's figures, and I am afraid all the East Coast resorts will experience bad business until the war is over. I am pleased to say that since March of this year the London hotels have shown progressively increased business. The total business done at all the hotels exceeded that of the previous year by some £6,000, and this, I am sure you will agree, is satisfactory in the circumstances. The net profits, however, show a decrease on last year, this being entirely due to the higher costs of foodstuffs and all commodities used in our business, as our general expenses had previously been reduced to the lowest point that could be reached without harming the business, and our general expenses are being further increased by the payment of insurance against damage by aircraft, which amounts to £1,705. A large proportion of Englishmen on our staff were fit and of military age, and are now in the Army, but as many of them had been with the company since the opening of the hotels they were difficult to replace. There are no Germans, Austrians, Hungarians, Bulgarians, Turks, or other alien enemies in the company's employment. Taking into consideration all the circumstances and the difficulties of the past year, I think we have done well in earning in full the debenture interest and adding to our "carry forward," which now amounts to the considerable sum of £23,725. Out of this balance we might have paid a half-year's preference dividend, but I think the shareholders will agree that under present circumstances it is wise to carry forward a good balance. No doubt you have seen in the Press that the Hotel Great Central was requisitioned on the 11th instant by the Government as a convalescent home for officers. The building has been taken over with all its furniture, fixtures, plant, etc., and we understand it is the intention of the War Department to retain the staff of the hotel. Negotiations are proceeding with regard to the compensation to be paid us, so I cannot say anything further on this subject at present, but you can rest assured that the shareholders' interests will be carefully looked after by your Board, and we look for an equitable settlement. The use of the Hotel Bristol, Beaulieu-sur-Mer, as a military hospital by the French Government has now been discontinued, but the negotiations for the payment of compensation have not yet been completed. With regard to the prospects for the current year, so far as the season has gone, the Hotel Majestic at Harrogate has beaten all its previous figures, and the season at Bexhill has also been a good one. The business at the Royal Pavilion Hotel, Folkestone, is, of course, affected by the withdrawal of the Folkestone-Boulogne passenger service. Dover, being to a certain extent a closed town, the business at our hotel is somewhat restricted, but we have a steady business with naval and military officers who are stationed in the town. As I have already remarked, the business in the London hotels has shown a steady improvement, and we anticipate having a very good year at the Hotel Russell, and had the Hotel Great Central not been requisitioned by the Government, this hotel would also have shown much better results than last year.

Sir John H. Bethell, Bart., M.P., seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

A. AND F. PEARS.

The twenty-fourth ordinary general meeting of A. and F. Pears, Limited, was held on Tuesday at 71 75, New Oxford Street, W.C., Sir Thomas R. Dewar (the chairman) presiding.

The secretary (Mr. Herbert C. Barratt) read the formal notice and the auditors' report.

The Chairman said: From the accounts you will see that the Debenture and Preferred shareholders get the usual dividend; the Preferred Ordinary shareholders receive 12 per cent. and the Ordinary shares receive 20 per cent. After writing off the usual depreciation for the expiration of leases, we place £5,000 to reserve, which account now stands at £105,000, and the balance carried forward is £25,029. Our investments amount to £392,012, and on September 30 last they exceeded by a very considerable sum that amount, according to the quoted value on the London Stock Exchange. Some industries in the country have benefited by the war; this one in which we are interested has been detrimentally affected, for the prices of raw material for the different articles, cases for packing, fuel, labour, and freights have increased. The large stocks we had on hand have enabled us to supply our customers at the price we previously charged. A cake of common soap in Germany is 3s. 6d., Pears' in England is 4d. We read a lot about trade after the war, and how it is to be captured. There are two classes of society—those who are always going to do something and those who go ahead and do it. We endeavour to belong to the latter, and I am pleased to say we are now capturing the trade. The development of our business is quite phenomenal. The number of our new trade accounts and the increase in our turnover during the last twelve months in this country alone are considerably more than the progress made since the inception of the company during its twenty-four years' existence. We have added a range of new commodities for the toilet, which are on sale in all parts of the world. The articles are made from nothing but the very finest material. Our customers call them the Golden Series; the packages are guinea gold in appearance, and are as artistic and high-class as it is possible for us to produce. The hall-mark of Pears is sufficient guarantee that everything we produce is of the best British manufacture. We never have competed, and never will compete, with second-class articles, and the foundation already laid for new business when developed will, I predict, agreeably surprise our shareholders. All the adverse conditions under which we have had to work have been met ingeniously by the heads of departments, and when the time comes, and prices and conditions return to near normal figures, we shall fear no foe in competition in any market. The working arrangements with Messrs. Lever Brothers has proved, from practical results, an enormous success. The energy put into the old name of Pears has been rewarded by a ready response in the markets of the world, and your directors have pleasure in saying that we work in the most perfect unanimity with Sir William Lever and all his confrères. Your directors never have had such absolute confidence as they have to-day in the future success of the name of Pears. We are coming through the paralysing effect of a great war with a largely increased business. The relations we are on with our customers are better than they have ever been; the co-operation of traders in exhibiting our goods is such as we have never experienced in the past, which goes to show that the appreciation of our manufactures by the public has still further increased. Having expressed appreciation of the excellent manner in which the staff had adapted themselves to the strenuous times the company was passing through, the Chairman concluded by expressing the hope that the name of A. and F. Pears would stand out more and more as one of the finest examples of British enterprise.

Mr. H. W. Birks seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

BUKIT TAMBUN ESTATES.

The first ordinary general meeting of the Bukit Tambun Estates, Ltd., was held on Tuesday at the registered offices of the company, 65, Bishopsgate, E.C., Sir Gordon B. Voules (the chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. E. F. Robson) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: The property, as you probably know, is situated on the mainland of Province Wellesley, only a few miles from Penang, and as it is surrounded almost entirely either by river or by open sea, it is land that is especially adapted for the growing of coconuts. The total area of the estate is 1,709 acres. Of this 400 acres are freehold and the remaining 1,309 acres are held on a lease of 999 years at a rent of £90 per annum. You will thus see that we are getting a most valuable property at the low rent of just over 1s. per acre per annum. Out of this total area of 1,709 acres, 1,023 acres are planted with coconuts, of which 348 acres are in full bearing, 308 acres were planted before 1911, 168 acres during 1911-12, 223 acres during 1913, and 26 acres in 1914. Of the remaining 686 acres 500 acres situated near the sea have been reported on as being specially adapted for the growing of coconuts. By our last census we have a total of 50,874 trees. Taking the very low estimate of 45 nuts per tree, you will see that when the whole of these trees have arrived at maturity we are entitled to look for something like 2½ millions of nuts, and I would call your attention to the fact that many of our trees have up to the present time borne double the number of this average that I have taken of 45 nuts; so that finally we may look for a considerable increase over the large figure which I

have already quoted to you. Our visiting agent, Mr. Gillespie, reports very favourably indeed upon the whole of the property. Now, with regard to our financial position, I would just observe that, as you will see by the report, we have £4,500 of uncalled capital, less £1,000 that we still owe to our bankers. You will see then that we started this current year, commencing on July 1, not only with a clean slate, but also with an available cash balance of £3,500. Our manager reports that, in his opinion, the proceeds of the sale of our nuts and the copra should be equivalent to the whole of the expenditure upon the estate, both on the productive and the unproductive areas. In spite of the advantages to which I have referred, there are two difficulties under which we laboured during the past year. The first of these is that, owing to the prolonged drought, the supply of our nuts was to a certain extent disappointing, and, perhaps worse still, owing to the difficulties—I may say the impossibility—of obtaining freight from Penang, we were obliged to dispose of our nuts locally, instead of bringing them to London, where we could have sold them to very much better advantage. These difficulties, gentlemen, are, however, only temporary, and we have, I think, every reason to believe that, with an increase in the number of our nuts and a decrease perhaps to some small extent in the cost of their production, together with increased facilities for disposing of our copra to the best advantage, we are entitled to look forward to more prosperous times in the near future. In July and August, which are the first two months of our current year, we collected 179,242 nuts. This is 30,000 nuts in excess of the production in the corresponding period of last year, and the estimate we have given you for the current year of 780,000 nuts should be very greatly exceeded. In conclusion, I should just like to call your special attention to the fact of the increase in the size of our nuts, for that is a clear and direct evidence that the trees are being well cultivated.

Mr. T. M. C. Stuart seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

At an extraordinary general meeting which followed, a resolution was carried for splitting each of the £1 shares into 10 2s. shares.

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Gamma.—It is almost impossible to make one's mind up. We feel, however, that it might, on the whole, be the more prudent course to sell and put the money, say, into 6 per cent. Exchange bonds.

Boscombe.—The security referred to was the Reversionary Co.'s stock, but the xd. was a printer's error. The other debenture is a fair stock, but dearer.

S. P. H.—We fear not, but do not think the stock should be sold at the present low price. Some of the properties owned should become more valuable.

G. L.—The company is doing remarkably well, but conditions are abnormal, and we think you should take your profit.

Ted (York).—The bond is quite a good one, but the political situation is the cause of the drop. Perhaps it would be as well for you not to increase your interest at present.

Lapp.—The company is doing very well, and we think you might continue to hold.

M. R. C.—Write to the Secretary, Inland Revenue Claims Branch, Somerset House, London, and ask for a form for the reclaiming of tax.

Couldson.—The shares are, of course, speculative; and the market has been in the doldrums for some time, but a revival may come. We do not think you should sell now.

C. F.—The exchange is the chief difficulty. Probably there will be some recovery, but we do not think the shares are good enough to buy to hold.

HIGHLAND DISTILLERIES CO., LTD.—Including £4,335, or £551 more, brought in, the nett profits for the year ended August 31 showed an increase of £5,617 at £16,415. Of this, £1,500 as before is written off for depreciation, and the dividend is then doubled at 10 per cent., leaving the balance carried forward £1,155 up at £5,490. Stocks have risen by £6,151 to £33,349, and debtors owe £2,405 more at £8,624, but cash and bills receivable are £1,554 down at £18,482, while current liabilities have been reduced by £1,397 to £10,682.

DEMERARA RAILWAY CO.—Traffic receipts on all the lines worked by this company showed improvement in the half-year ended June 30, and the gross revenue was £1,363 larger at £26,961. Working expenses, however, were heavier owing to the continued rise in the cost of labour and material, so that the nett profit was only £573 up at £5,117. Adding the Government subsidy, £1,334 brought forward and £828, or £904 less, taken from renewal fund, the available surplus was only £200 smaller at £12,130, and the preferred ordinary stock again gets a dividend of 3½ per cent. per annum, leaving £1,291 to be carried forward.

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NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK OF ENGLAND, LIMITED.

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Reserve Fund	2,000,000

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Paid-up Capital	£500,000		
Reserve Fund	510,000		
	£1,010,000		
Uncalled Capital	125,000		
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	625,000		
	£1,760,000		

London Office—11, Leadenhall Street, E.C.

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Established 1947.	
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Reserved Liability of Shareholders £250,000.	

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Reserve Fund	2,675,000
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"B" Preference Shares issued to New Zealand Government	250,000
Ordinary Shares	1,500,000
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ENGLISH, SCOTTISH, AND AUSTRALIAN BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office—38, Lombard Street, E.C.

Subscribed Capital	£1,078,875 0 0
Paid-up Capital	539,437 10 0
Further Liability of Proprietors	539,437 10 0
Reserve Fund	450,000 0 0

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Passing Events.

An explanation has been furnished by the Treasury regarding the mysterious looking increase in the expenditure shown last week. We reproduce it here, and hope that readers will be able to understand it better than we do:—"The Exchequer receipts and issues in the week ended October 28 and the preceding week were exceptionally heavy by reason of the fact that large adjustments were made in respect of past transactions in America, and elsewhere (including the American loan of \$250,000,000 in September), which had not previously been passed through the Exchequer account. The amount of these special adjustments (which represents receipts and expenditure properly belonging to previous weeks) was about £80,000,000 in the week ended October 28 and £20,000,000 in the preceding week."

No doubt it is correct bookkeeping to enter money borrowed in America along with other receipts and home borrowings, but it is confusing to have that sort of credit thrust in, as it were, irregularly, all in a heap, and the effect will probably be to throw all students of our war finance for a time more or less out of their reckoning. Still, as they now stand, the figures seem to be clear enough, although it is impossible to guess what the £104,705,000 set against supply services as the charges of the week really portend. Did we really spend all that credit last week? The revenue from taxation and public services was, anyway, highly satisfactory at £17,714,000, only that miscellaneous charges gave £7,407,000 of that total, and with it all the increase on the week was only £6,699,000. Excess profits duty gave £3,045,000, and income-tax £1,120,000. A slight increase took place in the sales of Exchequer bonds, which aggregated £14,231,000, as against £13,279,000 the week before, so that in the month during which bonds bearing this high rate of interest have been on sale, they have yielded £64,137,000. Where did the Government get that other £52,264,000 that it had to borrow last week in order to balance the accounts? How should we know? The increase in the amount of Treasury bills outstanding was only £2,921,000 on the week, the total being now £1,082,808,000. Nett outgoings, however, were

£3,577,000 less than the incomings, so that the Exchequer balances were brought up to £31,720,000, or nearly £14,000,000 more than at the same date a year ago. On the whole, it is perhaps just as well that the credit transactions of the Exchequer and the aggregate of the war costs should be fogged up a bit. The enemy could make no use of larger knowledge, but why should he know anything at all? It will be time enough to tell him things when the Allies present their claims for damages.

Do members of Parliament never try to exercise their minds in picturing the spectacle they present to the foreigner? Since it met after the autumn recess most of the proceedings of the House of Commons seem to the ordinary citizen to exhibit a littleness of spirit and shortness of vision as well as a political animosity perfectly lamentable to look upon. We have continual wrangles over trivial concerns, showers of questions, mostly useless, flung at overworked ministers, with a disregard of public interests, and often a meanness of intention absolutely appalling. Look at that example furnished on Thursday in the baiting of a poor old man who has the misfortune to have been born a German, and whom sundry of the meaner sort, and, we venture to say, least patriotic, amongst our M.P.'s fell upon as a badger to be baited. We know nothing about Professor Ethé, never heard of him until his name turned up in this debate, but even those who dashed after him like a pack of curs after a coney admitted that he was an old man, and the work he had to do is obviously far removed from politics. But "this man is a spy," they said, "because he goes to Berlin," and proceeded to denounce the Government for allowing him to pursue any employment here. Had they any good ground for making the accusations they did? So far as we see from the debate none whatever, and the probability is that the old man from the whole course of his working life has become disqualified to play the part of a spy. But there is higher game than this which these jackals of disloyalty are always aiming at, only they are apparently afraid to strike. German-connected officials in the Foreign Office, Germans in high place in the India Office, Germans here, there, and everywhere, haunt their disordered imaginations, and drive them to make spectacles of themselves. Obviously they do not under-

stand the nature of the crisis through which the country and the empire are passing; that is their excuse. They cannot talk intelligently or sagaciously upon the great problems of the future the war is bringing forward for solution, but they must be "in evidence" always, and so they nose around after the tittle-tattle of society, wallow in the by-ways of class demoralisation, and present to the world the spectacle of a great legislative assembly doing its utmost to degrade in the sight of all the world the nation whose liberties it is supposed to conserve. We shall come to want a dictator if this sort of thing goes on much longer.

There is something much the reverse of patriotic in the attacks levelled against our Government for the "muddle in Greece," as the superior person newspaper scribbler phrases it. Men who ought to know better, journalists of repute or notoriety, and presumably possessed of some measure of culture, stoop to sneer at the Foreign Office, and to affect to despise the men who are toiling day and night, one may say, to maintain like warriors our share of the world conflict on land and sea. What warrant have they for daily slanging the Foreign Office, above all for displaying their venomous malignity against Lord Grey—vulgarly often, ignorantly almost always in reference to the actual state of affairs in Greece? Is it not true, as Lord Robert Cecil frankly told the House of Commons, that we are not alone in Greece, that we have to consider and harmonise with, the wishes and purposes of France, Italy and Russia, our partners in this strife? These critics of the Government are essentially Prussians in temper and spirit, arrogant, offensive, domineering, and ignorant. According to their view we should apparently take Constantine by the scruff of the neck and turn him out—or, as others equally vociferous put it, squelch Venizelos and his volunteers, and uphold the King. We can do neither, and the position has grown in difficulty without pause, at least since Rumania entered the war on our side. Up to then the German element controlling the Court and a portion of the Army muffled up its conspiracy with more or less clumsy cunning and profuseness in false pretences; but Rumania has forced the German faction in Athens and Greece into the open, and we take it that the worst difficulty our Foreign Office—the Chancelleries of all the Entente Powers—now have to deal with is to keep order between the factions, to avoid any sensational change in the framework of the State; and gradually to shepherd the King and his pro-German faction either out of the country or out of any semblance of direct control over its destinies. We must have patience, then, and proceed with infinite caution in this Greek difficulty because it has always to be remembered that when the war is over it must rest with the victors, with the four great Powers interested, to arrange a peace in the Balkan Peninsula that will remove, as far as human wisdom can, all danger of future armed strife between the nationalities among whom the territory has to be divided. We are not in South-Eastern Europe for conquest, none of us are; but to liberate the oppressed, and to correct the erring. For that very reason there must be no high-handed coercion practised by us upon the Greeks. "Kick out Constantine!" Well, we have not the least objection, but if possible leave it to the Greeks themselves to do the kicking.

We have never said a word for or against the conscription struggle in Australia. It was no business of ours, and we remain, therefore, unmoved by any sentiment of pleasure or the reverse, no matter which side wins. The fight has obviously been a pretty close one, but up to now the opponents of conscription have led, the latest figures showing a majority of 83,000 against. This seems a blow to the much-belauded Mr. Hughes, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth, but whether it will be a knock-down blow or not we cannot guess and do not much care. Doubtless Mr. Hughes is an honest, if rather ignorant, propagandist, and believed that con-

scription was absolutely essential to the salvation of Australia and the preservation of its liberties. We are not so sure, and can only speak with a certain measure of confidence on one point, viz., that Australia will need all her manhood to maintain herself as a free and independent nation when peace returns. If in the meantime, while Great Britain is engaged with her Allies in a life and death grapple with savage foes, Australia, like our other settlements overseas, can spare us the flower of her manhood to assist us in winning the victory, so much the better. We are and will continue to be grateful for the ready and loyal help the colonies have given us; but we should be sorry to think that because of our necessities they were to be either coerced or hustled into the adoption of any form of militarism which it might take their people hard work to divest themselves of again after peace had been re-established. After the war all free peoples must band themselves together as one family, and develop their trade and industry, their protective armed defence also, in common.

Mr. John Coles gave a very interesting and instructive exposition of the Clerical, Medical and General Life Assurance Society's business in recounting the results of the quinquennial valuation at yesterday's meeting. "A 2½ per cent. valuation and bonus as before sums up the whole position," he told the proprietors, and added, "we should write this in letters of gold." Assuredly the feat is a remarkable one in present circumstances, and could not have been accomplished but for the care and skill, the foresight also, with which the business of this insurance office has been managed throughout its history. "Such a bonus coming in war time seems doubly valuable," said Mr. Coles, and it is so. A year ago an eminent actuary of his acquaintance seems to have suggested that it would be better to postpone any bonus distribution, but that doubting one cannot have grasped the financial strength of the society. We give elsewhere particulars of its performances, and here need do no more than emphasise the skill with which the business is conducted. Five years ago, Mr. Coles pointed out at the last bonus declaration, all the loading placed upon the policies for expenses and profits was provided for, and further reserves amounting to £370,000 put aside for additional security. Thanks to that forethought the board has been able to meet the depreciation upon the securities caused by the war, which seems to have been about 6 per cent., and still to retain almost £200,000 of the extra reserves to meet possible future losses. How has this been managed? The secret is found, we think, in the golden rule colloquially expressed by the chairman—who reminded his audience that he has been a director for nearly forty years, for the past fifteen of which he has filled the chair—"we were never in the City when prices were high." That is to say, when Stock Exchange securities got dear the directors invested the money of the society in mortgages, and only came back to pick up stocks when their prices became reasonable. Thus the losses by depreciation must always have been small, and such is the liquidity of the assets that, as Mr. Coles disclosed, something like £800,000 has been available to lend to the Government to help it in carrying on this war. Half of this is in the 4½ per cent. War Loan, and the other half in short-dated securities. When on this subject Mr. Coles complained, somewhat gently we think, about the recent issue of 6 per cent. Exchequer bonds, and the dissatisfaction the plumping of these bonds upon an unprepared market caused will never be dissipated until Mr. McKenna fulfils his pledge to consolidate our now almost threateningly majestic floating debt into, we hope, a 5 per cent. ten-year loan. Altogether yesterday's meeting was one of the most interesting and encouraging the "Clerical and Medical" has held, and both policyholders and shareholders may be congratulated on possessing such managers and such a chairman.

We may heartily congratulate the directors of the Alabama, New Orleans, Texas and Pacific Junction

Railways Co., Ltd., on the projected deal, by which certain holdings in the New Orleans and North-Eastern Railroad and in the South-Western Construction Co. will be sold to Messrs. J. P. Morgan and Co. for £2,400,000. It cannot be doubted that the debenture-holders will sanction the proposal, which can be recommended both on business and patriotic principles. The income from the securities involved has averaged £119,520 for the past ten years, and it is intended to put the proceeds into 6 per cent. Exchequer bonds, which will yield £144,000. Of course, this return is only assured for three years, but the capital value will remain intact, and although it is impossible to forecast what the rate of interest will be when the Exchequer bonds mature, or are sold, there is little reason to doubt that a satisfactory rate will be obtainable. Meantime the operation will help the Government in its efforts to regulate the American exchange, and the purchase of Exchequer bonds will also be useful. It is an essential part of the arrangement that the company's share capital shall be reorganised, and that the company's powers shall be assimilated with those of an investment trust company. To carry out this purpose, it is proposed that the "A" shares shall be reduced from £1,500,000 to £1,200,000 and the "B" shares from £2,500,000 to £50,000. The income from the company's assets may be estimated at £210,000, and the fixed charges, expenses, &c., at £136,000, leaving a surplus of £74,000 for dividends and reserves. That would be sufficient to pay a dividend of 5 per cent. on the £1,250,000 new consolidated stock, with a substantial margin over, and the scheme appears to be a desirable one from every point of view.

Owing to the outbreak of the war the completion and financing of the system of enterprises controlled by the Barcelona Traction, Light and Power Co., Ltd., has proved a troublesome business, as the first report (for the year 1915) shows. It was one of the late Dr. Pearson's conceptions, and, like several of his ventures, was heavily overweighted with capital, with the result that an arrangement had to be come to with the bondholders for the payment of part of their interest in scrip. But the company has been fortunate in securing the services of Dr. H. F. Parshall, formerly chairman of the Central London Railway, and when the necessary extensions and improvements are completed a profitable business ought to be built up. As it is the gross earnings last year were 16,804,000 pts., an increase of 1,338,000 pts., while operating expenses were 7,203,000 pts., a decrease of 1,179,000 pts., so that the nett earnings came out at 9,601,000 pts., an increase of 2,517,000 pts., or 35½ per cent. But it will be a weary climb to the dividend stage, for the load is heavy. On top of 36,000,000 pts. of share capital there are prior lien "A" bonds for £905,000, "B" bonds for £2,000,000, and first mortgage bonds for £7,505,000, besides sundry other debts. And so interest has to be largely charged to capital expenditure, which has mounted up to 88,822,000 pts., and there is more in prospect whenever the money can be raised. All that was available at the end of the year was 938,000 pts. in Treasury bills and 219,000 pts. in cash, which will not go very far. But the company must worry through as best it can, and we hope it will be able to issue future reports more promptly.

The comparatively small set-back of £12,439 to £902,339 shown in the revenue of the Western Telegraph Co., Ltd., for the year ended June 30 was perhaps not altogether unexpected, and was practically offset by an increase of £11,424 to £79,908 in the receipts from the reserve fund investments. The total income of £982,247 was therefore only £1,015 smaller, and, at the same time, there was a reduction of £14,060 in general expenses at stations, but war payments to staff took £7,114 more and the cost of maintenance of cables rose by £29,647. Provision for income-tax and excess profits duty absorbed £138,397, as against £33,349 for income-tax only a year ago, and after adding £85,880, or £52,723 more, brought in, the

available total was £76,742 down at £534,688. The appropriation towards the further reduction of the amount of capital expenditure in excess of the share capital and debenture stock issued, and the transfer to reserve are both cut down by £50,000, to £100,000 in each case, but the amount set aside for investment fluctuations is doubled at £100,000, and £30,000 is again put to land and buildings depreciation fund. After making these assignments and paying the usual dividend of 6 per cent., the bonus is increased from 2s. to 4s. per share, both dividend and bonus being tax free, and £38,344, or £47,535 less, is carried forward. Property account shows a nett reduction of £81,519 at £2,918,695, against which the reserves are £119,913 up on balance at £2,320,423. Investments on account of the reserves, less the provision for fluctuations, have been increased by £358,835 to £2,157,937, the company having been a large purchaser of 4½ per cent. War Loan and Treasury bills.

A circular has been issued by the Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd., calling an extraordinary general meeting to sanction the increase of the capital to £3,000,000 by the creation of 1,000,000 cumulative 6½ per cent. "B" preference shares of £1 each. In the ordinary course the annual meeting would be held next month, but it is stated that the completion of the accounts for the year to August 31 will be delayed owing to the depletion of the company's staff. The directors, however, are able to report that the sales were the greatest in the history of the company, although no increase has been made since the outbreak of the war in the selling prices, and it is anticipated that the profits will exceed those shown in any previous balance-sheet. A further dividend of 10 per cent. has been declared, making 15 per cent. for the fourth year in succession, and although "it is not anticipated that any further dividends on the ordinary shares will be recommended," we may note that the present distribution is described as an "interim" one. The planted area of the rubber estates has been very substantially increased, and the option to purchase mills for the production of the company's own cotton supplies has been exercised on advantageous terms. Great delay has been experienced in the erection of the rubber mills at Bromford, near Birmingham, owing to the scarcity of labour and materials, but they are now approaching completion. Of the proposed new capital, £750,000 is required for increased stocks of raw materials and manufactured goods necessitated by the expansion of the business, and the balance is required to finance the manufacture of solid motor tyres, the demand for which has developed much more rapidly than the directors anticipated. Shareholders in this company and in the Parent Tyre Co., as well as the French income stockholders, will be given a preferential opportunity of acquiring the new shares at par, but it is not stated whether the Treasury has sanctioned the issue. Perhaps it has been ignored.

For the year to September 30 the London Maritime Investment Co., Ltd., again pays 6 per cent., and since its formation nearly 20 years ago the dividends have averaged 5½ per cent., which may be regarded as an extremely creditable record. Nett profits amounted to £21,945, an increase of £3,330, and after placing £5,600 to reserve the balance forward is £1,000 higher at £2,250. Moreover, a profit of £31,896 (against about £1,000) was realised from the sale of securities, and this has been added to the reserve fund, which is thus raised from £12,500 to £50,000, all invested in British Government securities. Shipping investments have increased £5,650 to £144,220, but the total of investments (apart from reserve fund) is practically unaltered at £353,940. It is a sound business carefully and economically managed, and in view of the favourable prospects of the shipping industry it is likely to do still better in the future.

Exceedingly handsome results were obtained by the Anglo-India Jute Mills Co., Ltd., in the year to

August 31. The profit on working is £245,013, an increase of £53,550, and nearly £100,000 more was brought forward, so that the available balance is £151,000 higher at £353,940. Out of this £165,000 is placed to suspense account for contingencies, including excess profits duty, income-tax, &c., £50,000 has been added to depreciation account, and £25,000 has again been placed to reserve fund, raising it to £100,000. The dividend for the year is doubled at 30 per cent., but the carry forward is reduced £106,000 to £9,894. During the year there was an active demand for jute goods, and the company's mills have continued to run on double shift. A considerable proportion of the output of all the Indian mills was claimed by the Government for war purposes, and the contract prices were fixed by mutual arrangement between the Government and the Indian Jute Mills Association, at a level substantially below the current market rates. Wear and tear has naturally been greater than usual, but every effort has been made to maintain the machinery in an efficient state, and the allowance for depreciation appears to be ample, as buildings, plant, &c., which cost £803,500 have now been written down to £543,500. Sundry creditors have increased £22,300 to £54,820, but the amount of £82,350 owing to Calcutta agents is replaced by a debit of £25,600. Stocks are £38,600 higher at £319,100, and cash is up £64,500 at £68,310, while debtors have been reduced £52,300 to £21,290. Thanks to sound and prudent management, the company is in a very strong position.

Owing to the abnormal pressure on its staff, the Cotton Powder Co. is only now able to issue its report for the year ended December 31, but the shareholders will probably forgive the directors readily enough for the delay in view of the prosperity. Provision has been made not only for estimated taxation, but also for amortisation of war expenditure, on a scale which we may be sure is ample, and even then the nett profits disclosed show an increase of £15,460 at £60,648. Reserve gets a few hundreds more at £16,244, and although the appropriation to factory renewal fund is reduced by £3,259 to £10,741, an extra £3,000 at £9,000 is transferred to the pensions and allowances fund. The dividend of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares paid for each of the three previous years is repeated, but this time a bonus of like amount is added, and after giving the profit-sharing fund £1,000, the balance carried forward is increased by £8,613 to £13,933. Stocks naturally show a big increase, and at £508,094 are £365,660 up, while debtors owe £134,722 more at £207,470 and cash is £91,691 higher at £96,066. As the issued share and loan capital is only £120,000, and the reserves, with the present additions, provide another £125,000, the expansion has naturally forced the company to lean heavily on credit, and its current liabilities have risen by £544,293 to £667,122.

Roneo, Ltd., is to be congratulated on the excellent recovery in its business for the year to June 30. Although the works have been largely engaged as a controlled establishment on Government work, it is stated that more than 85 per cent. of the trading profits have been obtained from the regular business of the company, and the results are not therefore to any great extent due to fortuitous circumstances. Gross profits amounted to £51,376, an increase of £21,200 over the previous twelve months and of £12,000 over the years 1912-13 and 1913-14. Nett profit comes out at £43,793 (an increase of £23,780), and with £3,666 brought forward there is an available balance of £47,460. It is proposed to place £20,000 to reserve, and the ordinary shares, which got nothing last year, are to receive a dividend of 7½ per cent., of which 2½ per cent. has already been paid, and £4,936 remains to be carried forward. Last year £30,000 was taken from reserve funds, but this and the nett profits were swallowed up in various appropriations, £38,000 of which was for probable losses in enemy countries. It was a drastic

step to take, but it was the best policy, and it cleared the balance-sheet of all doubtful assets, although we think it might be wise to get rid of the rather heavy item of £90,000 for goodwill, patterns, patents, &c. Sundry creditors are up £4,000 at £60,220, while debtors are £40,000 higher at £123,500 and stocks have increased £20,000 to £112,750. Everything looks healthy, and we like the method of presenting the accounts with last year's figures for comparison.

Statistics have recently been issued by the Union Government of South Africa with regard to the amount of capital invested in mining at the end of last year. The issued capital of Witwatersrand gold mines was £57,840,616, outstanding debentures £7,627,158, while the book value of mining property is given as only £34,531,551. Dividends declared last year amounted to £7,523,818. Capital employed in gold mining in other districts of the Transvaal amounted to £6,316,416, and dividends declared amounted to £210,283. In the Cape the capital invested in gold mining was £132,287, in the Free State to £240,651, and in Natal to £35,000, none of which earned a dividend last year. The amount of capital invested in diamond mining in the Transvaal was £297,293, in the Cape £5,748,198, and in the Free State £1,557,793. No dividend was declared last year. Issued capital employed in coal mining in the Transvaal amounted to £3,487,914, which earned dividends amounting to £350,449; in the Cape the capital was £252,492; in the Free State £1,102,680, on which dividends amounted to £2,763 only; and in Natal £2,664,115, which earned £44,710 in dividends. Capital employed in Transvaal base mineral mines amounted to £1,590,890, the dividends being £22,500; in the Cape the respective figures were £1,435,713 and £43,582. In connection with this return we may point out that the great bulk of this money has been raised in London, but that owing to the war the question of South Africa providing the capital required for her own industries has become a matter of practical politics. South African capitalists have bought in the London market during the past two years a very large number of Rand shares, and are still doing so. Owing to the necessity of exploiting the Far Eastern Rand as rapidly as possible several projects are on foot to develop dormant properties with South African capital, which is known to be available. The Rand Klip, which requires about £700,000 to bring the mine to the production stage, and the Cloverfield, whose property adjoins, are understood to be negotiating for capital in South Africa at the present time. This explains the recent revival of interest in the shares of these concerns, and gives another instance of what the whirligig of war-time has achieved in the realm of finance.

What Say Ye to the Peace That Must Be?

Early in his speech at the luncheon given in his honour by the Foreign Press Association in London, Vicount Grey uttered the following pregnant sentences:—"Germany talks of peace, her statesmen talk of peace, to-day. What sort of peace do they talk of? They say Germany must have guarantees against being attacked again. If this war had been forced on Germany that would be a logical statement. It is precisely because it was not forced on Germany, but forced by Germany on Europe, that it is the Allies who must have guarantees against a future breach of the peace."

Here we have the root of the matter. Germany under that Picrochole, William II., has been seduced, and both intellectually and morally perverted, by the dream of universal dominion which has led empires to their destruction ever since empires began to classify or blight mankind. The Kaiser has but taken up the vain quest of Frederick Barbarossa, of Philip II. of Spain, of Louis XIV. of France, and of the first Napoleon. All these madmen—and in a very real sense they were all mad in their dreams of domination, forgetting that they were mortal—sought to destroy not merely in-

dividual freedom, but national independence everywhere—and they all failed. How Spain failed we know, and how Napoleon failed we also know. Happily, Napoleon was not France. The spirit of France was the spirit of freedom, and even in the years of Napoleon's meteoric splendours, when his invincible troops held the Continent at their mercy, the spirit of freedom, of national independence, was instilling itself, thanks to French teaching, into man's awakened intelligences everywhere, to bear precious fruit in these latter days. Even in the tyrants' dominions love of freedom has never been wholly stifled. The spirit of liberty assuredly animates all the nations now in arms against the Teutonic ravager, and when the "Armageddon" he has laboured and schemed for and brought to pass has fulfilled the purpose of the over-ruling Providence, by the spirit of liberty mankind will be saved. But freedom can no more be made durable than it can be attained without hard work, continual vigilance, unwearying self-discipline, and whole-hearted co-operation not only between man and man, and class and class, but between nation and nation.

In the final chapter of his book, "The Vindication of Great Britain," Mr. Harold Begbie has many fine and true things to say about the "ordeal of peace," but the perusal of it chilled us. The true arduousness of that "ordeal" never seems to have been discovered by Mr. Begbie. He perceives and eloquently describes in generalities the ideal to be cherished, the moral qualities demanded of us, and so on, but avoids the stern practicalities of the struggle. It is upon this practical aspect of the peace which is coming that we have some observations to put forward, various suggestions to make, partly new, partly a reiteration of considerations advanced nearly two years ago in these columns, and embodied in "No Deluding Peace."

The Allies must have guarantees against a repetition of German attempts at aggression, said Lord Grey, and the statement proclaims an obvious necessity; for a long peace would be impossible were the barbarian empires to be permitted to retain their thaumaturgic claims to supermanhood, and their weapons of offence. As we said at the beginning of 1915, Germany must therefore be disarmed as a preliminary to peace after this war has been ended by the exhaustion of the aggressors. There can be no shilly-shally over that basic essential. Doubtless it would take several generations for an uncircumscribed Germany to recover—Austro-Hungary could never recover—from the devastations of this war, but we dare not rely upon her impotence, as we could do upon that of Spain, to protect civilisation for evermore from a renewal of the present display of the spirit of hell. The Germans, although non-moral, are an industrious, persevering, ingenious, and superlatively docile people, a people therefore forward in sacrificing themselves at the bidding of their masters to an extent no other modern nation has yet proved capable of excelling even in defence of liberty. And their barbarian masters are not likely to give up their schemes of conquest if left in possession of their fenced-off privileges and habits of dominance. The Prussian Junker, moreover, has no other occupation than that afforded by the murder trade, regarded by him as the only god-like calling. He cannot work at any honest, beneficial trade or profession—would not if he could—probably could not even become a financial decoy like so many of our British *Wohlgebornen*; he can only study the "art of war." All danger springing from his freedom to follow that trade must be put an end to. But how?

The answer is easy; the "doing our duty" hard. Germany must be disarmed. Her armies must be disbanded to the last pawn and lash-wielder, and her fleet either surrendered to the Allies or sent to the bottom of the sea. No half-measures are possible if civilisation and national freedom are to be saved. No repetition of the "family influence," or feebly temporising scandals so humiliating to witness in Athens, can be permitted when our demands for guarantees against future treachery and brigandage come to be formulated for presentation—not to the two Kaisers and their de-

graded but clumsy servants, but to the democracies they have tyrannised over, and beguiled or driven to their destruction for so long. And disarmament does not signify a mere handing over of the apparatus of murder actually in existence on land and sea when the last shot has been fired; it must also include the possession of all arsenals and dockyards, all gun and munition factories, and likewise, as far as practicable, of all mineral deposits within the two empires either belonging to or under control of the State. These must be taken in pledge by the Allies of the Entente as part security for the damages the criminal war and robbery designers will be called upon to pay. All iron, steel, and coal, oil, copper, zinc, &c., properties otherwise owned by companies or individuals within the two empires will also have to be controlled in the interests of the Allies, and a large proportion of such profits as they may make in the future—they will be slender enough for some time—devoted towards satisfaction of the just claims of those nations that have been victims of the unprovoked ravages of the two crowned brigands. Why should their lot be different from that meted out to the common footpad, the scientific burglar, or the forger? We see no reason at all why, and would put all the chief ruffians on their trial for murder and robbery with violence were we delegated power to help in laying the foundations of a millennial peace.

"Millennial peace"—foolish dream! There can be no true peace while class stands apart from class, while one class claims privileges and "rights" which can only be exercised to the hurt of other classes. "Let us have co-operation all round," says President Wilson, and the like conception is fermenting in many minds.

"But it will be impossible to obtain a mastery so complete as these demands imply," we hear the objector allege. No, it should not be, if we hold loyally together and persevere. Mere fighting might be prolonged perhaps, and if our power to force obedience depended only on that the war might be prolonged until the enemy empires had consumed all their males capable of marching to the shambles. But we do not depend merely on slaughter in the field; we rely also on hunger as a powerful auxiliary in furthering our peace, and, in spite of all the Germans can do in the way of submarine attacks—both legitimate and atrocious—our fleets are more and more powerfully helping the insufficient harvests decreed by Providence to hasten the end of the war. Both in Germany and in Austria-Hungary the winter now at hand is going to be a winter of hunger and misery such as the modern world has never before witnessed outside the Turkish empire. Lie and hoax as they may, the Berlin, Vienna and Buda-Pesth officials cannot hide the truth much longer, and it would make no difference if they did. Hunger gnaws, and will soon be supreme.

It is not the soldiers' part to rely upon famine, nor the sailors' either. Their duty is so to press upon the enemy as to convert suspicion of insufficiency of food more and more into certainty. When the day comes upon which the Allies of the Entente can say to the would-be world-enslavers, "Until you accept these our terms we shall allow you to go on dying of starvation," the war will end on the morrow. Do not run away with the notion that there is on our part any element of the German type of "hate" in all this towards the Germanic peoples or tribes. There is none. On the contrary, and in no mocking sense, the "guarantees," the first essentials of which we have indicated, might turn out to be as much for the good of these betrayed and crushed peoples as for our own. There must exist within Germany, as we know there exist in Austria and Hungary, many millions of the enslaved to whom the tyranny of the Prussian savage and the Austrian sycophant is as loathsome as it is to us. But they are all powerless, just as that debating society, the Reichstag, is powerless, because the multitude of the dregs—miseducated dregs—of humanity in the empires is intellectually and morally beneath the feet of its taskmasters. Ah, well, there is, as we often say, nothing

like hunger as a force to awaken the moral sense in a people, to quicken its soul into resistance, and if it were true, as M. Gaston Riou, a French war prisoner in Bavaria, reports—and we know it to be true not only because he tells the story, but by the circumstances of the telling—that the Bavarian guards of the fort he and his countrymen and sundry Russians were kept in, longing already in its first year for the war to cease, were wont to asseverate that “it was all the same to them whether they were governed from Berlin or from Paris,” if only they had peace, we may not have so long to wait now for the hunger remedy to produce its expected results? Another winter should see the pride of the Prussian savage humbled, and the liars by whom his imposture has been sustained brought to shame, and, let us hope, to justice.

Because we think we see the first glimmer of the coming cessation of wholesale murder on the edge of the horizon we think the time has arrived for frank discussion of the terms the Allies must impose, and for warning those chosen to enforce their acceptance against deflection of their purpose by family or caste, or—that is perhaps the most dangerous of all—financial blandishments and false sentimentalities. Disarmament, remember, is but the lowest or foundation course of the peace fabric we must unite to rear in unselfish loyalty to the good of mankind. When that foundation has been laid the Allies must proceed to the liberation of the robbed, enslaved, or otherwise maltreated victims of Habsburg and Hohenzollern knavery. That will involve the fixing of national boundaries between the races and nationalities liberated—West, East, North and South, everywhere within and around the dominions of the derelict oppressions, and the lands of the Turk. Only when that work also has been performed and contentment as far as possible been given to each claimant for independence or protection, can we turn with undivided mind to our domestic concerns. The wise, nay, the generous and wise, treatment of these will require an inexhaustible supply of patience and self-abnegation, but we must surely be gaining wisdom by the things we now suffer, so as to be ready for the trial when the hour strikes. We shall deal in its turn with these various divisions of the mighty problem.

Peruvian Affairs.

Although somewhat long-winded, the message of Dr. José Pardo, the President of Peru, read at the opening of Congress in Lima so long ago as July 28 last, is worth perusing in translation. Dr. Pardo is constitutional chief of the administration, and a very honest gentleman. A sincere desire to act for the good of his country, the extension of its commerce, and the development of its wealth, is exhibited all through the Message, and the news it conveys is on the whole good. No sooner does the Peruvian nation settle down to work and leave politics alone than prosperity begins to return. It could hardly be otherwise, for Peru, mountainous and at the back of the world, so to say, though it be, is rich in minerals of all kinds, and possessed of valleys on the eastern side of the Andes as well as its strip of fertile coast on the Pacific, capable of yielding inexhaustible wealth to the toiler. In spite of the war the foreign trade of the Republic has improved, at least the value of the foreign trade for 1915 in Peruvian pounds—which may be taken as identical with pounds sterling, so that there is no need to insert “P” after the £ sign—was £17,219,000. This is £1,992,000 more than the value of the trade of 1913, which showed the highest total ever attained before the war. The increase was last year altogether due to exports, which were £4,985,000 higher in value. Imports, on the other hand, fell off £2,993,000, but even so the balance in favour of 1915 as compared with 1913 is £1,992,000.

For a time, in consequence of the disturbed state of the country during the interregnum of constitutional government, the exchange was depressed, but with the improvement in the current of trade, and the measures

taken by the Government to sustain the money market, a complete reversal of the tendency in exchange took place, and instead of being at a discount the exchange value of the sol, or Peruvian dollar, rose to a premium of 5 per cent. In order to bring it back to par the Government wisely stopped the sale of exporters' drafts and instead forwarded them to New York for investment in bars of gold and silver. Thus it arises that Peru has been importing gold, and during the first six months of the current year added £301,000 to its stock. Moreover, the gold in the custody of the Junta de Vigilancia, or supervising committee, has risen from £442,000 to £842,000. The banks have also increased their stock somewhat, and measures have been taken to restore the currency to a metallic basis. There seems, however, to be a measure of paper currency expansion in contemplation, and it is suggested that notes of small value should be issued. “I think it advisable,” said Dr. Pardo, “to adopt bank notes of two sols in exchange for those of £10 which have a limited circulation.” At the same time, he would undertake the coinage of nickel pieces of 5 cents to replace the silver 5-cent. piece, “which is difficult to keep in circulation and costly to coin.” None of the currency changes suggested or in contemplation appear of a character likely to check the progress of the country, and if Dr. Pardo's Government succeeds in keeping down expenditure at the same time that revenue increases, it may be able to rub along without going abroad to borrow. A proposal had been made to raise a consolidation loan in the United States, the money to be entirely used in paying off various floating debts, which cost more in interest than the American loan would. Apparently the people did not understand what the loan was meant for, or was “agin” all foreign borrowing, and opposed its completion so effectively that the Government had to withdraw its project. The security offered would seem to have been an export tax on petroleum, and we cannot see that finance of that type is particularly admirable. However, nothing is to be done in the way of a general revision of the Customs tariff until the subject has been investigated by a commission. The President, moreover, thinks that there should be no revision until it is seen what Europe will do when the *Entente* Powers give it back peace. “Customs alterations in Europe may be of grave import to Peru,” Dr. Pardo wisely observes, and adds that “it would be idle to introduce a new tariff which within a few months might have to be altered in defence of the interests of our commerce and industry.” Perhaps something better than a tariff will be evolved amongst the Allies here for Peru to imitate when the time comes.

Meanwhile, the Government is faithfully meeting its obligations to its creditors, paying an annuity to the Peruvian Corporation, the interest on the Huacho Railway bonds, and so on, although it has to borrow to do it all. For although the trade of the country has prospered on the export side, partly, no doubt, because of the war, the decline in the imports has seriously reduced the revenue from Customs. Altogether the revenue for 1916 was estimated at £3,097,000, and the actual yield for the first six months of the year was £133,000 better than the estimate at £1,549,000, thanks partly to an increase of over £60,000 in the yield of Customs, but for 1913 the Customs revenue was £1,429,000, and it fell in 1915 to £701,000. Consequently, the first half of the current year did little to fill the great gap when comparison is made with pre-war returns. And expenditure has all the time been more or less in excess of income. For 1912 the outgoings were £4,074,000, the next year they rose to £4,411,000, in 1914 they fell to £3,886,000, and last year to £3,882,000, a great improvement, but still an amount in excess of income. Nevertheless, good progress in economising is being attained, although the Government is not yet able to pay its way and meet all its obligations without falling behindhand.

Something definite is said in the Message about the guano industry, and we infer from the President's observations that all is now working smoothly between his

Government and the Peruvian Corporation. It is being allowed to ship its full quantity of guano, only supervision is stricter and a system of rotation in clearing up the bird manure from the island has been instituted which is calculated to maintain the yield. Dr. Pardo says a three years' rotation, or close time, has been instituted, and confided to the management of the "fiscal company," as the phrase is translated, whose operations are giving satisfaction; but whether that company impinges upon the rights of our Peruvian Corporation, Ltd., inheritor of all the rights and claims arising from the old excessive and repudiated debt of Peru, or whether they work into each other's hands, is more than we can say. And after all, if the Republic is making progress, if honest administration at the hands of its present enlightened President is laying the foundation for the better, more capable and wiser government of the good times to come, it is unnecessary to lay stress upon temporary misunderstandings or clashings of interests like that which from time to time have arisen over the handling of the guano deposits, all of which, were equity to prevail, might not unfairly be deemed the property of the Peruvian bondholder of last century.

By-the-Way War Notes.

As shrewd readers may have surmised, we have never had a high idea of the military genius manifested by the high command of the German armies. The French, and the Russians, too, have far outclassed them all the time, and, happily for the future of mankind, the leaders among them have often lost their heads and contributed to their own defeat. They are doing that now most powerfully and effectively on all fronts, but their conceit appears to be still uncontaminated by sense, and they dash hither and thither to prove to the duped but awakening mobs at home that they are still winning. What could be more mad than the diplomacy that sent Rumania to the side of the Allies of the Entente, just at the moment when their offensive against the allies of infamy—Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, Turkey, and the all-hustling Germans—was about to be launched? Bah, William II. illustrates the bravado of Fitz James in Scott's "Lady of the Lake"—"Come one, come all, this rock shall fly from its firm base as soon as I"—is as stagey heroic—but he has bungled alike in diplomacy and in the strategy of war. So now he has, he and the hoary old imbecile Francis Joseph, a front of between two and three thousand miles to defend and to "conquer" upon, ay, more than that if we include Asia Minor, Syria, Egypt, and the Lybian desert—his colonies have now been all taken from him—"And he is going to win even yet," he says, or rather, with the foxiness of his family, he puts up scapegoat Hindenburg to say it.

This old Hanoverian soldier appears to be about the best slaughterman-in-chief the Kaiser possesses, and yet we have never found reason to admire him much. His renowned—and infamous—campaign in East Prussia was his most notable feat. Since then he has merely pounded the less well-armed foe, or squatted in his ditches outside Riga somewhat Micawber-like. The Kaiser, however, has made him supreme in all the buccaneering and pass stampeding or swamp clearing enterprises he and his geniuses in strategy have initiated, and in that capacity Hindenburg has now come forward to enlighten the world on Germany's power—Germany's certainties—and on the impentable stupidity of the German intellect. Our great men give interviews; Hindenburg is a great man; therefore he must be interviewed.

And he was, and the words the man dropped or had fathered upon him were at once translated by the Press Bureau into English, French, Dutch, Russian, Greek probably and doubtless Italian, perhaps even into Polish and Turkish, to be communicated to the Press everywhere for the world's overawing and beguilement. Oh, these Germans are so clever, don't you think?

Did the man say anything new, betray any improvement upon previous displays of Prussian intellectual imperviousness and moral obliquity? No, he only bragged and lied and strove to create doubt leading to discord between France and ourselves, all in the usual threadbare, ruffian-caught-in-the-act fashion. Germany is "ready for a 30 years' war," it seems, and has men enough left to destroy the French, all the Picrochole Kaiser's enemies, time given. Hindenburg alleged and assured the world that "the position of the war is as favourable as it could be." Consequently he scorned the suggestion that he intended to shorten his line on the West front. He could not do otherwise than deny when he had the audacity to boast that "We are beating the enemy in all elements, with bayonet and rifle, with bomb and bullet, with guns and mortars, with machine-guns and gas, in the air and under the ground, and we are showing the most stubborn and powerful enemy that we have ever encountered what it costs to have England and her Dominions for an ally."

Against this clumsily, audacious brag, which needs no refutation with the latest Verdun news to put against it and the record of the Somme conflict—we may put the following extract from a private letter just to hand sent to us by a young officer at the front, lately a member of our staff. "The war goes well. . . . Our artillery fire is absolutely stupendous, and so marvellously is it worked that our men advance closely under cover of the barrage and topple into the trenches [of the enemy] before the other fellows have even a chance of getting out of the dugout where they have been cowering during our bombardment. In one place we had 700 guns turned on to 300 yards of enemy trench. No wonder our fellows had no casualties when they took that trench. Everything is going well, and each day sees our morale and confidence grow greater, while the terrific bombardment which he has to face speedily demoralises the enemy. It is our turn at

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last." This was not written for an audience or to beguile victims at home and neutrals abroad. So it presents the truth as the French and ourselves know it.

But it is not in his affectations of confidence in victory that the inner mind of Hindenburg is revealed. It is in the following malevolent insinuation clumsily framed and formulated with the view to sever France from Great Britain. Does the concoctor of the following passage in the "interview" really imagine that France and the United Kingdom do not know why they are at war with the Prussians; that the motives animating their armies, the forces sustaining all the Allies of the *Entente*, are such as fantastic lies of this sort could affect? Perhaps yes, perhaps no. You can never be sure that you have fathomed the crude, unteachable soul of the barbarian. But on one point we may make a guess. All this rigmarole represents little else than the Prussian's idea of making mischief, and is inspired by his craving for peace. "Desert the English and we are ready to give you, the French, almost whatever you ask for."

And such overtures excite only disdain. There will be no response to any peace appeal, no matter how foxily framed. We shall fight on, and allow the Prussian to vaunt on until he falls headlong into the bottomless pit he is so busy digging for himself. But the puerile fatuity of the following extract does excite our admiration in a way. It is droller lying than even Von Bethmann-Hollweg's:—

The French are showing great tenacity, but they are destroying themselves by their method of fighting. Even their tenacity will be of no avail to them, because in the finish none of them will be left. The French people may thank the British for this fate. The French called the British to their assistance, and the assistance which her Ally gives is that she is forcing the French to destroy themselves. A great portion of the French Army has perished in the Somme offensive. Should the British in the spring demand a new offensive of the same sort, they will deprive France of the rest of her Army and of her national strength. We do not mind. It is singular that the French do not realise how much their Ally is costing them. This war will cause little change in the opinion held of British military achievements. Great strategists are especially lacking now on the British side.

But, of course, awfully common on the German side. After this string of laughable misrepresentations and loutish attempts to flatter the French to their undoing, it is in harmony that the Field-Marshal should assure his interviewer that in Transylvania "everything is going splendidly"—(hear, hear)—and that the Rumanians "who are retreating, are getting their deserts. I welcome their attack with pleasure, because it has ended the war of positions." Indeed, we should have thought that it had rather extended and complicated the "war of positions"; but Hindenburg is sure—he knows—and Rumania is sure of winning, so we are all quite satisfied.

What is the meaning of this exhibition of fatuous cunning? It means, we believe, that the Prussian military machine is approaching collapse. The guide or ostensible governor of that machine attributes to the enemy like conditions to those he knows to exist at home, and in that way lets us into the secret. It is not France's man power nor ours, but Germany's, that is being exhausted. The two criminal and derelict empires of mid-Europe have not been throwing their population against us for more than two years with a profusion never before equalled in war without bringing the end of their resources in "gun pulp" nearly in sight. Thanks, then, Field-Marshal von Hindenburg, Chief of the Staff of the Kaiser's depleted hosts, if you are no cleverer a soldier than you are expert in lying your favour will not last long. But you do amuse us!

One has but to look along the lines of the great siege to understand why Hindenburg needed that "interview," and why he had to lie to the best of his ability. What of Falkenhayn to-day, the man he superseded? What of Mackensen? Is Rumania invaded and conquered as per forecast? Have the Bulgarians and their Turks, under German guidance, cleared Macedonia of the French, the Italians, the Russians, and ourselves? Is it not as good as the loss of all the men for the winter, if not for ever, to keep armies cooped up in Courland, in the Pripet Marshes, and among the passes

of the Carpathians? How much longer can the Austro-Hungarian armies withstand Brussiloff and his lieutenants in Galicia, face the Italians in Albania, Bosnia, and the Trentino? Where is the point at which the "strategy" of the Prussian warrior brigand can be said to have gained and held the advantage? The Allies hold his armies as in a vice everywhere, and will continue to hold them until destroyed. With beings so depraved nothing else can be done.

Yes, but the numbers here of those who grumble at the "slowness" of our proceedings tends to increase, and this week the croaking has been shameful about the Navy. Tales of a kind so grotesque and outrageous flew round the town as could surely have been inspired only by funk, or, more probably, by German agents. One listening might have thought that our existence as a State had been imperilled by that otter-like dash of a few German destroyers at the lines of communication with our armies in France. Certainly it would have been a feat to comfort hunger-gnawed stomachs in the fatherland for an hour or two if the Germans had succeeded in sinking even one troop or munitions-laden transport. They did sink an empty boat, some net-spreaders, and ran away again as fast as they could, losing two of their ships by mine explosions as they went, Mr. Balfour says, or "probably" losing them. In the darkness of a stormy night certainly it would be nearly impossible.

The entire incident was suggestive of increasing German impotence rather than of the reinvigorated naval power their professional liars have lately been so eagerly telling the world that Germany has once more contrived to attain. Probably enough much money has been wasted by the Hohenzollern family in building submarines and other boats of a fighting kind these past two years. It may be—it is better to admit it than to doubt—that the Kaiser to-day possesses as many submarines as he did at the start, and that some at least of them are more powerful. These sharks of the deep have undoubtedly been working havoc in the North Sea, trying to interfere with our Russian trade, with our supplies to Russia, and to hinder the mercantile navy of Norway from trading with the United Kingdom. Admit the worst, and is there anything to get scared about? We always feel indignant and ashamed when we hear the way "suburbia" and the multitude of the ignorant in all ranks of society fall into despair, or into abuse when any mishap happens to our Navy. "Is Mr. Balfour Asleep," was what we saw on a newspaper placard last Saturday, and we thought the editor deserved to have his ears nailed to the pump, and wondered also how people could continue fools enough to give attention to the trash such poster sensationalism represented.

Is it not possible for the ordinary citizen to remember what our Navy has done, is doing, for us? Two years and three months have passed since Germany set out to destroy herself, and obliterate civilisation from among men, and in all that time has her fleet, her submarines, her mine-sowers, and other deadly apparatus for use at sea been for once able to interrupt our communications with the Continent? "But German submarines have sunk 10 per cent. of Norway's mercantile navy. Germany is sinking ships—cries the futility—not merely in the North Sea, but in the Atlantic and in the English Channel every day, and has even gone over to America to commence operations there. If this goes on we shall soon be starved." Just so; that is exactly the impression the Germans want to produce here, and among all the Allies of the *Entente*, and it must be confessed that they have produced it too often among the classes of people who do not remember or reflect, and done it too by a but trivial expenditure of effort. Why cannot folks see that the Germans have never been able to sustain their sea piracy long in any one region? They plan surprises, select unusual stations, and accumulate submarines for a great splurge now here, now there, but the energy is never prolonged. Why not? Surely because our seamen quickly get the upper hand, and either

destroy or drive away the pests. Thus it has always been hitherto, thus it will continue to be until the end—of that we are confident. But the Germans, though no “sea dogs” at all, are infinitely cunning in a foxy way, and by popping up now here, now there, to perform some unexpected and dashing feat in crime, the more harrowing the better, they have managed to acquire a reputation for prowess on the ocean they no more really deserve than their Zeppelins are worthy of credit for their destruction of “fortifications” on the British coast. It is time to have done with folly. Surely all our men have not yet been drafted into the Army. Surely we are not all impervious to the truth about our Navy, whose work has been magnificent throughout, whose vigilance is untiring, and whose success in reducing the submarine piracy has far exceeded our expectation at the outset. It will soon have the upper hand in the North Sea, and with Russian help, in the Baltic. Indeed, it has always had the mastery in the Baltic, else why is it that the wonderful, the mighty, growing German fleet has been able to do nothing there, not even to force the Gulf of Riga. For shame’s sake stop your croaking.

Letters to the Editor.

WHAT IS TO BECOME OF THE BOOK TRADE?

DEAR SIR,—I have read with interest the article on “What is to Become of the Book Trade?” in your issue of October 28. The writer has some pertinent things to say on the prices at which books are published in England, but he makes two statements which I cannot admit: (1) That the English book business is in a bad way and threatened with considerable danger after the war, and (2) that the French book trade is in a better way than the English. It is my experience that the book trade in England is at the present moment in a better and healthier state than it has ever been during the last 30 years, and I think it would be foolish for those engaged in it “to go out and meet trouble.” I have no fear of the post-bellum pinch predicted—on the contrary, I look for a golden harvest from the more general appreciation of education and efficiency which the war has brought about. It has always seemed to me that the book trade’s most deadly enemy was ignorance.

With regard to the pretended superiority of the French book publishing and selling business, I deny it entirely. It would lead me very far and occupy more space than you would care to devote to the subject if I were to show why we are, on the whole, better off than our Allies—also why their methods are unsuitable for markets spread out over five continents. It is significant, in view of your contributor’s complaint of the dearness of English books, that Messrs. Dent and Messrs. Nelson have taught, not French people only, but the whole world how to make and sell well-printed and well-bound books cheaply, and that our French *confrères* readily admit this.

Yours very truly,

WM. HEINEMANN.

20-21, Bedford Street, London, W.C.,
October 30, 1916.

SALE OF ENEMY PROPERTY IN NIGERIA.

DEAR SIR,—We do not think it is generally understood what the result will be of the Colonial Secretary’s decision to permit neutrals to bid at the forthcoming auction of enemy properties in Nigeria. The general public have heard a good deal lately about the large percentage of trade in British colonies being, previous to the war, in the hands of Germans, but are we not doing our utmost to transfer such trade to neutrals? What safeguards are the Government going to put forward in the conditions of sale of these properties? Is it prepared to make neutral buyers form a company, with head offices in the British Isles, with three-fourths of the directorate British—of which the chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary must be British, and all direc-

tors approved of by the Government? Is it prepared to make such companies pay the British taxes on the profits made in our colonies? Is it prepared to grant licences to such neutrals to trade, and not allow them to sell or transfer their properties, without the Government’s sanction? Is it prepared to insist that no shareholder must be directly or indirectly of enemy origin?

If safeguards similar to above are not exercised, it will be a sorry look-out for the British merchants now established in our colonies, and the risk of capital and work done by our merchants in the past will eventually be for the benefit of neutrals in the future. It must not be forgotten that neutrals are bleeding both ourselves and our Allies in every direction, and piling up capital to eventually enter into serious competition with us when the war is over, and have the benefit of lesser taxation to help them.

Our Government should uphold the just rights of those who are paying for the cost of this war, and if it persists in its present policy—a policy which is solely for the benefit of neutrals—it is doing a gross injustice to British subjects. Yours truly,

JOHN HOLT AND CO. (LIVERPOOL), LTD.

ROBERT L. HOLT, Director.

Liverpool, October 28, 1916.

[It certainly looks as if Mr. Holt were right, and we therefore gladly print his warning. What neutral countries are there the presence of whose citizens in the territories referred to would be of help to us?—ED.]

Critical Index to New Investments.

FELLOWS MAGNETO CO., LTD.

In the stereotyped form “the Treasury has been consulted and raises no objection to this issue,” but it must be distinctly understood that “the Treasury does not take any responsibility for the financial soundness of any scheme or for the correctness of any of the statements made.” It is necessary to emphasise this point because the Treasury has blundered woefully in several of its decisions about new issues, and anything it sanctions has to be more closely scrutinised on that account. However, we see no reason to doubt that this company may be made a sound and profitable industrial enterprise. The capital is £75,000 in 50,000 preferred shares of £1 each and 50,000 ordinary shares of 10s. each. Subscriptions are invited for the preferred shares, which are entitled to a cumulative dividend of 8 per cent., and in addition to one-fifth of any nett profits it may be decided to distribute as dividend. The purchase price is £21,000, payable as to £20,000 in ordinary shares and the balance in cash, but the company is responsible for loans of £23,500 from the War Office, a mortgage of £6,000 on the factory at Park Royal, and expenditure in excess of £4,000 on plant, &c., since June 30, when the business was taken over. Such expenditure is estimated at about £20,000, but it is hoped that when the factory is in full working order the nett profits should reach £30,000 per annum after deduction of excess profits duty. That is doubtless a very sanguine estimate, but the War Office is prepared to give the company a running order for 400 magnetos per month, which, it is said, should be worth £84,000 per annum. On the other hand, it is stated that an output of 30,000 magnetos per annum should be reached within a year, of an approximate value of £300,000, and it is difficult to reconcile these figures. However, the manufacture of magnetos was virtually a German monopoly before the war, and we wish the new venture all success even if it does not come up to the vendors’ sanguine expectations. At any rate, they show their faith by taking the bulk of the purchase price in ordinary shares, and the business does not seem to be unduly weighted with water.

The European Oilfields Corporation announces that 14,531 profit sharing notes of the nominal value of 5s. each have just been purchased and cancelled. The original issue of 197,480 notes (£49,370) has now been reduced to 97,064 notes (£24,263 10s.).

Insurance News.

Well may the directors of the Clerical, Medical and General Life Assurance Society plume themselves upon the results, not only of the past year's business, but of the past quinquennium. Last year, in fact, finished the eighteenth quinquennium, and the directors are able to say that for the ninth time in succession they are in a position to declare a bonus higher than the one before. They are in this position although the valuation period now dealt with includes two years of war, and the rate of bonus now declared exactly reproduces at every duration the record allotments to the policyholders made in 1911. The business of the past year itself was remarkably good, even the total premium income rose £7,364 to £456,330, and the interest income was £14,878 larger at £274,072, so that leaving outside the £24,557 of capital received for annuities sold and the £3,599 entered as increase in the value of reversions, the income for the twelve months was £685,000. The claims by death amounted to £300,341, which was £48,711 less than that of the previous year. War claims themselves were £11,268 lower than for the previous year at £54,149. Altogether the payments were well within the expected amount, and yielded a substantial mortality profit to the society. The gross rate of interest earned was £4 8s. 1d., as compared with £4 4s. 6d. in the previous year, but owing to the heavy increase in the income-tax the nett yield has fallen from £3 17s. 1d. to £3 13s. 4d. Expenses of management, after allowing for the cost of the annuity business, came to £12 5s. 5d. per cent. of the premium income, or 4s. more than in the preceding year, but 18s. 9d. per cent. less than for the year immediately preceding the war. In all £297,978 was written off for depreciation, and of that amount £289,640 falls upon the life assurance fund, and yet after meeting all charges, paying all claims, including matured endowment assurances amounting to £22,670, the year closed with an increase of £32,505 in the accumulated funds of the society, which now stand at £6,190,901. This is surely an excellent result, and when we turn to the story of the quinquennium its effect is heightened. During the five years the total claims by death, including £119,566 of claims due directly to the war, came to £1,350,356, or only £163,258 more than for the preceding quinquennium. Expenses were reduced by 3s. per cent. to £12 19s. 4d., and the life assurance fund was increased by £722,830 to the sum named above, after bringing out a divisible surplus of £741,070 arrived at by the strictest possible actuarial valuation made throughout on a 2½ per cent. basis. Altogether, including the sum already paid as interim and intermediate bonuses, the divisible profit of the quinquennium was £795,924, or £40,000 more than in 1911, and nine-tenths of this profit belong to the insured, so that they divide up £686,183.

The experience of underwriters doing fire insurance business in Canada and the United States was rather more favourable during September. The total was £2,450,000, as compared with £2,965,000 in the corresponding month of last year, but for the nine months to date the losses amount to £34,356,000, as contrasted with £25,257,000 for the same period in 1915, and there appears to be a poor prospect of making much of a profit for the current year.

As usual at this period of the year the *Post Magazine* brings out its useful compilation showing the results of employers' liability insurance business done by British companies. The results are not unsatisfactory, the total earned premium income for 1915 showing only a small decline. The figures are given of 34 tariff companies and 17 non-tariff offices. The first group made a profit of £603,000, or 21.6 per cent. (as against 20.2 per cent. in 1914), on a premium income of £2,790,000, while the non-tariff companies made a profit of £96,800, or 10.94 per cent., as compared with 9.7 per cent. in the previous year. The average expense ratio showed a small reduction.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

Bankers' Investment Trust.—Interim at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on the deferred for half-year ended Oct. 31, payable Nov. 17, same as a year ago.

Borax Consolidated.—Interim of 1s. per share, less tax at 4s., on the deferred ordinary in respect of year ended Sept. 30, against 6d. Bampton Brewery.—Interim on the ordinary for half-year ended Sept. 30 of 4 per cent. (actual), same as a year ago.

Brown Bros.—Interim of 2½ per cent., free tax, on the ordinary in respect of year 1916.

Brunner, Mond, and Co.—Interim for half-year ended Sept. 30 at the rate of 25 per cent. per annum, less tax. The dividend is 2½ per cent. above that of last year, 5 per cent. above that for 1914, but is the same as for several years preceding that year.

Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway.—5 per cent., less tax, for year on the second preference, and 1 per cent., less tax, for year on the ordinary.

Burma Railways.—Final of £1 5s. per cent., and a bonus of £1 per cent., both subject to tax on account of surplus profits, to be distributed with the guaranteed interest payable Jan. 1, making 6 per cent. per annum, same as last year.

Canadian Bank of Commerce.—2½ per cent. and a bonus of 1 per cent. for three months to Nov. 30, payable Dec. 1, same as a year ago.

Chimpul (F.M.S.) Rubber.—6 per cent. per annum, less tax, payable Dec. 1.

Chubwa Tea.—Interim of 10 per cent. on the ordinary, payable Nov. 30, same as a year ago.

Fine Art and General Insurance.—The directors have decided to pay a higher interim dividend so as to meet the wish expressed by some of the shareholders that a fairer division should be made between the interim and final payments. In respect of the year 1916 2s. per share, less tax, payable forthwith, against 1s. 6d.

Hampden Cloncurry Copper.—2s. per share, less tax, payable Nov. 29. The previous dividend paid on Aug. 31 last was the same.

Heawood Tin and Rubber.—Interim of 5 per cent. actual, less tax, on account of year ended June 30 last, against 3 per cent.

Hewagum Rubber.—Interim of 2½ per cent., free tax, on account of year ending Dec. 31, payable end of Nov., same as last year.

Horden Collieries.—Final of 8½ per cent., less tax, payable Nov., making 12½ per cent. for year, against 7 per cent.

India General Navigation and Railway.—Interim of 4 per cent. on the ordinary, free tax, payable Nov. 23, same as a year ago.

Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance.—12s. a share, less tax, on account of 1916, payable Nov. 22, same as a year ago.

London and Colonial Investment.—Final at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the preferred for half-year ended Sept. 30, and 3 per cent. actual on the deferred for year ended Sept. 30, less tax at 4s., payable Dec. 1.

Montevideo Gas.—Interim payable Dec. 1, of 6s. per share, less tax, for half-year ended June 30, same as a year ago.

Namaqua Copper.—Interim of 3s. per share, equal to 7½ per cent., free tax, on account of current year, payable Nov. 14.

New Jagersfontein Mining and Exploration.—Interim of 3s. per share. The preceding dividend was 2s. 6d. per share for the latter half of the year 1913-14.

Ooregum Gold Mining of India.—Second interim on account of year ending Dec. 31, 1916, of 9d. per share (less tax at 4s. 6d.) on both preference and ordinary, payable Dec. 5, same as a year ago.

Royal Bank of Australia.—At the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, same as last year, placing £7,500 to reserve, with £7,991, against £7,916, forward.

Royal Bank of Scotland.—Half-yearly of 5 per cent., same as a year ago.

Rubber Estates of Ceylon.—Interim of 5 per cent., free tax, in respect of year ending Dec. 31, payable Nov. 6, same as a year ago.

Scottish Australian Mining.—For half-year to June 30 at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum, against nil, payable, less tax, 15th prox.

Scottish Mortgage and Trust.—Interim at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, less tax, on the ordinary, same as last year.

Tredegar Iron and Coal.—Interim of 7½ per cent., free tax, being at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum, on the "A" and "B" for half-year ended Sept. 30, payable Dec. 8, against 5 per cent. a year ago.

Waihi Gold.—Interim of 1s. per share, free tax, payable Dec. 1.

Western Australian Bank.—Usual of £1 per share, equal to 20 per cent. per annum; reserved profits, £29,979.

West India and Panama Telegraph.—For half-year ended June 30 of 6d. per share on the ordinary, tax free, against 9d. a share.

Wright and Greig.—10 per cent., less tax, on ordinary; last year no dividend was paid on the ordinary.

Sir Francis Lowe, M.P., has been elected to a seat on the board of the National Benefit Life and Property Assurance Co., to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Geo. Sumpter.

Consolidated Gas, Electric Light and Power Co. of Baltimore.—In the beginning of October the directors announced that on the approval of the new issue of convertible notes by the Public Service Commission of Maryland the preferred stock of the company would be called for redemption. A formal intimation is now made that the \$4,103,754 preferred stock now outstanding will be paid off on April 2, 1917, at \$120 per share plus the semi-annual dividend due on that date. Holders need not wait until then, as after November 17 the company will purchase the stock at the price named with accrued interest to the date of purchase.

IRISH RAILWAYS.

		£	£	£	£
Belfast and County Down ..	Oct. 27	3,365	+ 390	161,381	+ 6,273
Grand Canal ..	" 27	1,209	+ 42	18,071	+ 1,808
Great Northern ..	" 27	24,690	+ 2,090	1,037,408	+ 32,808
Gt. Southern and Western ..	" 27	39,494	+ 3,422	1,435,089	+ 15,439
Midland Great Western ..	" 27	14,259	+ 1,062	567,009	+ 11,233

* From Jan. 1. † From July 1.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam Bengal ..	Aug. 26	1,30,000	+ 29,948	26,29,411	+ 1,11,567
Bengal & N.W. ..	Sep. 16	1,26,530	+ 10,191	96,79,989	+ 12,57,756
Bengal Nagpur ..	" 23	8,87,000	+ 1,20,000	2,34,61,195	+ 41,35,612
Bombay, Baroda ..	Oct. 21	10,99,000	+ 54,000	31,53,000	+ 3,04,000
Burma ..	Sep. 16	4,81,699	+ 73,635	93,18,451	+ 3,37,095
Delhi Umballa ..	Oct. 28	80,000	+ 3,025	2,98,900	+ 16,794
East Indian ..	" 28	21,49,000	+ 1,70,000	84,02,000	+ 5,48,000
Gt. Indian Penin. ..	" 28	15,90,700	+ 1,03,800	63,25,000	+ 23,300
Lucknow-Bareilly ..	Sep. 16	30,141	+ 5,484	10,38,137	+ 1,33,452
Madras and S. ..	" 23	8,75,000	+ 43,024	2,44,91,152	+ 19,31,764
Mahratta ..	" 23	1,84,269	+ 12,374	3,02,07,911	+ 1,73,983
Nizam's Gd. (Broad) ..	" 23	77,966	+ 23,351	17,09,992	+ 1,09,663
Robilkund and ..	" 23	"	"	"	"
Kumaon ..	" 16	28,712	+ 2,312	9,95,910	+ 1,48,169
South Indian ..	" 23	5,61,421	+ 12,511	1,53,93,227	+ 11,26,329

a 13 days. † April 1. ‡ October 1.

COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

		£	£	£	£
Beira ..	Aug. *	37,523	+ 2,832	72,791	+ 3,271
Canadian Northern ..	Oct. 14	\$839,700	+ \$47,900	\$13,251,800	+ \$414,240
Canadian Pacific ..	" 14	\$2,932,000	+ \$136,000	\$46,295,000	+ \$10,354,000
Gr. Trk. Main Line ..	" 21	198,475	+ 35,395	7,718,410	+ 1,174,296
Gr. Trk. Western ..	" 21	35,651	+ 1,603	1,552,707	+ 324,165
Detroit G. H. & M. ..	" 21	12,458	+ 1,541	549,904	+ 104,545
Gr. Trk. Pac. Prairie Sc ..	" 21	27,634	+ 17,762	290,350	+ 22,992
Mashonaland ..	Aug. *	64,185	+ 9,328	"	"
Mid. of Westn. Aus. ..	"	5,604	+ 1	10,706	+ 366
New Cape Central ..	Sep. 30	1,855	+ 278	60,649	+ 8,200
Rhodesia ..	Aug. *	93,554	+ 11,216	263,784	+ 18,457

a 9 days. * Months. † July 1. ‡ Jan. 1. c From Oct. 1.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

		\$	\$	\$	\$
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	Oct. 21	—	+ 68,000	—	+ 858,000
Chicago G.W. ..	" 14	345,000	+ 28,000	4,838,000	+ 607,000
Colorado & South'n ..	" 14	—	+ 14,000	—	+ 435,000
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	" 21	578,000	+ 7,000	8,575,000	+ 185,000
Louisv'e & Nashv'e ..	" 14	1,324,000	+ 164,000	18,739,000	+ 2,516,000
Minn. S.P. (Soo) ..	Sep. 21	639,000	+ 65,000	8,426,000	+ 1,423,000
Missouri Kansas ..	Oct. 21	888,000	+ 224,000	12,178,000	+ 1,475,000
Southern ..	Oct. 14	1,563,000	+ 190,000	21,469,000	+ 2,285,000

§ Includes Wisconsin Central. † From July 1.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—HOME.

		£	£	£	£
Bristol ..	Oct. 27	9,811	+ 875	435,278	+ 22,708
Dublin United ..	" 27	6,161	+ 331	262,291	+ 936
Hastings and Dist. ..	" 27	835	+ 97	46,122	+ 2,970
Isle of Thanet ..	" 25	253	+ 12	1,224	+ 95
Lancashire United ..	" 25	1,860	+ 252	79,272	+ 4,073
Provincial ..	" 28	2,134	+ 148	9,639	+ 417
Yorks. (Wst. Rdng.) ..	" 29	1,671	+ 273	77,581	+ 7,877

* From Oct. 1. † From Jan. 1.

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.		GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
		Week ending	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	W'ks.	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.
Alcoy and Gandia ..	Oct. 28	£	Ps. 9,000	+ Ps. 1,000	†	Ps. 539,300	+ Ps. 29,100
Antofagasta (Chili) ..	" 29		39,220	+ 10,915	†	1,478,740	+ 434,990
Arauco ..	Sep. 10		10,150	+ 3,300	†	173,238	+ 27,716
Argentine N.E. ..	Oct. 28		6,600	+ 3,200	†	115,402	+ 5,167
Bilbao R. and Canta ..	Aug. *		6,457	+ 1,235	7	36,518	+ 2,366
Bolivar ..	Sep. *		8,000	+ 148	3	23,500	+ 1,111
Brazil ..	July *	M3,357,000	+ M78,935	†	M	242,600	+ M21,720
Brazil Gt. Southern ..	June *	M15,35,800	+ M7,350	†	M	214,690	+ M5,610
B. Ayres & Pacific ..	Oct. 28		83,000	+ 8,000	†	1,436,000	+ 48,000
Do. Gt. South'n ..	" 29		112,000	+ 15,000	†	1,687,254	+ 201,346
Do. Western ..	" 29		57,000	+ 7,000	†	891,000	+ 118,000
Central Argentine ..	" 28		111,000	+ 3,000	†	1,923,900	+ 50,100
C. Ur'g'ay of Mts V. ..	" 28		13,749	+ 1,218	†	193,889	+ 3,846
Do. East'n Ex. ..	" 28		4,610	+ 412	†	64,931	+ 3,453
Do. North'n Ex. ..	" 28		2,248	+ 235	†	31,099	+ 286
Do. West'n Ex. ..	" 28		1,940	+ 317	†	29,293	+ 525
Colombian National ..	Aug. *		13,750	+ 1,062	8	90,910	+ 8,610
Cordoba Central ..	Oct. 28		25,900	+ 1,075	†	546,530	+ 11,250
Costa Rica ..	Sep. 23		5,266	+ 69	†	61,848	+ 4,875
Cuban Central ..	Oct. 28		9,518	+ 839	†	159,001	+ 23,133
Dorada Extension ..	Aug. *		9,500	+ 400	†	64,000	+ 1,100
Egyptian Delta ..	Sep. 30a		6,519	+ 1,151	†	91,931	+ 16,020
Entre Rios ..	Oct. 23		11,400	+ 300	†	203,500	+ 37,600
French Sante Fé ..	July		90,992	+ 15,010	7	619,079	+ 91,201
Gt. South. of Spain ..	Oct. 14	Ps.	83,896	+ Ps. 35,791	†	Ps. 3,028,381	+ Ps. 591,700
Gr. West. of Brazil ..	" 28		17,600	+ 6,200	†	417,600	+ 6,400
Havana Central ..	" 28		6,350	+ 663	†	99,612	+ 10,883
Inter. of C. Amer. ..	Aug. *		15,411	+ 3,052	†	243,164	+ 91,241
La Guaira and Car. ..	"		7,500	+ 1,750	†	65,000	+ 10,250
Leopoldina ..	Oct. 28		32,485	+ 4,418	†	1,065,666	+ 211,919
Manila (N. & Sth.) ..	" 28		7,720	+ 2,786	†	367,254	+ 13,501
Midland Uruguay ..	Aug. *		8,362	+ 4,010	2	18,043	+ 4,913
Mogiana ..	July	M2,819,000	+ M21,678	†	M	116,050,000	+ M100,7815
N.W. of Uruguay ..	Sep. *		827,000	+ 84,564	3	866,250	+ 86,249
Nitrate ..	30b		27,363	+ 10,748	†	742,550	+ 257,273
Paraguay Central ..	Oct. 28		3,532	+ 990	†	41,880	+ 2,250
Paulista ..	July *	M4,000,000	+ M31,867	6	M	152,500,000	+ M989,366
Peruvian Corp'n ..	"	\$835,430	+ \$10,592	10	\$	10,798,927	+ \$1,514,384
Salvador ..	Oct. 28		\$21,600	+ 6,850	†	\$338,995	+ \$24,593
S. Paulo (Brazilian) ..	" 22		37,730	+ 2,177	†	1,167,457	+ 82,076
Sorocabana ..	May *	M1,269,000	+ M23,000	5	M	6,960,000	+ M292,000
Taltal ..	Aug. *		19,688	+ 1,470	2	39,308	+ 12,930
United of Havana ..	Oct. 28		30,423	+ 3,833	†	518,218	+ 93,435
West'n of Havana ..	" 28		5,247	+ 612	†	100,235	+ 15,702
Zafra and Huelva ..	Aug. *		13,099	+ 3,488	†	91,505	+ 28,688

* Months. † From Jan. 1. ‡ From July 1. c Nett. b 15 days. a 10 days.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.

		£	£	£	£
Anglo-Argentine ..	Oct. 28	52,134	+ 4,101	2,190,543	+ 4,444
Auckland Electric ..	Sep. 22b	20,884	+ 618	62,858	+ 503
Brazilian Traction ..	Sep. 1	M3,703,000	+ M2,000	M34,373,000	+ M101,7580
Brisbane Elec. Inv. ..	Sep. 1	32,530	+ 2,170	297,660	+ 22,586
British Columbia ..	Sep. 1	\$540,440	+ \$23,418	\$1,629,026	+ \$94,155
B.A. Lacroze ..	"	36,431	+ 5,937	74,870	+ 6,958
Burmah Electric ..	Sept. 16b	Rs. 23,749	+ Rs. 1,586	Rs. 69,839	+ Rs. 839
Calcutta ..	Oct. 21	Rs. 65,596	+ Rs. 307	Rs. 68,657	+ 129,811
Cordoba Light ..	"	"	"	"	"
P. & T. ..	"	13,852	+ 373	71,165	+ 469
Hongkong ..	Sept. 30	\$14,272	+ \$3,766	\$59,469	+ \$140,436
La Plata ..	Aug. 5	3,792	+ 373	33,627	+ 358
Lima ..	"	14,996	+ 240	125,565	+ 3,423
Madras Electric ..	Oct. 31c	Rs. 31,819	+ Rs. 526	Rs. 33,910	+ Rs. 45,037
Mexico ..	Nov. 1	\$215,256	+ \$108,669	\$3,193,106	+ \$197,227
Puebla ..	Dec. 1	\$40,000	+ \$25,600	\$669,500	+ \$44,500
Rangoon ..	Sep. 1	4,137	+ 308	36,479	+ 2,001
Singapore Electric ..	Aug. 5	\$14,223	+ \$10,649	\$358,597	+ \$42,324
Toronto ..	Sept. 1	\$460,556	+ \$1,641	\$3,918,111	+ \$409,548
United of Monte V. ..	Sep. 1	26,711	+ 1,641	319,043	+ 15,626
Vera Cruz ..	May	\$85,200	+ \$35,400	\$372,600	+ \$178,200
Winnipeg ..	Sept. 1	\$87,853	+ \$11,127	\$878,883	+ \$32,283

b 28 days. * From Jan. 1. ‡ Nett. a From July 1. c Two weeks.

MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

NAME.	NETT EARNINGS FOR MONTH.			NETT EARNINGS TO DATE.		
	Month.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year	No. of Mths.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year
		Dols.	Dols.		Dols.	Dols.
Atchafalpa T. & S. Fé	Sept.	4,784,000	+ 1,145,000	3	13,993,000	+ 3,403,000
Atlantic Coast Line	"	516,000	+ 427,000	2	976,000	+ 649,000
Baltimore & Ohio	"	3,268,000	+ 126,000	3	6,355,000	+ 116,000
Canadian Northern	"	731,600	+ 377,300	3	3,002,000	+ 1,148,000
Canadian Pacific	"	5,130,000	+ 385,000	3	14,615,000	+ 3,627,000
Chesapeake & Ohio	Aug.	1,355,000	+ 213,000	1	1,355,000	+ 213,000
Chicago & N.W.	"	2,448,000	+ 800,000	1	2,448,000	+ 800,000
Chicago Burl. & Q.	July	2,524,000	+ 564,000	12	36,187,000	+ 9,609,000
Chicago G.W.	Aug.	475,000	+ 143,000	3	6,485,000	+ 1,174,000
Chicago Mil. & S.P.	"	3,306,000	+ 790,000	1	1,389,000	+ 378,000
Chicago, Rock I. & P.	"	2,662,000	+ 1,111,000	2	4,619,000	+ 2,130,000
Colorado & Southern	"	566,000	+ 180,000	2	1,007,000	+ 353,000
Cuba	"	264,000	+ 67,000	2	523,000	+ 115,000
Delaware & Hud.	"	696,000	+ 120,000	8	5,205,000	+ 316,000
Denver & Rio Gran.	"	875,000	+ 131,000	1	1,631,000	+ 357,000
Erie	"	2,026,000	+ 243,000	8	12,414,000	+ 1,855,000
Gr. Tr. Main Line	"	\$305,650	+ \$56,950	8	\$1,731,500	+ \$223,950
Grand Trunk Westn	"	\$44,700	+ \$5,000	8	\$333,600	+ \$248,800
Detroit G. H. & Mil.	"	\$7,400	+ \$0,900	8	\$39,650	+ \$32,950
Gt. Northern	"	3,493,000	+ 780,000	2	6,491,000	+ 1,502,000
Illinois Central	"	1,471,000	+ 347,000	3	2,494,000	+ 858,000
Kansas City Southn.	Sept.	330,000	+ 12,000	3	1,022,000	+ 96,000
Lehigh Valley	"	1,207,000	+ 117,000	3	3,514,000	+ 245,000
Louisville & Nashvl.	Aug.	1,809,000	+ 488,000	2	3,241,000	+ 738,000
Minn. S.P. (Soo)	"	1,335,000	+ 502,000	2	2,746,000	+ 1,164,000
Miss. K. & Texas	"	706,000	+ 29,000	2	1,323,000	+ 174,000
Missouri Pacific	"	1,653,000	+ 508,000	2	2,774,000	+ 682,000
New York Cent. & H.	"	11,511,000	+ 2,790,000	7	35,358,000	+ 126,000
N. Y. N. Haven & H.	"	2,366,000	+ 251,000	3	4,743,000	+ 435,000
New York Ont. & W.	"	377,000	+ 30,000	3	783,000	+ 53,000
Norfolk & Western	"	2,147,000	+ 333,000	2	3,993,000	+ 461,000
Northern Pacific	"	2,772,000	+ 365,000	3	5,161,000	+ 1,336,000
Pennsylvania East and West Lines.	"	12,547,000	+ 1,742,000	3	74,210,000	+ 24,842,000
St. Louis & San F.	"	1,614,000	+ 375,000	2	2,727,000	+ 461,000
Seaboard Air Line.	"	521,000	+ 175,000	2	734,000	+ 7,000
Southern	"	1,945,000	+ 514,000	3	3,227,000	+ 431,000
Southern Pacific	Sept.	5,733,000	+ 951,000	2	16,461,000	+ 2,534,000
Union Pacific	"	5,079,000	+ 1,150,000	3	13,906,000	+ 2,726,000
Wabash	"	1,147,000	+ 297,000	9	8,257,000	+ 4,572,000

SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1824.

FUNDS OVER £10,500,000.

FIRE (INCLUDING LOSS OF PROFITS), LIFE, ACCIDENT, ILLNESS, ANNUITIES, PENSIONS, LEASEHOLD, BURGLARY, CLASS BREAKAGE, TRANSIT OF SECURITIES, FIDELITY, PROPERTY OWNERS' LIABILITIES, HORSE DRIVING ACCIDENTS, MOTOR CAR RISKS, THIRD PARTY, EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY AND MARINE INSURANCES EFFECTED ON THE MOST FAVOURABLE TERMS.

Edinburgh: 35, St. Andrew Square.

London: 5, Walbrook, E.C., and 5, Pall Mall, S.

PHENIX ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1782.

Head Office: PHENIX HOUSE, KING WILLIAM STREET, LONDON, E.C.

Total Assets Exceed £16,000,000.

Claims Paid Exceed £94,000,000.

Chairman—Rt. Hon. LORD GEORGE HAMILTON, P.C., G.C.S.I.

FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT. MARINE.

Loss of Profits following Fire, Workmen's Compensation, Fidelity Guarantee, Burglary, Trustee and Executor, &c.

Prospectuses and Proposal Forms may be obtained on application to any of Branch Offices or Agencies, or to the Head Offices.

General Manager - SIR GERALD H. RYAN.

The Investors' Review.

Money and Credit Notes.

BANK RATE 6 PER CENT. (Increased from 5 per cent. on Thursday, July 13.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

End of the month demands and adjustments caused short credits to be in sharp request up to Wednesday, but money was never really dear; that is to say, borrowers could generally get supplied at 5 per cent., and when Wednesday came that was the high figure. It cannot be otherwise than that short credits should remain tolerably cheap in present circumstances, when the market is engaged day after day in creating fresh masses of it. The borrowings of the Government feed the market with credit to an extent which renders all ordinary forces operating to move rates for loans and all discounts almost negligible. The only thing that would cause a great rise or sensible fall in the market rates for money would be either a great increase or a sudden diminution in the visible stock of gold, but we see no probability that either will occur, at any rate until the war is drawing to a close.

Discount rates remain with scarcely a ripple of change except perhaps in the quotations for short-dated Treasury bills, but even these fluctuate but slightly. The rate for Treasury bills falling due this month has, for example, been $5\frac{3}{16}$ to $5\frac{1}{4}$, the latter an exceptional rate all this week, and the quotations for mercantile bills of the remitted or fine internal class stand unaltered, one may say, from day to day and week to week. Even long-dated bank bills have been steady at $5\frac{3}{8}$ to $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. A little addition to the stock of gold is revealed in this week's Bank return. It is only £300,000, and is more than counterbalanced by the expansion in the note circulation, which has brought the reserve down by £238,000 to £37,589,000, so that its proportion to the liabilities is only $22\frac{3}{8}$ per cent. against 23 per cent. last week. A year ago it was $29\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., but the return is good enough as a whole, and other deposits have been expanded by £4,450,000 to £116,622,000 by an increase of £3,271,000 in the other securities and a decrease of £1,436,000 in the public or Government balances.

Some journalistic hubbub has been raised over a statement supposed to be officially inspired hinting at a coming inability of this country to maintain its payments in gold. We daresay that a certain type of

American financier, largely German or Prussian-Jewish in character, likes to dream of the day when gold payments will centre in New York and not in London. That day is not yet in sight. People forget that within the British Empire there are resources in gold mines more than equal to those possessed by all the rest of the world put together. Our South African mines alone are sustaining our cash payments abroad to an extent people seem to have no idea of, and in spite of our being compelled to furnish "collateral" to American lenders, we still possess greater masses of revenue-yielding property in parts of the world extraneous to the Empire than any other country. There is thus no question of a suspension of specie payments, the very smallness of our fiduciary note circulation should set minds at rest upon that point, but admitting the danger, the more reason why we should harden our determination to bring the war to such a satisfactory conclusion as will enable the Allies to enforce on the defeated savages payment of the damages.

It should be unnecessary to have to impress upon holders of the foreign stocks named in the Treasury advertisement printed on another page to lose no time in placing their stocks at the disposal of the Treasury. Many have no doubt already done so; those who have not ought to act at once so that the necessary "collateral" may be put up in New York against the latest advance arranged with bankers there.

We learn from the City page of the *Times* that an advance has been arranged with bankers in the United States for about £20,000,000 sterling on behalf of some 50 French manufacturing firms and importers. It is not a Government loan, therefore, but simply a credit opened on an unusually extensive scale, a scale dictated by the magnitude of war necessities, to enable the French importer and manufacturer to finance his payments in any other country.

SILVER.

There has been rather more competition in the silver market this week, as both India and China sent buying orders. Supplies were fairly large, but the demand coming in addition to the requirements for coinage, was sufficient to absorb all that was offered, and the price rose to $32\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz. During the last day or two business has been quieter, and a slight reaction to $32\frac{1}{8}$ d. per oz. has followed.

Applications for the Rs. 50,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 5,49,75,000. Of these Rs. 46,000 were allotted in bills, Rs. 14,44,000 in deferred transfers, and Rs. 50,00,000 in immediate transfers, tenders for bills and deferred transfers at Rs. 4-32d., and for immediate transfers at Rs. 4d., receiving about 8 per cent. Special sales have also been made of Rs. 2,27,611 in bills at Rs. 4d., of Rs. 9,00,000 in deferred transfers at $1\frac{1}{2}$ 4d., and of Rs. 64,00,000 in immediate transfers at Rs. 4-5-32d. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is again Rs. 50,00,000. Since April 1 the total sales have been Rs. 14,42,21,215, realising £9,679,541.

THE MANCHESTER AND LIVERPOOL DISTRICT BANKING COMPANY LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1829.

Head Office: Spring Gardens, Manchester.
London Office: 75, Cornhill.

Deposits - - - - £30,630,010
Cash, etc., Bills, Investments 20,487,555
Advances - - - - 13,454,332

30th June, 1916.

Foreign Banking Business transacted.
Bank acts as Trustee or Executor.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, November 1, 1916.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued	72,876,970	Government Debt	11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	54,426,970
		Silver Bullion	—
	£72,876,970		£72,876,970

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital ..	14,513,000	Government Securities ..	42,188,153
Res	3,187,415	Other Securities	105,714,121
Public Deposits (including		Notes	35,652,675
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,936,370
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	51,107,437		
Other Deposits	116,622,055		
Seven Day and other Bills	21,412		
	£185,491,319		£185,491,319

Dated Nov. 2, 1916.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year.

Last year, Nov. 3.		Oct. 25, 1916.	Nov. 1, 1916.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,212,219	Rest	3,171,954	3,187,415	15,461	—
45,537,438	Pub. Deposits ..	52,543,213	51,107,437	1,435,776	—
95,774,304	Other do. ..	112,171,721	116,622,055	4,450,334	—
30,986	7 Day Bills ..	18,167	21,412	3,245	—
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
18,895,068	Gov. Securities ..	42,187,852	42,188,153	—	301
98,540,391	Other do. ..	102,442,757	105,714,121	3,271,364	—
41,672,488	Total Reserve ..	37,827,446	37,589,145	238,401	—
				4,707,441	4,707,441
				Increase.	Decrease.
£		£	£	£	£
33,433,230	Note Circulation	36,686,020	37,224,295	538,275	—
26,655,718	Coin and Bullion	56,063,466	56,363,340	299,874	—
29.5 p.c.	Proportion ..	23 p.c.	22.4 p.c.	—	6 p.c.
5 "	Bank Rate ..	6 "	6 "	—	—

CURRENCY NOTES.

Return of Currency Notes for the week ended November 1, 1916.

	Issued.	Cancelled.	Outstanding.
£1 notes	3,869,986	2,993,317	94,460,227
10s. notes	1,169,649	1,117,380	29,259,072
Note certificates ..	900,000	—	13,470,000
Previous total ..	445,250,957	319,931,696	—
	461,230,593	324,042,393	137,188,199

Ratio of gold held against notes: this week, 23.04 p.c.; last week, 23.22 p.c.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For 7 days ended Oct. 28.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE
Customs	£
Excise	£
Estate, &c., Duties ..	£
Stamps	£
Land Tax and House Duty	£
Property and Income Tax	£
Excess Profits Tax ..	£
Land Values	£
Post Office	£
Crown Lands	£
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	£
Miscellaneous	£
Bullion advances repaid	£
For Treasury Bills (nett amt.)	£
War Loan, 1925-8 ..	£
War Loan, 1925-45 ..	£
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919..	£
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920..	£
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1921..	£
6% Exchequer Bonds, 1920..	£
War Expenditure Certificates	£
War Savings Certificates ..	£
Other Debts created under	£
War Loan Act, 1915 ..	£
Telegraph Money Act, 1913	£
Under Post Office Rly. Act,	£
1913	£
Under Military Works Acts,	£
1897-1903	£
Under Housing Act	£
Redemption of Exchequer	£
Bonds, 1904	£
Cunard Loan—repayment on	£
account of principal ..	£
Suez Canal Drawn Shares..	£
Ways and Means Advances	£
Decrease in Exchequer	£
balances	£
	£120,412,981
	£120,412,981

SHORT TERM GOVERNMENT LOANS.

	Nett Sales Last Week.	Nett Sales This Week.	Total Outstanding.
Treasury Bills	£	£	£
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919 ..	23,000,000	2,921,000	1,082,808,000
Do.	—	—	34,222,000
Do.	100,000	50,000	237,805,000
Do.	—	—	62,464,000
6% Exchequer Bonds	13,279,000	14,231,000	64,137,000
War Expenditure Certificates	352,900	1,127,100	26,658,500
War Savings Certificates ..	1,000,000	1,000,000	32,550,000

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1916.	1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
January	1,071,948,000	918,685,000	153,263,000	—
February	1,107,655,000	960,743,000	146,912,000	—
March	1,364,599,000	1,231,392,000	133,207,000	—
April	1,090,350,000	976,264,000	114,086,000	—
May	1,447,416,000	1,164,194,000	283,222,000	—
June	1,147,630,000	960,269,000	187,421,000	—
July	1,239,193,000	1,316,695,000	—	77,502,000
August	1,304,782,000	1,352,519,000	12,263,000	—
September	1,136,590,000	1,000,008,000	136,582,000	—
October 4	337,388,000	201,855,000	45,533,000	—
" 11	326,880,000	269,450,000	57,430,000	—
" 18	338,823,000	270,952,000	67,871,000	—
" 25	301,789,000	258,662,000	43,127,000	—
Nov. 1	315,087,000	273,423,000	41,664,000	—
Total	12,590,136,000	11,245,951,000	1,345,085,000	—

FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	Oct. 13, 1916.	Oct. 6, 1916.	Oct. 15, 1915.
	£	£	£
Gold coin and certificates ..	53,480,000	53,125,200	45,391,200
Gold Redemption Fund ..	337,400	362,000	242,400
Gold Settlement Fund ..	25,052,200	23,888,200	11,724,000
Legal tender notes, silver, &c.	2,275,400	2,708,200	3,949,600
Total reserves	81,145,000	80,193,600	61,307,200
5% redemption fund against			
F.R. bank notes	74,000	100,000	—
10-day bills and loans ..	2,708,600	3,012,200	1,338,800
30-day bills and loans ..	5,435,000	5,562,000	2,587,800
60-day bills and loans ..	6,718,200	6,422,400	2,940,600
90-day bills and loans ..	4,797,200	4,999,300	1,623,200
Maturities over 90 days ..	238,200	232,800	301,400
Total	19,897,200	20,218,800	8,791,800
Investments—			
U.S. Bonds	8,528,400	8,874,000	2,076,000
One year U.S. Treasury			
notes	2,088,800	1,752,600	—
Municipal Warrants ..	6,308,400	5,817,000	5,136,600
Federal Reserve notes—nett.	3,056,000	2,978,800	3,047,200
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—			
nett.	6,017,800	5,246,400	2,032,000
All other assets	535,000	609,000	603,600
Total assets	127,650,600	125,790,200	83,174,400
Paid-up capital	11,136,400	11,136,800	10,955,000
Government Deposits ..	4,043,000	6,794,200	3,000,000
Reserve deposits—nett. ..	108,808,600	105,203,800	65,753,200
Note circulation—nett. ..	2,464,200	2,356,400	2,958,200
Fed. Res. notes in circulation	206,600	206,600	—
All other liabilities	92,800	92,100	508,000
Total liabilities	127,650,600	125,790,200	83,174,400
Gold reserve against nett			
liabilities	71.6 %	70.9 %	82.1 %
Cash reserve against nett			
liabilities	73.6 %	73.5 %	88.0 %

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	Oct. 28, 1916.	Oct. 21, 1916.	Oct. 14, 1916.	Oct. 30, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Loans	660,912,000	664,146,000	668,822,000	607,934,000
Reserve held in own vaults ..	89,054,000	83,022,000	83,254,000	104,322,000
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk.	34,338,000	33,870,000	33,698,000	32,766,000
Reserve held in Other Depos.	10,666,000	10,668,000	10,704,000	9,218,000
Nett Demand Deposits ..	605,038,000	652,156,000	656,666,000	623,962,000
Nett Time Deposits	33,176,000	33,086,000	33,096,000	28,510,000
Circulation	6,320,000	6,326,000	6,288,000	7,138,000
Excess Lawful Reserve ..	21,146,000	15,202,000	14,464,000	38,740,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits.

NEW YORK STATE BANKS & TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.).

	Oct. 28, 1916.	Oct. 21, 1916.	Oct. 14, 1916.	Oct. 30, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Loans	146,770,000	146,256,000	145,262,000	120,562,000
Specie	12,104,000	12,120,000	11,910,000	10,430,000
Deposits	156,320,000	156,176,000	154,444,000	125,798,000
Legal Tenders	1,944,000	1,932,000	1,998,000	1,851,000

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Nov. 2, 1916.	Oct. 26, 1916.	Oct. 19, 1916.	Nov. 4, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold in hand	199,630,800	196,879,160	195,431,400	190,185,200
Silver in hand	13,043,760	13,121,880	13,142,400	14,495,040
Bills discounted	23,050,240	19,186,880	18,086,000	12,986,680
Advances	55,212,000	47,414,040	47,024,680	22,651,560
Note circulation	645,131,440	663,566,000	672,000,640	56,114,960
Public deposits	7,235,520	8,019,080	3,178,040	2,080,560
Private deposits	69,731,760	109,233,600	101,670,240	100,835,320
Foreign Bills	124,880	150,160	71,000	66,040

Proportion between bullion and circulation 32.97 per cent., against 31.64 per cent. last week. Advances to the State £284,000,000, decrease £80,000,000. The adjourned payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium, £24,953,840 decrease £70,240, and at the branches £29,883,600, decrease £99,440

IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Oct. 29, 1916.	Oct. 21, 1916.	Oct. 14, 1916.	Oct. 29, 1915.
Notes in reserve ..	10,510,000	10,530,000	8,790,000	8,417,700
Gold ..	155,880,000	155,000,000	155,420,000	150,825,000
Gold in reserve abroad ..	20,500,000	205,500,000	205,490,000	3,550,900
Treasury Bonds ..	600,350,000	527,800,000	514,429,000	
Circulation note issue ..	784,490,000	771,972,000	753,719,000	509,560,000
Treasury deposits ..	22,573,000	21,570,000	20,190,000	21,978,800

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Oct. 23, 1916.	Oct. 14, 1916.	Oct. 7, 1916.	Oct. 23, 1915.
Total Coin & Bullion ..	125,998,850	125,901,100	125,563,550	123,122,300
Treasury Notes ..	18,583,600	17,021,400	18,503,650	56,272,700
Bills discounted ..	380,794,050	373,946,050	373,403,050	190,172,450
Advances ..	569,550	546,450	546,650	741,150
Note circulation ..	351,007,750	356,342,350	361,527,250	283,750,850
Deposits ..	165,005,000	164,483,250	160,816,000	162,000,000

Clearing House returns during Sept., £262,125,250 against £260,331,160 in Aug.

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Oct. 21, 1916.	Oct. 14, 1916.	Oct. 7, 1916.	Oct. 23, 1915.
Gold ..	42,396,013	47,344,088	47,177,097	31,186,713
Silver ..	29,752,839	29,675,088	29,806,777	29,473,684
Foreign Bills ..	4,031,801	4,044,715	4,045,364	4,145,862
Discounts and Short Bills ..	24,815,846	24,074,708	24,257,772	26,893,954
Treasury Account, &c. ..	31,869,324	31,161,820	29,583,825	28,756,019
Notes in Circulation ..	92,277,777	92,531,610	92,152,937	82,093,027
Current Accounts, Deposits ..	29,449,816	31,055,950	30,032,663	25,310,865
Dividends, Interest, &c. ..	1,594,856	1,724,362	1,845,226	1,688,195
Government Securities ..	4,448,106	1,609,545	1,822,328	1,398,138

NETHERLANDS BANK (12 Florins to the £).

	Oct. 28, 1916.	Oct. 21, 1916.	Oct. 14, 1916.	Oct. 30, 1915.
Gold and Silver ..	49,181,083	49,172,250	49,245,750	33,528,812
Bills and Advances ..	14,633,416	15,049,333	14,597,000	14,974,299
Note circulation ..	61,077,333	59,867,533	59,810,666	47,487,472
Deposits ..	6,136,000	7,442,666	7,339,333	1,124,036

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	Sept. 20, 1916.	Sept. 10, 1916.	Aug. 31, 1916.	Sept. 20, 1915.
Total cash ..	42,496,720	43,130,520	43,996,120	55,156,120
Inland Bills ..	20,448,680	19,514,520	19,331,080	21,307,560
Foreign Bills ..	834,400	833,520	833,480	832,600
Advances ..	7,047,120	7,548,800	7,713,920	8,458,560
Government securities ..	8,831,040	8,828,320	8,801,080	7,455,240
Circulation ..	139,766,920	138,103,560	136,584,200	111,579,640
Deposits at notice ..	15,479,120	14,127,040	14,845,520	10,968,280
Current accounts ..	15,174,520	15,878,640	13,939,280	18,701,260

BANK OF NORWAY.

	Oct. 22, 1916.	Oct. 15, 1916.	Oct. 7, 1916.	Oct. 22, 1915.
Gold ..	6,173,000	6,262,000	6,272,000	3,656,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	5,501,000	5,588,000	5,499,000	3,732,000
Gov't Securities ..	767,000	767,000	767,000	781,000
Discounts & Loans ..	6,522,000	6,538,000	6,447,000	4,014,000
Notes in Circulation ..	12,677,000	12,698,000	12,601,000	8,254,000
Deposits at notice ..	3,731,000	3,869,000	3,818,000	1,363,000

BANK OF SWEDEN.

	Oct. 21, 1916.	Oct. 14, 1916.	Oct. 7, 1916.	Oct. 23, 1915.
Gold ..	9,580,000	9,494,000	9,494,000	6,300,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	9,332,000	9,212,000	9,347,000	6,614,000
Gov't Securities ..	3,826,000	3,757,000	3,743,000	3,015,000
Discounts and Loans ..	4,318,000	4,505,000	4,061,000	4,897,000
Notes in circulation ..	19,707,000	20,254,000	20,341,000	16,136,000
Deposits at notice ..	6,061,000	5,558,000	5,013,000	4,752,000

SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	Oct. 23, 1916.	Oct. 14, 1916.	Oct. 7, 1916.	Oct. 23, 1915.
Gold and silver ..	13,690,144	13,712,704	13,725,388	12,220,282
Bills ..	7,268,532	7,154,400	7,997,400	5,932,144
Note circulation ..	18,329,996	18,331,664	18,535,100	16,805,395
Current and deposit accounts ..	4,814,824	5,023,056	5,370,264	3,492,954

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.
Paris ..	cbqs.	47-79	47-79	Antwerp ..	st or	—	—
Brussels ..	cbqs.	—	—	Italy ..	st or	31-30	31-95
Amsterdam ..	sight	11-63	11-63	Constantinople ..	3 mths	—	—
Christiania ..	—	17-14	17-15	Rio de Janeiro ..	90 dys	12d.	12d.
Stockholm ..	—	16-70	16-73	Buenos Aires ..	90 dys	50d.	50d.
Copenhagen ..	—	17-58	17-55	Calcutta ..	T.T.	1/4d.	1/4d.
Petrograd ..	3 mths	154	156	Bombay ..	T.T.	1/4d.	1/4d.
New York ..	cable	4-78	4-76	Hong Kong ..	T.T.	2 1/2d.	2 1/2d.
Lisbon ..	sight	33 1/2	33 1/2	Shanghai ..	T.T.	3 1/4d.	3 1/4d.
Madrid ..	sight	23-40	23-38	Singapore ..	T.T.	2 1/4d.	2 1/4d.
Switzerland ..	—	25-05	24-85	Yokohama ..	4 mths	2 1/4d.	2 1/4d.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Oct. 31, 1916.		Nov. 2, 1916.	
		Sellers.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Buyers.
Amsterdam ..	Cable transfers ..	11.60	11.63	11.60	11.64
Paris ..	Three months' bills ..	11.75	11.80	11.75	11.80
Madrid ..	Cable transfers ..	27.75	27.80	27.76	27.80
Marseilles ..	Three months' bills ..	28.15	28.25	28.15	28.25
Switzerland ..	Cable transfers ..	28.15	28.25	28.15	28.25
Petrograd ..	Three months' bills ..	24.90	25.00	24.83	24.93
Genoa, &c. ..	Cable transfers ..	25.25	25.35	25.18	25.28
Spain ..	Three months' bills ..	155 1/2	156 1/2	155 1/2	156 1/2
Lisbon and Oporto ..	Cable transfers ..	31.75	31.90	31.80	31.90
Copenhagen ..	Cable transfers ..	32.20	32.35	32.25	32.35
Christiania ..	Three months' bills ..	23.40	23.50	23.35	23.45
Stockholm ..	Cable transfers ..	48 1/2	48 1/2	48 1/2	48 1/2
	Three months' bills ..	33	33 1/2	33 1/2	33 1/2
	Cable transfers ..	17.50	17.60	17.50	17.60
	Cable transfers ..	17.10	17.20	17.10	17.20
	Cable transfers ..	16.70	16.80	16.70	16.80

TREASURY BILLS.

	Last week.	This week
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months ..	5 1/2	5 1/2
Six months ..	5 1/2	5 1/2
Nine months ..	5 1/2	5 1/2
Twelve months ..	5 1/2	5 1/2

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Last week.	This week
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted ..	5 1/2	5 1/2
Three months ..	5 1/2	5 1/2
Four months ..	5 1/2	5 1/2
Six months ..	5 1/2	5 1/2
Three months fine inland bills ..	6 1/2	6 1/2
Four months ..	6 1/2	6 1/2
Six months ..	6 1/2	6 1/2

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Last week.	This week
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate ..	6	6
" " short loan rates ..	6 1/2	6 1/2
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	4	4
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call) ..	4 1/2	4 1/2
" " 7 and 14 days' notice ..	4 1/2	4 1/2
Current rates for 7 day loans ..	5	5
" " for call loans ..	4 1/2	4 1/2

The Week's Stock Markets.

With the All Saints' holiday occurring on Wednesday the Stock Exchange did not show much disposition to encourage business either in the first or the second half of the week, and dealings have been of a rather poverty-stricken description on the days the House has been open. Probably the majority of ordinary members hoped that the practice of closing on Saturdays, which has prevailed for over two months, would be continued, but the Committee decided otherwise. It is understood, however, that the proposal was only lost by a single vote, and that gives a fairly good idea of the strength of the feeling in favour of taking a few more half-days off so as to give the much-depleted staffs the advantage of a long week-end. Of news calculated to influence markets there was practically none. Weather conditions have to a certain extent come to the rescue of the Huns on the West, and in some quarters there is still a good deal of anxiety about the actual position in Rumania, although we can see no reason for nervousness in any direction, and the latest developments have been distinctly more favourable. Dealings have started in the new French loan round about the issue price, but they will not become really active until M. Ribot, the Finance Minister, makes an official statement as to the total amount subscribed and the share taken in this country. The only real surprise of the week was the announcement of the full dividend on Buenos Ayres and Pacific seconds and Argentine Great Western ordinary (which ranks *pari passu* with the former) together with 1 per cent. against nil on Pacific ordinary. As the increased distribution means an addition of about £170,000 to nett revenue, while gross earnings were only £60,000 up, there must have been a substantial saving in expenses, probably because a year ago there was a heavy outlay in repairing flood damage. At any rate, the announcement created an excellent impression, and prices advanced smartly. Canadian railway statements were not much liked owing to the big advance in working expenditure, and in the American market there has been nothing very exciting except the rise in Steel Trust owing to the dividend being placed on a 9 per cent. basis. Ah, well, we cannot grudge them piling up dollars on Europe's agony.

With the Stock Exchange closed on Saturday and again on Wednesday there has been no great activity in business, but the tone as a whole has been firmer. Consols were dull, and fell to 56, but the 3½ per cent. War Loan hardened to 84½ and the 4½ per cent. issue to 94¼ xd. Irish Land stock has fallen way ¼, and India 3 and 3½ per cents. are both lower. Colonial Government stocks have been neglected, and show 10

are few. Great Northern preferred lost 1¼, and North-Western and Midland deferred ½. Metropolitan and District both gave way ½, and Underground Electric income debenture stock dropped 1. Scotch stocks were weak, with losses of ¼ to ½. Canadian Pacific shares relapsed to 180¾, but the only changes in Grand Trunk stocks were losses of ½ in the ordinary, 1 in the second preference and ¼ in the thirds. American Railroad shares have moved irregularly, but are mostly lower on balance. International Mercantile Marine common and preferred improved on the announcement that the receiver had been discharged. United States Steel jumped to 127¼ on the dividend. Argentine Railway stocks were weak at first, but rallied on the Buenos Ayres and Pacific dividend, which came as a very pleasant surprise, as the market had not looked for more than payment in full on the second preference. Buenos Ayres and Pacific finished 1½ up at 45, and Buenos Ayres Great Southern and Buenos Ayres Western both recovered earlier losses, but owing to the unsatisfactory crop news from the Northern districts Central Argentine dropped ¾ to 72 xd, and Cordoba Central debentures were lower.

Bank shares were hardly mentioned, but Barclay "A" dropped ½ and the "B" ½; and Parr's also fell ½, while Capital and Counties and London Joint Stock lost ¼ each, and South-Western ½, while Lloyds rose ½. National Discount shares fell ¼, and in the Foreign and Colonial group Standard of South Africa and Hongkong and Shanghai were marked down ½ each, and Anglo-South American and British Bank for Foreign Trade were both ½ lower. Shipping shares were mostly quiet, but a demand sprung up for P. and O. deferred, and the price closed 3 up at 34½, after being a point higher. Ellerman preference shares also met with a little support, and closed higher at 9½ xd, but Furness, Court Line and Union of New Zealand were all easier. Brazilian Traction shares improved ¾ to 55½, and Barcelona Traction improved to 17 on the report. Lake Superior Corporation were strong on the circular issued by the United States Mortgage and Trust Co inviting tenders from the holders of the 5 per cent. bonds. Spanish River were sold with some freedom; and touched 16½ for the ordinary and 52 for the preferred, but support was then forthcoming, and they recovered to 19 and 59½ respectively. Hudson's Bay shares were weak and ½ lower at 6½, and a little selling of Forestal Land left the ordinary 1s. down and the preference 6d. lower, while Nigers relapsed to 36s. Dealings in Engineering and Munitions shares continue small, and prices generally were easier, but Canadian Steel things improved. Associated Cement debentures were offered, the first declining 2 to 75 and the second 1 to 77½ xd., while British Cement debentures were marked down 1 in sympathy. Borax Consolidated deferred came into request on the declaration of an interim dividend of 1s. per share as against 6d. a year ago, and there was also a renewal of the demand for British Oil and Cake Mills. Courtaulds dropped to 5½, on the offering of a large block of shares, but once this was disposed of there was a rapid recovery to 6½. Coats improved to 63½, but other Textile things were dull. Lyons were offered down to 4½, but Aerated Bread remained steady at 2½. Meat shares came in for a little attention, and prices generally hardened. Peek Brothers and Winch went back to 2½ on the report, but Roneo improved to 16s. 3d.

Oil shares have again been very quiet. "Shell" were offered and dropped to 5 9-32, Royal Dutch were ½ down at 44, and North Caucasian and Ural Caspian both gave way slightly. There was a good inquiry for Roumanian Consols, which were dealt in up to 15s., but reacted to 14s. Mexican Eagle ordinary and preference were in demand, and Burmah also hardened on a little buying. Business in Rubber shares showed a further shrinkage, and although prices close well above the lowest, the majority of the changes on the week were adverse. Tandjong, however, after touching 7s. 6d., rallied to 7s. 6d. on the excellent report. Java descriptions were mostly a shade harder, and amongst Trust companies' shares, Rubber Trusts improved to 25s. 3d., but Java Investment and Loan were a shade easier at 21s. 6d.

THE UNION BANK OF AUSTRALIA

ESTABLISHED 1837. LIMITED. INCORPORATED 1880.

Authorised and Issued Capital, £6,000,000.

Paid-up Capital, £2,000,000; Reserve Fund, £1,960,000; together £3,960,000

Reserve Liability of Proprietors 4,000,000

Total Capital and Reserves £7,960,000

HEAD OFFICE - - - 71, CORNHILL, LONDON, E.

DRAFTS are granted on the Bank's Branches throughout the Australian States and Dominion of New Zealand.

TELEGRAPHIC REMITTANCES are also made.

BILLS are purchased or sent for Collection.

DEPOSITS are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application.

THE LONDON BANK OF AUSTRALIA, LIMITED.

Head Office—71 Old Broad Street, E.C.

Subscribed Capital	£1,276,747	10	0
Paid up Capital	689,665	0	0
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits ..	354,791	5	3
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	606,962	10	0

REMITTANCES made by CABLE.

DRAFTS, LETTERS OF CREDIT and CIRCULAR NOTES issued upon Branches and Agents.

BILLS on Australasia NEGOTIATED or sent for collection.

DEPOSITS RECEIVED for periods and at rates which may be ascertained on application, and Banking Business of every description conducted with Australia.

	Last Week	This Week		Last Week	This Week
Consols.....	56½	56	N.S.W. 4½ 1922-7	94	94
War Loan 3½%	84½	84½	" 5% 1921-3	90½	90½
" 4½%	94½	94½	" 5½ 1921-2	2 dis.	2 dis.
India 3%	58½	57½	New Zealand 4%	85	85
" 3½%	67½	67½	Queensland 4%	82½	82½
Australian 5½%, 1920-22	99½	99½	" 4½% new	93½	93½
Canada 4½%, 1940-60	82½	82½	Union of S. Africa 4½%	92	92
N.S.W. 4½%	95½	94½	1920-5	92	92
" 4½% 5 yr. bds.	95	95	Victoria 4½%, 1920-5	93	93
Belgian 3%	61	61	Westn. Aus. 4%	81½	81½
Brazil, 1913	63	63	French War Loan, 5%	81	81½
" New Funding	78	77½	Japan 4½% (1st)	94½	95
Chinese 1896	89	89	" (2nd)	95	95
" 1912	72½	72½	Russia 4%	67½	67½
Egypt Unified 4%	77½	77½	" 4½%	77½	77½
Brighton defd.	63½	63	" 5%	88½	88½
Caledonian defd.	9	8½	London and S.W. dfd.	22½	22½
Chatham ord.	8½	8½	Do. new pf.	98	98
Gt. Central pf.	142	142	Metropolitan	22½	22½
" dfd.	7½	7½	Do. 5% New pf.	90	90
Gt. Eastern	35½	35½	Met. District	16½	16
Gt. Northern dfd.	37½	37½	Midland dfd.	57½	57
Gt. Western	91	91½	Nth. British dfd.	13½	13½
Lancs. and Yorks.	68	68	Nth.-Eastern	101½	101½
			Nth.-Western	99½	99½
			Sth.-Eastern dfd.	26½	26½
Canadian Pacific	183½	180½	Chesapeake	71½	72
Do. 6% Notes	109½	109	Erie	40½	41½
E. Indian Guar. 4½% debts.	93	93	Milwaukee	90½	90½
Grand Trunk ord.	108½	108½	N. Y. Central	113½	113½
Do. 3rd pf.	26	25½	Southern	30½	30½
Do. 5½ 3-yr. Notes	96	96	Southern Pacific	106½	105½
Do. 5½ 5-yr. "	96	96	Union Pacific	158½	158½
Atchison	112½	111½	U. S. Steel	126	127½
Baltimore	92½	92½	Cent. Argentine ord.	75½	71½
Antofagasta dfd.	128½	126½	Do. 5% Notes	96	96
Do. 6% Notes	102	102	Do. 6% "	100½	100½
Brazil Common	58	58	Leopoldina	34	34
B. A. & Pacific	41½	45	Mexican ord.	18½	18½
B. A. Gt. Southern	83½	81½	San Paulo (Brazilian)	186	185
B. A. Western	84½	81½	United of Havana	82	82
Bank of Australasia	117	116	London City & Midland	7½	7½
Barclay & Co. "A"	7½	7½	London County & West	15	15
Do. "B"	11	10½	London Joint Stock	22½	22
Capital & Counties	23½	23½	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (£104 pd)	26	26
Chartered of India	58	58	Do. (£12 pd)	30½	30½
Hongkong & Shanghai	79	78½	Parr's	29½	29
Lloyds	23½	23½	Standard of S.A.	10½	10½
London & Provincial	16½	16½	Union & Smiths	24	24
London & S.W.	118½	118½			
Apollinaris ord.	1½	1½	Forestal Land	51½	51
Armstrong, Whitworth	38½	38½	Furness, Withy	51½	50½
Associated Cement	38	38	Hudson's Bay	6½	6½
Birmingham Small Arms	44½	44½	Imperial Tobacco 'B' pf.	22½	22½
Borax dfd.	34½	35½	Do. 'C' pf.	34½	34½
Bovril	20½	20½	Kynochs	30½	29½
Brazil Traction	54½	55½	Lever Bros. "C" pf.	20½	20½
British Amer. Tobacco	5	4½	Lyons, J.	4½	4½
Brown (John), & Co.	35½	35½	Marconi	24½	24½
Brunner, Mond	48½	48	Maypole Dairy dfd.	20½	21½
Cammell-Laird	38½	38	Mond Nickel ord.	33	33
Castner-Kellner	38½	38	National Steam Car	20½	20½
Coats	68	68	Pears, A. & F.	11½	11½
Cunard	86½	86	P. & O. dfd.	33½	34½
Dennis Bros.	36½	36½	Royal Mail	121	119½
Dorman, Long	33½	33½	South Durham Steel	34½	34½
Eastmans	71½	71½	Underground Inc. Bds.	89	89
English Sewing Cotton	43½	43½	Vickers	37½	37½
Fine Cotton Spinners	29½	28½			
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	8½	8½	Mexican Eagle pf.	36½	36½
Baku (ros.)	3½	3½	North Caucasian	25½	25½
Burmah	48½	48½	Roumanian Cons.	13½	14
Labrois	41½	41½	Royal Dutch (too gulden)	44½	44
Maikop Combine (ros.)	3½	3½	Shell	58	58½
Maikop Pipeline	4½	4½	Spies (too-)	13½	14½
Mexican Eagle	35½	36½	Ural Caspian	33½	31½
Anglo-Java Rub. (2½-)	51½	54½	Malayalam Lt.	34½	34½
Anglo-Malay 2½-	11½	11½	Merlimau 2½-	5½	5½
Ayer Kuning Lt.	32½	33½	Pataling 2½-	33½	33½
Bukit Mertajam 2½-	5½	5½	Port Dickson 2½-	3½	3½
Bukit Sembawang 2½-	3½	3½	Rubber Trust Lt.	24½	25½
Carey United Lt.	39½	40½	Sapumalkande Lt.	22½	22½
Grand Central Lt.	26½	25½	Sialang Lt.	63½	63½
Gula Kalumpung Lt.	31½	31½	Singapore Para 2½-	3½	3½
Highlands Lt.	53½	53½	Singapore United 2½-	3½	3½
Java Para Lt.	31½	31½	Taiping 2½-	37½	37½
Johore Rubber Lands Lt.	31½	30½	Tandjong Lt.	73½	77½
Langen Java Lt.	46½	45½	Tandjong Malim Lt.	31½	29½
Linggi 2½-	21½	21½	Tebrau Lt.	73½	69½
London Asiatic 2½-	73½	73½	United Serdang 2½-	11½	11½
Malacca Lt.	87½	87½	Vallambrosa 2½-	18½	17½
Abontiakoon (too-)	5½	6½	De Beers dfd. (£2 10s.)	12½	12½
Brakpan	4½	4½	East Rand	15½	15½
Broken Hill Prop. (8½-)	54½	54½	Gt. Boulder (2½-)	11½	11½
Cam & Motor	11½	12½	Meyer & Charlton	5½	5½
Central Mining (£12)	7	6½	Modder "B"	6½	6½
Chartered	11½	11½	Do. Deep	7½	7½
City Deep	44	43	New Modder (£4)	18½	18½
Cons. Gold Fields	13	13	Rand Mines (5½-)	3½	3½
Cons. Langlaagte	28½	17½	Rio Tinto (£5)	63	61½
Crown Mines (too-)	3	3½	Van Ryn Deep	3½	3½

change beyond a drop of 1 in South Australian 5 per cent. of 1921-3. In the Foreign bond market the French War Loan improved to 81½, and the new issue, in which dealings begun on Thursday, was quoted at 80½. Greek issues recovered, and Egyptian Unified improved to 79. Japanese 4½ per cent. issues gave way at first, but rallied sharply, and close ½ up on balance at 95. Brazilian things were all unaltered, but Argentine and Chilean issues hardened on the Treasury announcement to holders who have not yet deposited their bonds.

Home Railway stocks have been dull, but movements in price

LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

SUGAR.—As supplies come to hand they pass into consumption readily, and no change was made in prices. In the three chief ports of the U.K. stocks of raw descriptions amount to 63,900 tons, against 38,500 same time last year.

COFFEE keeps quiet, and moderate quantities offered in auction this week were only partially disposed of at about late values. Bold sizes of unwashed Dumont sold, 53s. 6d. to 58s.; good bold Vera Paz, 75s. 6d. Future delivery market, though steady, lacked anything approaching vitality. December sold, 46s. 6d.

Cocoa.—Market dull and featureless in the absence of auctions.

CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 3, 1916.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
Sugar —per cwt., duty 14½, 98% polarisation	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Wool —per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tate's Cubes No.1	2 7 1½	2 7 1½	Australian	6½-3 9	1 6-4 0½
Ditto, H.T.S.	2 6 7½	2 6 7½	Scoured Merino	9½-2 11½	1 0½-2 11½
Fine granulated	nom.	nom.	Greasy Merino	5-2 3½	1 0-2 3
Lyle's granulated	41 7½-42 1½	41 7½-42 1½	Greasy Crossbred	1-1 8½	1-1 8½
Foreign granulated, first marks	nom.	nom.	New Zealand	3-2 3 ½	2-3 9½
f.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	(scoured) Merino	1-1 11	1 0½-1 11½
German Cubes, f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	2 0-3 6½	1 10-3 5
French Cube	nom.	nom.	Cape snow white	0 2 5½	0 2 6½
prompt	nom.	nom.	Indiarubber p. lb		
Crystallised, West	nom.	nom.	Plantation, Spot		
India	nom.	nom.	Crepe		
Beet, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Coal—per ton	nom.	nom.
Tea —per lb., duty	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Durham, best	nom.	nom.
1½ lb.			Seconds	nom.	nom.
Indian Pekoe	0 9-1 2	0 9½-1 2	East Hartlepool	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 10-1 2½	0 9½-1 2	Seconds	37/6	37/6
Orange	0 10-1 3½	0 10-1 2½	Steamers, best	30/	30/
Broken	10½-1 10	10½-1 9½	Seconds	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Pekoe Souehong	0 9-1 11	0 9½-1 11	English Pig.	32 5 0	32 5 0
Ceylon Pekoe	0 9½-1 13	0 9½-1 10	Foreign salt	30 10 0	30 10 0
Broken	0 9½-1 2½	10-1 1	Quicksilver —per	£17½	£17½
Orange	10½-1 1	10-1 1½	bottle first hand		
Broken	10½-1 3½	11½-1 3	lin—per ton	£183-£184	£183½-£184½
Pekoe Souehong	0 9½-1 10½	0 9½-1 10½	English Ingots	£184-£185	£184½-£185½
Cocoa —per cwt., duty 6d. per lb.	81 0-85 0	81 0-85 0	Do, bars	£181 5 0	£182 5 0
Trinidad—per cwt.	81 0-85 0	81 0-85 0	Standard cash	nom.	nom.
Grenada	73 0-82 6	73 0-82 6	Tin Plates, per box	nom.	nom.
West Africa	70 0-74 0	70 0-74 0	Jopper—per ton.	nom.	nom.
Ceylon Plantation	72 0-91 0	72 0-91 0	English, Tough	nom.	nom.
Guayaquil Arriba	96 0-98 0	96 0-98 0	per ton	nom.	nom.
Coffee —per cwt., duty 42½ per cwt.			Best Selected	£149-£141	£148-£143
East India	67 0-95 0	67 0-95 0	Sheets	£168	£168
Jamaica	62 0-120 6	62 0-120 6	Standard	£124 10 0	£124
Costa Rica	62 0-84 0	62 0-84 0	Wool —per ton.		
Provisions			Native firsts for	£35 10 0	£35 10 0
Butter, per cwt.			shipment Oct-Nov		
Australian finest	nom.	nom.	Oils		
Irish Creameries	up to 202/	196½-204/	Linseed, per ton	£44-£45	£46-£47
Dutch ditto	194½-196/	196½-200/	Rape, ref. English,	£50-£52	£52-£54
Russian finest	nom.	nom.	barrels		
Normandy baskets	nom.	nom.	Brown English,		
Danish finest	212½-214/	214½-218/	naked	£47 0 0	£48 5 0
Brittany rolls			Cott'n Seed, crude	£43 0 0	£43 0 0
doz. lb.	17/6-20/6	18/6-21/6	Ditto, refined	£50-£54	£50-£54
Bacon —per cwt.			Petroleum Oil, per		
Irish	108 0-118 0	110 0-120 0	8 lbs.	1/1½	1/1½
Continental	98 0-118 0	102 0-120 0	Water White	1/2½	1/2½
Canadian	100 0-112 0	100 0-114 0	Oil Seeds, Linseed		
American	98 0-101 0	96 0-102 0	Calcutta—per 410		
Hams —per cwt.			lbs., Oct.-Nov.	4 6 6	4 11 0
Irish	146/1-156/	148/1-160/	Rape, Toria	75/6	75/6
Canadian	114 0-116 0	116 0-118 0	Iron —per ton		
American	69 0-112	71 0-112 0	Cleveland Cash	nom.	nom.
Cheese —per cwt.			Tobacco —duty,		
Dutch	78 0-108 0	80 0-108 0	unmanufactured		
Canadian	112 0-116 0	114 0-118 0	5/6 to 6/2½ per lb.		
English Cheddar	118 0-124 0	118 0-124 0	Maryland & Ohio		
Wilt's loaf	nom.	nom.	per lb. bond	0 6-0 10	0 6-0 10
New Zealand	112 0-113 0	112 0-114 0	Virginia leaf	0 8-1 6	0 8-1 6
Rice —per cwt.			Kentucky leaf	0 6½-0 10	0 6½-0 10
Garden Siam	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Latakia	1 0-3 0	1 0-3 0
spot	17 9	17 9	Java	1 0-0 0	1 0-0 0
Rangoon 2 stars	17 0	17 0	Manilla	0 6-4 0	0 6-4 0
Edge —per 120.			Cigars, duty 10/6		
English	38 0-30 0	30 0-33 0	per lb.	2/ upds.	2/ upds.
Irish	24 0-26 0	29 0-31 0	Timber —Wood.		
Danish	25 0-27 6	29 0-32 0	Pitch line	250/-270/	250/-270/
Spelter			Indian leaf	400/-600/	400/-600/
G.O.B. as to position	£54½-£51	£52½-£50½	Furpentine		
Flour—per sack.			American Spot	2 3 9	2 4 9
Town Households			Copra		
Official	58/	60/	Malabar, London,	nom.	nom.
American First	60/ upds	64/6 upds	Oct.-Dec.		
Patents			Ceylon	35 5 0	36 12 6
			South Sea	34 10 0	35 15 0
			F.M.S.	34 15 0	35 15 0

TEA.—During the week 55,000 packages Indian, 22,000 Ceylon, and 2,000 packages Java were submitted to public sale. With no falling-off in competition, recent rates were not only maintained, but in some cases slightly exceeded.

SPICE quiet, but firmer for pepper, with business in black Singapore, October-December steamer, 7½d.; January-March, 8d.; white ditto, October-December, 9½d.; Muntok, 9½d. Cloves dull. Fair Zanzibar, spot, sold, 6½d. Tapioca quiet, but with prices tending against buyers.

RICE in good support, and market firmer. Bran stronger, and business done to London, November-December, at 25s., ex ship terms.

FIBRES.—Manila hemp opened firmer, but assumed a quieter tone later. Fair, October-December, sold, £54; medium, £52; coarse, £51; coarse brown, £50 5s. to £50. New Zealand steady, unaltered. Jute steady, but only moderate transactions were effected, including native first marks, spot, London, £34 10s. to £35.

SHELLAC.—Fair spot sales in orange on the basis of 123s. to 127s. Futures steadier. T.N., December, sold, 124s. to 127s. 6d.; March, 126s. to 130s.

RUBBER quiet and without new feature. Plantation, spot, crepe, sold, 2s. 6d., 2s. 5½d., and 2s. 6½d.; December, 2s. 6½d., 2s. 5½d., and 2s. 6½d. Ribbed standard smoked sheet, spot, 2s. 5½d., 2s. 5½d., and 2s. 6d. Fine hard Para, spot, sellers, 3s. 4½d.

COPRA steadily hardened under sustained buying orders, and reserve adopted by sellers.

METALS.—Copper: A subdued but steady tone prevailed since last Monday. Little change occurred in prices of standard until the middle of the week, cash being officially fixed at £124 to £124 10s., and three months £119 to £120. At Thursday's session cash was officially quoted at £123 to £124 10s., three months £119 to £120. Electro, £145 to £141. Tin, while irregular, moved rather firmer at the week's commencement, standard cash delivery fluctuating to £181 10s., and three months to £183. Selling desire and a relapse followed until Wednesday's session, when cash delivery moved down to £180 10s., and three months to £181 10s. A further recession was recovered at Thursday's meeting, when cash delivery closed at £180 10s., and three months £181 15s. Spelter easier. G.O.B., November, £52 10s.; January, £50 10s. Lead steady, but slow. Foreign, November to January, £30 10s. to £29 10s. Quicksilver remains at £17 15s.

CORN (Mark Lane).—Increased strength characterised the tendency of prices in the grain trade this week, checking influences being given to business at intervals. Demand fair. Wheat: English, milling, 77s. to 78s.; seeding, 81s. for both whites and reds per qr., 504 lbs., delivered. Imported descriptions: Canadian, No. 1 Northern Manitoba, nominal, at 86s. 6d., ex ship. Flour: Minneapolis first patents, 64s. 6d. upwards, landed. Grinding barley: Indian, upwards 58s., landed; La Plata, ex quay, 58s. Oats: La Plata, landed, upwards 38s. 9d. Maize: La Plata (sound), landed, 57s. 3d.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—The market this week has been a little disturbed by the ups and downs in raw cotton rates, but the undercurrent of demand in yarn and cloth continues encouraging, and quite a substantial business has been done in some quarters. Buyers who have orders to place find it risky to delay, as quite apart from changes in raw cotton, there is a tendency at the moment for prices to harden. No development can be recorded with regard to prospective supplies in either American or Egyptian cotton. The operatives engaged in the cardroom section of the trade are approaching the masters for an increase in wages, although, according to Sir George Askwith's award of last June, list rates are fixed until the end of this year. It is said, however, that the workpeople are getting very restless, and if nothing is done irregular action will be taken at individual mills. In cloth for export the feature of interest has been the increased demand with larger sales in grey staples for India. Madras has led the way in buying, and freer operations have also occurred for Calcutta. Some producers of shirtings, jaconets, and dhooties have strengthened their position. China has not been generally active, but fair miscellaneous transactions have occurred, chiefly in finishing cloths. The general undercurrent of demand for Egypt continues promising, and certain kinds of cloth are badly wanted on the other side. The home trade continues to give steady support, and it is of interest to note that a leading manufacturer has issued a revised advanced list of prices, and other makers are now putting up their quotations. The weaving branch of our industry has improved its position during the last few weeks, and buyers are finding sellers more difficult to deal with. A firm tone has prevailed throughout the yarn section. In both American and Egyptian qualities for home use full rates have had to be paid for anything wanted. There is a tendency for prices to be maintained when raw cotton is easier, and when futures advance quotations are put up.

UNITED ELECTRIC TRAMWAYS CO. OF CARACAS, LTD.—Operations of the local company were again adversely affected by the war in the 12 months ended June 30, and the gross receipts were only Rs. 207 up, while the expenses rose by Rs. 24,793. After providing for interest and setting aside Rs. 50,000 to reserve and renewals funds, the local company again declared a dividend, absorbing the whole of the nett profits. These amounted to £14,662, or £474 less, and the available balance, including £1,300 brought forward, was £1,421 smaller at £14,328. The dividend is maintained at 7 per cent., less tax, but the bonus of 1½ per cent. paid a year ago is not repeated, and £2,428, or £1,129 more, is carried forward.

MANILA RAILWAY CO. (1906), LTD.—The directors regret that they will not be in a position by the date of the meeting to present the usual statement of accounts owing to the fact that the adjustment of figures as between this company and the Manila Railroad Co. for the purposes of the agreement entered into with the Philippine Government on December 18 last, and approved by the company in general meeting on August 8 of this year, is still in progress, though it is hoped that it will shortly be completed. They therefore propose that the meeting (which must formally be held on November 8, in order to comply with statutory requirements) be adjourned to a later date, to be fixed as soon as the figures have been adjusted.

Excess Profits Problems.

Great interest is still displayed in the many knotty problems connected with the assessment of excess profits duty, and some of the doubts and difficulties that have arisen are so complicated that some different system will probably have to be adopted if the tax is to be continued for any number of years. Nearly all comparatively new undertakings which have to rely on the percentage standard for their datum line are protesting against the 6 per cent. basis, and in most cases with a great deal of justification. On the whole, the Board of Referees appear to be lending a sympathetic ear to the appeals brought before them, and if they cannot grant all the relief asked they have made fairly generous concessions. Kinematograph shows, for instance, are allowed to take 11 per cent. as their standard, and considering the highly speculative character of these entertainments the level is not a bit too high. Motor buses are put on an 8 per cent. basis, and tramways, light railways, &c., $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Both these groups deserve special consideration, and we are a little doubtful whether the concession is sufficient in their case. Electric supply and traction companies in Victoria, Australia, are also allowed $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., but similar ventures in India get only 7 per cent., and the reason for the distinction is not very obvious. These are the principal miscellaneous decisions of the Board so far announced, and with other instances of a similar kind they suggest that the statutory basis of 6 per cent. was fixed much too low, and that a great deal of trouble and expense would have been spared if a more generous view had been taken of the matter originally.

Even when the datum line has been fixed, accountants and assessors are only at the beginning of their difficulties. According to the Act, assets are to be taken at their purchase price "subject to proper deductions for wear and tear and replacements." The use of the word "proper" opens up a wide vista of possibilities, and probably no two authorities will agree on its interpretation. Deductions for these purposes are allowed under the income-tax regulations in computing profits, and companies naturally try to make them as liberal as possible, but exactly the opposite tendency will be shown in computing the capital value on which the standard rate of interest will be allowed. In the well-known "Vallambrosa decision," the Scottish Court of Session ruled that expenditure on weeding, clearing, draining, and making roads must be allowed as a deduction from profits before arriving at the amount assessable for income-tax. In some cases, we understand that the same principle has been applied in dealing with the schedule governing the computation of capital for excess profits, and if this view is generally adopted the capital of rubber companies will have to be written down by the amount expended on upkeep and development until the productive stage is reached. It is difficult to believe that this represents the intention of Parliament, and it will be necessary to obtain an authoritative ruling on the point as soon as possible to avoid irritating delays and overpayments. How it would work out may be seen from the following illustrations, given in *Truth* :—

—	Issued Share Capital.	Capital after Adjustment.	The 10 % rate is therefore reduced to—
	£	£	%
Sempah	71,000	57,000	8
Bantardawa	103,000	73,000	7
Tamiang	84,000	51,000	6
Soember Ajoe	72,500	70,000	$9\frac{1}{2}$

If that principle is adopted the "flat" rate of 10 per cent. will prove a considerable delusion, although Mr. McKenna on more than one occasion promised young rubber companies special consideration when the Finance Bill was under discussion. He promised them "a fair and generous return," going on to say that "when a man invests in a rubber company he expects to get perhaps 8, 9, or 10 per cent. In the first year in which there is a good profit he expects a certain amount in order to recoup him for the years in which the com-

pany would have had no return." Again, he gave the impression that companies would be treated according to the stage of development they had reached, and this is scarcely borne out by a "flat" rate of 10 per cent., which apparently may be whittled down to a perfectly inadequate 6 per cent. However, we may feel confident that the case of the rubber shareholder will be properly represented in the House of Commons, and some more equitable method of obtaining an equal, or greater, amount of revenue devised.

American Business Notes.

Having abstained from both advocacy and criticism of either candidate, it would be unwise now to begin prophesying about the issue of the Presidential contest. It will be decided next week, and both candidates seem to be good enough, at any rate on domestic questions, to deserve to win. Perhaps the Republican nominee, Mr. Hughes, has come out less distinctly than his friends expected as a leader among men during the contest, but surely the ordeal of a canvass such as the American Republic demands from those ambitious to be its chief magistrate is but little calculated to display a politician at his best. We shall have nothing nasty to say whichever man wins, being for the present at "the centre of indifference."

An interesting report has been furnished by Mr. Henry P. Davidson, a partner in the firm of Messrs. Morgan and Co., on the financial position of the Allies. Mr. Davidson came over from America some months ago to arrange for another American loan to Great Britain, and has returned home well furnished with the truth both on the military and financial sides. To learn, therefore, that he is not only amazed at the ability of both France and the United Kingdom to meet all their engagements, by what they have done in providing for their own needs, but convinced that they are now to a large extent independent of United States help. No wonder, then, that Mr. Davidson looks upon the loans to the British and French Governments as offering first-class security, and we are glad to see that his opinion appears to be the same as our own; at least he intimated that if the United States wants to continue to sell to Great Britain and France it must deal with them in future in a more liberal spirit. That observation, perhaps, refers to the price demanded for munitions as much as to the interest required on money lent, and its truth applied in either direction is unquestionable. We pay high prices now and submit to hard conditions, but do not forget. The United States people, or the moneyed among them, would seem to be in danger of infection from the German disease of "fat-headedness" by the way their journals discuss the power of the Republic to assume a dominant position in the trade of the world when the war is over, just because they are raking in the dollars "hand over fist" out of our necessities to-day. They will have to change their trading attitude towards the world if that ambition is to be in any degree fulfilled.

The late James J. Hill's Great Northern, a summary of whose results for the past fiscal year we have already given, is one of the best managed, least burdened, and most consistently prosperous railroad enterprises in America. Last year ended June 30 its prosperity was accentuated by the magnificent crops it had to handle. The grain alone carried, for instance, amounted to about 60,000,000 bushels more than in the previous year; the State of Montana alone furnished 25,500,000 bushels, or more than twice as much as in 1914-15. All kinds of traffic, in fact, expanded, livestock by 20 per cent., forest products by nearly 26 per cent., coal by nearly 27 per cent., and iron ore by 10 per cent. Within a man's lifetime all this magnificent business was called into existence and developed to its present magnitude. This railroad has no ordinary stock, and its preferred has for many a year received a dividend of 7 per cent paid quarterly on about \$250,000,000 of stock. For the past year there was fully \$10,000,000 left after that dividend had been paid, and of this

balance \$3,500,000 was set aside for "the fund for permanent improvement and betterments," \$1,000,000 added to the pension fund—contrast that with the meagre assignment of the Canadian Pacific board to the same purpose—and miscellaneous appropriations got just over \$3,000,000. Even so, \$2,287,000 of unassigned free income remained to be carried to the new year.

Even the New York, Newhaven and Hartford Railroad partook in the improved business of the past July to June year, the revenue of \$76,312,000 being \$10,933,000 larger than that of the previous year. Working expenses, however, went up \$6,952,000 to \$51,078,000, and the nett revenue from the business done was therefore less than \$4,000,000 better. Helped from other sources, some of which yielded more, notably interest received on bonds held, others less, the final outcome was a nett revenue of \$28,841,000; or \$4,484,000 more, and after meeting interest and rentals, which together took about \$23,000,000, there was a surplus left of \$4,316,000. Two years ago the deficit exceeded \$2,000,000, and compared with 1914-15 the surplus shows an increase of about \$1,000,000. This does not mean that prosperous times for stockholders have returned, but it is certainly comforting to see progress so substantial being recorded.

The Boston and Maine Railroad is not yet out of its difficulties, although separated from the Newhaven property, but it is working clear, and should be able presently to take care of itself without the sheltering interference of a receiver. Its earnings for the past year came to \$52,075,000, an increase of more than \$5,000,000 on 1914-15, and after meeting all charges for interest and rentals, as well as paying heavily for hire of equipment, there was a surplus of \$4,066,000 left over against a deficit of \$2,045,000. Even for 1914-15 the shortage was \$334,000. The property, in short, should not be insolvent.

Probably few people here now hold Chicago and Alton Railroad stock, but there may be a few bondholders left among us, in spite of the firmness with which Mr. McKenna has been sweeping our investments in American Railroads into his net; therefore, it should be useful to record the fact that last year the deficit on the income account of this once substantial and good-paying property was brought down to less than \$171,000. A year ago it was \$1,690,000, and two years ago \$2,762,000. In fact, the nett revenue from all sources was only \$1,478,000 in 1913-14, while last year it was \$4,401,000. Bond interest alone now sucks up about \$3,245,000, and rentals have also been going up, but the property is not now free.

A rumour went round the market lately that stockholders in the Missouri Pacific were to escape assessment. That story may have originated in the report of the receiver on last year's operations, and on the clearing away of excrescences from the property, but there does not seem to be any substantial warrant for it. To be sure the income rose by \$6,163,000 to \$64,372,000, and all branches of the business contributed to this increase, especially the handling of agricultural products, although that was somewhat below the unprecedented magnitude of 1914-15. Revenue continues to be freely spent upon the maintenance and improvement of the way, works, and equipment, rolling stock is being modernised, and several small changes of a favourable kind occurred in the amount of the funded debt, bonds aggregating more than \$1,600,000 having been paid off. The receiver, Mr. Bush, has also thrown out all the company's possessions in securities of the Wabash Railroad, the loss on the sale being charged to profit and loss. In a few years' time, perhaps, this line will be one of the most prosperous in the West, but the stockholders will have to pay meantime, especially if they are predominantly on this side of the Atlantic.

It is announced that the directors of the New York Central Railroad have decided to issue \$25,000,000 of share capital at par. This is no new creation, but simply the sale of stock already authorised and held in the company's treasury. All ments will be made

at the ratio of 10 per cent. of the existing stock outstanding, each stockholder, that is to say, will be allotted new stock to the amount of 10 per cent. of what he now possesses.

Owning and working 7,023 miles of line, the Southern Railway is an important concern, and last year closed June 30 it increased its gross receipts by \$7,798,000 to \$69,998,000, while working expenses at \$46,041,000 were actually \$134,000 down. There was consequently an increase of nearly \$8,000,000 in the nett revenue from operations, and after deducting taxes, which took \$2,916,000, and adding rents and dividends received, the final product was a nett income \$7,787,000 larger at \$24,426,000. This enabled the directors to pay all interest charges, rents, and other outgoings with \$9,246,000 over. That should have allowed them to pay a dividend, but they have not done so, consequently all this amount is in hand. A year ago the surplus balance, also without paying any dividend, was \$1,523,000, and two years ago it was \$2,048,000, but for that year 2 per cent. of the $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. dividend paid on the preferred stock was in the scrip.

Tea, Oil and Rubber.

Once more rubber has crossed 2s. 6d., and so far as can be judged from the statistics of arrivals and deliveries, there has been a more active demand for the commodity, and to that extent the advance may be justified. In the share market the tone has been very good, but business has dragged somewhat. The rise in the raw material and hopes that the excess profits duty will be construed favourably for the younger concerns have stimulated purchases, but just for that reason sellers are reluctant, and with no bulls or bears to provide a free market, it is often a matter of considerable difficulty for the buyer to "get on." In these circumstances the record of dealings naturally suffers, but so long as prices creep up a fraction everybody is happy. We are not so confident as some people appear to be that the excess profits duty will be modified, but if it is it will almost certainly be in the direction of taking toll from the older-established estates, and that is a point worth bearing in mind. The Dutch tax on Java and Sumatra companies has been relegated to the background as the latest information seems to show that plantations entering the profit-earning stage will be very leniently dealt with.

The Tandjong Rubber Co. is forging ahead in a highly satisfactory fashion, and in the year ended June 30 brought a further 1,028 acres into tapping, making a total of 3,650 acres in bearing out of a total planted area of 5,366 acres. An average yield of 330 lbs., or 16 lbs. more per acre, was obtained, with the result that the crop was over 160,000 lbs. in excess of the estimate and 389,459 lbs. more than in the previous year at 1,206,950 lbs. In spite of the large proportion of young trees brought into tapping the "all-in" cost was further reduced by 1.69d. to the very low figure of 1s. 0.59d., and at the same time the gross price realised rose by 3.79d. to 2s. 5.63d. Profits consequently showed a substantial improvement of £47,348 at £87,065, and the nett balance, including £7,094 brought in, was £46,865 up at £94,159. The directors, however, have the excess profits duty to consider, so that they only increase the dividend from 20 per cent. to 30 per cent., and after repeating the appropriation of £10,000 to reserve, carry forward £39,160, or £31,865 more. During the year £10,019 was spent on development, making a total of £192,721, against which the reserve, including premium on shares, will now stand at £103,684. Stocks of rubber are valued at £46,764, or an increase of £15,604, and in addition to £18,259 in cash the company holds £21,745 in Treasury bills, against which the amount due to sundry creditors is only £4,815 up at £10,178. A further large addition to the tapping area will be made in the current year, and a crop of 1,455,000 lbs. is expected.

In addition to a further increase of 133,216 lbs. to 665,449 lbs. in its crop for the year ended June 30 the Sumatra Para Rubber Plantations had the happy experience of an improvement of 5.38d. to 2s. 8.4d. in the gross price realised. Owing, the directors point out, to the fact that only part of the season of 1914-15 was subject to the heavy freight and handling charges resulting from war conditions the "all-in" cost was only slightly lower, but at 1s. 1.36d. it is satisfactory enough. Nett profits, after again providing £1,500 for depreciation, were practically doubled at £56,004, and with £6,993, or £2,543 less, brought forward the disposable total was £20,610 larger at £62,997. Of this, £1,200 is written off for depreciation of investments, and the dividend is then increased by 3½d. to 10d. per share, or 41⅓ per cent. compared with 27 1-12 per cent. for the previous year, leaving £2,570 more at £9,714 to be carried forward. The cost of the property was increased by £5,285 to £161,182, but investments have been reduced by £1,200 to £30,548. These include £20,000 Canadian Northern Ontario Railway 3½ per cent. guaranteed stock, which has been deposited on loan with the Treasury under scheme "B," and has been written down to the deposit value of 72½ per cent. Cash is £6,917 down at £4,246, but the holding of Treasury bills has been increased by £12,198 to £39,840. A crop of 700,000 lbs. is expected for the current season.

During the year ended June 30 the Tangoel Rubber Estates continued the thinning out of its trees, with the result that the total number in tapping was only 16,169 larger at 109,583. The crop, however, showed an increase of 76,787 lbs. at 222,826 lbs., and the company was exceptionally fortunate in securing an advance of no less than 7.08d. to 2s. 10.96d. in the price. The "all-in" cost was .82d. up at 1s. 5.67d., but the increase is due to the fact that there is no longer any coffee to bear its share of the standing charges, and the directors say that if the conditions had been similar to those of the previous year, a reduction of 2½d. per lb. could have been shown. Nett profits, after providing for depreciation, were £7,731 up at £15,969, and with £1,496 more at £2,240 brought in, gave a total of £18,209 available. There is nothing to write off this time, compared with £3,329 for balance of preliminary expenses a year ago, so that the directors are able to increase the dividend from 4 per cent. to 15 per cent., and after paying the directors' percentage, £6,160, or £3,920 more, is carried forward subject to excess profits duty. The crop for 1916-17 is estimated at 290,000 lbs., of which 174,000 lbs. have been sold at the equivalent of 2s. 7½d. per lb., London.

ABOYNE-CLYDE RUBBER ESTATES OF CEYLON.—In the year ended June 30 rubber yielded 392,629 lbs., or an increase of 31,845 lbs., and the average price was 4.25d. better at 2s. 11.54d., but the "all-in" cost, owing to heavier freight and insurance charges and to the increased export duty which became operative on October 1, 1915, was 2.24d. higher at 1s. 0.50d. The tea crop was 47,361 lbs. smaller at 67,227 lbs., and the average selling price was only .17d. better at 8.96d. against an increase of .29d. to 5.56d. in the cost of production. Nett profits, including £3,848, or £414 less, brought forward, showed an improvement of £5,643 at £36,365. The dividend on the ordinary shares is doubled at 15 per cent., and after writing off £5,158, or £4,842 less, to extinguish preliminary expenses, £9,573 as against nothing is transferred to reserve, leaving the balance carried forward £964 down at £2,884. During the year a further £8,200 of debentures were redeemed, which is in excess of the amount due for redemption prior to December 31 next, and the amount outstanding is now £94,800.

STRATHMORE RUBBER.—The directors have recently purchased an additional estate of 750 acres named Sungei Rawang, situated 12 miles south of Morib, in the district of Kuala Langat, State of Selangor, for \$35,000 (£4,083 sterling), payable in cash. At the date of purchase over 300 acres were planted in coconuts, but it is the directors' intention to plant up this area with Para rubber and to proceed with the opening up of the balance of the estate. With favourable conditions, it is hoped the whole estate will be planted up with rubber before the end of 1917. By the acquisition of Sungei Rawang the total acreage owned by the company is now 2,320 acres, and, on Sungei Rawang Estate being fully planted up, the planted acreage will be 2,284 acres. By utilising the proceeds realised from the sale of the company's holding in Riverside (Selangor) Rubber Co., Ltd., and with the assistance (if required) of small sums from revenue during the next few years, the directors anticipate being able to bring

Sungei Rawang to the bearing stage without increasing the capital, and, on that assumption, the capital cost of the estates, on the whole acreage being planted up, will be approximately £34 per acre.

BROADWATER RUBBER.—This company has altered the date of its financial year so as to end at June 30, so that the accounts now issued cover a period of 13 months. A little experimental tapping was done in 1915, and regular operations are stated to have been begun in February, but the output to June 30 only amounted to 2,901 lbs., of which the first consignment of five cases was sold in Singapore at the equivalent of 2s. 6½d. per lb. Receipts from this source were £308, but £1,388 was realised from profit on investments sold, and dividends, interest, &c., brought the total income up to £2,547. After providing for administration charges and writing £450 off underwriting commission, a surplus of £1,125 was left, out of which a dividend of 5 per cent. is paid, and the balance carried forward is increased by £125 to £146. During the 13 months £2,735 was spent on development, making a total of £9,623, and as the company still has £6,942 in cash, in addition to £2,372 in investments, it is still well provided with funds. A crop of 15,000 lbs. is expected this year from 70 acres.

KORALE TEA ESTATES.—An increase of 21,100 lbs. to 661,726 lbs. is shown in the tea crop for the year ended June 30, but the average price dropped slightly to 10.65d. Rubber, however, yielded 12,733 lbs. more at 35.501 lbs., and realised 5.93d. more at 2s. 9.08d., while the "all-in" cost was a shade lower at 1s. 2.02d. Including £4,795, or £1,456 more, brought forward, the balance to be dealt with was practically the same as a year ago at £10,181, but the directors write nothing off, compared with £2,500 off improvements to estates account, and pay 11 per cent., as against 10½ per cent., on account of arrears on the cumulative preference shares, leaving £4,914, or £2,119 more, to be carried forward. For the current season the crops are estimated at 672,500 lbs. tea and 41,500 lbs. rubber.

CENTRAL TEA OF CEYLON.—In the year ended June 30 the tea crop rose by 12,909 lbs. to 512,557 lbs., and realised .46d. more at 10.95d., while the rubber crop was 13,537 lbs. larger at 58,537 lbs., and the price was 7.04d. better at 2s. 9.17d. The cardamom crop, however, was considerably below the estimate and 5,009 lbs. less than a year ago at 4,230 lbs., harvesting having been stopped owing to the price falling to an unremunerative level. After providing for all charges, including the payment of £1,870 for excess profits tax to June 30, 1915, the nett balance, including £1,968, or £1,095 more, brought forward, was £507 up at £9,225. Out of this the ordinary shares again get a dividend of 15 per cent. and £500 is written off for depreciation, but nothing is set aside compared with £1,000 to reserve against coolie advances a year ago, and the balance carried forward is consequently £1,507 higher at £3,415. For the current season crops of 470,000 lbs. tea and 70,000 lbs. rubber are expected.

BROOME (SELANGOR) RUBBER.—In the year ended June 30 the crop harvested was 89,287 lbs. larger at 252,804 lbs., and the gross price realised rose by 5.23d. to 2s. 5.34d. The "all-in" cost, including 1.52d., or .66d. less, for depreciation, was .80d. higher at 1s. 4.57d., and nett profits showed an increase of £7,727 at £13,561. Adding £10,568 brought in, the available balance was £13,561 up at £24,129, and after transferring £10,000 to reserve, against nothing a year ago, the directors pay an initial dividend of 8½ per cent., less tax, leaving £7,370 less at £3,198 to be carried forward. Outlay on development for the year was £6,445, and the total cost of the property, less depreciation, is £5,453 up at £144,571. The crop for 1916-17 is estimated at 350,000 lbs.

BAKAP RUBBER.—Profits for the year ended June 30 amounted to £26,936, or an increase of £10,182, and after deducting £2,300 set aside for excess profits duty for 1914-15, and making sundry adjustments, the nett balance, including £4,025, or £1,291 more, brought in, was £9,389 up at £29,028. The dividend is raised from 25 per cent. to 30, but the small provision of £613 for depreciation made a year ago is not repeated, and £7,002 more at £11,028 is carried forward subject to excess profits duty. The output amounted to 337,150 lbs., or 36,187 lbs. more, and the price was 5½d. better at 2s. 8½d. For the current year a crop of 375,000 lbs. is expected.

BUKIT TAMBUN ESTATES.—A call of 7½ per cent., payable on or before 9th inst., has been made upon the shares of the company, making the shares fully paid.

PELMADULLA RUBBER.—Forward sale of a further 48 tons.

PRUDENTIAL
ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED,
HOLBORN BARS, LONDON.
 Invested Funds exceed - £94,000,000.
 CLAIMS PAID £126,000,000.

The Week in Mines.

Business has been very restricted this week, mainly owing to the closing of the House on two days, but on the whole prices have been well maintained. In the South African market Tanganyikas made a good recovery on Mr. Robert Williams's reference at the meeting to the profits of the Union Minière from copper, and Brakpans have been prominently firm in connection with the tenders made for the new Government areas on the Eastern Rand. It is reported that the Government has received four tenders for the right to work the 1,812 claims on the Brakpan farm, and five tenders to work the 651 claims on the Modderfontein farm. American copper shares were strong, notably Utahs.

SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

Eastern Rand descriptions attracted most attention in the South African market. Steady buying of Brakpans has lifted the price 5/32 to 4 21/32, and City Deep has risen 1/8 to 4 11/32 on a better feeling having succeeded the rumours of less favourable developments on the property. Cloverfields and Rand Klips have been actively supported, especially the former, which have risen 1s. 3d. to 10s. 6d. The latter are 9d. higher at 9s. 9d. Consolidated Mines Selections at 22s. 9d., Rand Selection Corporations at 3 1/8, Gedulds at 46s. 6d., Springs at 37/32, Van Ryns at 21/32, and Van Ryn Deep at 315/32 are all slightly higher. New Modderfonteins have risen 1/8 to 18%, and East Rand Mining Estates 9d. to 17s. In the Rhodesian department Falcons have been very largely bought, and have risen 9d. further to 16s., while Tanganyikas have recovered 5/32 to 2 19/32, and the debentures 1/8 to 6 1/8. Among diamond shares Jagersfonteins advanced 3/8 to 4 3/8 on the declaration of an interim dividend of 3s. per share, the first distribution to be announced since the spring of 1914. This further indication of the revival of the diamond industry encouraged buying of other diamond descriptions, De Beers deferreds rising 1/8 to 12 1/8. In the West African section Gold Coast Amalgamateds have risen 4 1/2d. to 17s. 4 1/2d. on an active business, but Ashanti Goldfields are easier at 17s. 3d.

COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Copper shares have been firm in spite of a slight relapse in the price of the metal. Strong American buying of Utahs has raised the quotation 3/8 to 22 1/8, but Anacondas are 1/8 lower at 19 1/8. Mount Lyells at 27s. 6d., Hampdens, on the declaration of a further 10 per cent. dividend, at 36s. 6d. have been in request, but Rio Tintos are rather dull at 63. Tin shares have been quieter owing to the reaction in the market for the metal, but East Pools at 1 1/4 and Siamese Syndicates at 2 1/8 are slightly higher. Broken Hills show little change, and in the Westralian group quotations are rather lower. In the American group Alaska Treadwells have declined 3/8 to 2 3/4. Russian shares have been a dwindling market owing to the Rumanian news. Russo-Asiatics have declined 1/4 to 5 3/8, Irtysk Corporations 1/8 to 2 1/8, and Kyshtims 1/8 to 2 3/8. Realisations have been effected in Burma Corporations, and the stable companion, Baldwin Mines, which at 4 and 15 1/8 respectively show slight declines on the week. Of the Indians, Balaghats have weakened to 4s.

MINING NEWS.

RAND DIVIDEND TAXATION.—Definite arrangements have now been made between the Board of Inland Revenue and the Rand mining companies by which the relief in respect of South African taxes will be deducted from British income-tax or dividends distributed in this country. These arrangements also provide for a deduction from the rate of tax payable on the next dividends of the relief allowed in respect of the dividends for the first half of the year, these having been taxed at the full rate of 5s. in the £. Accordingly, the Ferreira Deep and Transvaal Gold Mining Estates Companies' November dividends will be paid, less tax, at the rate of 1s. 5.54d. and 1s. 6.48d. in the £ respectively. These rates are equivalent to the normal figure of 5s., less relief of 1s. 5.8d. in the £, in respect of the present distribution, and of the same amount in respect of the previous dividend. The Commissioners of Inland Revenue, however, will not entertain claims of individual shareholders for relief already granted to the companies on their behalf. Thus the holder with an income of less than £1,000 a year will derive no benefit from the relief.

AMALGAMATED ZINC.—During the half-year ended June 30, 91,438 tons of tailings were treated, producing 25,669 tons of zinc concentrates and 440 tons of lead concentrates, as compared with 161,043 tons of tailings, which produced 48,195 tons of zinc and 710 tons of lead concentrates in the half-year ended December 31. The decrease was due to a strike which restricted milling operations to 20 weeks. Valuing the concentrates on hand on the basis of £21 a ton for spelter, the profit on working account was £82,443, which includes £70,713 in respect of concentrates shown in the previous balance-sheet in course of realisation and on hand. The net profit comes out at £71,008, against £168,078, and after placing £11,474 to reserve for depreciation, and £45,165 to equalisation reserve, £972 is carried forward, against £136,604. Liquid assets show a surplus of £245,169. The directors state that experts conducting the electrolytic investigation report that the project is commercially sound. A separate organisation entitled the Electrolytic Zinc

Co. has been established to handle this project with a capital of 1,000,000 £1 shares, of which the Amalgamated holds 100,000 shares with 4s. paid up. The extent of participation of other companies invited to join is not yet determined.

BROKEN HILL PROPRIETARY.—The report for the half-year ended May 31 states that the output of the mine declined from 114,579 tons to 66,423 tons owing mainly to a strike. During the period no further sales of zinc concentrates were made, and so it was decided to close down the flotation plant until more normal conditions prevail, which will enable a regular market for the product to be obtained. The tailings treated amounted to 54,714 tons, against 141,114 tons, the production of zinc concentrates falling from 36,667 tons to 13,189 tons, but the average price of spelter increased from £67 3s. 11d. to £85 15s. 9d. At the iron and steel works 53,974 tons of pig-iron were produced, and the rolling mills produced 36,862 tons of finished products, which were disposed of. The gross profit for the half-year was £271,524, and after deducting £27,965 for depreciation, the net profit was £243,559, against £242,970. During the six months £369,325 was expended on construction. Liquid assets exceed current liabilities by £629,294. Debentures outstanding have been reduced from £600,000 to £540,000. Two dividends of 1s. each have been paid, the same as for the preceding half-year. Taxation, the directors point out, has been particularly heavy, showing an increase of £100,000, but they take a commendable view of this burden, which contrasts well with the narrow view too often taken by capitalists here. They say that the company is fortunate to be able to be in a position to contribute no inconsiderable sum to assist in the defence of the Empire.

SOUTH AMERICAN COPPER SYNDICATE.—A considerable improvement is recorded in the results of this concern in the year ended June 30, owing to the higher price of copper. The total revenue was £92,165, or £55,673 more than in 1914-15, and the gross profit was £32,608. The directors have taken this opportunity of adjusting the smelter account by writing off the loss to June 30, 1915, namely, £7,078, and for depreciation £1,352. The net profit is £19,341, an increase of £8,150; the dividend is raised from 62 1/2 per cent. to 150 per cent., less tax, and £3,167 against £6,326 is carried forward.

LIQUIDATION OF TWO COMPANIES.—The report of the Wassaw West Amalgamated for 1915 states that in order to hasten the liquidation of the company steps have been taken to dispose of the mining leases. A meeting will be called as soon as is possible, so that the assets may be distributed. A meeting of shareholders of Stratton's Independence has been convened to pass a resolution for the voluntary winding-up of the company.

WILSONS AND CLYDE COAL.—Including £3,768 more at £39,158 brought forward, the revenue for the year ended August 31, after providing for depreciation, showed an increase of no less than £65,836 at £157,784. Rents, taxes, feu-duties, &c., however, required £49,377 more, and after providing for other charges the balance of £97,472 was £14,314 up. The dividend on the ordinary shares is only increased by 6d. to 5s. per share, but it takes considerably more owing to the capitalisation of the reserve fund, and the balance carried forward is reduced by £8,186 to £30,972. During the year the Milnwood Colliery, near Bellshill, was acquired, and in view of this and of developments at Douglas Castle and Law Collieries, it was decided to utilise the reserve fund to increase the ordinary capital by the issue of 90,000 ordinary shares of £1 each. Property account shows very little change at £263,414, but debtors owe £20,905 more at £81,284, and cash is £91,638 up at £226,252, against an increase of £101,430 to £164,149 in current liabilities.

What Balance Sheets Tell.

SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY CO., LTD.

In the year ended March 31, the gross earnings improved by £154,516 to £1,972,730, and the working expenses were reduced by £79,018 to £963,494, with the result that there was an increase of £233,534 to £1,009,236 in the net revenue. The company's share of surplus profits amounted to £27,012, or an increase of £15,828, and with a rather larger balance of £35,200 brought forward and £616 from interest on investments, the available total was £17,043 up at £62,827. The directors say that these figures present a more healthy condition of things than the facts warrant, as, owing to the war, all capital and revenue expenditure that can possibly be deferred other than that required for maintaining the railway in working order has been shut down, with the result that working expenses are abnormally low, and arrears which are thus being piled up will have to be worked off as soon as the war is over. After a careful examination of the situation, however, the directors have decided to increase the dividend out of surplus profits to 2 per cent., making a total distribution for the year of 5 1/2 per cent., as against 4 1/2 per cent. This payment will leave a balance of about £43,000, which, it is hoped, will be sufficient to ensure the dividend being maintained at 5 1/2 per cent. during the period after the war, when arrears are being made good and surplus profits are consequently less.

TALTAL RAILWAY CO., LTD.

While a return to pre-war conditions was, of course, not to be expected, the re-opening of some of the nitrate oficinas enabled this company to show a very satisfactory recovery in the year ended June 30. The aggregate weight of goods carried

amounted to 362,702 tons, an increase of 170,130 tons, of which nitrate, coal and oil fuel contributed 160,075 tons. Gross receipts were £93,030 up at £225,912, while working expenses rose by only £32,484 to £111,658, the proportion being 10.15 per cent. down at 49.43 per cent., so that the nett revenue was £60,546 better at £114,254. Adding £27,231, or £23,124 less, brought forward, and receipts from interest, &c., the nett surplus was £38,634 up at £149,941, out of which the directors transfer £10,000 to general reserve, and a like amount to reserve for depreciation of investments, compared with nothing in either case a year ago. They then increase the dividend from 6 per cent. to 8 per cent. and carry forward only £208 less than was brought in, at £27,023. Only a very trifling change has been made in the capital account, which shows a credit balance of £31,672, while the reserves, including the fund for renewals, &c., are £25,600 up at £195,623. Debtors owe £16,106 less at £21,368, and stores are £9,830 smaller at £55,536, but cash is £31,816 up at £77,361, bills receivable have risen by £30,896 to £54,200, and investments by £10,510 to £123,091, while current liabilities are only £4,743 up at £18,737. As regards the current year, the general manager states that the prospects have been adversely affected by the difficulties of the German oficinas in disposing of their nitrate, but he expects that the results should show an average between those of 1914-15 and 1915-16.

ORDERS AND HANDFORD STEAMSHIP CO., LTD.

Even after providing for excess profits duty the gross receipts for the year ended October 31 showed an increase of £75,466 at £211,008, but, on the other hand, expenses were very much heavier under all heads, and the nett profits, including £3,342, or £1,378 more, brought in, were £7,116 down at £59,326. The directors, however, only transfer £30,000 to reserve, compared with £20,000 written off capital account and £4,000 off investments, and £20,000 set aside for war taxes a year ago, so that they are able to increase the dividend by another 5 per cent. to 25 per cent., and still leave the balance carried forward £2,109 up at £5,451. Current liabilities, including provision for excess profits duty, are £164,665 higher at £192,500, against which debtors owe £28,771 more at £48,914, cash has risen by £25,241 to £54,836, and the company has invested £130,000 in Exchequer bonds and Treasury bills.

CITY OF DUBLIN STEAM PACKET CO.

Owing to another of the mail boats having been taken by the Government a year ago, the mail service was carried on under difficulties in the six months ended August 31, and the directors complain that conditions in other respects have not been satisfactory. A very large number of passengers was carried, but they were mostly third-class, and, as the question of division has not yet been settled with the London and North-Western Railway Co., the receipts have not been what the directors think might reasonably be expected. Further, the quantity of parcel post sent by the day mail steamers has enormously increased in bulk, what used to be sent from Belfast being sent *via* Kingstown during the strikes that occurred in the half-year, and, although the railway companies received their share of the receipts as if no diversion had taken place, this company got nothing. Receipts from all sources, however, were £5,680 up at £169,688, while working expenses were reduced by £8,768, and, after providing for interest charges and the guarantee to the City of Dublin Junction Railways, the nett balance, including £6,145, or £2,562 less, brought in, was £10,575 higher at £40,378. Of this £8,000, against nothing, is written off investments, and after making the usual provision of £6,400 to the renewal fund of the trading steamers and £5,000 to the reduction of compensation to the Ship Building shareholders, there was a surplus of £20,978, or £2,575 more. The dividend on the ordinary stock is nominally increased from 4 to 5½ per cent. per annum, but it is this time paid less tax, instead of tax free, so that the additional dividend only means that the holders will receive the same amount as on the previous occasion. A balance of £6,790, or £744 more, is left to be carried forward. Trading steamers, less renewal fund, stand in the books at £70,844, or a reduction of £12,800 compared with a year ago, and the compensation to shareholders of the Dublin and Liverpool Steamship Building Co. is £10,000 down at £45,000. The debenture stock shows a decrease of £24,507 at £290,373, but the mortgage loan sinking fund has been increased by £28,451 to £69,560, and there is a corresponding addition to the investments at £438,724. Current liabilities are £10,844 higher at £37,398, against which cash is £11,981 up at £24,045.

CAPE ELECTRIC TRAMWAYS, LTD.

Although there was a further increase of nearly 800,000 in the number of passengers carried during the year ended June 30, the improvement in earnings was not sufficient to meet the greater cost of working. Traffic receipts rose by £6,669 to £212,792, but expenses were very much heavier, and London office charges, owing to excess profits duty and increased income-tax, were decidedly higher, with the result that the nett profit showed a decrease of £8,118 at £72,498. Adding £4,612 less at £7,725 brought in, and deducting debenture interest, &c., the disposable surplus was £12,882 down at £31,404. The appropriation to reserve is reduced by £7,000 to £5,000, and the dividend, which a year ago was raised from 2½ per cent. to 5, is now cut down to 3½ per cent., leaving £7,983, or £259 more, to be carried forward. Redemption of the debenture debt continues steadily, and during the year a further £26,600 was paid off, reducing the amount outstanding to £364,700. Against this, £12,800 was written off the expenditure on betterments and renewals, leaving £9,574 still to be wiped out, and £14,100 was

added to the redemption fund, making the total reserves £347,257.

ARGENTINE LAND AND INVESTMENT CO., LTD.

With the business depression in Argentina even more acute in the 12 months ended June 30 than in the previous year, this company had a very poor time. Sales of camp land showed apparent reductions of 8,559 acres and £76,527, but the earlier figures included the adjusted sale of 8,041 acres at Tio Pujio, so that the actual decreases were only 518 acres and £4,138. Rents yielded £19,547 less, practically all the crops on the original concession lands having been lost through drought and locusts, while the prices realised for the crops were lower. Receipts from interest were £2,369 larger at £26,795, but the total income from all sources was £11,869 down at £66,881. Expenses, however, were reduced by £10,630, and the nett profit, including £3,125 brought in, was consequently only £1,316 less at £48,793. The dividend on the ordinary shares is maintained at 5 per cent., and although the amount transferred to reserve is cut down from £20,000 to £14,000, this is largely offset by an appropriation of £5,000 to debenture redemption, leaving £2,830, or £286 less, to be carried forward. Mortgages were reduced by £23,524 to £181,988, but other properties were increased by £25,404 through the foreclosure of two loans, and, after allowing for sales, the latter item is £18,861 up at £135,996. Land instalments unmaturing show a decrease of £34,276 at £73,715; but loss of the harvest made collections difficult, and colonists' balances outstanding are £30,505 up at £104,256.

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SOCIETY, LTD.

This company had again to mark time in the year ended September 30 so far as operations in financing new issues were concerned, but its income from dividends, commissions, &c., showed a slight improvement of £947 at £15,414. A larger balance of £29,374 was brought forward, and, after providing for current expenses and debenture interest, the available balance was £2,173 up at £31,547; but the directors again refrain from paying a dividend, and carry the whole amount forward. Investments have been reduced by £64,151 to £464,496, but even this figure is admittedly in excess of the market value, although the extent of the depreciation is not disclosed. Loans are £22,312 down at £11,525, and cash balances are £15,982 lower at £9,746; while, on the other hand, liabilities for loans on security show a decrease of £113,554 at £51,000, but £19,691 is due on deposits, against nothing a year ago.

SECOND EDINBURGH INVESTMENT TRUST, LTD.

Receipts from interest, dividends, &c., for the year ended September 30 were increased by £7,871 to £60,166, and as debenture interest being paid less tax took rather less, the nett

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profit was £9,147 larger at £43,771. The usual dividend of 12 per cent. was paid on the deferred stock, but this time a bonus of 3 per cent. is added, both being less tax at 4s. per £. and £18,713, or £8,210 more, is added to the surplus revenue. A year ago £15,391 was taken from this balance to write down the cost of investments, and the amount now carried forward is £57,843. Profit on the sale of securities only amounted to £788 as compared with £9,608 a year ago, and this sum has been applied as usual in writing down cost of investments. The company's funds are distributed over 212 securities, and show an increase of £14,061 at £904,607, of which £356,000 is in British Government securities, and the directors state that according to the valuation made on September 30, the investments were worth over £90,000 in excess of the amount at which they appear in the balance-sheet.

OGILVIE FLOUR MILLS CO., LTD.

In their report for the 12 months ended August 31 the directors say that while the company was not so fortunate in having a large amount of wheat to sell at much enhanced prices, as happened in the previous year, it was more fortunate than in average years in its purchases. It also profited largely by increased returns from the investments in business other than flour milling. No profit and loss account is submitted, but the balance-sheet shows a surplus of \$774,270, after providing for bond interest and for the war tax for two years. This was \$745,324 less than a year ago, but nothing is set aside this time compared with \$1,250,000 to contingent account, so that the directors are able to increase the distribution on the common stock to 12 per cent. by a bonus of 4 per cent., and to carry forward \$334,270 more at \$846,331. During the year the system of country elevators in the North-West was increased by 21 buildings, making the total wheat storage capacity 10,335,000 bushels, or 1,285,000 bushels more than a year ago, and property account is \$192,850 up at \$6,526,752. Investments are \$369,879 higher at \$593,904, stocks have risen by \$766,421 to \$1,460,873, and debtors owe \$111,500 more at \$1,291,102, but cash and bills are \$87,482 down at \$915,627, against which current liabilities, including the provision for war tax, are \$1,010,482 higher at \$1,848,862.

BALANCE SHEET FACTS.

ALEXANDER, FERGUSSON AND CO., LTD.—After providing for excess profits duty, the nett profits of this company for the year ended September 30 were £1,402 up at £17,952, and with £6,064 brought in gave a disposable total of £24,017, or £4,950 more. Of this an extra £1,500 at £5,050 is written off for depreciation, and the appropriation to reserve is doubled at £3,000, after which the dividend on the ordinary shares is raised from 8 per cent. to 12½ per cent., and £6,167, or £102 more, is carried forward. Stocks of ore, lead, paints, &c., are £4,988 larger at £57,718, and cash and bills have risen by £24,990 to £37,775, against which there is an increase of £20,122 to £47,753 in current liabilities.

DRAKE AND GORHAM, LTD.—In the year ended June 30 contracts in connection with naval and military requirements constituted a large portion of this company's operations, with the happy result that nett profits, although below the pre-war average, were more than twice those of a year ago. Including £1,623, or £308 less, brought forward, the divisible total, after providing for all charges, was £4,402 up at £10,150. Out of this the directors increase the dividend from 2½ per cent. to 4, and write £3,000, as against £1,000, off goodwill, leaving £2,150, or £527 more, to be carried forward. Current liabilities have risen by £11,889 to £28,224, against which debtors owe £55,875, or £8,762 more, and expenditure on works in progress is £4,888 higher at £15,915, while stocks, plant, &c., come to £19,196, or an increase of £4,997.

HODGSON'S KINGSTON BREWERY CO., LTD.—Profits for the year ended September 30 fell off by £4,902 to £51,582, but thanks to reductions in various items of expenditure, the nett surplus, after setting aside £1,000 for contingencies, was only £3,410 down at £31,256. An increase of £1,601 in income-tax was more than offset by decreases in other Government charges, and with £360 less at £7,281 brought in, the amount available was £3,467 smaller at £17,866. The dividend is reduced from 8 per cent. to 6½ per cent., less tax, leaving £7,616, or £335 more, to be carried forward. Liabilities on deposits are £1,289 up at £9,425, but £4,375 less at £15,288 is due to sundry creditors, while on the other hand stocks have risen by £3,092 to £13,209, but debtors are £7,303 down at £10,937, and cash has dropped by £1,870 to £12,706. Property account shows a decrease of £2,079 at £602,171, but fixtures and stock at licensed houses come to £1,678 more at £4,030, and stocks are £3,092 larger at £13,209.

JOSEPH LUCAS, LTD.—Owing to the urgency of war work, and the depletion of the staff for military service, it is found impossible to prepare the usual balance-sheet. The directors have no doubt, however, that a profit has been earned, and they have declared a second interim dividend on the ordinary shares of 7½ per cent., less tax, making 10 per cent. for the year ended August 31 last. No accounts will be presented at the meeting, and as no further dividend will be declared, the dividend now being paid is to be considered as final.

MATTHEW BROWN AND CO., LTD.—This Lancashire brewery suffered in its year ended September 30 from the restriction of hours and output and the higher cost of materials, but the nett profits, including £2,680, or £78 less, brought in, were only £3,635 down at £20,756. Of this, £4,336, or £2,221 less, is appropriated as further depreciation, and the shareholders then get a dividend of 8 per cent., less tax, as before, leaving the

balance carried forward £712 up at £3,373. Stocks are £11,065 larger at £33,867, and against this the overdraft of the bank has been increased by £8,981 to £19,223. Sundry debtors owe £2,636 less at £12,651, but current liabilities have been reduced by £3,674 to £27,293.

WRIGHT AND GRIFF, LTD.—No explanation is offered by the directors of the big expansion in the profits for the year ended September 30, although these jumped by no less than £30,810 to £76,190. Expenses and interest absorbed £15,736 more at £52,327, but the nett balance, including £1,016 brought in, was £14,749 up at £24,879. Out of this 18 months of arrears of preference dividend are paid off, compared with 15 months last time, bringing them up to date, and the ordinary shares then get a dividend of 10 per cent., being the first distribution they have received since 1907-8, when 2 per cent. was paid. Last year's appropriation of £1,000 to debenture redemption account is repeated, and £12,651, or £11,635 more, is carried forward, subject to excess profits duty. Stocks show a big increase of £84,136 at £270,086, but debtors owe £35,592 less at £43,237, while, on the other hand, current liabilities have risen by £34,659 to £158,409.

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F. P.—(1) Within your restrictions these should do well:—Mersey Docks 3½ per cent. stock, East London Water 3 per cent. debenture stock, Anglo-American Telegraph 6 per cent. preferred stock, or Marconi Wireless participating preference shares, these latter, too, having an element of speculation. (2) We think the course of prices will depend almost entirely on the rate at which the Government is able to issue its big War Loan, and that depends on the course of the war. We think, therefore, that the bottom has been about touched. (3) You may put the two stocks last mentioned amongst the class you inquired about some time ago, and add to it B.E.T. participating preference shares.

Edina.—It is a slow affair this, and the price is fairly full now. You might sell at least a portion to make yourself secure.

Boscombe.—You will find the debenture mentioned in the answer last week under the class "Financial Land and Investment" in the London Stock Exchange List. The price is about 71.

Vic.—Excess profits question is rather remote so far as this company is concerned. Hold on to your shares.

T. B. U.—We think you should keep it. At present it is not worth much. Signs of improvement are very slight so far, but a turn for the better should come along with patience.

J. W. M.—The report is better, and we see no reason to disturb your present position.

L. A. M.—The proposed exchange would give you an increase in income, but no chance of recovery of your capital. Your present stock is quite good, and is redeemable in 25 years at par. The second alternative offers some chance of rise in capital when times are more normal, but the increase in income is less than ½ per cent. at present rate of exchange.

G. B. D.—After waiting so long you might hold on. An increase in dividend is expected, and some of the company's assets have improved in value.

Walk.—If your holdings are in well-managed concerns they should do well enough. The market has not been much affected, and good companies should give a fair return in spite of it, provided the product maintains its price.

Canadian Bank of Commerce.—A branch has been opened at Thorold, Ontario.

Anglo-Portuguese Telephone.—Interim of 3 per cent., less tax on account of the year ending December 31, 1916; payable November 11.

The registered office of the Duff Development Co., Ltd. (and reduced), have been removed to 24, Rood Lane, Fenchurch Street, E.C.

Lake Superior Corporation.—The United States Mortgage and Trust Co. invites tenders from holders of Lake Superior Corporation 1st mortgage 5 per cent. bonds for the sale of such bonds to it. Proposals may be sent before November 15, 1916, to the United States Mortgage and Trust Company, care of Messrs. Robert Fleming and Co., 8, Crosby Square, London, E.C.

Russian Petroleum Co.—Mr. V. N. Deloff has been appointed general manager in succession to the late Mr. T. C. Weskin. Mr. Deloff is a member of the technical committee of the Soyvet Siezd (Naphtha Producers' Association).

Baku Russian Petroleum Co.—Mr. S. Bagdasarian and Mr. S. N. Kvitashvili have been appointed joint general managers in succession to the late Mr. T. C. Weskin. Mr. Bagdasarian for some time has held the appointment of chief engineer of the company; Mr. Kvitashvili has been many years in the company's service, and latterly has acted as chief commercial assistant to the general manager.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

CLERICAL, MEDICAL, AND GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

The ninety-second annual general meeting and the extraordinary general meeting for the declaration of the eighteenth bonus of this society was held at the chief office, 15, St. James's Square, S.W., on Friday, Mr. John Coles (chairman) presiding.

Mr. Arthur Digby Besant (general manager and actuary) read the circular summoning the meetings, the minutes of the last annual general meeting, and the certificate of the professional auditors and the other certificates appended to the accounts.

The Chairman, Mr. John Coles, then said: The annual report now in your hands is, I think, very satisfactory considering the difficulties of the times. Our net new business, though checked by the war, has increased from £672,732 to £737,472, and we are very much indebted to our agents and to all our other friends for their help in producing so large a volume of business at a time when nearly all our outdoor staff are engaged in war service. The premium income and the interest income show satisfactory expansion. The death claims have fallen by nearly £50,000, the civilian claims being £246,000, against £283,000 last year, and war claims £54,000, against £65,000. Our expense ratio, though slightly larger than last year, is still well below our pre-war standard. I now beg to move:—"That the revenue accounts and balance-sheet and also the directors' report now read, be adopted and entered on the minutes."

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Immediately following the annual general meeting, an extraordinary general meeting for the declaration of the eighteenth bonus was held.

The Chairman, Mr. John Coles, said: Our liabilities consist of over 18,000 policies assuring a net sum of over £14,300,000, and nearly 500 annuities involving annual payments of £30,000. The notable feature of the bonus report is that, as has been the case since 1891, the rate of interest assumed in the valuation has been 2½ per cent. throughout. But we are not content to rest even on a 2½ per cent. basis, for over and above the strong reserves so calculated, we have retained additional reserves to the extent of nearly £200,000. At our last bonus meeting in 1911 I ventured to say in this room that in financial strength only two or three of the 80 life offices in this country could claim to rank with us, and certainly none could claim to surpass us. To-day I can repeat those words with even more justification. Referring now to our assets, a committee of directors has examined every mortgage—our brokers have certified the value of our Stock Exchange securities as at June 30—and our bonds, falling due at par later on, have all been taken at market prices. Where minimum prices existed we made ample allowance. The General Reversionary Co. has been valued, not only by Mr. Tilt, the able actuary of that company, but also by Mr. Besant. To sum up, our depreciation for the whole quinquennium amounts to only 6 per cent. of our assets, a splendid testimony to the quality of our investments. I may add here that we have no investments on the continent of Europe. The directors recently considered very carefully the question of investment, and we came to the conclusion that it would be better to keep our current savings in a liquid form so as to be available for subscribing to the next long-dated Government loan, the issue of which does not seem likely to be much longer postponed. We have never had any ordinary railway stock or brewery stock. These freehold premises stand in our books to-day at £18,000, and are worth at least £40,000. You will observe on turning to our list of securities the absence of United States railway bonds. To help the Government in time of stress we have sold all our holding in these securities, involving a loss of only £2,880. We held on June 30 last British Government securities amounting to £660,000, of which £420,000 was the 4½ per cent. War Loan. To-day we have increased our holding to £805,000, the additional £145,000 being in short-dated securities. In August last the Government advertised a borrowing plan known as Scheme B, which, apart from its patriotic appeal, had too many attractions to be set aside, and accordingly we lent all we could. Finally, the entire valuation of our securities came under the careful inspection of our auditors—all men of experience and business capacity, so the result may be relied upon. The total of our life assurance fund is £6,190,000. The full surplus for the five years is £795,924, a sum which is £40,000 larger than we have ever before divided. I find on turning to my address to you at our last bonus five years ago I said: "We have reserved not only all the loading, but made further reserves amounting to £370,000 to make our future additionally secure." We have now used part of these special reserves to help in meeting the depreciation of securities, but we still retain almost £200,000 as provision for the future. The fact that a further depreciation in the value of our securities has taken place since June 30 shows how wise such a provision was. We have always felt here that we cannot make life assurance too secure. The surplus now divided will provide an increased dividend for the shareholders of 1s. per share for the next five years, making 19s., clear of tax. I had the pleasure of becoming a director here nearly 40 years ago, and at the very outset I watched with the greatest interest the evident care and ability which characterised the management of this society. There was great skill then, not only in the choice of investments, but in the selection of lives by the eminent medical directors on the board. The same guiding and essential principles have been present here ever since, and the war found us in a very strong position. During these 40 years we have endeavoured to en-

courage thrift by formulating new attractions, and our growth may be illustrated thus:—

Bonus year..	1876	Life funds..	£ 2,118,000	Surplus..	£ 300,000
"	1916	"	6,190,000	"	795,000

We face the future with much confidence, feeling sure that we occupy a foremost position in the world of life assurance. Before formally moving the resolution, I have to announce that of the above divisible surplus of £795,924, the participating policyholders are entitled to nine-tenths, representing £716,332, and the proprietors to one-tenth, representing £79,592. Deducting from the proprietors' share the sum of £25,000, already paid by anticipation, the balance to be now transferred to their credit is £54,592, a sum which enables the directors to increase the dividend and bonus to 19s. per share per annum, free of tax, and payable by equal half-yearly instalments in each January and July until the next declaration of profits. The first half-yearly dividend of 9s. 6d. per share, free of tax, will be paid on January 1.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

AUCKLAND ELECTRIC TRAMWAYS CO.

The 10th ordinary general meeting of the Auckland Electric Tramways, Ltd., was held, on Tuesday, at the Electrical Federation Offices, Kingsway, Mr. C. G. Tegetmeier (the chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. C. H. Williams) read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman said that, in spite of the continuance of the adverse conditions, to which he referred at the last meeting, the traffic receipts for the 12 months ended June 30 last showed an increase of £6,989 over the preceding year, the total being £274,783, which was at the rate of over £10,000 per route mile. This amount represented approximately £2 15s. per head of the entire population of Auckland. The number of passengers carried was 42,352,000, an increase of nearly a million, and both the traffic receipts and the number of passengers carried were in excess of the figures of any previous year. The vitality and progressive character of their business was indicated by the fact that the normal development of the traffic had been sufficient to increase the receipts by nearly 3 per cent., notwithstanding the fact that a large proportion of the adult male population of Auckland had left industrial pursuits to share in the defence of the Empire. The company's financial position was improved by the redemption of £6,345 of debenture stock purchased and cancelled. The total amount of the debenture stock redeemed was now £38,889. Real estate in Auckland, standing in the balance-sheet at £20,682, had an actual value largely in excess of that sum. The year's capital expenditure was £10,883, nearly all in connection with the extension of the lines (at the request of the City Council) along Upper Queen Street, in the heart of the city. Good progress had been made with the work, and its completion was anticipated at an early date. Beyond the cost of this extension, no further capital expenditure was in view; future capital outlay must be influenced by the fact that their concession from the Auckland City Council expired in 1932, when the council had the right to purchase the portion of the undertaking comprised in the concession of about nine route miles. The concessions from various suburban authorities expired at various dates from 1934 onwards. The terms of purchase of the city and the suburban lines was favourable to the company, being based upon going concern value, but the position would be unsatisfactory if the undertaking had to be split up into divided ownership. As the time approached when they might be bought out, the question of embarking further capital in extensions and development would present increasing difficulties. Although they had run an increased car mileage, with increased passenger receipts, the working expenses showed a substantial decrease. There were several causes besides the increased mileage which would have fully accounted for an increase. One of these was that the scale of wages to the men had been raised, and the effect would be more fully felt in the current year, and, in addition, there was the rise in the cost of all materials. One item in expenses which they could not control was the New Zealand income and land tax, amounting to £13,984, or £9,041 more than in the previous year. The liability of the company's profits to income-tax, both to the New Zealand Government and to the Imperial Government, pressed very heavily and very unfairly on the shareholders. The whole of their profits were made in New Zealand, and a large portion of them were distributed in New Zealand, yet every shareholder, whether resident in New Zealand or in the United Kingdom, had to pay income-tax on his share of the profits either directly or indirectly in both countries. They had no desire to avoid paying their contribution towards whatever taxation the defence of the Empire might necessitate, but it was manifestly inequitable that under the present system of double income-tax within the Empire they should be called on to make two contributions towards the war expenditure, while the bulk of the community were only making one. The logical sequence to the closer consolidation of the various portions of the Empire, which we were all striving for, was that profits created within the Empire should be only taxed once, where the profits were created, and the least they could ask was that where profits had already been taxed in another part of the Empire, where the profits had been created, the tax so paid should be allowed as a deduction from any tax in respect of the same profits payable in this country. The matter had been receiving a great deal of attention lately, and an influential association was in existence with the object of

using every possible endeavour to rectify the present unjust system. At least it had gained the complete public admission by the Government of the grievance, and some measure of relief had been provided in the Imperial Finance Act of 1916, under which, on proof of payment of Colonial income-tax of not less than 1s. 6d. in the pound, repayment could be claimed of the difference between the rate of 3s. 6d. in the pound imposed for the second half of 1915 and the rate of 5s. in the pound imposed for this year. This relief was given effect to in the income-tax deduction from the dividend they were now about to pay. Further than this, they had the promise of the Government to set up a Committee after the war to inquire into the working of the Income Tax Acts and the question of double income-tax. The injustice was so glaring, and its injurious effect on British trade and commerce, and the development of the resources of the Dominions, so serious, that they might, he thought, feel sure it would not be long continued. The nett result of the year's working was that, including £4,655 brought forward, the balance available for distribution was £59,225, which was within a few pounds of the amount available in the preceding year; but this amount was arrived at after allocating £25,000 to renewals and depreciation, as compared with £22,500 in the preceding year. The dividend on the preference shares required £9,000; they proposed to place £10,000 to reserve, as last year; to pay the same dividend of 1s. 7d. per share for the year on the ordinary shares (of which an interim dividend of 7d. per share was paid in May); and to carry forward £4,600. He moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. C. Shirreff Hilton seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

ENGLISH, SCOTTISH AND AUSTRALIAN BANK.

The 24th ordinary general meeting was held on Wednesday, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, Mr. C. J. Hegan (the chairman of the company) presiding.

The London Manager and Secretary (Mr. E. M. Janion) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' certificate.

The Chairman observed that in the present exceptional times he felt that the shareholders must be more than usually anxious to know how the bank had fared during the past year, and the directors hoped that the statement of accounts would not be considered unsatisfactory, showing, as it did, that, after providing for heavy depreciation on the company's investments and paying away £56,000 in taxes, they were in a position to pay the same dividend as before, to appropriate, as before, £50,000 to the reserve fund and £2,500 to the guarantee and provident funds, and to carry forward a slightly larger amount of undivided profit than they did a year ago. Business, he need hardly say, had to be conducted now under conditions which were wholly unprecedented. The uncertainty of the seasons was a disturbing factor in the prosperity of Australia with which the company were always confronted, and, although the severe drought in the early part of 1915 resulted in a great reduction in the wool clip and in the flocks, the wheat harvest in the early part of the present year largely made up for this, for it turned out to be a record crop, amounting to over 179 million bushels, or more than seven times the yield of the previous year. At least two-thirds of this phenomenal harvest was available for export, and would have been exported through the usual channels—the exporting houses and the banks—but the entire crop was taken off the market by the Federal Government, acting in the interests of the British Government. In the same way, and with the same object, the whole of the frozen meat was commandeered by the Government, and the handling of this important article of produce, which had of late played such a large part in the exchange operations between London and Australia, was thus to a great extent lost to the banking community. In dairy produce, the export of which had of late years been increasing "by leaps and bounds," there was this year a shortage, the production being not more than sufficient for the needs of the population; and the export of gold, which was the last word in exchange operations for the adjustment of an adverse balance of trade, was forbidden by the Federal Treasurer. When to these main difficulties were added minor ones—such as the extreme care that had to be exercised to see that the most simple and apparently straightforward business transactions were not playing into the enemy's hands, the shortage of shipping, the irregularity of the mail service, the restrictions imposed upon the use of the cable, and the depletion of the staffs—the shareholders would, he thought, acknowledge that banking business just now was not the plain sailing that it used to be. The situation generally on the Australian continent was one of great prosperity. The high prices obtained for wool had largely made up to the pastoralists for the shortage in the wool clip, while the weather conditions now were all that could be desired. To the exceptionally good wheat crop he had already alluded; and the large sums disbursed by the Federal Government in connection with the Expeditionary Forces, and by the State Governments upon public works, had given a great stimulus to business enterprise and to employment throughout the Commonwealth. The three loans issued locally by the Federal Government for war purposes were well responded to, the subscriptions amounting to upwards of 56½ millions sterling, which testified to the wealth and the patriotism of the community. But it would be unwise to shut one's ears to the warnings of certain shrewd onlookers and critics, who pointed to the great and needless inflation of the currency and to the expenditure on objects unconnected with the war, which on the

part of some of the State Governments went on unchecked. There was danger of a fictitious prosperity being brought about in this way, and the situation required to be carefully watched, for certainly no one could foresee what the after-effects of this terrible war were going to be. Economy was the watchword for all—for States no less than for individuals and institutions—and he felt sure that the directors would have the shareholders' support in continuing as a bank to adopt a conservative policy and strengthen their reserves. But those who had the welfare of Australia at heart saw no small danger also in the present system of taxation, which, if persevered in, must have the effect of throttling business enterprise and driving capital out of the country. They were all ready to contribute without grumbling their proper share to the bearing of the Imperial burden, whether in the form of income-tax or of excess profits duty, but the luckless payer of a double, and, in some cases, a treble, tax would not be slow to realise that he must forego the luxury of investing his money in the outlying portions of the British Empire, thereby, of course, assisting in their development. Signs were not wanting that capital was already being withdrawn from Australia, and, if this movement were to continue unchecked, business enterprise in the Commonwealth would experience a very serious set-back.

The young men among the bank's employees, both at home and abroad, had responded nobly to the call made upon them. One hundred and forty had joined the forces, and he regretted to say that six of them had been killed and several wounded. The gross profit for the year under review was in excess of that earned last year by £50,930, but the larger part of this had been swallowed up by the increase in the expenses of management, which amounted to £40,420, of which taxes accounted for £22,741. In recognition of the services of the staff and of the greatly increased cost of living, additional remuneration was granted at the end of the company's financial year—last June—at the rate of 10 per cent. on all salaries throughout the bank. The Chairman concluded by proposing a resolution adopting the report and accounts, and applying the amount available for distribution as therein recommended.

The Right Hon. Viscount Knutsford seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

SUNGEI KARI (SUMATRA) RUBBER ESTATE.

The seventh annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Sungei Kari (Sumatra) Rubber Estate, Ltd., was held yesterday, at the registered offices, 7, Martin's Lane, Cannon Street, E.C., Mr. W. Arthur Addinsell, chairman of the company, presiding.

Mr. J. Lewis (on behalf of Messrs. Bright and Galbraith, Ltd., the secretaries) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—I move: "That the directors' report and accounts for the financial year ended June 30, 1916, as submitted to this meeting, be approved and adopted, and that a final dividend of 15 per cent. on the ordinary shares, and an additional dividend at the rate of 23 per cent. on the participating preference shares, making a total dividend of 38 per cent. for each class of shares, be declared and paid." If the resolution which I have just read is carried the company will have distributed dividends totalling 96 per cent.; so that original shareholders will have received back almost the whole of their capital in seven years. This, I think, is a creditable record for so young a company, and, as the condition of the estate has now reached a very high standard, I am confident that the future will be as successful as the past. I do not propose to take up your time by going through the various items in the accounts, as they are set forth quite clearly and concisely. We still have uncalled capital amounting to £5,900 on the 10,000 participating preference shares. When these shares were issued it was intended to make them fully paid by making calls at regular intervals. Subsequently, however, the directors found that the whole of this capital was not required as urgently as was at one time anticipated, and it was undesirable to call up the capital unless it could be used to advantage. The board have for some time past been considering some means by which this extra capital could be used, as they fully realise the unsatisfactory position of preference shareholders having the liability of 10s. per share always before them. There are only about 80 acres of unplanted forest land on the estate available, the remaining unplanted area being reserved for native holdings. Mr. Victor Ris has inspected the 80 acres, and found that the land is for the most part very hilly and intersected by low-lying swamps. As a business proposition, he classes it as an "unplatable area," and does not advise incurring any expenditure in opening it out. Unfortunately, no other land is available in the immediate neighbourhood of the Sungei Kari estate. Extension is therefore out of the question. An opportunity has, however, arisen by which this company will be able to secure an interest in another Sumatra company, which has already entered the dividend-paying stage. The estate is reasonably capitalised, and, with the cash which we shall subscribe, additional land will be opened up at a cheaper rate than the original area, thereby reducing the capitalisation per planted acre. The proposal therefore is that the remaining 10s. per share shall be called up in two calls of 5s. per share each, due on January 1 and July 1, 1917. Before concluding I must briefly refer to the excess profits duty in so far as it

affects this company. When the report and accounts were under consideration by your directors, the decision of the Board of Referees had not been received. Their decision is, however, by now well known to you and all interested in rubber companies. It has been the subject of much comment and criticism in the financial Press, and, as I expressed my views on the incidence of the duty at the Castlefield annual meeting on Friday last, it is only necessary for me to say to-day that the sum of £11,566 carried forward from last financial year is more than sufficient to meet the company's liability, and that after paying the duty our profit and loss account will still have a fair balance to be brought into the current year's accounts. Gentlemen, the financial position of the company is perfectly sound.

Mr. Cecil de Winton seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

BEKOH RUBBER ESTATES.

The fourth annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Bekoh Rubber Estates, Ltd., was held on Monday in the Council Room of the Rubber Growers' Association, 38, Eastcheap, E.C., Sir Ernest W. Birch, K.C.M.G., the chairman, presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. James Sharpe) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: Since we last met you have received two interim dividends of 5 per cent. each, free of tax, and it will be my pleasure to-day to propose a final distribution of 10 per cent., less tax, making 20 per cent. for the year, or, as a matter worthy of note, 21½ per cent., less tax. The rubber harvested amounted to 300,237 lbs., which is less than the 318,000 lbs. we anticipated, but once more I turn with satisfaction to the prospectus figures. It was set out in the prospectus that by the end of June, 1916, you would obtain 679,750 lbs. of rubber. You have, in fact, obtained about 2,000 lbs. more than that forecast. It is hoped that the crop for the current year will be 420,000 lbs. For the first three months it realised 98,200 lbs. The temporary setback from thinning out and labour difficulties is a serious factor against us, and a heavy wintering season may, of course, recur. I have personal reasons for hoping that the estimate will be reached, because otherwise I shall not be able to fall back next year on the prospectus figures. The new plantation of 160 acres at Nyalas has been opened, and up to June 30 last a sum of £367 18s. 2d. had been spent on it. The cost of this and any other new cultivation on which we may embark will be charged to capital. Otherwise all expenditure is debited to revenue account. Your directors have in contemplation a scheme for planting up a block of 764 acres of our land by forming a small subsidiary company, in which Bekoh will have a third share. We are in correspondence with the Treasury, without whose permission we cannot act, and if the scheme is sanctioned Bekoh shareholders will own one-third of the new plantation. You are aware that the Board of Referees have decided that 10 per cent. shall be the datum line for rubber companies which have to rely upon a percentage basis for their pre-war standard of profits. I do not complain of the fact that the Government should say to investors: "After you have earned a fair percentage on your invested money, you must share your further profits to defend your country in this grave crisis," but I confess to a feeling that it is very invidious that many wealthy companies escape this tax. I have always been taught that the two principles on which taxation should be imposed are (1) that it will produce substantial sums, and (2) that it will be easily collected. In the case of rubber it is obvious that a tax on the raw product would have dealt equitably and even-handedly with all the companies, and that the money would have been collected locally at the minimum of cost. It will be interesting to see if any of the companies who escape this tax by reason of their pre-war affluence, will contribute conscience money to the Exchequer which has exacted this tax from their poorer relations. I now formally move:—"That the report of the directors and the accounts be received and adopted."

Mr. R. W. Harrison, in seconding the motion, said that many of the wealthy companies which had already distributed hundreds per cent. in dividends did not contribute a penny under the Act as it stood at present. That was due to those companies being able to take the average profit of any two of the three years immediately preceding 1914, which were years of high prices and large profits. The 10 per cent. datum was also obviously unfair between individual companies, and favoured the highly capitalised boom flotation as compared with a moderately capitalised company, such as Bekoh.

The motion was unanimously adopted.

The Eastern Bank, Ltd.—A branch has been opened at Amara in Mesopotamia, where they have been appointed bankers to the Government of India.

REALISATION AND DEBENTURE CORPORATION OF SCOTLAND, LTD.—After providing for administration charges and deducting £6,509, or £3,807 more, for income-tax, the nett revenue for the year ended August 31 was £3,240 up at £42,808. Out of this a dividend of 2s. 9 3/4d. per share is again declared on the deferred shares, payable in two equal portions on November 8 and May 8, and £11,171, or £6,348 more, is transferred to the general reserve, making a total of £240,887. Investments have risen by £15,385 to £1,054,984, of which £193,000 is in British Government securities. Liabilities on terminable debentures have been reduced by £17,560 to £409,590, while, on the other hand, there is a decrease of £23,710 to £4,449 in cash balances.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1916, and Oct. 28, 1916:—

	Estimate for the Year 1916-1917. (See note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1916, to Oct. 28, 1916.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1915, to Oct. 30, 1915.
Balances in Exchequer on April 1—	£	£	£
Bank of England	—	25,111,065	81,898,728
Bank of Ireland	—	465,941	1,552,224
REVENUE.		25,575,006	83,450,952
Customs	71,000,000	37,613,000	26,316,000
Excise	65,000,000	30,790,000	33,928,000
Estate, &c., Duties	30,000,000	17,225,000	19,016,000
Stamps	7,000,000	4,092,000	3,665,000
Land Tax and House Duty	2,650,000	320,000	340,000
Property and Income Tax and Super Tax	195,000,000	40,224,000	19,700,000
Excess Profits Duty	86,000,000	44,561,000	—
Land Value Duties	475,000	121,000	51,000
Post Office	36,100,000	18,200,000	17,700,000
Crown Lands	550,000	320,000	290,000
Receipts from Suez Canal	—	—	—
Shares and Sundry Loans	5,000,000	4,815,767	767,960
Miscellaneous	3,500,000	10,821,639	2,814,751
Revenue	502,275,000	209,103,406	124,588,711
Total, including Balance		234,678,412	208,039,663
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion		2,400,000	1,090,000
For Treasury Bills (for supply)		1,290,635,000	131,150,000
For Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		3,087,600	—
For War Loan, 1925-1928		—	35,798,408
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920		—	242,345
For War Loan, 1925-1945		—	579,350,000
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919		424	—
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920		34,222,000	—
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1921		84,114,500	—
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1922		62,464,000	—
For 6% Exchequer Bonds, 1920		26,137,000	—
For War Expenditure Certificates		26,658,500	—
For War Savings Certificates		32,550,000	—
For other Debt created under the War Loan Act, 1915, and Finance Act, 1916		76,106,208	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913		180,000	1,000,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913		160,000	—
Under Housing Act, 1914		45,200	500,000
East Africa Protectorate Loan Repayments on account of Principal and Interest		—	3,825
Temporary Advances—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £345,000,000 in 1916-1917 and £231,150,000 in 1915-1916)		452,896,500	251,000,000
Total		2,364,335,344	1,208,174,241
EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Estimate for the Year 1916-17. (See note.)	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1916, to Oct. 28, 1916.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1915, to Oct. 30, 1915.
EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£
Permanent Charge of Debt ..	12,818,000	14,428,874	16,555,875
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	114,436,000	63,262,132	5,586,460
Road Improvement Fund	—	—	694,395
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c.	9,500,000	4,553,755	4,777,521
Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,700,000	1,281,986	1,192,592
Supply Services	1,637,529,000	1,047,538,762	769,668,729
Expenditure	1,825,983,000	1,131,065,509	797,875,572
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion		2,610,000	1,525,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		91,370	91,370
For Treasury Bills for Supply		184,194,000	86,000,000
For Exchequer Bonds under the War Loan (Redemption) Act, 1910		—	16,395,500
For Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	£4,060,900	—	—
Less: paid off by the National Debt Commissioners	973,300	3,087,600	—
For Exchequer Bonds under Section 61 of the Finance Act, 1916		61,000	—
For Issues under Section 1 (5) of the War Loan Act, 1915		—	170,143,313
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913		180,000	1,230,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913		160,000	160,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		8,000	—
Under Housing Act, 1914		44,500	650,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8, issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1903		69,000	60,000
Old Sinking Fund—1910-1911: Issued under the Finance Act, 1911—			
Section 16 (1) (b)		43,160	100,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1911-1912—Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Co. (Acquisition of Capital) Act, 1914		250,000	250,000
East Africa Protectorate Loan Repayments: Issued to reduce Debt under the Finance Act, 1911		—	3,825
Temporary Advances repaid—Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £277,865,000 in 1916-17 and £116,131,000 in 1915-16)		353,791,500	116,131,000
Balances in Exchequer—			
Bank of England	£30,640,604	£17,000,305	—
Bank of Ireland	1,079,101	558,156	—
Total		2,364,335,344	1,208,174,241

MEMO.—Treasury Bills outstanding on Oct. 28, 1916... £1,082,808,000
* Includes £254,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the Account.

† In previous returns the net amount only has been shown.
NOTE.—Estimate as in House of Commons Paper No. 50 of 1916, and Supplementary Grants.
Treasury, October 30, 1916.

REGULATION OF FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

ARGENTINE & CHILIAN GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.

THE Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury hereby give Notice that, of the Securities which are suitable for deposit under the terms of Scheme B, they desire, as soon as possible to receive on deposit all the holdings of Argentine and Chilian Securities set out below.

Particulars of Deposit Scheme B can be obtained from any Banker, or Member of a Stock Exchange, or Member of the Association of Provincial Stock and Share Brokers, through whom the Securities can be deposited free of commission.

ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT.

3½% External Bonds (1889)
 4% Bonds (1897)
 4% Railway Guarantees Rescission Bonds (1897-9)
 4% Loan (1898)
 4% Bonds (1899)
 4% Bonds (1900) Laws 3378 and 3783
 4% Bonds (1900) Laws 3378 and 3885
 4% Bonds (1908)
 4% Loan (1910)
 4½% Internal Gold Loan (1888)
 4½% Sterling Conversion Loan (1888-9)
 5% Loan (1884)
 5% Loan (1886-7)
 5% Treasury Conversion Bonds (1887)
 5% Loan (1887-8-9) (North Central Railway Extensions)
 5% Railway Bonds (1890)
 5% Buenos Ayres Water Supply and Drainage Bonds (1892)
 Port of Buenos Ayres 5% Debentures
 5% Internal Gold Loan (1907)
 5% Internal Gold Loan (1909)
 5% Internal Gold Loan (1910)
 Port of the Capital (Buenos Ayres) 5% Bonds
 5% Irrigation Bonds (1st Series)

CHILIAN GOVERNMENT.

4½% Loan (1885)
 4½% Loan (1886)
 4½% Loan (1887)
 4½% Gold Loan (1889)
 4½% Bonds (1893)
 4½% Loan (1895)
 4½% Coquimbo Railway Bonds
 4½% Gold Loan (1906)
 4½% Bonds (Law of 7th September, 1910)
 5% Loan (1892)
 5% Loan (1896)
 5% Loan (1905)
 5% Loan (1909)
 5% Loan (1910)
 5% Loan (1911) 1st Series
 5% Loan (1911) 2nd Series
 5% Annuities, Series A.
 5% Annuities, Series B.
 5% Annuities, Series C.
 Chilian Northern Railway Company 5 per Cent. 1st Mortgage Debentures (Guaranteed by Chilian Government)

NATIONAL DEBT OFFICE, 19, OLD JEWRY, E.C.

The Investors' Review

FOUNDED BY A. J. WILSON, FEBRUARY, 1892.

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THE BANK OF TAIWAN, LTD.

Incorporated by the Special Charter of the Imperial Japanese Government, 1899.

HEAD OFFICE - - TAIPEH, FORMOSA.

BRANCHES—Tokio, Kobe, Osaka, Amoy, Canton, Foochow, Hong-kong, Hankow, Shanghai, Singapore, Swatow, Soerabaya, and principal towns in Formosa (Taiwan), &c.

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THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LTD.

Head Office: 15, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.

Capital Authorised	...	...	£1,500,000
Capital Issued	...	...	1,125,000
Capital Paid Up	...	...	562,500
Reserve Fund	...	...	550,000

Branches:

INDIA, BURMAH, CEYLON, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS
CHINA, AND PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS.

The Bank buys and sells Bills of Exchange, issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, and transacts banking and agency business in connection with the East, on terms to be had on application.

DEPOSITS received for one year at 5 per cent. per annum. Rates for other periods on application.

On current accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on daily balances.

BANK OF MONTREAL.

ESTABLISHED IN 1817.

Capital Paid-up, \$16,000,000. Reserve Fund, \$16,000,000.
Undivided Profits, \$1,321,193.

President Head Office and Board of Directors, SIR VINCENT MEREDITH, BART.
General Manager Sir FREDERICK WILLIAMS-TAYLOR, LL.D.
Assistant General Manager A. D. BRAITHWAITE.
Branches and Agencies throughout Canada and Newfoundland; also at New York, Chicago and Spokane in the United States.

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Committee: SIR THOMAS SKINNER, Bart., A. MACNIDER Esq.
GEORGE CYRIL CASSELS, Manager.

Financial Agents of the Government of the Dominion of Canada.

The Bank undertakes Monetary Business with all Allied and Neutral countries, and with its numerous branches offers exceptional facilities for the transaction of a general banking business in Canada, Newfoundland and the United States.

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INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.

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SIR HENRY S. CUNNINGHAM, K.C.I.E.	THE RIGHT HON. LORD GEORGE HAMILTON, G.C.S.I.
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THE LONDON COUNTY & WESTMINSTER BANK, Limited.
THE NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK OF ENGLAND, Limited.
THE NATIONAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, Limited.

The Corporation buy and receive for collection Bills of Exchange, grant Drafts and transact general banking business connected with the East.

DEPOSITS OF MONEY are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application. Interest payable half-yearly, 30th June and 31st December.

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PAID-UP CAPITAL	\$5,000,000
REST AND UNDIVIDED PROFITS	\$3,600,000
TOTAL ASSETS OVER	\$100,000,000

Bank has over 300 Branches in Canada and Agents in the principal cities in America.

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Major J. Leigh Wood, C.M.G., Chairman; Lieut.-Col. The Hon. Sidney Peel; and F. W. Ashe, Esq.

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LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

(Established 1826.)

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Last Rate of Bonus £1 15s. per cent. to £4 12s. per cent. according to duration.

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BANKS.

STANDARD BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA, LTD.

Bankers to the Government of the Union of South Africa in Cape Province, to the Imperial Government in South Africa, and to the Administration of Rhodesia.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	£6,194,100
PAID-UP CAPITAL	£1,548,525
RESERVE FUND	£2,000,000
UNCALLED CAPITAL	£4,645,575
	£8,194,100

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Passing Events.

Last week's Exchequer receipts from taxes, &c., amounted only to £8,390,000, and the previous week's total was £17,714,000. Of the past week's aggregate £4,171,000 came from excess profits tax, the yield of which should be on the increase now almost week by week to the end of the financial year. Compared with the tax and the public services revenue, the expenditure was again stupendous, no less than £39,430,000, of which £38,228,000 was outlay on supply services—that is, on the Army and Navy. The aggregate expenditure equalled £5,633,000, and the military expenditure about £5,460,000 per day. It is a figure of startling magnitude, and yet nothing to be really disquieted about, because the war will be won the sooner the more strenuously and completely supplies are available for carrying it on. It is a war of entire nations, and for that very reason it cannot be a long war, dragging over many years, like the wars against Napoleon. But the £39,430,000 actually disbursed last week on current account did not represent the whole Treasury overturn of credit out and in for the week. That amounted to £83,831,000, and included £39,444,000 of Treasury bills issued for supply and £4,905,000 of temporary advances repaid under the Finance Act of 1916. How was all this money found? Simply and easily enough. In addition to the £8,390,000 from taxation, £12,479,000 was obtained on 6 per cent. Exchequer bonds and £51,507,000 on Treasury bills. Also £1,000,000, as usual now, came in from War Savings Certificates, but War Expenditure Certificates gave only £603,500, and it might be worth while for the Chancellor of the Exchequer to try and discover why this source of money should apparently be drying up. Will he have to raise the discount allowed in order to attract more money, or is it worth while continuing to set up further competition of this kind with the Treasury bills and the 6 per cent. Exchequer bonds? In spite of these credit operations, the Treasury had to borrow £5,000,000 on temporary advances; that is to say, the £4,905,000 of temporary advances repaid, as noted above, were renewed in this £5,000,000 obtained from an unspecified source. It is probably quite to be expected that the sale of 6 per cent. Exchequer bonds should fall away, as November is not usually a month productive of large distributions of profits. Since,

however, the first issue of these bonds in the beginning of October, a period of five weeks up to last Saturday, £76,616,000 has been raised upon them—not at all a disappointing total. In fact, the financing of the war is going on with a smoothness most encouraging to those who are prudently fearful lest its prolongation should strain our resources beyond endurance. This is, no doubt, almost the one hope left that encourages the baffled and beaten Germans to go on until the ruin of their two rotten Empires is complete, and the manhood of their race so reduced in numbers as to ensure their subjugation to decency in international intercourse for many generations. If this is their hope, they will be disappointed, as usual. With all our financial requirements, only £7,345,000 nett was added to the outstanding Treasury bill total last week, bringing it up to £1,090,153,000. But Exchequer balances in the Bank have shrunk £4,780,000 to £26,940,000, which is £1,720,000 higher than last year at like date.

Of good heartening were the speeches at the Guildhall Banquet on Thursday evening. Mr. Balfour's description of the recent scurry of German destroyers into the Channel ought to stop effectively that tendency to scares certain classes of the nation have been exhibiting, led by the least worthy portions of the Press, to which the Navy and its unrelaxing vigilance are non-existent as a determining factor in the war. We make room for a few sentences:—

On a night of pitch darkness, no moon, clouds and storm, a few fast torpedo-boats entered the Channel and went as far west as Folkestone, and returned without having done the smallest military damage to our lines of communication. That great stream of men and munitions which goes ceaselessly from this country to France was never disturbed for a moment. No transport was attacked, no transport was threatened, and the ships returned, or many of them, without having effected anything which could be described as a feat of any naval importance whatever. (Cheers.) I do not say that that cannot be repeated. I do not think it will be repeated, not because I think it impossible or even difficult, but because I think it is not worth the enemy's while. They run many risks, and the possibilities are that they will run many more. In these circumstances I think it extremely improbable that they will repeat it. But though it can be repeated it is my confident hope that if it is we shall be able to show that if their destroyers can enter the Channel on nights they choose, under circumstances in which visibility beyond a few hundred yards is impossible, that if they enter the Channel under these conditions, as assuredly they can, they will not be able to get out of the Channel again without heavy disaster.

What Mr. Balfour said about other aspects of the splendid work done by our Navy would also well deserve quotation had we space. His testimony to the British mariner, whether in the merchant service or in the fighting Navy, was as well deserved as generous. "The British mariner," he said, "the British merchant seaman, is showing himself not less a hero under this attempt to terrorise him than his brother of the Regular Service." The examples he gave of German hypocrisy were most telling. On the day before war was declared the Germans issued their "prize code," which was signed by the Emperor and von Tirpitz, and Mr. Balfour read three lines of it. "In stopping and searching a vessel under a neutral flag, the commander must avoid as far as possible diverting her from her route, but will in general endeavour to cause the vessel as little inconvenience as possible." The "inconvenience" now caused is to send them to the bottom. Another telling extract was from an address by Baron von Marschall, who represented Germany at the Hague Peace Congress, in which he proclaimed loudly that "the officers of the German Navy will always fulfil in the strictest manner the duties which result from the unwritten law of humanity and civilisation." Thus glaring and sinister is German hypocrisy, but it continues to muddle the brains of the gullible and the stupid.

We have not space to attempt any transcription of Mr. Asquith's weighty after-dinner address, but note with satisfaction his statement with regard to Greece. What he said more or less harmonises with the observations made in another column this week with regard to the apparent hesitancy of the Allied attitude and proceedings at Athens, but Mr. Asquith at least had the courage frankly to declare the hearty sympathy of his Government with that great Greek patriot, Mr. Venizelos. He believes in the uprightness of that statesman's designs, and is obviously fully aware, or becoming fully aware, of the sinister influences exercised by German agents, not only over the foolish King, whose wife is the Kaiser's sister, but over Greek politicians, functionaries, and the least patriotic among all classes in the community. It is a position that demands patience, but as long as the Allies stand together and act with stern promptitude when evidence is forthcoming which requires action, we need be in no anxiety over the final result. As for the end of the war itself, and what we strive for therein, what can we do better than to put on record once more the peroration of the Prime Minister's speech?

Who has greater reason than we have to long and to pray for peace? Peace, yes; but on one condition only—that the war with its waste and sacrifices, its untold sufferings, its glorious and undying examples of courage and unselfishness—shall not have been in vain. (Cheers.) There can be no question of any separate peace. (Cheers.) And the peace when it comes, be it soon or be it late—and I will not disguise from you for a moment my conviction that the struggle will tax all our resources and our whole stock of patience and resolve—the peace when it comes must be such as will build upon a sure and stable foundation the security of the weak, the liberties of Europe, and a free future for the world. (Cheers.) And to that we again say, with our whole heart, Amen.

After reading the debate which took place in the House of Commons on Wednesday evening, we feel disposed to retract the hesitating approval appended to Mr. Holt's letter on the sale of Nigerian properties published last week, and that feeling is strengthened by reading comments of the *Morning Post*. We are constrained to agree with Mr. Bonar Law, and to think, with him, that his own rhetoric is preferable to that of Sir Edward Carson. It amuses us always to see this able Irish lawyer posturing as fervent patriot, because we never behold him posturing in this attitude without also seeing him haranguing Ulster rebel volunteers, encouraging them to arm with German murder tools against the law of the land, and, with all his might, doing his utmost to delude the lusting Prussian into the belief that Ireland would keep Great Britain out of the war of conquest he was eager to begin. As to the question at issue in Wednesday's debate, is it really possible to frame such regulations as would prevent any except

British-born people from owning properties in Nigeria or in any other British Dominion abroad? Presumably many of these properties, if not all, will be joint-stocked, and how is it possible to prevent neutrals and aliens from acquiring shares in such companies? They can be held safely enough without disclosing the name of the real owner. And, looking at the cosmopolitan qualities of the Jew, a by far more astute man of business than the loutish Prussian, can anyone imagine that an effective and maintainable barrier can be set up to prevent the German Jew from having a hand in whatever business he likes to follow, whether as an ordinary shareholder or as an individual? As Mr. Law said, moreover, if you shut out Frenchmen we should insult them, make our profession of friendship a mockery. The debate from this point of view leaves a bad taste in the mouth. But there is not much to be gained by prolonging the discussion. The motion of Mr. Leslie Scott was built upon misconceptions, inspired by the natural revolt of the just man's mind against the thought of having any contact whatever with the loathed Prussian; but whatever the motives were that originated the resolution, it was utilised by the party hack for a purely factious purpose, as an instrument with which to worry the Government, and from that point of view it was unworthy of the support of any sane patriot.

Some papers are reminding us that the Prussian Government promised not to sink without warning and without saving human lives, "unless the ship attempts to escape or offers resistance," merchantmen met "both within and without areas declared a naval war zone." But why recall that pledge, which was valueless from the outset, and meant to be, as the safeguarding clause demonstrates? The Germans never could keep a pledge of that kind and at the same time maintain their infamous system of piracy on the high seas. Within the space of ten months they have succeeded in torpedoing two P. and O. steamers because they attacked by stealth. The *Persia* was sunk without warning in the Mediterranean on December 30 last year, and 119 passengers and 214 crew were drowned. This time the sister ship, *Arabia*, has been sunk, also without warning, about noon on the 6th inst., but her 437 passengers, including 169 women and children, and all the crew, except two engineers believed to have been killed by the explosion, have been rescued. The contrast between the fate of the people carried by these two vessels surely emphasises the increased danger to German submarines caused by the Allies' greater power to deal with them. Less than ever then can the brutes afford to betray the least semblance of humane feeling, of regard for pledges, any nonsense of that kind. The very fact that the passengers and crew of the *Arabia* were rescued shows that if the submarine had been handled by a commander man enough to give warning before launching his torpedo his reward would probably have been to be sent to the bottom. Too many ships were about; he had to be a fiend. It is becoming more dangerous every week to pursue this shark-like piracy on the sea, and that is about all the consolation we can draw from such incidents as the sinking of the *Arabia*. But naturally with every successive disaster of this kind the feeling strengthens here that full reparation should be exacted from the enemy before any question of peace can arise. "You must pay ton for ton" is what the Government is now being urged to proclaim for the foe's warning, and Mr. Punch says, "demand two tons for one." We feel disposed to agree with Mr. Punch, and at least this ought to be emphasised for the enemy's enlightenment beyond possibility of doubt: the determination of the Allies that until full compensation for all such loathsome crimes at sea has been tendered and received no German merchant ship shall be allowed to carry on trade with any part of the world. If the German mercantile marine now shut up by the war and by the blockade is not adequate to provide full compensation for the havoc wrought amongst the unarmed shipping not of the Allied Powers fighting the German hydra, but of all neutrals who trade on the ocean, then its

deficiency must be supplemented by cash payments sufficient to provide the balance. Failing that, liberty to trade abroad to be barred. Resolutions on these lines ought to be made known to the German-speaking peoples.

What is coming to light in Athens regarding the complicity of Greek officials and merchants, politicians also, in the plot to hand the kingdom over to the Prussians, may well warrant the representatives of the *Entente* Powers in holding their hand until more is revealed. Evidently the Greek capital, the Greek army and navy, the banking and mercantile classes, and many among the meaner strata of the people have been bought (or otherwise corrupted) by the Teutons. But until the evidence is complete enough to support conclusive action, it is better to let the infamy yeast itself to the surface. Where *Truth* gets support for its assertion that the Powers are at variance over Greek affairs we do not know, but Lord Robert Cecil has again and again emphatically declared the contrary, and he is not a man given to lying; and the facts appear to us to support him, because they disclose nothing in the unhappy country's condition for the Powers to quarrel over. Greece can never now hope to enter upon a great inheritance in outlying lands or to play a master part of any sort in the Near East. Her boundaries will be enlarged in accordance with just pretensions, but the little State can never be more than one of the several liberated and readjusted States into which the Balkans and adjacent territories will be divided under the protecting wing of the Great Powers. Why, then, should these Powers "differ" about Greece? We cannot guess why, and do not believe that they are at variance, for not one of them is fighting to reach a position enabling it to annex and oppress, either in the Balkans or anywhere else. They are in arms to free the slaves of all races, to revive and liberate small peoples and large, and are ready to do justly by Greece, even as by Bulgaria, once the Turk has been swept off the stage as a "Power."

Two points of great importance to capitalists, and especially to joint-stock companies, with domiciles both in Great Britain and Australia, were raised by Mr. Henry Bull at the meeting of his company's shareholders held on Wednesday and reported on another page. First he protested strongly against the action of the tax-gatherer in annexing so much of the profits earned in an exceptional time like the present, and secondly he offered vigorous resistance to the payment of war taxes twice over—here and in Australia—out of the same profits. In regard to the first point, his contention was that the stripping away of the larger profits now by means of the excess profits tax often leaves a business without the necessary reserves with which to meet the lean times sure to follow the conclusion of peace. We admit the risk, the probability, that it may be thus after the war, but cannot see how the tax collector can be blamed. War necessities compel the Government to ask for every farthing it can get, and the victims must pay to the uttermost, while trying at the same time to pare and economise wherever they can against the day of recoil sure, or almost sure, to come. But Mr. Bull's second grievance has all our sympathy. It is not merely inequitable, it also looks like senseless financial tyranny to free people to pay the war taxes in Australia and also here out of the same money. There ought to be an arrangement made in virtue of which an abatement should be given. Some extra payment must be submitted to, and the ordinary taxes both in Australia and here will cause an increased strain on incomes, do what man may. But the special war levies made by the two Governments should be modified so as to give relief from injustice and for fear of consequences to the Empire's future industrial and trade position. We do not quite share Mr. Bull's fears that our supremacy will be transferred to the States, for that country has clogs and stumbling-blocks enough of its own to check its career of con-

quest. Unjust excess of taxation is none the less to be resisted, and we hope officials concerned may be able to arrange a more equitable adjustment of burdens than now exists.

Increased cost of raw material and higher wages seem to suit the great Paisley firm of J. and P. Coats, Limited. According to the preliminary statement for the year to June 30, the nett profits (after allowing for excess profits duty) amounted to £3,387,400, which is nearly £800,000 more than last year, and beats the previous record for 1909-10 by £210,000, plus the amount provided for the new tax. Moreover, several mills and other property are in enemy hands, and do not contribute to the present results, but the loss on these does not make us so reflective as the increased price of the poor sempstress's reel of cotton. But the cautious directors apparently see visions of ruin from the loss of their Continental connections, and they prudently restrict the dividend to 30 per cent., which has been paid for the past few years, carrying forward a bagatelle of close on £2,500,000. Yea, verily, it is a wonderful business.

More than usual interest attaches to the report of the committee of Lloyds' Register of Shipping for the year to June 30, because of the shortage of tonnage created by the war, owing partly to the heavy losses incurred and partly to the vast amount of shipping engaged in feeding and transporting troops. Perhaps the most gratifying fact brought out is that at the end of the year there were 6,106 British merchant vessels on the Register, with a tonnage of 13,563,177, an increase of 207 vessels and 263,229 tons, as compared with 1915. That is as surprising as it is satisfactory. Unfortunately, other countries have not fared so well, the returns for them showing 3,926 vessels of 9,626,960 tons, a decrease of 717 in number and of 1,247,968 in tonnage. There is consequently a nett loss of 510 vessels and 984,739 tons, the favourable British figures being partly accounted for by the fact that out of 790,200 tons built or building during the year Britain takes credit of 414,460 tons, or 52½ per cent. But it is evident that the United States particularly will make a bold bid to reduce our big lead in the future. Every effort is being made in America, by means of the extension of existing plants and the creation of new establishments, to cope with the increasing demand for tonnage. At the present time no fewer than 620 vessels of 2,282,700 tons are building under the inspection of Lloyds, which has considered it desirable to establish an American Committee in New York, with Mr. A. G. Smith, of the New York and Cuba Mail S.S. Company, as chairman. Yards in the United Kingdom have necessarily been largely occupied with the production of warships of various kinds, at the same time as there is a serious shortage of labour, and although there has recently been some acceleration in the rate of progress, the output remains far below normal or what we should desire. However, this is merely a temporary phase, and we have every confidence that British shipyards will reassert their supremacy as soon as the present trouble is surmounted.

The Mersey Docks and Harbour Board is a great public authority which is responsible for a capital expenditure of 32½ millions, and, on the whole, its work has been, and is, admirably carried out. But it should not be above the board's dignity to present its accounts in more digestible shape. Twenty-four royal quarto pages of figures are issued without a word of explanation, which might be forgiven, but also without the corresponding figures of the previous year for comparison, which is unforgivable, and makes us think that the administration must be somewhat mulish in resisting innovations, for the point must frequently have cropped up. For the year to July 1 (not June 30, mark you!) the revenue was £2,152,750, an increase of £2,000, but the details show considerable fluctuations. Rates and dues were £170,000 lower, while dock traffic produced £130,000 more, warehouses

£33,000 more, and rents £10,000 more. On the other hand, interest required £23,000 more at £954,000, the engineer's department £76,000 more at £380,000, and the dock traffic department £17,000 more at £165,000, but there was a saving of £8,000 in general charges and of £48,000 in rates and taxes. Finally the nett revenue was reduced by £58,000 to £56,660, but special appropriations were cut in half at £39,800, and the balance to carry forward has been increased by £17,000 against £36,000, and now amounts to £556,000. It would take much more time and space than we can afford to dig out other comparative figures, but those who are more immediately interested will find the various abstracts well worth studying.

The return of the foreign trade of Japan for September shows further expansion, and although the greater part of the increase is probably due to the supply of munitions to the Allies, the figures indicate abundant prosperity in the Eastern Empire. Exports for the month amounted to £10,498,507, against £6,882,456 in the corresponding month of 1915, while for the nine months the total shows an increase of £27,027,587 at £76,551,173. Imports for September were £6,270,408, against £4,079,855, and for the nine months £55,875,925, or an increase of £14,797,163. The excess of exports over imports was £4,228,099 for the month, as against £2,802,600 a year ago, and £20,675,248 for the nine months, as against £8,444,823.

It would be difficult by any stretch of the imagination to find very much encouragement in the report of the Aerated Bread Co., Ltd., but it is at least satisfactory to learn that the offices and staff have now been transferred to the factory in Camden Road, and it may be hoped that the centralising of the whole administration will lead to the stricter attention to detail which is so essential for the success of a business of this kind, especially when competition is becoming fiercer than ever. With three new depôts opened during the year the gross profit on trading increased £11,000 to £297,920, but unfortunately expenses rose more than £29,000 to £282,350. The nett profit is therefore £18,900 down at £17,080, and as a smaller amount was brought forward the available balance is £21,130 less at £43,678. An interim dividend of 5 per cent. was paid, and the directors are unable to recommend any further distribution, whereas the total dividend last year was 17½ per cent. and for the year before 27½ per cent. After again writing off £8,000 for depreciation and £3,760 (new) for loss on investments realised, the balance to be carried forward is £2,650 less at £23,955. Bank overdraft has been reduced £10,000 to £25,000, while investments are £54,000 lower at £16,200. On the other hand, capital outlay has increased £20,000 nett, stocks are up £7,500, and cash balances are £4,000 higher. Of course, the company has been hard hit by the high prices of food and materials, while wages, war bonuses, and other expenses have also increased, but the overturn shows that there is still a very fine business if it is properly handled, and we shall hope to see a return to greater prosperity in the near future.

We have already dealt with the preliminary statement of the United Railways of the Havana and Regla Warehouses, Limited, and need only recapitulate that after placing £415,000, or £155,000 more, to various funds, which now amount to £1,400,000, the dividend is maintained at 5 per cent., and the balance forward, is about the same at £14,390. Gross receipts for the year to June 30 were the highest in the company's history, amounting to £2,090,360, an increase of £398,000. Expenses, however, were nearly £235,000 up at £1,129,240, and the ratio advanced from 52.85 per cent. to 54.02 per cent. This is due partly to the cost of working the additional traffic handled, and partly to heavy charges for upkeep owing to the extra strain on the line and rolling stock. With

interest and miscellaneous receipts, the nett revenue is brought up to £1,340,925, an increase of £210,000, but debenture interest required rather more, and taxes (including excess profits duty 1914-15) took £57,000 more, and the balance was appropriated as already mentioned. Passenger traffic showed an increase of £122,000 at £569,400, and goods receipts were up £217,620 at £1,238,000. General goods traffic increased by 539,000 tons, or 36½ per cent., and 988,000 tons of sugar were carried, an increase of about 100,000 tons. This represents just one-third of the total production of the island, but the proportion was slightly larger last year. On the other hand, the amount of cane handled was 53½ per cent. of the total, against 50½ per cent. Almost every item of expenditure shows an increase, but that is not to be wondered at in the circumstances. With regard to prospects, the outlook for sugar is excellent, and an increase of about 5 per cent. on last year's crop is anticipated. Tobacco showed a heavy falling off last year, and nothing is said about the coming crop, but it is not of great importance from the railway point of view, and continued prosperity seems assured for some time to come.

As the Bahia Blanca and North-Western Railway Co., Ltd., is leased to the Buenos Ayres and Pacific, its operations have only an academic interest to the stockholders, but they are set out in admirable detail. The most interesting item in the report, however, is that the dividend on the guaranteed stock will be raised from 4 to 4½ per cent. as from July 1 next. Passenger traffic in the past year increased £6,700, and parcels £4,900, but there was a decrease of £21,400 in rentals and sundries. Total goods traffic fell £54,000. Firewood showed an increase of £21,000, wool £4,300, and general goods £5,600, but there was a loss of £83,500 on wheat and of £12,600 on barley, oats, &c. Altogether gross receipts fell £68,300 to £687,430, while the Pacific Co. had to pay £446,540 for fixed and other charges, so that it must have made a substantial loss on working the line. But it doubtless gained indirectly, and in a good year the company ought to do something more than merely pay its way. Another subsidiary of the Pacific Co., the Villa Maria and Rufino Railway, did better last year, gross receipts being £13,475 higher at £77,830, while the fixed and other charges paid by the lessee amounted to £45,500, so that the deficit on working would not be important. In this case also interest on the guaranteed stock will be raised to 4½ per cent. as from July 1 next.

It is quite evident that in spite of all the restrictions to which the licensed trade is at present subjected, well-managed and reasonably capitalised breweries can still make fairly handsome profits. For the year to September 30 Ansells Brewery, Ltd., whose headquarters is in Birmingham, made a nett profit of £92,347, or £5,300 more than in the previous 12 months, and this allows of a dividend of 10 per cent. (same as last year), together with a bonus of 2½ per cent. In addition, £5,000 more at £30,000 is placed to reserve, and the balance remaining to be carried forward is £3,500 higher at £81,510. Changes in the balance-sheet merely reflect normal business fluctuations, with the exception that the ordinary share capital has been doubled at £400,000. This interesting expansion has been accomplished by capitalising part of the reserve fund—an almost unique experience for brewery shareholders in these times. We are inclined to view such operations with some suspicion as a rule, but it appears to be perfectly legitimate in this case, and it affords evidence that the directors have confidence in the continued prosperity of the business. It will be noticed that the amount carried forward is equal to 20 per cent. on the increased capital, and, with the proposed addition, the reserve fund will amount to £155,000, which may be regarded as adequate for ordinary purposes. Debenture interest and preference dividend require £28,000, so that on the basis of last year's results £64,000 would remain, or sufficient to provide 10 per cent. on £400,000 and a substantial

margin for reserves and contingencies. A company that has been managed with such prudence and success is not likely to have dead assets in its balance-sheet, and the shareholders appear to be entitled now to reap some advantage from the self-denying policy which has placed the company in so strong a position.

The little display of returning prosperity which the directors of the Consolidated Gold Fields of South Africa were able to make last year has proved to be a delusion and a snare. On that occasion the dividend was raised from 5 per cent. to $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., tax free, though the nett profit was £90,000 less at £299,152. This was rendered possible by the absence of any provision for depreciation, a fact which was taken to indicate that this bugbear, which had absorbed £2,500,000 in the two years ended June 30, 1914, had at last been finally dealt with. Consequently, the market has been talking of a 10 per cent. dividend for the past year, and they were disappointed to learn that the dividend was to be kept at $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. But the reason for this is quite clear from the preliminary statement, which shows that, although the nett profit rose from £299,152 to £440,141, depreciation required the appropriation of no less than £232,265. This is provided for by taking £100,000 from reserve, reducing that account to £700,000, and the balance from profits, the available sum being £151,652, against £145,616. If the whole of the depreciation had been charged to the year's profits, the balance would amount to only £51,052, and this would not have sufficed to pay even $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., tax free. Thus the nett results are actually really worse than those for 1914-15, but the carry-forward is raised from £80,088 to £81,740 by encroaching upon the reserve. The directors, however, add that the investments now show a large unrealised profit at present market values. The year's depreciation is largely attributed to the fall in the value of shares in mining companies whose length of life is now becoming a factor in the market price.

Owing to the very serious depreciation in its investments, the Exploration Company early in the year attempted to carry out a reconstruction whereby the capital was to be reduced by one-half. But for some extraordinary reason the Treasury Committee on Fresh Issues of capital would not sanction the issue of the new shares. Since then the depreciation has increased from £206,882 to £311,054, and as no dividends can be paid out of profits until this depreciation is dealt with, the directors have decided to apply to the High Court for sanction to reduce the capital of £750,000 by one-half, by writing off 10s. per £1 share. If this proposal is sanctioned by the shareholders and the Court, the company will be able to resume dividends, which have been suspended since 1912, out of the £91,909 which now stands at the credit of the profit and loss account. The depreciation in investments has arisen as follows:—£163,820 in Mexican securities, £82,374 in South African, and £39,364 in United States investments, and £25,496 in various industrial enterprises. We think the proposal ought to be adopted, for it will release money for investment in the war loans, which hitherto has been kept in a more or less liquid condition in the coffers of the company.

Last year to March 31 was a bad one for the New Zealand and Australian Land Co., Ltd., but it is in such a strong position that it can meet a reverse without unduly straining its resources. Trading profits fell £155,000 to £273,937, and the nett profit is £163,600 lower at £176,280. By taking £82,000 from the contingency fund (which will still stand at nearly £700,000) the dividend and bonus of 15 per cent. for the year is maintained, and the balance forward is reduced £6,700 to £1,350, while nothing, against £25,000, is placed to reserve. The company's operations were seriously affected by the severe drought which prevailed, especially in Queensland, where the flocks were reduced by about 40 per cent. Consequently only 181,500 lambs were bred, as compared

with 347,000 in the previous year, and the wool clip was 7,640 bales less at 23,660 bales. The average price, however, was £22 5s. per bale against £15 15s. 9d., which fully compensated for the reduced quantity. During the year 8,526 acres of freehold land in Australia were sold at fair prices against only 935 acres last year, and it is satisfactory to learn that the current season promises well. Most of the American securities in which the reserve funds were largely invested have been disposed of at good prices under the mobilisation scheme and the proceeds mainly invested in Treasury bills. Investments at cost show a decrease of £118,000 at £831,000, but cash is up £98,000 at £233,000. Lands are £84,000 lower at £2,329,000 and produce is £80,000 down at £138,700, while sundry creditors have been reduced £64,500 to £56,000. Shareholders therefore need not be unduly anxious about the temporary set-back in the fortunes of their company, which could stand harder knocks than it is ever likely to receive while it continues to be so ably managed.

Our Foreign Trade.

With each succeeding issue of the Board of Trade, returns our amazement grows that the figures of our overseas commerce not only are maintained, but continue to expand. Of course, allowance must be made for higher prices, which account for a large proportion of the improvement, while our domestic necessities fully explain the increase in imports. On the other hand, the recrudescence of U-boat "frightfulness," not only in northern European waters, but in the Mediterranean and on the shores of America, might have been expected to exercise a much more appreciable effect on sea-borne traffic, both into and from our ports. That we are so little affected relatively to the total volume of our trade is due to the ever wakeful vigilance of the Navy, whose almost superhuman endurance and resourcefulness get scant recognition from the yapping Pommeranian puppies of the Northcliffe and allied kennels. But here are the figures for the past two years, which speak for themselves:—

	October, 1916.	Compared with 1915.	Compared with 1914.
Imports	81,135,376	+ 13,318,970	+ 29,755,940
Exports	44,715,248	+ 12,746,283	+ 16,113,433
Re-exports	7,663,322	+ 500,689	+ 483,465

TEN MONTHS.			
Imports	784,996,180	+ 73,497,520	+ 211,204,520
Exports	424,044,186	+ 108,983,535	+ 44,604,000
Re-exports	84,538,400	+ 1,755,880	+ 562,338

In studying these figures, it is well to remember that those for 1914 include seven months of peace before Armageddon broke on the world. Last month, as compared with 1915, shows an increase of $19\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in imports, of nearly 40 per cent. in exports, and of 7 per cent. in re-exports. For the ten months the increases are 10 per cent., $34\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and 2 per cent., respectively. Practically the whole of the advance in imports last month is accounted for by food and raw materials, the former contributing £6,300,000 and the latter £6,560,000. We received 57 per cent. more wheat, but the value increased 110 per cent., while 6 per cent. more Indian corn cost nearly 68 per cent. more. Imports of bacon advanced 43 per cent. in quantity and $67\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in value, and those of cheese $22\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and 67 per cent., respectively. Beef imports increased about one-third, and the price was very little higher, while butter dropped 55 per cent., and the value only $38\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Among raw materials, the advance in the price of copper ore looks sensational, the quantity being up 81 per cent. and the cost 237 per cent. That has little effect on the total, as the amount was less than half a million all told, but iron and steel cost about 30 per cent. more. Petroleum increased only $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in quantity, but nearly doubled in value, and 10 per cent. more cotton cost an additional 70 per cent., while raw sugar advanced $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in quantity and $46\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in value. All these items indicate the effect of higher prices in swelling the totals, but it is satisfactory to note

that in most of the other leading commodities, which we have not space to mention, quantities increased as well as values, the principal exceptions being barley, mutton, refined sugar, tea, flax, jute, rubber, and timber.

As regards exports, all the principal articles show increases in value, but quantities do not come out so well. Of the total gain, manufactured articles account for £10,200,000, to which cotton contributed £3,000,000 and wool £1,530,000. Cotton piece goods increased 5 per cent. in quantity and 40 per cent. in value, woollen goods 53½ per cent. and 87½ per cent. respectively, and apparel 91 per cent. in value. Coal fell 1½ per cent. in quantity, but advanced 42½ per cent. in value, while iron and steel dropped as much as 23 per cent., but fetched 10 per cent. more. Machinery also showed a gain of 21 per cent. A good many other items show a reduction in quantity, but an increase in value, so that if our manufacturers are paying higher prices for raw materials they are getting considerably more for the finished articles, and on the whole we have every reason to be satisfied with the results. So far as the shipping returns indicate our principal customers, apart from the Allies, have been America, Norway, Spain, Denmark, Holland, Sweden, and Argentina, in the order named, and although the total tonnage cleared is considerably below the pre-war level, there is every reason to believe that the vessels sail more heavily laden on the average.

Only very brief particulars are given of the bullion movements up to the end of September, full details being withheld, no doubt for good and sufficient reasons. For the last quarter imports of gold amounted to £4,915,800, an increase of £3,605,400 as compared with last year, and a decrease of £14,572,000 as compared with 1914. Silver imports amounted to £3,159,850, an increase of £1,256,000 over last year, and practically the same as in 1914. For the nine months the total bullion imports were £20,804,000, an increase of £6,300,000 over last year, but nearly £37,000,000 less than 1914. Exports of gold for the quarter were £9,264,000, or £6,440,000 more than for the corresponding period, and £2,255,000 over 1914. Silver exports amounted to £3,259,120, or about double those of the two previous years. For the nine months the total bullion exports were £38,800,000, an increase of £24,000,000 over last year, but practically the same as in 1914. In the nine months we have lost on balance £20,300,000 of gold, but have retained £2,300,000 of silver.

Apostles of a Traitor Peace.

One day, while ruminating upon the peace we must secure, a leaflet came by post from a "Peace Negotiations Committee," together with a slip for signature committing the subscriber to an agitation intended to force the Government to open "peace negotiations" with Germany this winter. The author of the leaflet is Mr. Charles Roden Buxton, doubtless most sincere and certainly most wrong-headed of men. Its contentions are so astounding, its travesties of the truth so shameless, and its demands so outrageous, that we are constrained to pause a little and give it more attention than it intrinsically deserves. At the outset Mr. Buxton reveals an ignorance alike of the real motives impelling the two Germanic Empires to plan and enter upon this war of conquest in Europe and of the spirit animating the Allies of the Entente in defending themselves and the world's chance of freedom from the nefarious assault which would be astounding in an unwarped mind, and in him is a disgrace. But Mr. Buxton has not a mind attuned to facts. He is a sentimentalist in peace as in all things; and facts must also seemingly adapt themselves to his formula. "The success of the Allied offensive has created a new situation. Peace could be made this winter with honour and success." These are the opening sentences of the essay whose sub-title is "a reply to Mr. Lloyd George." Let us see, then, how, according to Mr. Roden Buxton's ideas, the "honour" and the "success" could be attained.

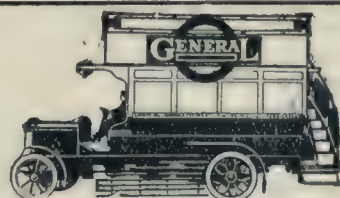
He thinks the opinion of Germany is "consistently misrepresented" in the Press, and backs his opinion by propping himself on his own weekly "survey of foreign opinion," as published in the *Cambridge Magazine*, a weekly paper upon which much money is now being spent. He thinks, as everybody else will think, that Germany cannot be expected to formulate the terms in which she is willing to give up the struggle, "but short of explicit declarations, the evidence that a reasonable settlement could be attained is overwhelmingly strong." And he proceeds to indicate in summary style what, in his opinion, this evidence is. Take his points—also summarily—in their order as written down: (1) A quotation from the *Nation*, New York, which states that "influential American opinion which holds that British aims (e.g., defeat of aggression, right of small nations, and agreement to prevent war), being un-realizable, further expenditure of life is unprofitable." That opinion, it is asserted, could be endorsed "from almost every neutral country," and there are faddists and fussy busybodies everywhere. Then Mr. Buxton assures his readers that "American pro-Ally opinion is becoming increasingly suspicious of our aims," which might be true, and is as likely as not false. We have no evidence that it is even American "pro-Ally" opinion, but it is certainly German. (2) "The desire of the great majority of the German people for peace on defensive terms is no longer disputed." Was it ever disputed? Hans wants his Gretchen and his sausages—has done since the defeat of the Marne—but what has that to do with peace? Will Mr. Buxton be kind enough to explain what the German people count for in this war except as "gun fodder"? Can they control the Government, guide the peace negotiations, or otherwise effectively make known their minds? Having answered these straight questions without shifty polemic, will Mr. Buxton please go on and explain what he means by "defensive terms"? Who are to be defended, and from what? Is it an armed peace he would have, a continuance of the nightmare which has oppressed Europe since 1870? If not, what does the man mean? Against whom has Germany had to "defend" herself in arms either in the past or now? Who will seek to attack her in the future if she gives over thieving? Pacifists of any type should be honest, and the phrase above quoted is sophisticated, a dodging of the true issue. (3) The following points are noted by Mr. Buxton as illustrating "the probable"—why probable?—"attitude of the German Government" towards peace: (a) The "consistent refusal" of the German Chancellor "to lay down any annexation of territory as a condition of peace." Is that true? If true in form, does it not convey a false and misleading impression? Was it not this invertebrate functionary who referred the peace-seekers to the map of the war frontiers for light on German terms in a speech delivered shortly before the French and ourselves began our advance on the Somme? What, then, can Mr. Buxton mean by putting down a sentence of that kind unless to indicate a state of mind in German official circles the reverse of the actual? Is that straightforward? We think not. (b) Can a man be even sane and responsible for his actions who also says that Bethmann-Hollweg stated his ultimate aim "in terms closely resembling those of Mr. Asquith and M. Briand"? Surely a more outrageous travesty of the facts could not be imagined. That the German Chancellor is no warrior we believe; that he is hated by the berserker masters of the Empire we also think both probable and natural, for he is accused of being against sea piracy on unarmed merchantmen and *Lusitanias*; but what does such hatred signify? Surely nothing at all to us, except that we should be wary of accepting literally his "willingness" (c) "publicly in the middle of the struggle, and before beginning any negotiations to give up Belgium merely under negative guarantees." How does Mr. Buxton know that? What would it matter if it were true, and what are "negative guarantees"? Is Belgium to be released and held against the next razzia of the Prussian land thieves? Are all the brutal facts, all the despoilments

and horrors of this Teutonic cold-blooded war of aggression to be overlooked and the tricky phrases of the most impudently dishonest Government in Europe to be accepted as safe and solid bases on which to rear a peace mankind can live and thrive under? We had enough of that sort in 1815. Ah, but adds this most gullible pacifist, if not most malevolent, (d) Bethmann-Hollweg's declaration of "readiness for peace negotiations" frequently reiterated also show his Government's "probable attitude." Why merely probable? Does not Mr. Buxton know that on the Kaiser's own peace terms—retention of Belgium as a vassal "independent" State if not otherwise, of Alsace and Lorraine, with their minerals, of hegemony in the Balkan Peninsula, of over all that may still be allowed to exist of the Turkish Empire, especially Asia Minor; complete liberty on sea, to the subjection of all other nations, Customs tariffs framed to suit German industries, &c., &c.—Germany would make peace to-morrow? Surely Mr. Buxton and his comrades, in meanly and not too straightforwardly labouring for the subjugation of the kingdom, of the Empire, of liberty and true civilisation the world over, to the Prussian savage beast, cannot really be ignorant of all that has come and gone since July, 1914. Why has Germany allied herself with the Turk? Would this "Peace Negotiations Committee" conserve the tyranny of the Turk? Are its members all really as ignorant and prepossession-ridden as Mr. Roden Buxton? We should be sorry to believe it, for to the ordinary mind cant of this description is most loathsome, because so sentimentally disingenuous. In the rest of his pamphlet Mr. Buxton lets it be seen that "many other points" would, of course, require treatment—Turkey, Alsace-Lorraine, &c. So that he does know something of what peace involves. But, to his shame, his infatuation renders him totally incapable of segregating the true from the make-believe, the essentials from trivialities not worth a moment's attention. To a mind like this it is the pose, the phrase, which counts, not the deed, the fact, and if the peace negotiations such people clamour for were carried out by men of their mould civilisation would be strangled, and Europe, nay mankind itself, made servile amid nauseating displays of empty, all-for-your-good-and-our-glory magniloquence.

"Broadly speaking," says this wanderer in regions of whose landmarks he is, or chooses to be, ignorant, "the lines followed would probably be those of 'the basis for a just peace' recommended for consideration by Sir Edward Fry and other leading men in this country." Would they? We do not know these lines; it is enough that they constitute this unseemly agitator's "probably" to condemn them. "If a reasonable peace is attainable, why is not peace made?" demands this philanderer for the degradation of his country. "There can only be one answer," he goes on—"because the Government are not aiming at a reasonable peace." That is a monstrous thing to say, but censure is restrained because we grow more and more doubtful whether a man genuinely honest with his own conscience and sincerely anxious for the peace of freedom could have said it. Charity bids us hope that the calumniator is insane. And what we are sure of is that no man who has impartially studied the facts antecedent to the war, and who has followed not so much the shifting fortunes of the conflict, or the ever-changing and yet ever-constant manifestations of the real governing power in Germany—and in Austria, too—could entertain an opinion so directly opposed to the evidence. Does Mr. Roden Buxton seriously believe that our Government is maintaining its share of the fight for the fun of the thing, or for plunder, or to destroy France, as Hindenburg alleges, that it could be deliberate in its intention to ruin not France alone, but Europe? Perhaps not quite all that; but he appears to regard it as a member of a plunder league, rival to Germany, intent upon ruining Germany, proposing, among other things, to annex "most or all of Germany's colonial empire," the annexation of Constantinople by

Russia, of the North Dalmatian coast by Italy, or, possibly—to use Mr. Lloyd George's language—a "knock-out," without any defined object whatever. The man who can believe that with the means of knowing the truth at his call ought to join Stewart Houston Chamberlain; he is not qualified to be a British citizen. He knows enough of the truth and is unable to see straight; and to him the German pretences, the German lies and hypocrisies, dodgeries with Poland and "Little Willy" slobberings over his murdered fellow citizens, are more than all we have suffered and are enduring in the cause of freedom. For shame! dry-hearted pedant.

And almost every sentence that follows heightens the scandal. After an exposition, in which the motive and the meaning found in public incidents are jumbled and coloured by an unwholesome political rancour, we come upon this choice saying:—"It is no longer for Belgium, France, or Serbia that our sons and brothers are being called upon to fight. Belgium, France, and Serbia might be freed to-morrow. It is for commercial boycott, or territorial aggrandisement, or a mere 'knock-out.'" There is just enough lacquer of German pinchbeck in that statement to make its whole an abominable falsehood. "Remove the censorship and the Defence of the Realm Act for a month, and public opinion would wear a very different aspect from what it does to-day. The announcement that negotiations had begun would be greeted not with an outcry of protest, but with a sigh of relief." That also is false, cruelly false, and injurious to the highest interests of the Empire. But such being the leader's opinion, it is natural for the "Peace Negotiations Committee" to demand "the conclusion of an honourable peace this winter." Would Mr. Buxton, then, and his supporters, or *claqueurs*, be good enough to specify with whom we, the war-prolonging Powers, are to negotiate? Can they, or he, point to any evidence in the whole course of Habsburg and Hohen-



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BEHIND THE SCENES ON THE L.G.O.C.

No. 4.—THE CONDUCTOR.

The Omnibus Conductor is an institution in London traffic and the friend and guardian of all street travellers. He is a very busy personage, collecting fares, giving change, issuing tickets, assisting the infirm, giving a hand with the youngsters, and stopping his bus when and where desired, with ever an eye for prospective passengers the while.

In all there are 5,550 Conductors on the "General" buses, including the 2,285 who are serving in the Navy or Army, and the new recruits, 1,159 Women Conductors.

The "General" Conductor's hours of labour correspond with the Driver's. Three Conductors—Early Turn, Relief, and Late Turn—work two buses daily, in accordance with a schedule of duty. Early Turn goes out with the first bus and works till noon, when his place is taken by Late Turn. After a respite of about 1½ hours, Early Turn resumes on the second bus, taking the place of Relief thereon, who came out with it. Late Turn completes the working of the second bus, and Relief of the first.

The Conductor assists the passenger—let the passenger assist the Conductor: By having fares ready, and tendering the exact amount, whenever practicable, particularly at night; when boarding, by heeding the Conductor's injunction to stand aside in order that alighting passengers may get off first; by passing along the fares and tickets of passengers in the forward part of the bus when the Conductor is impeded by standing passengers, and by other like actions.

The London General Omnibus Co., Ltd.,
Electric Railway House,
Broadway, Westminster, S.W.

zollern domination over oppressed mid-Europe, leading us to believe that their word can be trusted now in anything more than it ever hitherto has been? Mr. Roden Buxton knows, we believe, something of the Balkans, in his narrow, prepossession-swayed fashion, and doubtless admires the fine, bold style in which Austria has always derided her treaties and promises in that part of the world. Is Prussia any better, any more honourable, in record? Did either despotism ever keep a treaty an hour longer than suited it? Again we say, for shame! Mr. Buxton. "Belgium could be free to-morrow if we would only allow it," this man alleges. How free? Who would insure her freedom? What guarantees could she obtain other than those the Allies mean to make durable by a victory that must obliterate the two hoary despots for ever.

It is waste of energy to go further. We only say this much because it comes in the way of our discussion of the real peace conditions necessary to the Allies of the Entente, if the war is to end for them in a way that will deliver mankind from the devastation of the robber spirit now embodied in Prussian militarism.

The man or nation who arms in other than self-defence must henceforth be an outcast from civilisation if the peace we fight for, suffer for, and long to see is to endure. For the sake of those now fighting and enduring the burden and sorrow, for the sake, also, of the generations to come, whose inheritance we desire to make better than our own, this "Peace Negotiations Committee" ought to be dragged out into the open and its springs of action laid bare. It might well be German propaganda money that pays for the printing and circulation of disaffected and dishonouring rubbish like this leaflet, to which Mr. Charles Roden Buxton has seen fit to put his name.

By-the-Way War Notes.

An amusing side-study in war matters is to be found in German methods of lying. The system is quite simple, but its working is obscured or variegated by variations in execution. Where there is no chance of effective exposure, the utmost liberty is given to the imagination of the lie-concocter. Therefore, we find romances about fleets on the ocean, victories over British fleets, successful raids into British waters, and so on, sketched in the boldest manner, and accounts of Zeppelin devastation compiled with a luridness of colouring Mephistopheles himself could not outvie. In all these cases the calculation is that the greater the lie the greater effect on the home population, and perhaps amongst neutrals. It does not matter that the facts are altogether different or that no facts exist—the impression desired is produced, the population at home kept in its torpor and expectation of "triumph" in war and German prowess advertised throughout the world, with an effectiveness no "Kennedy Jones" of all the puffing fraternity could hope to rival.

Where the lie can be exposed, the aim is to get it out well ahead of the contradiction. Thus, when the *Deutschland* succeeded for a second time in reaching a United States port, the German news-compilers at once sent round the world the information that the "cargo" of valuable merchandise it carried was worth £4,000,000, and that led people to believe the boat to be capable of carrying high-priced manufactures of that value. Some days elapsed before it was established by the United States Customs authorities that the merchandise cargo carried was worth only £200,000, and that the real total of £2,000,000, not £4,000,000, was made up by marketable securities transmitted to New York for the purpose of raising credit there. But the lie got a good start, and will continue to be believed, in Germany itself at least, because no newspaper there would be allowed to publish the truth.

It is much the same with accounts of the fighting on all fronts. When the Germans get beaten, as they generally do, and have to admit a defeat, they nearly

always invent a victory somewhere else, or conjure up a "tremendous battle" near by, or just after, where Germany was triumphantly victorious. The battle need never take place at all; an outpost skirmish will suffice. Has not the mob to be kept in blinkers? There is nearly always, however, some kind of foundation for the yarns set spinning, and it does not do to pass by German official accounts of war happenings as if they were wholly lies. Sometimes, without meaning it, the stories put out by the High Staff convey hints to the Allies of what that Staff is going to attempt. It cannot help but boast, and its boastings, falsehoods, exaggerations, travesties of the truth, and so forth must all be watched for the hints and information they often give or contain.

It is surely unnecessary to be disquieted about the new "kingdom" of Poland which the Kaiser has announced his intention of establishing. Russia promised freedom to all the Poles at the beginning of the war, and the Russian Slav will see to it that the Tsar's word is kept, even if the Tsar's official entourage tried to prevent him from being true to his promise. That he himself would go back on his word we do not believe, and his promise was made to *all* Poland, which would include Galicia and Polish Silesia, as well as much of East Prussia. And so the Kaiser probably now begins to have a glimmering of consciousness that the Russian programme of a reunited Poland, free and at liberty to shape its own destiny, is near at hand, and would mark his extinction; so, in his usual theatrical style, he proceeds to anticipate the enemy, and in mock magnanimity proclaims the Russian-Polish territory a new "independent kingdom" under his own sublime, immaculate, absolutist control. It is a mockery, the proclamation a farce; but it may possibly open the door to further attempts at spoliation and expatriation of the sorely-afflicted Polish by the enraged and, though cowed, savagely-vengeful Prussian functionary. That the Germans can place "a million Poles" in their army, as some have alleged, through proclaiming Russian-Poland an "independent kingdom" is impossible, because German cruelties have already denuded the country of most of its able-bodied population. Those who could took refuge in Russia; those who were compelled to stay have been starved into taking forced service in German factories, on German farms and railways, possibly, also, in German regiments, where their lot has been too often pitiable beyond expression. Nevertheless the "million army to complete our triumph" is just what these amazing dunderheads appear to be going to attempt to "comb out" of suffering Poland. The mean hypocrites!

One of the saddest, but, as yet, hidden, tragedies arising from this horrible war is the diabolical cruelty with which the makers thereof have treated, and continue to treat, the suppressed populations within their Empires. Many sections, even of the Prussian Empire, are by no means Prussian in sentiment, and not all the troops that serve in the Hohenzollern armies are eager for Prussian domination, in love with the lash-wielders. The armies of Prussia, however, are far more homogeneous than those of Austro-Hungary, and it is partly because the Czech, the Slav, the Croat, the Slovene, and the Rumanian loathe and detest their Austro-German and Magyar oppressors that the disasters and enormous captures of troops attending the enemy's offensives in the East have been so overwhelming.

But the dominant races know how to take their revenge, and they have decimated the Czech regiments and Slav regiments who would not fight, and have instituted in Bohemia, and in the Slav and Rumanian districts of Hungary, a system of tyrannous persecution and confiscation more horrible than anything witnessed there since the Dark Ages. In a little pamphlet written by an eminent Bohemian, Edvard Benés, entitled "*Detruisez l'Autriche-Hongrie!*" the story is told of the vengeful Austrian treatment of the 28th Regiment of Prague. In their original condition, almost all Bohemian or Czech regiments refused

to fight against the Russians. Those of the men who could deserted, and took refuge in Russia. Those whom the Austrians caught rebelling or deserting they mostly destroyed. At first opportunity the 28th Regiment surrendered *en masse* to the Russians (on April 3rd, 1915) in the Carpathians, with its band and all its material of war. Almost 2,000 men then went over, and most of them took their place in the Russian ranks to fight against the detested Austrians. Naturally, military circles in Vienna were furious, and the Emperor, in an Order of the Day, published to all the troops, degraded this regiment for ever, ordered its dissolution, and the deposition of its flag in the military museum of Vienna.

Some time afterwards, however, a new 28th Regiment of Prague was formed with malign intent by enrolling the young men of that city in its ranks. After formation the new regiment was sent to the front on the Isonzo, and there deliberately placed in the most perilous position against the Italians, so that the men should be exposed to the hottest artillery fire on all the front. From this ordeal only 18 men came back. The rest of the 1,000 young men taken from Prague were left on the field. It is the same in all the Austro-Prussian and Magyar story of infamy towards the feeble, and the harrowings, imprisonments, executions, and deprivations of every civil right to which the non-Germanic or non-Magyar populations of the Austro-Hungarian Empire have been, and are being, subjected constitute one of the blackest portions of the story of this or of any other war.

In Belgium, although the tyranny is cruel, and as fatuous as cruel, it has not gone anything like so far as in Bohemia, Hungary, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Serbia, and other outlying sections of the Slavonic populations, because it is impossible for the Germans to keep the truth altogether hidden in Belgium. Yet the viciousness of mind characteristic of the Teuton functionary lets itself go in deportations and robberies, often in jailings and murders, of the population, in forced labour either within Belgian foundries and factories or over in Germany itself, and in such grotesqueries as this "Flemish University of Ghent," set up with an inconceivable stupidity and meanness, of minutiae in detail also, by that curious creature of homicidal instincts not too well in hand, Baron von Bissing.

We must not forget Slavonia, therefore, when peace comes. The wrongs of Bohemia, Moravia, non-Magyar-Hungary, and Serbia must weigh with effect in the final arrangements by which the Allies are to ensure peace to the world.

But what a stupid creature at bottom the Prussian despot is. He is going on with this war *because* he is beaten, not because he still expects to conquer. Every fresh plunge shames his bragging, with an inexorableness that begins to look like the crack of doom, and prompts by-standing mankind to jeer at his furies. Look with what a blare of trumpets and singing of hymns of vengeance and victory Roumania was attacked. Invincible Mackensen—often thrashed and baulked by the Russians, even when they were short of guns and ammunition—and Falkenhayn, the submerged, were to gobble up the new enemy between them in a fortnight or so, "Tino," the trusty, was assured. Mackensen took his incongruous hordes of Bulgars and Turks into the Dobrudja early in September—and he is there yet, getting hustled back, undergoing the inevitable "attrition" in a land inhospitable even to its own inhabitants. Falkenhayn also dashed into Transylvania about the same time with all available men and guns, for the two world-swaying warriors were going to obliterate Rumania by squeezing the life out of it as with a pair of nippers. But Falkenhayn has never got through the passes into Rumania, and as the level-headed military correspondent of the *Westminster Gazette* pointed out a week ago, unless he can bring all his columns through and link them up by deploying on the plains, his masses of men, and still more his heavy artillery, will be of no use to him. As the winter deepens its hold, they will become an

embarrassment and lead to his final discomfiture. Once more the braggart bully has been foiled. But he will persevere, nay, he *must* persevere now until the measure of his infamies is full.

On the Italian fronts paralysing strokes have been delivered by General Cadorna, and the Austrians have been smitten as they deserve. We sorrow only for the victims of the Habsburg tyranny who fight and perish against their will. But the Austrians likewise dare not give in as they used to do. They must do as the Prussian master bids them, and he knows now what "a fight to a finish" with the Allies means. His object, therefore, is to kill and maim as many of his conquerors as he can, and so to embarrass their resources as to give himself a chance to "get off easy" at the last, with liberty enough to enable him to prepare for the next outbreak. It is an aim worthy of the savage, and he will be disappointed in that also. Obstinacy nourished by fear of punishment, fear of impending judgment can only make retribution more sure.

French triumphs at Verdun and on the Somme, British poundings and advances also on the Somme and north-westwards all the way to Ypres are consuming Teuton lives much faster than French or British. Doubtless the same policy is being adhered to on the Russian front, and we may believe that when the enemy boasts of the great "slaughters" he has perpetrated, the truth in that story more often than not tells us what has happened to himself.

Lose men, many men, we all must in this most murderous of wars. But the armies of the Allies rarely or ever now sacrifice men by rashness. Their prudent leaders do not send their brave soldiers to make attacks before the artillery has as near as may be paralysed the resistance. People here grumble far too much about the "slowness" of our progress in Picardy and Artois, in Macedonia and Mesopotamia, and the grumblers should be ashamed. Amid such weather as our troops in France have had to contend with for nigh a month back, with such "chalk soup" to take men and guns over, with an enemy so cunning and treacherous to deal with, it must have been impossible for the troops to press on fast these last three weeks. The rain has doubtless delayed somewhat the concentration of artillery, and without artillery to attack even the weakest trench would often be folly little short of criminal. The ant-like Boche has meanwhile created fresh fortresses, but the new works cannot have the solidity of the old already destroyed, and aggregations of depending or assaulting troops, either in or at the rear of these forts, will make it the easier for our gunners to swathe them down when the hour strikes, as it soon must now, for the sky is clearing and the ground hardening to help us. We look for much more stirring news soon.

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Capital Subscribed -	£31,304,200
Capital Paid Up -	£5,008,672
Reserve Fund -	£3,600,000
Deposits, etc. -	£133,958,678
Advances, etc. -	£56,535,897

FRENCH AUXILIARY—
LLOYDS BANK (FRANCE) LIMITED.

Friday's war news, though small, is good at almost every point, and best of all is the emphatic statement made by the great Russian commander, General Brusiloff, to Mr. Stanley Washburn, the *Times* correspondent. Note a few sentences; they confirm the unfaltering faith with which this journal has always maintained that the Germans are beaten, that if they persevere long enough in their criminal enterprise they will be destroyed. "The war is won to-day . . . it is merely a speculation to estimate how much longer will be required before the enemy are convinced that the cause for the sake of which they drenched Europe in blood is irretrievably lost." The Commander-in-Chief then went on to demonstrate how fully the initiative had been wrested from the Central Empires on all fronts, and declared it to be "simply a question of how long the enemy are willing to continue a war of which the end is absolutely foreshadowed to-day." General Brusiloff also showed how Rumania's coming in on our side had forced the foe to extend his lines by hundreds of miles at a time when hard pressed for troops, and assured his hearer that Russia's man-power will only be rising towards its maximum next year. He also made known the intention of Russia—of all Russians from Tsar to common soldier—to stand by and protect Rumania, and concluded with the following words of hope, words suffused with the heroic spirit of Russian idealism:—"I am not speaking for effect, but from my deepest convictions, when I state my own absolute optimism as to the future operations on all fronts. I believe that the whole Alliance can enter the winter looking back on the decisive summer of the war, while our unfortunate enemies must see before them the deepening cloud of utter ruin, and it is difficult to see how even their clever publicists can much longer conceal this from themselves or from their deluded people."

How weirdly, unquiet-wandering-spirit-like, does Bethmann-Hollweg's harangue in the Reichstag look after words like these. The bemuddled Chancellor was by way of replying to Viscount Grey, and having no honest answer to offer had to fall back on word quibbles, mis-statements, plain lies, in short. He padded out with innuendos, insincerities of all the usual Prussian types. And the *leit motif* of his melancholy whine was "Russia caused the war. Russia mobilised first at perfidious England's bidding; therefore—" this and that, a perfect ooze of untruths. Were the man not so abject in his subservience to his brigand masters we might almost pity him.

Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway.

For a long time past nothing has come as a more pleasant surprise to the market than the substantial improvement in the position of the B.A. and Pacific Railway. In the early years of the century it was regarded as the bell-wether of the Argentine market, an honour that had been previously held by the Buenos Ayres Great Southern, and for the six years between June 30, 1902, and 1908 it paid regular dividends of 7 per cent. on the ordinary stock. Then over-ambitious expansion and capital expenditure began to tell, and for 1908-9 the dividend was reduced to 5 per cent., followed by a drop to 3 per cent. for 1909-10. There was a recovery to 3½ per cent. in 1910-11, but a swift reaction to 2 per cent. in 1911-12. In the following year the ordinary got 3 per cent., but in 1913-14 nothing at all could be paid, and the bottom of the abyss was reached in 1914-15, when only £2 16s. 6d. was distributed on the 5 per cent. second preference stock. It is useful to recall these figures, as they show that the profits of the railway in recent years have been liable to rather violent fluctuations, but they also indicate that the directors have never hesitated to adopt drastic measures in face of disappointing results, and we may therefore hope that when they see their way to declare 1 per cent. on the ordinary in respect of the past 12 months, they have reasons for believing that the corner has been turned.

According to the published traffics, the gain in gross

receipts for the past year was about £60,000; but this turns out to have been an under-estimate, as the actual figures at £4,655,000 show an increase of £116,000. Expenses were £46,000 higher at £2,847,000; but the ratio to receipts fell from 61.70 to 61.16 per cent. Nett working profits came out at £1,808,000, or £70,000 more, and besides this, interest, &c., brought in £95,000 more, so that the total nett revenue is £1,65,000 higher at £2,048,000; but £23,000 less was brought forward, and the available balance of £2,366,600 is £142,000 to the good. Debenture interest requires £11,500 more, and rent to the Argentine Great Western is £46,000 higher, while the Transandine Co. gets £9,000 more, and the allowance for depreciation of steamers is increased by £4,000. On the other hand, flood repair expenses were £41,000 less, and income-tax £9,000 less, with the result that the balance of £474,280 available for dividends shows an increase of £128,000. After paying the full dividend on the second preference, which requires £50,000, or £21,750 more, it is proposed, as already mentioned, to pay 1 per cent. on the ordinary, absorbing £100,000, and leaving £324,280, or £6,260 more, to be carried forward. Moreover, the reserve and contingency funds have been increased by £32,000 to £703,000, and in other respects the position is a strong one. Cash is £55,000 lower at £1,108,000, but investments have increased £182,000 at £600,000, stores are £62,000 up at £1,926,300, and debtors £56,000 at £856,000; but rent accrued to the Argentine Great Western has increased £114,000, and sundry creditors £95,000 higher at £403,000. We are very pleased to note that the capital expenditure has been restricted to £52,600, or nearly £300,000 less than last year.

When we come to examine the details of working, we naturally find both good and bad points. Passengers numbered 8,618,000, a decrease of 317,400; but the receipts were £21,400 higher at £864,280, the average per passenger rising from 1s. 10½d. to 2s. Parcels, &c., brought in £28,700 more, but there was a decrease of £14,000 in miscellaneous receipts. General goods show the substantial increase of £100,000, and live stock £52,000, the totals being £560,300 and £371,000 respectively. Wine and fruit traffic increased £80,000 to £1,218,000, but cereals yielded £143,000 less at £705,000, the chief deficiency being in wheat. Ordinary working expenses were reduced by £72,000 under various headings, but this was more than offset by the increase of £104,000, caused by the higher cost of fuel and materials for rolling stock repairs. It is explained that firewood is being extensively used as fuel, but coal is necessary for heavy hauls and high speeds. We need not go closer into these details, as comparisons might be misleading, owing to the exceptional conditions prevailing.

With regard to the general situation, the report states that the outlook for the first half of the financial year was promising, in spite of a locust invasion in October, which caused the loss of the harvest in San Luis and a partial failure in the central division. Unfortunately, the second half was marked by great commercial depression. High freights restricted both imports and exports, and there was a lack of ready cash, which necessitated economies in all directions, including railway journeys, especially as fares were raised. Almost the only redeeming feature, so far as this company is concerned, was the excellent wine traffic, and the European demand for frozen meat, horses, and mules. Partial increases in freight rates helped the goods and live stock receipts, with the result that goods produced 5.02 per cent. more revenue, in spite of a decrease of 4.94 per cent. in the tonnage, while live stock gave an increase of 7.27 per cent. in tonnage and of 16.46 per cent. in receipts. It is stated that the old rates were on too low a scale, having regard to the work done and the responsibility for the products carried. As to the outlook for the current year, the attitude is cautious, but fairly confident. Favourable rains have improved the prospects of growing crops in the Buenos Ayres and Bahia Blanca divisions. A larger crop is expected from the latter, but rather less from Buenos Ayres, while the Central division will be a failure.

owing to drought and locusts. There are 100,000 tons of last year's crop still to carry, and vineyard prospects are good. It is premature to forecast about the maize yield, but the outlook is not too bright. Pasture camps are suffering from drought, but merchandise and passenger traffic will probably be about the same as last year. We should have liked a more encouraging account of the situation in the country, but it has not recovered from the shock caused by the war, and the weather has not been propitious, so we may be thankful that any progress at all has been made. And these big stores of grain, which several of the railway reports have mentioned, will find their way to market some day.

American Business Notes.

Quite a treatise might be written about the indications of cleavage between the East and West in the United States furnished by the still undecided Presidential election, but these would be premature, and therefore we shall postpone what we may have to say on the contest and its finale until future occasions. To us it has been all through a matter of comparative indifference which of the two men might become despot of the Republic for the next four years. Of the two, Mr. Hughes is much the more experienced in public affairs, and we have grateful remembrance of the magnificent fight he made against the corruptions of those large American life insurance office vultures against which this REVIEW waged war almost from its first number. But it does not follow that the able lawyer is a statesman any more than the distinguished moral philosopher, and whether he would be a better President than Dr. Woodrow Wilson is what no man, least of all an English journalist, ought to be rash enough to assume. If it has done nothing else, the remarkable course of this November election should make plain to the world that the post of chief magistrate of the North American Republic is not one to be envied by those who love peace and quiet.

As we go to press news comes that Dr. Wilson has been re-elected. California, formerly Republican, has gone Democrat, and as the West generally has taken a line indicating independence of Eastern traditions and a distrust of Protectionist sophistries, no "recountings of votes" are likely to alter the result. What does this cleavage mean? It means many things of whose significance we cannot now form any estimate. But domestically it should mean an end of "boss" government, of the supremacy of New York financiers with all their apparatus of plunder, their Protectionist tyrannies and insincerities, and it might mean much more than that if the Wall Street cohorts do not pause and amend their methods.

Insurance News.

The shareholders of the Legal Insurance Company have approved the provisional agreement with the Royal Insurance Company, under which they will receive 22s. 6d. in cash for each £5 share, £1 paid up, with 5 per cent. interest from the 1st inst. to date of payment. The business of the Legal will be continued on the same lines as heretofore, but as a branch of the Royal. The proposed fusion of the Guardian and Reliance offices has also been approved by the shareholders of the two companies.

The Prime Minister has promised to consider the appointment of a committee to inquire as to the desirability of making the liability for loss of life or for personal injuries due to Zeppelin raids a national one and not a personal loss. An official notice has been issued this week reminding the public that Government aircraft insurance certificates in respect of household goods, &c.; taken out a year ago now cease to be in force. Holders must take out new certificates if they desire to continue the insurance, and this should be done without delay.

It is announced that the City Life Assurance Company has entered into an agreement to purchase the

shares of the North and South Insurance Corporation, whose headquarters are at Liverpool, with a view to acquiring a controlling interest. It is proposed that the Liverpool company shall continue to work independently on non-tariff lines as heretofore. Should the minimum number of shares stipulated for—namely, two-thirds—be secured under the agreement, the chairman of the City Life will become chairman of the other company as well. The North and South company has been in existence for about seven years, and its authorised capital is £100,000, of which £31,763 has been subscribed, and 12s. 6d. a share, or £19,852, paid up. No dividend has yet been paid by the company.

Fortunately for underwriters, the number of fires in the United Kingdom during October was comparatively small. The total losses in the case of fires where the damage was £1,000 or more amounting to only £243,000, as compared with a total of £509,000 in September. In October last year the losses came to £216,000.

A class of war risk at Lloyd's which has been in recent demand concerns the prospects of peace. Those who are seeking protection policies of this description include Government contractors who have invested large sums of money in plant and material. Underwriters appear to be taking the view that the prospects of peace are brighter than they were in the middle of October, and considerably higher rates have been quoted to pay a total loss if the war is over by October 31st next, and the rate has also risen from 10 to 15 guineas to pay £100 if peace is declared within twelve months.

We have been requested to state that the rumour that the British Law Fire Insurance Co., Ltd., is in negotiation for the sale of its undertaking is entirely without foundation.

Mr. E. V. Hiley has accepted a seat on the board of the Metropolitan Carriage, Wagon and Finance Co., Ltd.

Alabama Power Co.—Nett earnings for September, \$88,150, increase \$31,023; 12 months ending September 30, \$861,480, increase \$289,312.

Mr. L. H. Kiek (hitherto a manager of the Swiss Bankverein) has been appointed one of the managers of the Anglo-South American Bank. He will take up his new duties on January 1 next.

As the result of the war the Chilean Nitrate Committee finds it impossible to supply the usual monthly statistics, but it appears that the total exports for October amounted to 174,655 tons, while the imports were 157,370 tons.

The directors of the London City and Midland Bank, Ltd., announce that they have elected the Right Hon. Lord Carnock to a seat at their board. Lord Carnock, as Sir Arthur Nicolson, Bart., has been our Ambassador at Madrid and Petrograd, and Minister in Morocco. He has been a member of the Diplomatic Service since 1874, and has served at Berlin, Peking, Constantinople, Athens, Teheran, Budapest, and Sofia. Lord Carnock was until recently Permanent Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

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The Investors' Review.

Money and Credit Notes.

BANK RATE 6 PER CENT. (Increased from 5 per cent. on
Thursday, July 13.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

Money has been abundant enough all the week, and day-to-day loans usually obtainable at less than 5 per cent. Towards the end of the week, indeed, the rate dropped to $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and discount was just as easy. A Continental demand for bank bills was sometimes experienced, and our own Treasury bills of December date have been discounted at $5\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. January Treasury bills were taken at $5\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. Other rates will be found in our table.

The Bank return calls for no analysis, because we cannot in the least degree fathom what the almost balancing changes in the Other Deposits and Other Securities imply. Other Deposits have shrunk £5,370,000 and Other Securities have gone down £5,031,000. Something more than the difference between these two is found in an addition of £490,000 to the Public Deposits. An increase of £184,000 is visible in the Reserve, and gold has risen £162,000. This along with the sensible decline in the liabilities on Other Deposits has raised the ratio of reserve to liabilities by .08 per cent. to 23.2 per cent.

We here have almost as much ground as the French nation itself to rejoice over the success of the last French Loan. The venerable Finance Minister, M. Ribot, told the Chamber of Deputies on Thursday that it had brought in Frs. 11,360,000,000, or £454,000,000, and what was even more encouraging than this total was the fact that $54\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of it was new money, not the consolidation of a floating debt already in existence. In the case of the previous loan, whose nominal total was larger, only 47 per cent. was new money. Details are not yet complete, but M. Ribot mentioned that 3,000,000 subscribers had found this total, the humblest and the wealthiest coming forward, all voluntarily, no pressure of any kind having been put either on the banks or the people. "We shall press on to victory by closer union with our Allies, by employing the growing superiority of our effectives and armaments, and thanks to the moral force with which the world's sympathy endows us." These words suitably wound up a most satisfactory statement.

Excellent and seasonable were the speeches of Mr. McKenna and Sir William White at the luncheon given to Sir William, the Finance Minister of Canada, on Wednesday. Both speakers dwelt on the splendid help Canada has given to the Mother Country in men and in money. Already out of her heterogeneous population of 8,000,000 Canada has sent 250,000 brave men to take full share of the struggle with barbarism, and has many thousands more to send. Her Government sought for \$150,000,000 on loan from the young nation, and got \$300,000,000, or over £60,000,000. Canada, in a word, has been earning much money in furnishing munitions for the Allies on a scale unmatched anywhere outside Germany, and all the money thus earned has been given back to the Government to enable it to sustain the conflict, the long conflict, to its triumphant end. Well may Sir William White feel proud of a record so magnificent. Are we, are our munitioners, at home doing as well? We think that on the whole they are, alike in lending and in bearing war taxation.

"Was it not a wonderful answer," said Mr. F. J. Barthorpe, of the London County and Westminster Bank, in his presidential address at the annual meeting of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries, "that after more than two years of the greatest war in which we have ever been engaged, our Bank of England notes in circulation have a gold backing of 150 per cent., and if you took the Bank of England notes and Treasury notes together, we have a gold backing of nearly 50 per cent.? This is apart from the respectable amount of gold in the keeping of the joint-stock banks, and," he added, "a fair amount still in the pockets of the people." It is indeed wonderful, and most encouraging, but we must be under no illusions upon the position likely to be occupied by our banking system when the war is over. It is strong, incomparably strong perhaps, but it will have to bear a tremendous pressure. As Mr. Barthorpe reminded his hearers, instead of sending £200,000,000 of new capital abroad for investment every year, as we used to do, we are now sending practically none, but, on the contrary, withdrawing our past accumulated deposits, and, he might have added, selling or pledging hundreds of millions of our foreign interest-bearing securities, in order to finance the war for ourselves and our Allies. There is no call to be alarmed even by these facts, but there is an insistent warning that we must not sit still and twirl our thumbs for something to happen, when the strain comes upon us. We can bear it and overcome, for the country is incomparably richer than it was at the close of the Napoleonic wars, but every citizen must be prepared and willing to place all his wealth at the disposal of the banks, and through the banks of the nation and the Empire, if we mean to retain our place as "world bankers."

SILVER.

Considerable activity has developed in the silver market owing to a strong demand for the metal on Chinese account. In their weekly circular Messrs. Mocatta and Goldsmid point out that it is quite usual during the export season for China to secure whatever is available in San Francisco and India, and also to buy and hold silver in this market as a hedge. At the present time, however, the requirements have been increased owing to the reduction in stocks of sycee caused by the enormous sales to India earlier in the year, and the result has been to create a more important demand than has been experienced for many years. India has also been a buyer to a smaller extent, and the price has advanced in a somewhat sensational fashion from $32\frac{1}{2}$ d. to $34\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz.

Applications for the Rs. 50,000,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 5,56,50,000. Of these Rs. 1,79,000 were allotted in bills, Rs. 6,35,000 in deferred transfers, and Rs. 41,86,000 in immediate transfers. Tenders for bills and deferred transfers at Rs. 4 3-32d., and for immediate transfers at Rs. 4½d., will receive about 8 per cent. Special sales have also been made of Rs. 13,00,000 in deferred transfers at Rs. 4½d., and of Rs. 1,23,00,000 in immediate transfers at Rs. 4 5-32d. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is again Rs. 50,00,000. Since April 1 the total sales have been Rs. 16,73,33,944, realising £11,200,048.

THE MANCHESTER AND LIVERPOOL DISTRICT BANKING COMPANY LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1829.

Head Office: Spring Gardens, Manchester.
London Office: 75, Cornhill.

Deposits	-	-	-	£30,630,010
Cash, etc., Bills, Investments				20,487,555
Advances	-	-	-	13,454,332

30th June, 1916.

*Foreign Banking Business transacted.
Bank acts as Trustee or Executor.*

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, November 8, 1916.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued	73,039,260	Government Debt	11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	54,589,260
		Silver Bullion	—
	£73,039,260		£73,039,260

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital ..	14,553,000	Government Securities ..	42,187,741
Reserve	3,220,912	Other Securities	100,682,658
Public Deposits (including		Notes	35,867,095
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,905,971
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	51,597,052		
Other Deposits	111,254,003		
Seven Day and other Bills	20,498		
	£180,643,465		£180,643,465

Dated Nov. 9, 1916.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year.

Last year, Nov. 10.		Nov. 1, 1916.	Nov. 8, 1916.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,210,928	Rest	3,187,415	3,220,912	33,497	—
48,958,426	Pub. Deposits ..	51,107,437	51,597,052	489,615	—
90,415,018	Other do. ..	116,622,055	111,252,003	—	5,370,052
19,059	7 Day Bills ..	21,412	20,498	—	914
				Decrease.	Increase.
18,895,068	Gov. Securities.	42,188,153	42,187,741	412	—
97,667,484	Other do. ..	105,714,121	100,682,658	5,031,463	—
40,602,879	Assets.	37,589,145	37,773,066	—	184,021
	Total Reserve ..			5,554,987	5,554,987
				Increase.	Decrease.
£	Note Circulation	£	£	£	£
33,198,795	Coin and Bullion	37,224,295	37,172,165	52,132	—
55,351,674	Proportion ..	56,363,340	56,525,231	161,891	—
29.1 p.c.	Bank Rate ..	22.4 p.c.	23.2 p.c.	8 p.c.	—
5 ..		6 ..	6 ..	—	—

CURRENCY NOTES.

Return of Currency Notes for the week ended November 8, 1916.

	Issued.	Cancelled.	Outstanding.
£1 notes	3,756,680	2,800,097	95,416,810
10s. notes	2,243,086	1,055,983	29,445,075
Note certificates ..	1,140,000	400,000	14,210,000
Previous total ..	461,230,593	324,042,393	—
	467,370,359	328,298,474	139,071,885

Ratio of gold held against notes: this week, 22.82 p.c.; last week, 23.04 p.c.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For 7 days ended Nov. 4.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
	£
Customs	1,332,000
Excise	555,000
Estate, &c., Duties	514,000
Stamps	141,000
Land Tax and House Duty.	10,000
Property and Income Tax ..	780,000
Excess Profits Tax	4,171,000
Land Values	—
Post Office	800,000
Crown Lands	—
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	—
Miscellaneous	87,328
Bullion advances repaid ..	70,000
For Treasury Bills	51,507,000
War Loan, 1925-8	—
War Loan, 1925-45	—
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919..	—
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920..	969
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1921..	—
6% Exchequer Bonds, 1920..	12,479,000
War Expenditure Certificates	603,500
War Savings Certificates ..	1,000,000
Other Debts created under	—
War Loan Act, 1915	—
Telegraph Money Act, 1913	—
Under Post Office Rly. Act,	—
1913	—
Under Military Works Acts,	—
1897-1903	—
Under Housing Act	—
Redemption of Exchequer	—
Bonds, 1904	—
Canard Loan—repayment on	—
account of principal	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares..	—
Ways and Means Advances	5,000,000
Decrease in Exchequer	—
balances	4,780,173
	£83,830,970
	£
National Debt Service ..	—
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	890,740
Development & Road Impvt.	—
Payments to Local Taxation	310,380
Other Consolidated Fund	—
Charges	1,000
Supply Services	38,227,900
Bullion Advances	50,000
For Advance for Interest	—
on Exchequer Bonds under	—
Capital Expenditure	—
(Money) Act, 1904	—
For Treasury Bills	39,444,000
For Exchequer Bonds issued	—
under the War Loan Red-	—
emption Act, 1910	—
Issues under Section 61 of	—
Finance Act, 1916	1,950
Under Telegraph (Money)	—
Act, 1913	—
Under Post Office (Lon-	—
don) Railway Act, 1913 ..	—
Under Housing Act	—
Public Buildings Expendi-	—
ture Act, 1913	—
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8..	—
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11..	—
For Redemption of Ex-	—
chequer Bonds, 1904	—
Exchequer Bonds, 1916 ..	—
Canard Loan repayment is-	—
sued to reduce debt under	—
the Canard Agreement ..	—
Deficiency advances repaid	—
Ways and Means Advances	—
repaid	4,905,000
Increase in Exchequer	—
balances	—
	£83,830,970

SHORT TERM GOVERNMENT LOANS.

	Net Sales Last Week.	Net Sales This Week.	Total Outstanding.
Treasury Bills	£ 2,921,000	£ 7,345,000	£ 1,090,153,000
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919 ..	—	—	34,222,000
Do. 1920	50,000	969	237,505,969
Do. 1921	—	—	62,464,000
6% Exchequer Bonds	14,231,000	12,479,000	76,616,000
War Expenditure Certificates	1,127,100	603,500	27,262,000
War Savings Certificates ..	1,000,000	1,000,000	33,550,000

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1916.	1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
January	1,071,948,000	918,685,000	153,263,000	—
February	1,107,655,000	960,743,000	146,912,000	—
March	1,304,599,000	1,231,392,000	133,207,000	—
April	1,090,356,000	976,264,000	114,092,000	—
May	1,447,416,000	1,104,194,000	283,222,000	—
June	1,147,630,000	960,209,000	187,421,000	—
July	1,239,193,000	1,316,695,000	—	77,502,000
August	1,364,782,000	1,352,519,000	12,263,000	—
September	1,136,590,000	1,000,008,000	136,582,000	—
October 4	337,388,000	291,455,000	45,933,000	—
" 11	326,880,000	269,450,000	57,430,000	—
" 18	338,823,000	270,952,000	67,871,000	—
" 25	301,789,000	258,662,000	43,127,000	—
Nov. 1	315,087,000	273,423,000	41,664,000	—
" 8	312,043,000	269,284,000	42,759,000	—
Total	12,902,179,000	11,514,335,000	1,387,844,000	—

FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	Oct. 20, 1916.	Oct. 13, 1916.	Oct. 22, 1915.
	£	£	£
Gold coin and certificates ..	52,303,000	53,480,000	45,401,000
Gold Redemption Fund ..	283,600	337,400	242,400
Gold Settlement Fund ..	24,270,200	25,052,200	19,934,000
Legal tender notes, silver, &c.	2,112,200	2,275,400	6,925,200
Total reserves	78,969,000	81,145,000	63,502,600
5% redemption fund against	—	—	—
F.R. bank notes	84,000	74,000	—
10-day bills and loans ..	2,862,200	2,708,600	1,452,600
30-day bills and loans ..	4,802,200	5,435,000	2,239,600
60-day bills and loans ..	7,185,600	6,718,200	2,818,800
90-day bills and loans ..	5,629,000	4,797,200	1,795,600
Maturities over 90 days ..	242,000	238,200	357,800
Total	20,811,400	19,897,200	8,664,400
Investments—	—	—	—
U.S. Bonds	8,267,000	8,528,400	2,096,000
One year U.S. Treasury	—	—	—
notes	2,339,400	2,088,800	—
Municipal Warrants ..	6,508,600	6,308,400	5,076,200
Federal Reserve notes—nett.	3,036,200	3,056,000	3,136,000
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—	—	—	—
nett.	6,120,800	6,017,800	2,468,400
All other assets	526,000	535,000	632,400
Total assets	126,662,400	127,650,600	85,576,000
Paid-up capital	11,136,400	11,136,400	10,966,800
Government Deposits ..	5,223,200	4,943,000	3,000,000
Reserve deposits—nett. ..	107,620,400	108,808,600	68,088,800
Note circulation—nett. ..	2,379,200	2,463,200	2,961,800
Fed. Res. notes in circulation	206,400	206,600	—
All other liabilities	96,800	92,800	558,600
Total liabilities	126,662,400	127,650,600	85,576,000
Gold reserve against nett	—	—	—
liabilities	70.4%	71.6%	79.5%
Cash reserve against nett	—	—	—
liabilities	72.4%	73.6%	88.9%

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	Nov. 4, 1916.	Oct. 28, 1916.	Oct. 21, 1916.	Nov. 6, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Loans	669,322,000	660,912,000	664,146,000	616,560,000
Reserve held in own Vaults ..	92,298,000	89,054,000	83,022,000	105,230,000
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk.	34,664,000	34,338,000	33,870,000	32,464,000
Reserve held in Other Depos.	10,670,000	10,696,000	10,698,000	9,524,000
Nett Demand Deposits ..	667,352,000	665,038,000	652,156,000	633,080,000
Nett Time Deposits	33,118,000	33,176,000	33,086,000	28,818,000
Circulation	6,300,000	6,320,000	6,326,000	7,086,000
Excess Lawful Reserve ..	22,474,000	21,146,000	15,202,000	38,300,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits.

NEW YORK STATE BANKS & TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.).

	Nov. 4, 1916.	Oct. 28, 1916.	Oct. 21, 1916.	Nov. 6, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Loans	146,840,000	146,770,000	146,236,000	122,018,000
Specie	12,138,000	12,104,000	12,120,000	10,456,000
Deposits	155,674,000	156,320,000	156,176,000	127,528,000
Legal Tenders	1,944,000	1,944,000	1,932,000	1,854,000

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £.).

	Nov. 9, 1916.	Nov. 2, 1916.	Oct. 26, 1916.	Nov. 11, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold in hand	200,376,000	199,680,800	196,879,160	191,281,200
Silver in hand	13,031,920	13,043,760	13,121,880	14,458,650
Bills discounted	25,282,080	23,050,240	19,186,880	10,929,480
Advances	54,282,080	55,212,000	47,414,040	22,757,200
Note circulation	638,901,640	645,131,440	663,566,000	567,526,640
Public deposits	4,882,080	7,235,520	8,039,080	2,367,160
Private deposits	71,912,880	69,731,760	109,233,600	100,998,920
Foreign Bills	203,520	124,880	156,160	53,000

Proportion between bullion and circulation 33.40 per cent., against 32.97 per cent. last week. Advances to the State £250,000,000, decrease £8,000,000. The adjourned payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium, £24,931,600, decrease £32,240, and at the branches £29,864,600, decrease £19,000.

IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Nov. 4, 1916.	Oct. 29, 1916.	Oct. 21, 1916.	Nov. 5, 1915.
Notes in reserve ..	£ 9,010,000	£ 10,510,000	£ 10,530,000	£ 7,137,800
Gold	155,670,000	155,880,000	155,600,000	160,366,600
Gold in reserve abroad	205,500,000	205,500,000	205,500,000	3,536,200
Loans and Discounts, including Treasury Bonds ..	668,550,000	600,350,000	527,800,000	—
Circulation note issue	793,490,000	784,490,000	771,970,000	512,500,000
Deposits, including Treasury deposits..	23,123,000	22,373,000	21,570,100	20,672,003

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Oct. 31, 1916.	Oct. 23, 1916.	Oct. 14, 1916.	Oct. 30, 1915.
Total Coin & Bullion	£ 126,113,300	£ 125,998,850	£ 125,961,100	£ 123,342,550
Treasury Notes ..	11,472,500	18,048,600	17,021,400	56,892,350
Bills discounted ..	393,880,350	380,794,050	373,946,050	210,325,050
Advances	694,400	569,550	546,450	946,800
Note circulation ..	363,018,350	351,697,750	356,342,350	297,318,200
Deposits	172,018,000	165,995,900	164,483,750	81,134,350

Clearing House returns during Oct., £309,547,600 against £282,125,250 in Sept.

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Oct. 28, 1916.	Oct. 21, 1916.	Oct. 14, 1916.	Oct. 30, 1915.
Gold	£ 47,434,062	£ 47,396,013	£ 47,344,088	£ 31,812,410
Silver	29,885,202	29,752,839	29,675,088	29,561,817
Foreign Bills ..	4,018,277	4,031,801	4,044,715	4,168,807
Discounts and Short Bills ..	25,143,027	24,815,846	24,074,708	27,105,742
Treasury Account, &c. ..	30,890,358	31,869,324	31,161,829	28,099,822
Notes in Circulation ..	92,349,380	92,277,777	92,531,610	82,962,833
Current Accounts, Deposits	29,170,709	29,449,816	31,055,650	25,945,105
Dividends, Interest, &c. ..	1,994,025	1,594,856	1,724,362	2,171,565
Government Securities ..	4,117,644	4,448,106	1,609,545	1,275,332

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	Sept. 30, 1916.	Sept. 20, 1916.	Sept. 10, 1916.	Sept. 30, 1915.
Total cash	£ 42,379,320	£ 42,496,720	£ 43,130,520	£ 54,984,880
Inland Bills	31,477,000	20,448,680	19,514,520	20,352,960
Foreign Bills	835,120	834,400	833,520	835,560
Advances	7,671,000	7,047,120	7,548,800	9,283,000
Government securities	8,798,040	8,831,040	8,828,320	7,795,880
Circulation	144,848,520	139,766,920	138,103,560	113,929,400
Deposits at notice ..	14,813,160	15,479,120	14,127,640	11,360,400
Current accounts ..	13,727,320	15,174,520	15,878,640	16,435,760

BANK OF NORWAY.

	Oct. 31, 1916.	Oct. 22, 1916.	Oct. 15, 1916.	Oct. 30, 1915.
Gold	£ 6,127,000	£ 6,173,000	£ 6,262,000	£ 3,760,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	5,480,000	5,501,000	5,588,000	3,738,000
Gov't Securities ..	767,000	767,000	767,000	781,000
Discounts & Loans ..	7,382,000	6,522,000	6,538,000	4,198,000
Notes in Circulation ..	13,060,000	12,677,000	12,638,000	8,603,000
Deposits at notice ..	4,045,000	3,731,000	3,869,000	1,368,000

BANK OF SWEDEN.

	Oct. 28, 1916.	Oct. 21, 1916.	Oct. 14, 1916.	Oct. 30, 1915.
Gold	£ 9,886,000	£ 9,580,000	£ 9,494,000	£ 6,298,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	8,969,000	9,332,000	9,212,000	6,590,000
Swedish and Foreign Gov't Securities ..	3,812,000	3,826,000	3,757,000	3,005,000
Discounts and Loans ..	4,267,000	4,318,000	4,565,000	5,235,000
Notes in circulation ..	19,942,000	19,707,000	20,254,000	17,151,000
Deposits at notice ..	5,722,000	6,061,000	5,558,000	4,168,000

NETHERLANDS BANK (12 Florins to the £).

	Nov. 4, 1916.	Oct. 28, 1916.	Oct. 21, 1916.	Nov. 6, 1915.
Gold and Silver ..	£ 49,293,250	£ 49,181,083	£ 49,172,250	£ 33,551,042
Bills and Advances ..	13,420,500	14,633,416	15,049,333	15,002,426
Note circulation ..	62,350,583	61,077,333	59,867,833	47,398,821
Deposits	4,014,416	6,136,000	7,442,666	1,255,304

SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	Oct. 31, 1916.	Oct. 23, 1916.	Oct. 14, 1916.	Oct. 30, 1915.
Gold and silver ..	£ 13,619,908	£ 13,690,144	£ 13,712,704	£ 12,153,930
Bills	7,563,356	7,268,532	7,154,400	6,054,983
Note circulation ..	19,480,732	18,329,996	18,331,664	17,724,472
Current and deposit accounts ..	3,668,436	4,814,824	5,023,056	2,790,837

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.
Paris	ohqs.	27.79	27.79½	Antwerp	sl or	—	—
Brussels	ohqs.	—	—	Italy	sl, bt	31.35	31.40½
Amsterdam ..	sight	11.63½	11.65	Constantinople	3 mths	—	—
Christiania ..	—	17.15½	17.17½	Rio de Janeiro	90 dys	12½d.	12½d.
Stockholm ..	—	16.75½	16.77½	Buenos Aires ..	90 dys	50½d.	50½d.
Copenhagen ..	—	17.55	17.60½	Calcutta	T.T.	1½d.	1½d.
Petrograd	3 mths	156½	163½	Bombay	T.T.	1½d.	1½d.
New York	cable	4.76½	4.76½	Hong Kong	T.T.	2½d.	2½d.
Lisbon	sight	33½d.	32½d.	Shanghai	T.T.	3½d.	3½d.
Madrid	sight	23.35½	31.32½	Singapore	T.T.	2½d.	2½d.
Switzerland ..	—	24.85	24.85	Yokohama	4 mths	2½d.	2½d.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Nov. 7, 1916.		Nov. 9, 1916.	
		Sellers.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Buyers.
Amsterdam ..	Cable transfers ..	11.62	11.65	11.62	11.65
"	Three months' bills ..	11.78	11.83	11.78	11.83
Paris	Cable transfers ..	27.78	27.83	27.77	27.82
"	Three months' bills ..	28.15	28.25	28.15	28.25
Marseilles ..	Cable transfers ..	28.15	28.25	28.15	28.25
Switzerland ..	Cable transfers ..	24.87	24.97	24.80	24.90
"	Three months' bills ..	25.23	25.33	25.16	25.26
Petrograd ..	Cable transfers ..	157½	159½	159½	161½
Genoa, &c. ..	Cable transfers ..	31.95	32.05	31.90	31.80
"	Three months' bills ..	32.40	32.50	32.15	32.25
Spain	Cable transfers ..	23.25	23.35	23.23	23.33
"	Three months' bills ..	48½	48½	48½	48½
Lisbon and Oporto	Cable transfers ..	32½	32½	32	32
Copenhagen ..	Cable transfers ..	17.50	17.60	17.55	17.65
Christiania ..	Cable transfers ..	17.10	17.20	17.12	17.22
Stockholm ..	Cable transfers ..	16.72	16.82	16.76	16.86

TREASURY BILLS.

				Last week.	This week
				Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months ..	..	..	..	5½	5½
Six months ..	..	..	..	..(£98 12 3¼) (£98 12 3¼)	..
Nine months ..	..	..	..	5½	5½
Twelve months ..	..	..	..	..(£97 5 5¼) (£97 5 5¼)	..
				..(£94 10 0) (..(£94 10 0)	..

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

				Last week.	This week
				Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted	..	..	..	5½—5½	5½—5½
Three months ..	..	..	..	5½	5½
Four months ..	..	..	..	5½	5½
Six months ..	..	..	..	5½	5½
Three months fine inland bills	..	..	..	5½—5½	5½—5½
Four months ..	..	..	..	6—6½	6—6½
Six months ..	..	..	..	6½—6½	6—6½

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

				Last week	This week
				Per cent.	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	..	..	..	6	6
" short loan rates	..	..	..	6½	6½
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	..	..	..	4	4
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call) ..	..	..	..	4½	4½
" .. 7 and 14 days' notice ..	..	..	..	4½	4½
Current rates for 7 day loans ..	..	..	..	5	5
" .. for call loans ..	..	..	..	4½—5	4½—5

The Week's Stock Markets.

Some idea of the condition of business on the Stock Exchange may be gleaned from the fact that members are clamouring for the House to be closed every Saturday up to the end of March, and a largely signed petition with this object has been presented to the Committee. It is urged that it is more convenient for the public to know that the Saturday holiday is a regular institution than to have the House closed at odd intervals, and if circumstances arose to make opening desirable, the order could easily be rescinded. But as we have said, the most interesting point about the agitation is the light it throws on the state of business. Nothing of much importance has occurred during the week, and dealings have been terribly meagre in most departments. The 4½ per cent. War Loan showed considerable activity, mainly in anticipation of a new loan in the near future, when the conversion rights would become valuable. France's latest loan has proved a magnificent success, the total applied for by some three million subscribers being about £450,000,000 (nominal), of which £220,000,000 is new money. No official statement has yet been made as to the amount taken up in this country. Peruvian Corporation issues have come into more prominence on President Pardo's favourable message, and the belief that the company will receive fair treatment at the hands of the new Government. Judging by the rise in several Mexican securities, conditions in that country also seem to be improving, or at least looking rather more hopeful. Americans have been in a state of suppressed excitement owing to the prolonged suspense with regard to the result of the Presidential election. Prices were put up when it was believed that Mr. Hughes had been elected, and they were put up again when it was found he wasn't, so it evidently does not matter much either way. Cuban Ports, which were badly treated by the late Government, have come to the front again on the return to power of the party which granted the concession, and it is naturally hoped that a more equitable settlement will now be arrived at. The P. and O. dividend of 18 per cent., against 15 per cent. paid for the past four years, was fully up

to market expectations, and the loss of the poor old Arabia did not appreciably depress the market.

Although stock markets have on the whole been far from active, they have been generally firm in tone, and the 4½ per cent. War Loan in particular has been very active. The price was driven up at one time to 96¾, partly owing to rumours that a new issue would be made in January, partly, it seems, to

the Foreign bond market French War Loan touched 82¾, and the new issue 81¾, but closed ¼ below these figures. Russian securities were affected by the higher exchange, and several of them showed losses of ½ to 1. Egyptian Unified improved ½, and Greek Monopoly recovered that fraction. Cuban Ports was lifted to 38½ on hopes that a settlement will be facilitated by the return to power of the political party which made the original agreement with the company, but relapsed to 36 before the close. Peruvian Corporation issues were better on the statement of the President of the Republic indicating that the Corporation would receive fair treatment in regard to the guano question.

Home Railway stocks have been neglected, and with a little selling prices have tended downwards. North-Western fell 1¼, Great Western 1, Great Eastern ½, and North-Eastern ¼. Midland preferred, however, was ¼ better. Metropolitan gained ½, but District was marked down 1. Scottish stocks showed a recovery. Canadian Pacific shares moved in sympathy with New York, fluctuating between 180½ and 182½, and closing with a small gain at 181. Grand Trunk stocks were heavy, and Canadian Northern income debentures relapsed 2. American Railroad shares fell back a little on profit-taking, and although they rallied on expectations of an election "boom," the uncertainty as to the result caused a fresh relapse. International Mercantile Marine were marked up 4, and the preference 5½, and United States Steel common were 4½ better at 131¾. Argentine Railways have been heavy. Buenos Ayres and Pacific fluctuated between 43¾ and 44½, closing at 44, and Central Argentine were 1 down. Mexican first preference, after touching 57, rallied, and finished 1 up on the week at 59, and United of Havana was ½ better.

Bank shares have hardly been mentioned, but Parr's has been marked down ½ and London Joint Stock ¼. Bank of Australasia and Union of Australia have both fallen 1. South American descriptions were dull, London and Brazilian losing 1½, London and River Plate 1, and British Bank of South America ½. Shipping shares have been quiet, but there was a sharp jump in P. and O. deferred to 344½ on the increased dividend and bonus, and a fair amount of attention was also given to Khedivial Mail, leaving them 4s. 6d. up at 32s. A good deal of interest has again been shown in Canadian things, the impulse coming mainly from the other side. Lake Superior Corporation after dropping to 25½, finished ¾ better at 28½, and Spanish River Pulp and Paper showed increases of ½ in the common and 1½ in the preferred, while Riordon Pulp and Paper preferred was marked up 4. British Columbia Electric preferred and deferred, on the other hand, lost 2. Brazil Traction fell 1 to 54½. Amongst Land shares Hudson's Bay were steady, but Forestal ordinary and preference were offered and finished 1s. lower. British North Borneo, too, gave way, but Pekin Syndicate improved 1s. Engineering shares have been somewhat irregular, but there was a revival of the inquiry towards the end, and Birmingham Small Arms improved to 47s. Dorman, Long were better on the dividend, and Fraser and Chalmers, after dropping to 29s, recovered to 32s. British Oil and Cake Mills were offered, and relapsed to 29s. Courtaulds were lifted at one time to 7½, but fell back to 7 on a little profit-taking. Coats rose to 6½, in anticipation of the report, but reacted to 6¼ after the publication of the dividend statement. Other Textiles were quiet, with a firm tendency. Meat shares were supported, and mostly higher. Aerated Bread declined to 2 on the report, but Lyons recovered slightly. British Automatic shares came in for attention on the increased dividend, and rose to 18s. 3d.

Amongst Oil shares most interest has been shown in Anglo-Egyptian "B" shares, which improved to 12s. on the bringing in of a new well and consequent increase in output from Hurgada. "Shell" were a shade harder at 5½ and Royal Dutch put on ½ at 44½. Russian things were quiet, with irregular changes, but sufficient support was forthcoming for Lobitos to lift the price to 43s., and Mexican Eagle issues were bought to a moderate extent. In the Rubber share market a fair business has been done, mostly in shares not likely to be affected by the excess profits duty, but there has also been good buying of other favourites. Tandjong were lifted to 84s., and Sialang improved to 67s., while Highlands, Bakap and Bukit Rajah all show fair gains. Lanadron relapsed sharply to 35s., on the circular stating that no interim dividend could be paid owing to the unexpectedly heavy excess profits taxation, but rallied as sharply, and closed at 40s. Javas were firm, without much change, and Trust companies' shares were a shade harder.

WILKES, LTD.—The accounts for the year ended July 31 have been held back until certain figures relating to the accounts payable as excess profits under the Finance Acts and Munitions of War Act have been ascertained. The directors, however, state that the results of trading have been very satisfactory, and they propose to pay a dividend of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, or the same as for the previous year.

IRISH TIMES, LTD.—Profits for the year ended September 30 were practically the same as those for the previous 12 months at £26,574, but income-tax absorbed £2,259 more, and the nett balance, including £6,199 brought forward, was consequently £24,524 down at £27,049. The directors again set aside £1,000 each to general reserve and investment depreciation fund, after which they pay the dividends on the preference and second preference shares and carry forward £6,114, or £85 less.

	Last Week	This Week		Last Week	This Week
Consols.....	56	56½	N.S.W. 4½% 1922-7	94	94
War Loan 3½%	84½	84½	" " 5% 1921-3	96½	96½
" " 4½%	94½	94½	" " 5½% 1921-2	2 dis.	97½
India 3%	57½	57½	New Zealand 4%	85	84
" " 3½%	67½	67½	Queensland 4%	82½	82½
Australian 5½% 1920-22 ..	99½	99½	" " 4½% new	95½	93½
Canada 4% 1940-60	82½	82½	Union of S. Africa 4½% ..	92	92
" " 4½% 1920-5	94½	94½	1920-5	92	92
N.S.W. 4%	83½	83½	Victoria 4½% 1920-5	93	93
" " 4½% 5 yr. bds.	95	95	Westn. Aus. 4%	81½	81½
Belgian 3%	61	61	French War Loan, 5%		
Brazil, 1913	63	63	New	—	81½
" " New Funding.	77½	77½	Japan 4½% (1st)	95	95
Chinese 1896	89	88½	" (2nd)	95	95
" " 1912	72½	71½	Russia 4%	67½	67
Egypt Unified 4%	77½	78½	" " 4½%	77½	77
French War Loan, 5% ..	81½	82½	" " 5%	86½	85½
Brighton defd.	63	63	London and S.W. dfd.	22½	22½
Caledonian defd.	83	93	Do. new pf.	98	98
Chatham ord.	88	9	Metropolitan	22½	22½
Gt. Central pf.	14½	14	Do. 5% New pf.	90	90
" " dfd.	78	78	Met. District	16	15
Gt. Eastern	35½	35	Midland dfd.	57	56½
Gt. Northern dfd.	37½	37½	Nth. British dfd.	13½	13½
Gt. Western	91½	90½	Nth.-Eastern	101½	101½
Lancs. and Yorks.	68	68	Nth.-Western	99½	98
			Sth.-Eastern dfd.	26½	26
Canadian Pacific	180½	181	Chesapeake	72	72
Do. 6% Notes	109	109	Erie	41½	41½
E. Indian Guar. 4½% debts.	93	93	Milwaukee	99½	99½
Grand Trunk ord.	10½	10½	N. Y. Central	113½	114
Do. 3rd pf.	25½	25	Southern	30½	31½
Do. 5½% 3-yr. Notes ..	96	96	Southern Pacific	105½	106½
Do. 5½% 5-yr. "	96	96	Union Pacific	158½	159
Atchison	111½	112½	U. S. Steel	127½	131½
Baltimore	92½	92½			
Antofagasta dfd.	126½	129½	Cent. Argentine ord.	71½	71½
Do. 6% Notes	102	102	Do. 5% Notes	96	96½
Brazil Common	5½	5½	Do. 6% "	100½	101
B. A. & Pacific	45	44	Leopoldina	34	34
B. A. Gt. Southern	81½	81½	Mexican ord.	18½	18½
B. A. Western	81½	81½	San Paulo (Brazilian) ..	185	185
			United of Havana	82	82½
Bank of Australasia	116	115	London City & Midland ..	7½	7½
Barclay & Co. "A"	7½	7½	London County & West ..	15	15
Do. "B"	10½	10½	London Joint Stock	22	21½
Capital & Counties	23½	23½	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (f100 pf)	46	46
Chartered of India	51	51	Do. (f12 pf)	30½	30½
Hongkong & Shanghai ..	28½	28½	Parr's	29	28½
Lloyds	23½	23½	Standard of S.A.	10½	10
London & Provincial ..	16½	16½	Union & Smiths	24	24
London & S.W.	11½	11½			
Apollinaris ord.	1½	1	Forestal Land	51	50½
Armstrong, Whitworth ..	38½	39½	Furness, Withy	50½	50½
Associated Cement	4	3	Hudson's Bay	6½	6½
Birmingham Small Arms	44½	47½	Imperial Tobacco "B" pf.	22½	22½
Borax dfd.	35½	35½	Do. "C" pf.	34½	34½
Bovril	20½	20½	Kynochs	29½	29½
Brazil Traction	55½	54½	Lever Bros. "C" pf.	20½	20½
British Amer. Tobacco ..	41½	41½	Lyons, J.	47½	47½
Brown (John) & Co.	35½	35½	Marconi	25½	25½
Brunner, Mond	48	48	Maypole Dairy dfd.	21½	20½
Cammell-Laird	62	62½	Mond Nickel ord.	32	32
Castner-Kellner	32	32	National Steam Car	20½	19½
Coats	68	68	Pears, A. & F.	18	18
Cunard	86½	86½	P. & O. dfd.	34½	34½
Dennis Bros.	36½	35½	Royal Mail	110½	110½
Dorman, Long	34½	35½	South Durham Steel	34½	34½
Eastmans	7½	7½	Underground Inc. Bds.	89	89½
English Sewing Cotton ..	43½	44½	Vickers	37½	37½
Fine Cotton Spinners ..	28½	29½			
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	8½	12½	Mexican Eagle pf.	36½	37½
Baku (ros.)	3½	3½	North Caucasian	25½	25½
Burmah	48½	48½	Roumanian Cons.	14½	14½
Lobitos	41½	43½	Royal Dutch (100 gulden)	44	44½
Maikop Combine (ros.) ..	3½	3½	Shell	58½	58½
Maikop Pipeline	4½	4½	Spies (10/-)	14½	14½
Mexican Eagle	36½	36½	Ural Caspian	31½	31½
Anglo-Java Rub. (2/-) ..	51½	5½	Malayaland f1	34½	35½
Anglo-Malay 2/-	11½	11½	Merlimau 2/-	5½	5½
Ayer Kuning f1	33½	35½	Pataling 2/-	33½	32½
Bukit Mertajam 2/-	5½	4½	Port Dickson 2/-	32½	32½
Bukit Sembawang 2/- ..	3½	3½	Rubber Trust f1	25½	25½
Carey United f1	40½	40½	Sapumalkande f1	22½	22½
Grand Central f1	25½	26½	Sialang f1	63½	67½
Gula Kalumpung f1	31½	31½	Singapore Para 2/-	3½	4½
Highlands f1	53½	54½	Singapore United 2/- ..	31½	31½
Java Para f1	31½	30½	Tampung 2/-	37½	37½
Johore Rubber Lands f1 ..	30½	31½	Tandjong f1	77½	84½
Langen Java f1	45½	45½	Tandjong Malim f1	29½	30½
Linggi 2/-	21½	21½	Tebrau f1	69½	70½
London Asiatic 2/-	7½	7½	United Serdang 2/-	11½	11½
Malacca f1	87½	87½	Vallambrosa 2/-	17½	18½
Abbottiakoon (10/-)	6½	6½	De Beers dfd. (2 10s.) ..	12½	13
Brakpan	41½	41½	East Rand	15½	15½
Broken Hill Prop. (8/-) ..	54½	54½	Gt. Boulder (2/-)	11½	11½
Cam & Motor	12½	11½	Meyer & Charlton	58	58
Central Mining (f12)	68½	72½	Modder "B"	68½	72½
Chartered	11½	11½	Do. Deep	72½	72½
City Deep	48½	48½	New Modder (f4)	18½	18½
Cons. Gold Fields	12½	12½	Rand Mines (5/-)	34½	4
Cons. Langlaagte	17½	17½	Rio Tinto (f5)	61½	61½
Crown Mines (10/-)	37½	37½	Van Ryn Deep	37½	37½

dealers having been caught short. The price fluctuated pretty widely, but finally closed with a gain of 1½ on the week at 95½ xd. Consols rose ¼ to 56½, but the 3½ per cent. War Loan was unchanged at 84½. Bank of England stock has been marked down to 202. London County Council loans and Metropolitan Water Board all fell ¼. Amongst Colonial Government securities several New South Wales and New Zealand issues were ½ to 1 lower, while Nigeria improved ¼. In

LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

SUGAR.—Previous quotations were repeated this week, and a sustained demand ensued for all descriptions. Stocks of raw kinds at the three chief ports total 51,700 tons, against 46,900 same time last year. Home consumption for last month, 109,900 tons, against 137,400 last year.

COFFEE.—Small supplies in auction were only partially disposed to a quiet demand, but at rates showing no material alteration from those current recently. Fine bold Vera Paz in auction sold, 96s.; medium washed Dumont, 60s. The terminal market ruled quiet and prices easy. December sold, 46s. 4½d.; March, 47s. 6d. to 47s. 3d.; May, 48s. 6d. to 48s. 3d.

CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 10, 1916.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
Sugar —per cwt., duty 14½, 98% polarisation	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Wool —per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tate's Cubes No. 1	2 7 1½	2 7 1½	Australian	1 6-4 0½	2 2-4 5
Ditto, H.T.S.	2 6 7½	2 6 7½	Scoured Merino	1 9½-2 1½	1 10-3 7
Fine granulated	nom.	nom.	Greasy Merino	1 0-2 3	1 7-2 3
Lyle's granulated	41 7½-42 1½	41 7½-42 1½	Greasy Crossbred	1 1-1 8½	1 3-1 10
Foreign granulated, first marks f.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	New Zealand (scoured) Merino	3 2-3 9½	3 6-3 10½
German Cubes f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	1 0½-1 1½	1 2-2 0½
French Cube	nom.	nom.	Cape snow white	1 10-3 5	2 4½-3 0
prompt	nom.	nom.	Indian rubber, 1 lb. Plantation, Spot		
Crystallised, West India	nom.	nom.	Crepe	0 2 6½	0 2 6½
Beet, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Coal —per ton		
Tea —per lb., duty 1/-	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Durham, best	nom.	nom.
Indian Pekoe	0 9½-1 0	0 9½-1 2½	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 9½-1 2	0 10½-1 7½	East Hartlepool	nom.	nom.
Orange	10-1 2½	0 10½-1 5½	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Broken	10½-1 2½	11½-1 7½	Steamers, best	37/6	29 0-30 0
Pekoe Souchong	0 9½-1 1	0 9½-1 1½	Seconds	3/1	25 0-26 0
Ceylon Pekoe	0 9½-1 0	0 10-1 1	Lead —per ton	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Broken	10½-1 1	0 10½-1 1½	English Pig	32 5 0	32 5 0
Orange	10-1 1½	10½-1 1½	Foreign soft	30 10 0	30 10 0
Broken	11½-1 3	11-1 2	Quicksilver —per bottle firsthand	£17½	£17½
Pekoe Souchong	0 9½-1 0½	0 9½-1 11	Tin —per ton		
Cocoa —per cwt., duty 6d.	s. s.	s. s.	English Ingots	183½-184½	186½-187½
Trinidad	81 0-85 0	81 0-85 0	Do. bars	184½-185½	187½-188½
Grenada	73 0-82 6	73 0-82 6	Standard cash	£182 5 0	£185 0 0
West Africa	70 74-74 0	70 74-74 0	Tin Plates, per box	nom.	nom.
Ceylon Plantation	72 0-91 0	72 0-91 0	Copper —per ton		
Guayaquil Arriba	96 0-98 0	96 0-98 0	English, Tough	nom.	nom.
Coffee —per cwt., duty 42/-	s. s.	s. s.	per ton	nom.	nom.
East India	67 0-95 0	67 0-95 0	Best Selected	£148-£143	£150-£147
Jamaica	62 0-120 6	62 0-120 6	Sheets	£168	£168
Costa Rica	62 0-84 0	62 0-84 0	Standard	£124	£124-£125
Provisions —			Jute —per ton		
Butter, per cwt.	nom.	nom.	Native firsts for shipment Oct-Nov	£35 10 0	£36 10 0
Australian finest	196/-204/-	202/-208/-	Oil —		
Irish Creameries	196/-200/-	198/-204/-	Linseed, per ton	£46-£47	£49½-£50½
Dutch ditto	nom.	nom.	Rape, ref. English	£52-£54	£52-£54
Russian finest	214/-218/-	216/-220/-	barrels	£48 5 0	£49 10 0
Normandy baskets	214/-218/-	216/-220/-	Brown English, naked	£43 0 0	nom.
British finest	18/6-21/6	18/6-21/6	Cott'n Seed, crude	£50-£54	£50-£56
Brittany rolls	18/6-21/6	18/6-21/6	Ditto, refined	£50-£54	£50-£56
Bacon —per cwt.			Petroleum Oil, per 8 lbs.	1/1½	1/1½
Irish	110 0-120 0	112 0-120 0	Water White	1/2½	1/2½
Continental	102 0-120 0	104 0-120 0	Oil Seeds, Linseed	nom.	nom.
Canadian	100 0-114 0	100 0-114 0	Calcutta—per 41c	4 11 0	4 18 0
American	96 0-102 0	95 0-102 0	lb...	75/6	80/0
Hams —per cwt.			Rape, Toria	nom.	nom.
Irish	148/-160/-	148/-160/-	Iron —per ton		
Canadian	116 0-118 0	nom.	Cleveland Cash	nom.	nom.
American	71 0-112 0	72 0-112 0	Tobacco —duty, unmanufactured		
Cheese —per cwt.			5/6 to 6/2½ per lb.		
Dutch	80 0-108 0	80 0-108 0	Maryland & Ohio	0 6-0 10	0 6-0 10
Canadian	114 0-118 0	114 0-122 0	per lb. bond	0 8-1 6	0 8-1 6
English Cheddar	118 0-124 0	120 0-130 0	Virginiateat	0 6½-0 10	0 6½-0 10
White loaf	nom.	nom.	Kentucky leaf	1 0-3 0	1 0-3 0
New Zealand	112 0-114 0	nom.	Latakia	1 0-6 0	1 0-6 0
Rice —per cwt.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Havana	0 6-2 0	0 6-4 0
Garden Siam	17 9	18 4½	Manila	0 6-2 0	0 6-4 0
spot	17 9	18 4½	Cigars, duty 10/6	2/ upds.	2/ upds.
Rangoon 2 stars	17 9	18 4½	Timber —Wood		
Eggs —per 120.			Pitch Pine	250/-270/-	250/-270/-
English	30 0-33 0	34 0	Indian Teak	400/-600/-	400/-600/-
Irish	29 0-31 0	32 0-34 0	Turpentine —		
Danish	29 0-32 0	32 0-34 0	American Spot	2 4 9	2 3 9
Spelter —			Copra —		
G.O.B. as to position	£52½-£53½	£55-£53	Malabar, London	nom.	nom.
Flour—per sack			Oct.-Dec.	nom.	nom.
Town Households	60/	60/	Ceylon, London	36 12 6	37 12 6
Official	60/	60/	South Sea	35 15 0	37 15 0
American First	64/6 upds	61/-64/	F.M.S.	35 15 0	38 2 6

Cocoa dull, and market quite featureless, while no auctions were held this week.

TEA.—With active and well-distributed competition during the week, prices were very firm to dearer for all descriptions. During the week 55,000 packages Indian and 21,500 packages Ceylon were offered, also 4,000 packages Java.

SPICE.—Market steady for most articles, but trade moved quietly. In auction Nyassaland chillies sold, 110s. to 126s.; ditto capsicums, 52s. to 58s. For arrival, Singapore black pepper sold, December-February, 8½d. Fair Zanzibar cloves, spot, done, 6½d. Tapioca remained quite steady, but slow.

RICE in demand, and market stronger. No. 2 cleaned Rangoon, October-November, sold, 17s. 10½d. to 18s.; January-February, 18s. 6d. Bran stronger, and Rangoon, afloat, London, sold,

265s., ex ship terms. Beans very firm, and Rangoon, spot, sold, £33. A cargo Saigon bran, November-December, sold, 245s., c.f. and l., Liverpool.

FRUIT.—In auction 350 tons Valencia raisins offered and mostly sold at fully 3s. per cwt. decline. Quarters, sold, 70s. to 88s.; eighths, 75s. to 85s.; seedless, 76s. to 84s. Muscatels, in small supply, ruled firmer. Common to choice, sold, 83s. to 135s.

FIBRES.—Jute continued in request, and with reserved sellers, prices hardened. Native first marks assortment, spot, London, sold, £35; Daisee No. 2, October-November, Dundee, £35 15s.; Lightning ditto at £33. Native first marks, October-November, Dundee, £36 to £36 5s. Manila hemp steady. Fair, October-December, sold, £54 10s.; coarse, £51 5s.; ditto, November-January, £50 10s. H.P.F., New Zealand, near at hand, realised £51 5s.

SHELLAC.—A steady business was effected at dearer rates. T.N., December, sold, 132s. to 135s. 6d.; March, 135s. to 138s.

QUININE steadier. Usual Continental brands, spot, sold, 2s. 2d. to 2s. 4d.

RUBBER.—Firmer, and a good inquiry was experienced. Plantation, spot, crepe, sold, 2s. 7½d. to 2s. 8d.; December, 2s. 7½d. to 2s. 8½d. Ribbed smoked sheet, spot, sold, 2s. 6½d. to 2s. 7½d., and 2s. 7½d. Fine hard Para, spot, done, 3s. 5½d.; December, 3s. 4½d.

COPRA.—Rates again steadily hardened on continued active support and reserves of sellers.

CORN (Mark Lane).—Business has been on a moderate scale since last Monday, while feeding stuffs have moved in a further upward direction, supplies at present remaining small. Wheat: English whites and reds, delivered up, range at 74s to 81s, as to quality, per qr. (504 lbs.). Imported descriptions:—No. 1 Northern Manitoba, 84s. 6d., ex ship. Flour: American first spring patents ranges up to 66s., landed. Grinding barley: American nominal. Indian, landed, 59s. 6d. upwards. Oats: La Plata, landed, 41s. upwards. Maize: La Plata (sound), 59s., landed.

METAL.—Copper: The standard market manifested a very steady and less subdued tone this week, while by the middle of the week spot settled down at £124 10s., and three months £120. At Thursday's session values of these dates closed at £124 to £125 and £120 to £121 respectively. Refined dearer. Electrolytic, £148 to £145. Tin firmer, while irregular from time to time, and a fair turnover concluded. Standard, cash delivery, by Wednesday fluctuated to £183 10s., and three months to £184 15s., the tendency at Thursday's meeting being firmer, when cash was finally fixed at £184, and forward £185 10s. Lead quiet. Soft foreign, November, £30 10s., and January, £29 10s. Spelter firmer. G.O.B., November, £54 5s., and January, £53. Quicksilver unaltered.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—The conditions prevailing in our market seem to get more abnormal from week to week. Prices continue to advance, and there seems to be no end to the upward movement in the raw cotton markets. A striking feature this week has been the development in connection with Egyptian cotton. Rumours have been current of large supplies being lost on their way to this country, and on Tuesday afternoon the Liverpool market was very excited. The bullish tone in American cotton has also been well maintained. In cloth for export a considerable inquiry has been dealt with. Sellers, however, in securing orders, have met with rather irregular success. Here and there, however, substantial contracts have been arranged, and many manufacturers have extended their engagements. For India light fabrics, such as dhooties, mulls, and jaconets, have moved off more freely, with occasional sales of fair weight in shirtings. China has also been a little more active, but most of the buying has been in white goods. The South American markets have given steady support in a variety of cloths, and buying of a healthy character has again taken place for Egypt. Some producers have now got a good deal of work to go on with, and are rather afraid to sell their production further ahead in view of the uncertain prospects. American yarns for home use have hardened in price from day to day, and a considerable business has been done in both twist and weft. Fine numbers continue to do better than coarse counts. Not much more than a sorting up trade has been reported in shipping yarns. Numerous Egyptian spinners have refused to quote in view of the unsettled condition of the raw cotton market.

The Week in Mines.

There has been some increase of activity in the mining markets this week, particularly in the South African department, which has developed a much firmer tone on Cape and local support. Some excellent monthly returns have been issued by some of the Rand mines, notably the Brakpan and Meyer and Charlton companies, and these results have encouraged buying of particular shares. Copper shares have continued to advance, and tin shares have been prominently firm, but Australian shares have weakened on the announcement by the Scottish Australian Co. that a strike has broken out in all the coalfields.

SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

The South African market has been in a cheerful mood. Crowns were well supported, and rose ¼ to 3½, while Meyer and Charlton, on a record output, spurted 7½ to 5½. Modder B.'s have also met with a persistent inquiry and are 5-32 to the good at 6 31-32. In sympathy with the advance in Crowns, Rand Mines improved 3-32 to 4 1-32, but Gold Fields weakened to 1 23-32 on the heavy depreciation recorded in the dividend

statement. African Farms have risen 1s. to 8s. 6d., and Johnnies 1s. to 17s. 4½d., while Brakpans at 4½d. Consolidated Mines Selection at 23s. 3d., and Rand Selections at 3 23-32 have all attracted some support. Diamond shares have developed strength, particularly Premiers, on the announcement that of the 18s. 9d. arrears of dividend on the preference shares, 12s. 6d. will be paid off shortly. The prefs. have risen ¼ to 7½, and the deferreds ½ to 6½. De Beers deferreds are ½ and the prefs. ¾ higher at 12½ and 14½ respectively. In the Rhodesian section, Shamvas were depressed by Dr. Corstorphine's report on the property, and fell ½ to 1, and Gold Fields Devels., which have a large holding of Shamvas, declined 1s. to 5s. 9d. in sympathy. Falcons have reacted to 15s. 6d. on profit-taking, and Tanganyikas have sagged slightly. Among West African shares Ashanti Goldfields at 17s. 6d. were unaffected by the dividend announcement, but Taquahs improved to 20s.

COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Copper shares, particularly the American descriptions, developed strength, though the price of the metal is unaltered on the week. Anacondas are 1½ higher at 21½ and Utahs 1½ higher at 24. Rio Tintos have been steady at 61½, ex dividend. Hampdens have risen 1s. 6d. to 38s. on a 10 per cent. dividend, and Mount Lyells 1s. to 28s. 6d. Tin shares have shown an upward tendency on a rise in the price of the metal of £3¾ per ton. Nigerian Tin Corporations at 10s. 6d., Renongs at 2½, Tronohs at 1½, and Dolcoaths at 9s. 6d. are all higher, while Malayan Tins rose ½ to 2 on the report, showing a marked increase in profits and dividends. Broken Hills have moved irregularly, a sharp rise in silver being offset by news of the coal strike. Sulphide prefs., however, have risen 1s. to 35s. 6d., and Zinc prefs. 9d. to 45s. 3d.

Russian shares have shown a tendency to recover, Russo-Asiatics being ½ higher at 5½. Kyshtims at 2¾ and Spasskys at 1½ were unmoved by their respective reports. El Oros have relapsed 1s. to 8s. 3d., but Alaska Treadwells at 2½ and Alaska Gold Fields at 14s. 6d. have moved in favour of holders. Of the Indians, Balaghats at 4s. 6d. have been in request, and Sudan Goldfields at 8s., and Great Boulders at 11s. 9d. have met with a little support, but the rest of the Westralian market has been dull.

MINING NEWS.

GLYNN'S LYDENBURG.—In the year ended June 30 the revenue from gold rose from £83,271 to £90,032, the yield per ton milled rising 2s. 1d. to 36s. 11d. Working costs increased by 2½d. per ton to 22s. 2½d. per ton, and the total profit was £39,311, or 16s. 1½d. per ton, against £34,906, equal to 14s. 7d. per ton. The dividend, however, has been reduced from 20 per cent. to 16½ per cent., and the balance carried forward is raised from £28,813 to £30,141. Reserves of ore are estimated at 78,282 tons, valued at 8.7 dwts. per ton over 12.6 inches, showing an increase of 13,282 tons, and 0.3 dwts. in average value as compared with the estimate at June 30, 1915.

GAIKA GOLD.—The nett profit, after deducting depreciation, but before allowing for excess profits duty, for the 12 months ended June 30 amounted to £35,111, against £34,436. But the dividend is reduced from 15 to 12½ per cent., and £7,772, against £7,624, is carried forward. Last year, it will be remembered, the dividend was increased from 10 per cent. to 15 per cent. Reserves of ore are estimated at 89,591 tons, as compared with 95,570 tons a year ago, while the value has diminished by .18 dwts. to 13.96 dwts. per ton. During the year 37,795 tons were crushed, yielding £88,510. Working costs averaged 26s. 4d. per ton, as compared with 25s. 8d. per ton.

KYSHTIM CORPORATION.—The report for the year ended January 13 states that the nett revenue balance amounts to £220,035, as compared with £208,499. It is proposed to recommend as a dividend in respect of the year the payment in Petrograd on November 30 of one rouble (2s.) per share, free of British income-tax, against 1s. per share, tax free, last year. In view of the depreciation of the rouble, there is really very little difference between the two distributions. This dividend at the exchange of 15 roubles to the £ will require £83,616, and leave £136,419 to be carried forward. A refining contract has recently been entered into by the Russian company—the Russian Mining Works—for treating at the electrolytic refinery at Kyshtim the blister copper produced from the properties owned by the Tanalyk Corporation through its subsidiary, the South Urals Co. The report of the Kyshtim Mining Works Co. shows that the trading profit for the year amounted to Rs. 4,397,445, against Rs. 3,490,709, which has been allocated as follows:—To reserve fund, Rs. 219,872, against Rs. 174,535; to depreciation, Rs. 1,947,760, against Rs. 950,000; to reserve for profits tax in Russia, nil, against Rs. 366,174; to payment of dividend, nil, against Rs. 2,000,000; available profit left at the disposal of the shareholders, subject to Russian taxes estimated at Rs. 760,000, Rs. 2,229,813, against nil. Before arriving at the trading profit earned in the year the Kyshtim Mining Works have reserved Rs. 1,067,623 for loss in exchange, an item which did not occur in previous years.

SPASSKY COPPER MINE.—The report for the year ended December 31 last states that on the basis of the normal exchange the nett profit in Siberia was £126,453, which compares with £116,270 for 1914, and after deducting other expenses, less receipts, the balance amounted to £121,515, against £115,502. The balance brought in is £9,450 larger at £130,965, making the aggregate available £175,791. But the company's funds

are in Russia, and the conditions which rendered it impossible to distribute the dividend last year have been accentuated since, and the Russian Government recently prohibited remittances beyond nominal amounts out of the country. Moreover, the British Treasury restrictions have so far prevented a new issue of capital, and the profits are at present being utilised for capital requirements in Siberia. In these circumstances the directors consider it inexpedient to declare a dividend, and therefore propose to carry forward the profits until more normal conditions prevail. We think that the best course for the board to pursue is to utilise the profits for capital requirements, and so avoid a fresh issue. The shareholders will get the benefit in the long run. During the year 3,450 tons of copper were produced by the smelters, against 4,683 tons in 1914, but the copper sold realised £453,464, against £444,563.

SHAMVA MINES.—The report made by Dr. G. S. Corstorphine, the consulting geologist, on his examination of the Shamva mine, has now been issued to the shareholders, and it does not make very encouraging reading. The property is situated on a hill, and the main ore body, now being worked by the company, lies some distance below the top, extending from the surface, with an average breadth of some 150 ft., down to the second level, between which and the third level it becomes considerably narrower, the narrowing being still more conspicuous from the third to the fifth level. In length there has also been a shortening, especially between the third and fifth levels. From the present developments no values have yet been obtained below the fifth level. On the third level a fault or fracture is very apparent. Dr. Corstorphine thinks that the present extent of gold-bearing rock down to the fifth level is one particular shoot, and that the limits as shown by the present workings give practically its entire mass. There is, however, he says, quite reasonable hope that other ore bodies exist. He, therefore, recommends various measures for prospecting the Shamva Hill, and the directors intimate that these recommendations will be adopted as soon as sufficient labour is available.

NIGEL GOLD MINING.—A cablegram has been received stating that all development work in the mine ceased on November 1st; the mill and cyanide works are continuing to crush and treat developed ore. A circular has been issued by the head office, and will be in the hands of European shareholders about the 30th inst.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

Aguas Blancas Nitrate.—Interim of 4 per cent. (actual), less tax at 4s., in respect of first half of 1916, on the ordinary, payable Nov. 15, against 5 per cent. a year ago.

Ashanti Goldfields.—25 per cent. (rs. per share), payable, less tax of 5s., Dec. 15, same as a year ago.

Balijan Tea.—Interim of 6 per cent., less tax, on account of 1916, payable 20th inst., same as a year ago.

Bengal Nagpur Railway.—In addition to the guaranteed interest for half-year ending Dec. 31, 1916, at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum, a final of 15s. per cent. and a bonus of £1 10s. per cent., making 6½ per cent. for the year, against 5 per cent.

Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway.—In addition to half-year's guaranteed interest of £1 10s. per cent., an interim of 10s. per cent. in respect of year 1916-17, same as last year.

Cluny Rubber.—Interim of 5 per cent., less tax, on account of 1916, payable 30th inst. No interim was paid a year ago.

Dekhari Tea.—Interim of 6 per cent., less tax, on account of 1916, payable 15th inst., against 5 per cent., tax free.

Dennis Bros. (1913).—Final of 5 per cent. and a bonus of 1s. per share, making 3s. per share, less tax, same as last year.

Djember Rubber.—Interim of 5 per cent., free tax, payable Nov. 30, against 4 per cent.

Dooars Tea.—Interim of 1s. 3d. per share (6½ per cent.) on the ordinary, payable Dec. 18.

Dorman, Long, and Co.—4 per cent., making 8 per cent., and in addition a bonus of 6 per cent., both free tax, for year ended Sept. 30. For the preceding year the dividend was 8 per cent., and the bonus 5 per cent.

Empire of India and Ceylon Tea.—Interim of 9d. per share (3½ per cent.) on the ordinary, payable Dec. 18, same as a year ago.

Galang Besar Rubber.—On the preference and ordinary of 8 per cent., free tax, in respect of year ended June 30, forward £3,773, subject to income-tax, &c., against 5 per cent.

Grand Hotel, Eastbourne.—Balance of 4 per cent. and a bonus of 6 per cent., less tax, making 14 per cent., less tax, for year ended Sept. 30, against 13 per cent.

Hugh Baird and Sons.—At the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the ordinary, against 5 per cent.

Indian Electric Supply and Traction.—Interim of 2½ per cent. being at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, payable 7th inst., same as a year ago.

La Guaira and Caracas Railway.—Interim of 2½ per cent., free tax, on the ordinary on account of 1916, payable Nov. 22, against 2½ per cent., less tax.

Lahat Mines.—1s. per share, less tax, payable Nov. 22. This is the first dividend payment since 1913.

Land Mortgage Bank of Texas.—Interim on the ordinary for half-year to Sept. 30 at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, less tax, payable Dec. 1, same as a year ago.

Ledbury Rubber.—Interim of 10 per cent., less tax, on account of 1916, payable 30th inst., against 7½ per cent.

Malacca Rubber Plantations.—Interim of 10 per cent. for year ending Dec. 1, 2s. per share, free tax, payable Dec. 1, same as a year ago.

North Broken Hill.—2s. per share, less tax, payable Dec. 20.

Oriental Rubber.—Interim of 1s. per share (5 per cent.) on the ordinary, payable Dec. 18, same as a year ago.

Premier (Transvaal) Diamond.—12s. 6d per share, less tax, on the preference. This dividend is the preferential dividend accumulating on the preference in respect of the periods from May 1, 1915, to Oct. 31, 1915, and Nov. 1, 1915, to April 30, 1916.

Rambutan.—8d. per share, less tax, payable 24th inst., against 6d. a share, tax free.

Royal Insurance.—Interim of 14s. per share, less tax, payable 15th inst., same as a year ago.

Santa Catalina Nitrate.—Final of 15 per cent., less tax, making 20 per cent. The previous dividend was 10 per cent. for 1914.

Scottish Tea and Rubber Trust.—Interim of 4 per cent. actual, same as last year.

Shotts Iron.—6s. per share, free tax, on the ordinary, against 5 per cent.

Singlo Tea.—Interim of 9d. per share (3½ per cent.) on the ordinary, payable Dec. 18.

Sons of Gwalia.—Interim of 1s. per share, less tax, payable Dec. 20, same as a year ago.

Waihi Grand Junction Gold.—Interim of 1s. per share, free tax, payable Nov. 28.

Wm. Cory and Son.—Interim on the ordinary and employees of 4 per cent., less tax, on account of year ending March 31 next, payable Dec. 1, same as a year ago.

Tea, Oil and Rubber.

Rubber imports in the month of October amounted to 118,296 centals, a decrease of 41,300 centals, as compared with the corresponding period, and the value was £280,000 less at £1,496,000. Receipts from the Straits Settlements were 25,000 less at 27,135 centals, and from Brazil 13,000 less, no doubt mainly owing to direct shipments to America. For the ten months the imports have been 1,356,366 centals, a decrease of 134,000 centals, but the value was £2,400,000 higher at £18,695,000. Almost 180,000 centals less have come from the Straits, 64,700 less from Ceylon, and 46,600 less from Brazil, but Malay sent 90,000 centals more, the Dutch East Indies 36,300 more, and Africa 32,000 more. Exports for the month amounted to 67,474 centals, a decrease of 21,600 centals, and the value fell £246,000 to £779,000. For the ten months the exports have been 880,000 centals, a decrease of 320,000 centals, but the value is only £700,000 less at £12,695,000. America has taken 270,000 centals less and Russia nearly 100,000 less. It will be seen from the figures given that in the ten months we have retained 475,000 centals for home consumption, an increase of 185,000 centals as compared with last year, a pretty substantial amount to digest.

In its year ended June 30, the Kuala Lumpur Rubber Company did remarkably well, owing more to the high price realised for its output than to the increase in the crop. The yield per tree was smaller than had been expected, and, with a larger area brought into tapping, the yield per acre was 36 lbs. smaller than that of a year ago at 340 lbs., but the crop, although below the estimate, was 128,827 lbs. above the total for 1914-15, at 1,415,500 lbs. Owing to the higher export duty and heavier packing charges the f.o.b. cost rose by .34d., and freight, insurance, &c., cost .46d. more; but in the absence of special charges, such as the £2,100 paid for fees in connection with the Paris quotation last time, the other outgoings were reduced by .71d., leaving the "all-in" cost only a trifle up at 1s. 0.64d. At the same time, the company realised the very satisfactory price of 2s. 9.83d., or an increase of 6.34d., and the nett profit, after providing £2,500 less at £15,000 for income-tax, was £49,470 better at £113,768. Including £12,969 brought in, there is a disposable surplus of £126,737, or £50,768 more, out of which the directors resume their appropriations to reserve with £10,000, as against £12,500 two years ago, and increase the dividend by 10 per cent. to 40 per cent., leaving £32,737, or £19,768 more, to be carried forward, subject to excess profits duty. Outlay on development for the year was £6,218, but £5,058 nett was written off buildings, &c., so that the actual cost of the property was only slightly higher at £327,819, and against this the company has reserves, including £67,500 from premiums, amounting to £130,000. Cash is £5,552 down at £24,759, and balances in hands of agents are £4,656 lower at £29,377, but £9,932 has been invested in War Loan, and the company also holds

£59,406 in Treasury bills. The crop for 1916-17 is estimated at 1,600,000 lbs.

In the year ended June 30 the Singapore Para Rubber Estates secured a further substantial increase of 150,257 lbs. in its crop at 509,982 lbs., or 59,982 lbs. more than had been expected. The average price was 5.15d. better at 2s. 7.60d., and, at the same time, there was a very satisfactory reduction of 2.22d. to 1s. 1.33d. in the "all-in" cost, with the result that the nett profit was no less than £20,881 up at £37,357. The dividend is increased from 10 per cent. to 22½ per cent., and £1,000 is again written off buildings and machinery, but nothing is put to reserve compared with £2,000 a year ago, and the balance carried forward is £6,965 up at £12,763. Against £1,858 spent on development the company received £1,750 for 1,000 acres of the outlying portion of the jungle land sold, and on balance property account is a trifle down at £134,827. Temporary investments, consisting of War Loan and Treasury bills, have been increased by £3,100 to £12,988, and cash is £16,757 up at £26,869; but, on the other hand, current liabilities, including £12,098 for dividends unpaid, are £19,628 higher at £23,844. A crop of 600,000 lbs. is expected in the current year, of which 150,280 lbs. were harvested in the first three months.

In his desire to be on the safe side, the manager of the Jong-Landor Rubber Estates estimated the crop for the year ended June 30 at 480,000 lbs., and the visiting agent was nearly as cautious with a forecast of 500,000 lbs. The yield, however, is increasing more rapidly than they expected, and the actual output reached a total of 551,728 lbs., or 176,587 lbs. more than in 1914-15. At the same time, the price realised was 5½d. better at 2s. 8½d., the nett profits showed the substantial increase of £21,810 at £40,268. Of this, £5,700 has been set aside to meet excess profits duty for 1914-15, and after making sundry adjustments, the available total, including £6,080, or £3,082 more, brought forward, was £19,665 up at £41,220. The incidence of the excess profits duty falls more severely on the company than the directors had anticipated, and as some uncertainty exists as to the sum actually payable, the directors consider it prudent to keep in hand an amount sufficient to meet the maximum liability. The dividend is raised from 17½ per cent. to 25 per cent. by a final distribution of 5 per cent., but nothing is put to reserve, compared with £1,000 a year ago, and the balance carried forward is increased by £15,990 to £22,070. The crop for the current year is estimated at 650,000 lbs.

The Anglo-Sumatra Rubber Co. again did very well in the year ended May 31, its nett profits, after providing for the upkeep of the whole of the planted area and setting aside £6,000 on account of excess profits duty for 1914-15, being £13,306 up at £56,508. With £14,848, or £7,202 more, brought forward, the disposable total is £20,508 larger at £71,357, and in addition to raising the dividend from 40 per cent. to 50 the directors transfer an extra £1,000 at £5,000 to reserve and increase the amount carried forward by £10,383 to £26,357, subject to excess profits duty. The output of rubber was 102,116 lbs. larger at 856,091 lbs., and realised 4½d. more at 2s. 6½d., while the "all-in" cost was further reduced by ½d. to the very low figure of 10½d., exclusive of war risk insurance. In the current year a crop of 880,000 lbs. is expected.

In announcing that they do not feel justified in declaring an interim dividend the directors of the Lanadron Rubber Estates, Ltd., state that the company has been assessed at £8,880 in respect of excess profits duty in respect of 1914 and at £31,250 for 1915, making a total of £40,130. From last year's profits a sum of £26,000 was reserved to meet the tax for the two years, but it will be seen that this sum is insufficient by over £14,000, and in addition the unknown liability for the current year has still to be determined. An appeal has been lodged against the Commissioners' method of assessment, but meantime

the only prudent policy for the directors is to conserve the resources of the company. The company incurred the bulk of its development expenses during the pre-war years, and the Commissioners contend that the profits of these years are not the actual profits earned during that period, but the amounts assessed for income-tax after deducting development expenditure under the Vallambrosa decision. Consequently the pre-war standard is made abnormally low, and the excess profits correspondingly high. Companies in this position cannot very well have it both ways, but the difficulty is to get each case treated equitably on its merits, and we feel more convinced than ever that some simpler and better method must be found. Naturally it increases the aggravation of the people who are so heavily assessed to know that much wealthier neighbours get off scot-free, and there will be an abiding sense of injustice until the matter is altered. Perhaps the postponement of payments will prove the most effective lever. We have heard of one Inland Revenue office where the appeals lodged would keep the existing staff busy for the next 14 years, and we can well believe it.

Additions to the area in tapping were apparently responsible for a small falling off in the yield per acre of the Sengat Rubber Estate in the year ended June 30, but the total output was well above the estimate, and exceeded the previous crop by 92,086 lbs. at 365,086 lbs. The average price was 4.83d. better at 2s. 8.65d., while, by reducing the depreciation allowance from 1.76d. to .66d., the "all-in" cost was brought down to 11.91d., or a decrease of .40d. Nett profits, including £2,995 brought forward, were £16,371 up at £34,991, and dividends aggregating 3½d. per 2s. share are paid, compared with 1½d. per share a year ago. Of the surplus, £3,000, or £2,000 less, is written off development account, and the balance carried forward is increased by £4,204 to £7,200, subject to excess profits duty. The crop for 1916-17 is estimated at 460,000 lbs.

In the year to June 30 Peek Bros. and Winch, Ltd., made a nett profit of £26,600, a decrease of £16,600 as compared with the previous 12 months, but a larger balance was brought forward, and the available total is £11,000 down at £34,967. It is again proposed to pay one year's preference dividend, which, so far as we can make out, leaves four years in arrear; but the fact is not stated either in the report or the accounts, as it ought to be. Last year £14,100 was placed to contingency reserve, but no similar provision is made this time, and consequently the balance forward is increased by £3,000 to £11,467. It is stated that charges in every department have increased owing to the exceptional conditions, otherwise the profits would have approached last year's "record" level—a record, by the way, that is sufficient comment on the extremely generous capitalisation of the company. An offer has been received for the purchase of the American branch, but it has been reluctantly declined, as the directors are hopeful of obtaining a full share of the great demand for tea, which they consider likely to develop in the United States. We hope they will not be disappointed, but some of the shareholders may think that a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. The balance-sheet shows declines of £27,000 in sundry creditors, £60,000 in loans, £54,000 in debtors, and £24,500 in stocks, so we cannot perceive any great improvement in the position. In 20 years only £9,850 has been written off properties costing £242,000, goodwill remains untouched at £365,000, the capital is £800,000, and there are four years' arrears of preference dividend. Truly a wonderful record in its own particular way.

BATU MATANG RUBBER.—Nett profits for the year ended June 30, including £746 brought forward, were £4,402 up at £8,648. Nothing is written off compared with £1,000 for debenture discount account, but the allowance for depreciation of buildings, &c., is doubled at £1,000, and £4,269, or £2,269 more, being the development expenditure for the year, is written off estate account, after which the ordinary shares get a dividend of 5 per cent., and £1,410, or £664 more, is carried forward. The output of rubber was 24,625 lbs. larger at 137,709 lbs., and the gross price was 5.81d. higher at 2s. 8.47d., while the f.o.b. cost was

37d. up at 9.67d. For the current year a crop of 160,000 lbs. is expected, of which 38,000 lbs. had been obtained by the end of September.

CYLON AND INDIAN PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.—In the year ended June 30 the tea crop showed a decrease of 92,288 lbs. at 886.246 lbs., and as prices were slightly lower while charges were heavier, the profit from this source fell off by £5,810 to £8,764. Rubber, thanks partly to a larger yield and partly to a favourable forward contract at a high price, gave £3,703 more at £5,188, but the company did best of all with its plumbago. A strong demand was experienced for the mineral throughout the year, and 525 tons were sold at a profit of £16,974, or £15,260 more. After providing for various charges including £1,491 for excess profits tax, and adding £7,902 brought in, the nett balance was £11,266 up at £34,499, out of which £2,000 is again transferred to reserve, and the dividend on the ordinary shares is increased from 20 per cent. to 30, leaving £17,027, or £9,124 more, to be carried forward, subject to excess profits duty.

What Balance Sheets Tell.

BOLIVAR RAILWAY CO., LTD.

*Owing partly to increased activity in coastal shipping at the port of Tucacas, and the development of purely local trade, and partly to the inclusion of receipts from the first section of the San Felipe extension, which was opened in September, 1915, the gross revenue for the year ended June 30 rose by £22,161 to £109,658. Working expenses were £9,723 higher at £58,552, and the nett profit, including miscellaneous receipts, showed an increase of £13,243 at £51,924. Income-tax required £3,044 more at £7,107, and £3,883 was written off for loss on working of estates compared with £3,023 for estate development a year ago, and after providing for debenture and other interest and again setting aside £7,000 for depreciation, repairs, &c., a balance of £17,536 was left. Out of this a full dividend of 5 per cent. is paid on the preference shares, as compared with 3 per cent. in scrip certificates for the previous year, and £5,458, or £5,406 more, is added to the nett revenue balance, making a total of £57,886 to be carried forward. Capital expenditure for the year amounted to £35,046, of which £31,942 was on the San Felipe extension, making a total of £1,325,527.

COLORADO NITRATE CO., LTD.

With its works in operation throughout the whole of the year ended June 30, this company recovered most of its lost ground, although the results naturally did not come up to those of 1913-14. After providing for debenture and other interest and income-tax, and writing off £2,577 for re-opening expenses, as against £6,264 for stoppage expenses a year ago, there was a nett profit of £19,838, compared with a loss of £13,253. Deducting the debit balance of £2,790 brought in, the available surplus is £17,048, out of which £5,000 is written off old property and £2,500 off Calichera railway, and a dividend of 5s. per share, tax free, or the same as two years ago, is paid. During the year £13,000 debentures were redeemed, leaving £7,500 outstanding, and the sinking fund was reduced to £5,500, while grounds, machinery, &c., are £13,007 down at £60,891. Property account and the Calichera railway account, after allowing for the amounts now written off, stand at £95,000 and £23,277 respectively. Stocks of nitrate have risen by £21,679 to £32,144, and in addition two new items appear in the balance-sheet of £2,857 for iodine stocks in Germany and £5,286 for other iodine stocks. Bills receivable and sundry debtors come to £7,081 less at £29,183, and cash is lower at £1,434. On the other hand, bankers' advances show a decrease of £11,837 at £18,823, and £2,272 less at £10,453 is due to sundry creditors, but bills payable are £29,663 up at £65,046.

LIVERPOOL NITRATE CO., LTD.

As a year ago this undertaking did not fall as far as its colleague, the Colorado Nitrate Co., so its recovery in the 12 months ended June 30 was more pronounced. The last oficina resumed work in October, 1915, and the profits for the year from the three oficinas improved by £80,809 to £103,414, making with £6,211 brought forward, a total of £109,625, or £62,518 more available. Of this £41,000 is written off New Oficina Mapocho, and £9,000 off the old, as against nothing in either case last year, and the dividend is then increased from 4s. to 5s. per share, less tax. On balance property accounts are £46,656 down at £74,535, but the cost of the Calichera railway at New Oficina Mapocho has risen by £12,198 to £21,732. Stores are £22,740 larger at £71,346, stocks of nitrate and iodine come to £84,455 more at £101,413, exclusive of £3,577 for iodine in Germany, and bills receivable have risen by £32,060 to £57,120, but sundry debtors and cash are both lower. Against these £108,996 more at £153,203 is due on bills payable, and £7,849 more at £23,621 to sundry creditors.

LAGUNAS SYNDICATE, LTD.

This company reopened one of its oficinas in October, 1915, and is now reopening the second. Its gross profits for the year ended June 30 showed a recovery of £27,014 at £35,130, while London expenses, income-tax, &c., took £5,638 less. A year ago, however, £15,755 was retransferred from a suspense account, so that the amount now available is only £16,897 up at £26,803. Last year also £27,000 was taken from the special reserve for the service of debentures to provide for debenture interest and for the redemption of £13,760, but this time only £2,500 of debentures are redeemed, leaving £4,720, which is carried to sinking fund in accordance with the resolution of the debenture-holders in December. The balance brought forward of £757

has been transferred to the special debenture reserve. Property account, less sinking fund, is £7,520 down at £883,531, nitrate, coliche and iodine stocks show an increase of £17,359 at £27,523, and nitrate sold, but not delivered, is £5,332 up at £22,428, but sundry debtors owe £41,424 less at £1,464. The company, however, now has £40,000 invested in Treasury bills, and cash is £8,241 higher at £64,940, against increases of £5,584 to £41,868 in bills payable and £8,430 to £13,996 in sundry creditors.

COMPONENTS, LTD.

The manufacture of munitions has proved of immense benefit to this company, which two years ago was so hard hit by the war that it had to postpone the payment of debts over £10, and to issue debenture stock to its creditors. In the 12 months ended August 31 its output of munitions was large, and the trading profits, subject to liabilities under the Munitions of War and Finance Acts, showed an increase of no less than £63,237 at £88,562. Of this, £2,862 is written off freehold buildings, against nothing last time, and the provision for depreciation of plant, &c., is increased by £10,057 to £15,274, while £5,305 is written off the special expenditure for war purposes. Including £12,090 brought forward, the surplus available is £61,006 larger at £73,095, and not only is the preference dividend paid, but the ordinary and deferred ordinary shares get a distribution of 5 per cent., leaving £57,795, or £45,706 more, to be carried forward, subject to the above-noted liabilities. So great is the improvement in the company's finances, that it has been able to redeem the £20,494 second debentures issued as security for loans, and the directors say that they are arranging for a portion of the £37,223 third debenture stock outstanding to be redeemed immediately. The first mortgage debenture stock has also been reduced by £4,500 to £58,000, but current liabilities are £26,832 higher at £50,608. On the other hand, debtors have risen by £50,288 to £96,488, stocks are valued at £88,697, or £13,175 more, and cash is £11,913 up at £16,661. Special buildings and plant for war work, less the amount now written off, stand in the balance-sheet at £6,063, and this amount is likely to be increased, as considerable additions are being made in order to give the output for which the company is being pressed.

MOUNT YAGAHONG EXPLORATION AND FINANCE CO., LTD.

In the 12 months ended June 30 there was very little opportunity for general financial business, but a gross revenue of £10,336, or £2,912 more, was obtained from interest and dividends, and after providing for administration charges, nett profit, including £4,784 brought forward, was £5,313 better at £13,600. Out of this a dividend of 8 per cent. is paid on the ordinary shares as against nothing a year ago, and £3,262, or £1,522 less, is carried forward. The directors say that during the year they have taken advantage of market opportunities to strengthen the financial position, and as the result of these operations the nett cost of the investments has been reduced from £137,359 to £125,925. They add that the securities have further increased in value, and are now considerably in excess of the book price.

HOTEL CECIL, LTD.

For the year to August 31, 1915, there was a decline of £102,000 in the amount of business done, but there has been a recovery of £42,270 in the past 12 months, the total now being £163,900, against £121,630. After charging £1,400 more for repairs and renewals, there is a trading profit of £41,126, or £12,000 more. Deducting debenture interest and other charges, there is a nett profit of £13,642, against a loss of £9,040 last year. Out of this the directors propose to place £6,000 to reserve and to pay a dividend of 1 per cent. (£5,000) on the preference shares, leaving 9 per cent. in arrear. There then remains £13,680, or £2,640 more, to be carried forward. Except that the cash in hand has increased by £16,000, there is nothing to remark in the balance-sheet. We hope the lease of part of the building to the Constitutional Club will help to mend the fortunes of the company and bring it additional revenue directly and indirectly.

MOLINE PLOW CO.

In the year to July 31 this company rather more than doubled its nett profits, which amounted to \$1,034,550, and it is therefore able to pay not only the dividend on the second preferred stock, which was passed last year, but also 2 per cent. on the common. Including the dividend on the first preferred stock, these payments absorb \$1,340,000, and the balance forward is therefore reduced by \$305,000 to \$299,000. However, the company is in a strong position, with liquid assets amounting to \$17,103,000, an increase of \$345,000 over the previous year, while the current liabilities have been reduced by over \$1,300,000, and the excess of assets over liabilities is now \$14,060,000. Sales showed an increase of about 5½ per cent. over those of the previous year, and a motor-car which the company recently placed on the market has met with much success. During the year the patent rights and plant of the Universal Tractor were acquired, and a modern factory for the production of tractors is now practically completed. The directors are confident that this new addition to the business will materially increase future profits.

The New York agency of the National Bank of South Africa, Ltd., has been transferred from No. 6 to No. 10, Wall Street, New York.

Mr. Leon Rueff has resigned his position as managing director of the Swiss Bankverein, and will become a partner in the firm of Messrs. Seligman Brothers on January 1, 1917.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1916, and Nov. 4, 1916:—

	Estimate for the Year 1916-1917. (See note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1916, to Nov. 4, 1916.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1915, to Nov. 6, 1915.
Balances in Exchequer on April 1—			
Bank of England	—	25,111,065	81,898,728
Bank of Ireland	—	463,941	1,552,224
REVENUE.		25,575,006	83,450,952
Customs	71,000,000	38,945,000	27,597,000
Excise	65,000,000	31,345,000	34,395,000
Estate, &c., Duties	30,000,000	17,739,000	19,482,000
Stamps	7,000,000	4,233,000	3,746,000
Land Tax and House Duty	2,650,000	330,000	340,000
Property and Income Tax and Super Tax	195,000,000	41,004,000	20,060,000
Excess Profits Duty	86,000,000	48,732,000	—
Land Value Duties	475,000	121,000	51,000
Post Office	36,100,000	19,000,000	18,500,000
Crown Lands	550,000	320,000	290,000
Receipts from Suez Canal	—	—	—
Shares and Sundry Loans	5,000,000	4,815,767	767,960
Miscellaneous	3,500,000	10,908,967	3,021,752
Revenue	502,275,000	217,493,734	128,250,712
Total, including Balance	—	243,068,740	211,701,664
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion	—	2,470,000	1,190,000
For Treasury Bills (for supply)	—	1,342,142,000	164,329,000
For Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	—	3,087,600	—
For War Loan, 1925-1928	—	—	35,798,408
For 3½ Exchequer Bonds, 1920	—	—	242,345
For War Loan, 1925-1945	—	424	585,850,000
For 5½ Exchequer Bonds, 1919	—	34,222,000	—
For 5½ Exchequer Bonds, 1920	—	84,115,469	—
For 5½ Exchequer Bonds, 1921	—	62,664,000	—
For 6½ Exchequer Bonds, 1920	—	76,616,000	—
For War Expenditure Certificates	—	27,262,000	—
For War Savings Certificates	—	33,550,000	—
For other Debt created under the War Loan Act, 1915, and Finance Act, 1916	—	76,106,208	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913	—	180,000	1,230,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913	—	160,000	160,000
Under Housing Act, 1914	—	45,200	650,000
East Africa Protectorate Loan Repayments on account of Principal and Interest	—	—	3,825
Temporary Advances—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £345,000,000 in 1916-1917 and £231,150,000 in 1915-1916)	—	457,896,500	251,350,000
Total	—	2,443,386,141	1,252,505,242
EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Estimate for the Year 1916-17. (See note.)	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1916, to Nov. 4, 1916.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1915, to Nov. 6, 1915.
EXPENDITURE.			
Permanent Charge of Debt ..	12,818,000	14,428,874	16,559,966
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	114,436,000	64,152,872	6,139,688
Road Improvement Fund	—	—	694,395
Payments to Local Taxation	—	—	—
Accounts, &c.	9,500,000	4,864,735	5,137,901
Other Consolidated Fund	—	—	—
Services	1,700,000	1,282,986	1,193,592
Supply Services	1,687,529,000	1,085,766,662	789,492,729
Expenditure	1,825,983,000	1,170,495,529	819,218,871
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion	—	2,660,000	1,675,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	—	91,370	91,370
For Treasury Bills for Supply	—	880,638,000	86,000,000
For Exchequer Bonds under the War Loan (Redemption) Act, 1910	—	—	16,395,500
For Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	£4,060,900	—	—
Less: paid off by the National Debt Commissioners	973,300	3,087,600	—
For Exchequer Bonds under Section 61 of the Finance Act, 1916	—	62,950	—
For Issues under Section 1 (5) of the War Loan Act, 1915	—	—	170,143,313
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913	—	180,000	1,230,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913	—	160,000	160,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..	—	8,000	—
Under Housing Act, 1914	—	44,500	650,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8, issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1903	—	69,000	60,000
Old Sinking Fund—1910-1911: Issued under the Finance Act, 1911—			
Section 16 (1) (b)	—	43,160	100,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1911-1912—Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Co. (Acquisition of Capital) Act, 1914	—	250,000	250,000
East Africa Protectorate Loan Repayments: Issued to reduce Debt under the Finance Act, 1911	—	—	3,825
Temporary Advances repaid—Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £282,760,000 in 1916-17 and £131,308,000 in 1915-16)	—	358,666,500	131,306,000
Balances in Exchequer—			
Bank of England	25,843,711	24,650,987	2,416,446,609
Bank of Ireland	1,095,821	568,976	25,219,963
Total	—	2,443,386,141	1,252,505,242

MEW.—Treasury Bills outstanding on Nov. 4, 1916 *£1,090,153,000

* Includes £441,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of this Account.

NOTE.—Estimate as in House of Commons Paper No. 50 of 1916, and Supplementary Grants.

Treasury, November 6, 1916.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

HENRY BULL AND CO.

DOUBLE INCOME-TAX AND BRITISH TRADE.

REMOVAL OF CONTROL OF COMPANY FROM LONDON UNDER CONSIDERATION.

The eighteenth annual general meeting of Henry Bull and Co., Limited, was held on Wednesday at Salisbury House, London Wall, Mr. Henry Bull (chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. R. W. King) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—I presume you will take the report and balance-sheet as read. Before asking you to adopt them, I will, as usual, give you my views, not only with regard to the past year, but as to the future, and I must say that I feel much more responsibility in addressing you this year than I have ever done before at our annual meeting. As you know, it has been my custom to take you entirely into my confidence, and place everything before you as regards the business, be it good or bad.

DIFFICULTIES CAUSED BY WAR CONDITIONS.

The result of the year's trading has been a successful one, as, combined with a very excellent season, the large stock of goods we had on hand has yielded far larger profits than usual, and although we have had to contend with unusual obstacles in the matter of high freights, larger insurance risks, including war risk, and trading facilities generally, hampered by shortage of labour and other causes, the results obtained have been very satisfactory. You will notice in our balance-sheet that our stock, compared with the previous year, is very heavy. This is caused by the fact that the delivery of goods is so uncertain at the present time that we have been compelled to order quite a full season in advance, and the amount under sundry creditors is also caused to some extent by this reason, as well as the large amount we have put to reserve for excess profit duty.

PROBABLE EFFECT OF UNJUST TAXATION.

And now comes my anxiety. The goods we are purchasing to-day are something like 50 per cent. higher, or even more, than pre-war prices. Excessive income-tax in Australia and in this country to be faced, and the extra profits we are now making on goods purchased prior to the war being practically taken by the Australian and English Governments, will show what we have to face in our future trading. The enormous losses we shall make later in a falling market upon the high-priced goods we are now stocking will be very heavy, and we have no means of making any provision out of our extra profits to-day to meet them. To me it is incredible that the Chancellor of the Exchequer does not see what great risk is being run in this most unfair and unjust taxation. This country has always been the centre, both monetarily and commercially, and this mad taxation will undoubtedly force the commercial centre to America and other neutral countries. The loss to this country will be far greater, as the taxable profits of manufacturers on the goods we purchase will go to America instead of our Exchequer, and with the enormous wealth America is now accumulating, it will require, to my mind, extremely careful financial management to prevent America also from becoming the financial centre in addition to the commercial. What we are asking would not be a great loss to the Treasury here. This is an Empire war, and if we show that we have paid for the war in Australia, the war taxes should be remitted here on the same income, and also that profits made in Australia and left in Australia should not be taxed on this side.

I have nothing more to add with reference to the balance-sheet or the position and prospects of the company's business, but I now refer, as briefly as the subject will permit, to a matter of very great importance to the company, which, in my judgment, must greatly influence the company's business, and which, I believe, will necessitate drastic changes in the constitution of the company. I allude, of course, to the payment of double income-tax. It is not a new matter. I referred to it last year, when I addressed you, and from the first I have availed myself of every opportunity to protest against the profits made by our company in Australia being subject to income-tax there and income-tax here. The principle of taxation in the United Kingdom is that income-tax should be levied on all persons, companies, and businesses resident and domiciled in the United Kingdom, irrespective of the source from which the income is derived or where business is carried on. The principle of taxation in the Dominions is different. There the tax is levied only on property or businesses within the jurisdiction of the taxing authority. The Dominion taxation is fair, that of the United Kingdom is not.

"11S. 6D. IN THE POUND."

Prior to 1914 income made in Australia and not remitted to this country was exempt from taxation here; now the position is altered. Persons resident in Great Britain who have never received a penny of the money in Great Britain, are now required to pay income-tax upon it. If super-tax is taken into account, British investors in companies carrying on business in Australia are in fact paying three income-taxes, which in some cases would amount to about 11s. 6d. in the pound. If the rate of income-tax in Great Britain and Australia is raised, not a very improbable contingency, the income-tax would go far to obliterate the income. As you are aware, the hardship and injustice which this double and treble tax involves have been brought before the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and have

been discussed in the House of Commons. The London Chamber of Commerce has taken action in the matter, and has sought to influence public opinion.

THE NEED FOR RELIEF.

In February of this year an important meeting, numerous and influentially attended, was held in the Great Hall at the Cannon Street Station Hotel, and a resolution was unanimously adopted to the effect that in the interest of Imperial trade and commerce, and of the unity of the Empire, it was essential that steps should be taken by the British Government to enable immediate relief to be given from the imposition of double income-tax within the Empire. A meeting of between 400 and 500 delegates from over 100 chambers of commerce was also held in February last, at which a similar resolution was adopted, and these resolutions were duly communicated to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but no notice whatever has been taken of them further than that they have been received. The general reason for the refusal to remedy the injustice of which we complain is want of money, and that it is not a convenient time to remit taxation when the country requires every penny it can raise for the prosecution of the war. I ask you, can this justify the taxation of some subjects to double the amount imposed on the great majority? What concerns us most nearly at the moment is that we are being pressed to pay this double tax, and that it strikes at the very root of the continued prosperity of our business. As you know, our company is registered in England, and the board sits in London, but the active business of the company is in Sydney, the London office being principally engaged in buying and shipping goods required for the Sydney business. There are other businesses in Australia, India, and the Union of South Africa conducted on almost the same principle, but which avoid the payment of double income-tax by a very simple difference in the constitution of the company. These companies are either registered in the Dominion or have their board of management there, and they are not then liable at the present time to Imperial income-tax.

THE QUESTION OF TRANSFERRING CONTROL OF THE BUSINESS TO AUSTRALIA.

I have recently been considering very carefully what course the company should take with a view, if possible, to get rid of this anomaly, and I have sought the best legal advice I could obtain on the subject. I am advised by eminent counsel that the best course for the company to take is to adopt alterations in its articles of association of such a nature as to provide that the company's business should be controlled in Australia, the board meetings and general meetings of the company held there, and that this would have the effect of freeing the company from the liability of English income-tax. I think the time has come when the directors should consult the members of the company as to the course they would wish to pursue. Of this I feel confident, that, although we may be able for a time to hold our own, it is quite impossible for a company which pays two income-taxes and also excess profit taxes to compete successfully with another company carrying on the same kind of business, possibly next door, which only pays one income-tax. The fact is too evident to need demonstration, and it behoves the members of the company, as prudent men, to consider in time what steps it will take for its own protection. A number of companies which had their head offices in London have decided to remove from London elsewhere, and it may be that we shall be forced to do the same. These are questions which the members must decide for themselves very shortly, and I think it probable that we shall convene a meeting at no distant date. I have only touched upon the subject to-day so that you may know the directors have it under consideration, and with a view to impress upon you the importance of attending the meeting, when it is called, for the purpose I have indicated. I do hope, however, that in the meantime the Chancellor of the Exchequer will see how important it is that our fair and just demands should be met, and not leave matters in abeyance till it is too late. With those remarks I beg to move: "That the report and balance-sheet to July 20, 1916, be adopted."

Mr. Albert H. Brown seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

WESTERN TELEGRAPH CO.

The eighty-third ordinary meeting of the Western Telegraph Co., Ltd., was held on Wednesday, under the presidency of Sir John Wolfe Barry, K.C.B.

The Secretary (Mr. E. Steer Hodson) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—The financial year of the company, which closed on June 30 last, may be described as uneventful, as, although the receipts from messages were less by somewhat over £15,000, the interest from investments, &c., almost balanced this amount, resulting in a nett decrease of slightly over £1,000 in revenue. I must remind the shareholders that in the year 1914-15 our message revenue was the highest in the history of the company. Not only were a smaller number of messages transmitted, but a larger proportion of the total were "deferred" at half-rates. On the other side of the account, the expenses show an increase of over £23,000, due to the maintenance of cables account, the amount of which was abnormally low in the previous year. Income-tax and excess profits duty were more by £105,000. After providing £32,747 for debenture stock interest and £138,396 15s. 8d. for income-tax and excess profits duty, there remains a balance of £448,808 12s. 9d.; to this is added the sum of

£85,880 os. 5d. brought forward from June 30, 1915, making a total of £534,688 13s. 2d. Three interim dividends, amounting to £93,568 10s., have been paid, £100,000 has been applied towards the further reduction of the amount of capital expenditure in excess of the share capital and debenture stock issued, £100,000 transferred to the general reserve fund, £30,000 to the land and buildings depreciation fund, and £100,000 to the provision on account of investment fluctuations. The directors now recommend the declaration of a final dividend of 3s. per share, making, with the interim dividends, a total dividend of 6 per cent. for the year, also the payment of a bonus of 2 per cent., or 4s. per share, both free of income-tax, which together will amount to £72,775 10s., leaving a balance of £38,344 13s. 2d. to be carried forward. The dividend and bonus will be payable on November 9 to shareholders registered on October 31, 1916. As already stated, the nett profit to the company is less than that for the previous year, but you will observe that an unusually large balance of nearly £86,000 is brought forward from June 30, 1915, and in view of the satisfactory condition of the company's financial position, the directors feel justified in recommending the payment of a bonus of 2 per cent., instead of the 1 per cent. which has been paid in past years, making a total distribution of 8 per cent. for the year, free of income-tax. The variable and at present high rate of income-tax is pressing heavily on all, and, with a view to assisting the shareholders who are entitled to exemption or abatement, we are furnishing, with the dividend warrants which will be posted this afternoon, a statement of the tax payable by the company in respect of the dividends paid during the past financial year; similar information will also accompany future dividend warrants. With regard to the revenue since June 30 last, the traffic receipts for the three months to the end of September show scarcely any variation as compared with the corresponding period last year. The shareholders are asked to sanction a proposal that the remuneration of the directors be paid free of income-tax, as is the practice in the case of many companies of great position and importance. This is considered equitable, as not only are the dividends paid free of the tax, but the salaries and wages of the staff are also paid without any deduction on that account. I now move that the report of the directors and the accounts for the year ended June 30, 1916, now submitted be approved and adopted, and that a dividend be now declared of 3s. per share, making, with the interim dividends already paid, a total dividend of 6 per cent. for the year, and also a bonus of 4s. per share, making in the aggregate a distribution of 8 per cent. in respect of the profits for the year, the said dividend and bonus to be respectively tax free.

The Deputy-Chairman (Sir John Denison-Pender, K.C.M.G.) seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

BROADWATER RUBBER ESTATE.

The fifth annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Broadwater Rubber Estate Co., Ltd., was held on Monday at the registered offices, 23, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall, S.W., Mr. G. St. Lawrence Mowbray, chairman of the company, presiding.

Mr. F. N. Varney, on behalf of the secretaries (the Indo-Malay and Colonial Agency Co., Ltd.), read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman said: The report that we have to present to you to-day is one which, I think you will agree, is exceedingly satisfactory. It shows that our income for the 13 months which comprise the period under review was £2,547, as compared with an income of £780 for the previous period, which extended to 17 months. We have been able this time to charge the whole of the administration costs of the company against revenue, instead of only one-third of them, as was done in the previous year. We have been able to do that, although only the small area of 70 acres of the estate has been producing rubber for a period of less than five months. The rubber crop of 2,900 lbs., obtained from some 3,500 trees, realised a gross sum of £307, and we have charged against that a proper proportion of estate upkeep, together with all tapping, curing and sale charges, amounting to £271, which has left us a small profit from rubber of £36. The bulk of our income has been derived, as in the previous year, from our investments. A year ago we held investments which had cost us £8,397, and in consequence of the very great appreciation in all sound rubber securities during the past season, we have been able to effect the realisation of investments which had cost us roundly £6,000, and which upon sale show a profit of £1,388, in addition to £782 received in dividends upon our investments. An interim dividend of 2½ per cent., tax free, was paid in the early part of the year, and we are to-day able to recommend to you the payment of a further and final dividend of the same amount. That will make 5 per cent., tax free, for the year, as against 2 per cent., less tax, for the preceding year. The carry forward also will be increased from £20 to £146. I think it is very probable that, in looking through this report the first thing that will have struck some of you is that no provision has been made for the excess profits tax. It is for this reason: That we are in an exceedingly happy position—a position which, I think I may say, is probably unique among young rubber producing companies. That is to say, that, although our profits have increased in this remarkable way, we are not liable to excess profits tax. This is a planting company, and its primary object is not the making of investments, so that, although we have been able to invest a considerable amount of

money, which we hold in reserve for development, and have obtained a substantial income from it, that income is outside the scope of the excess profits tax. I know there have been certain remarks in the Press, and in one paper in particular, on this subject, in which Broadwater has been used as an example of the very hard way in which a young producing company is affected by the excess profits tax. The writer, however, of that article overlooked the legal aspect of the case, which is as I have just pointed out to you. However, the fact that the editor of a very well-known paper should have made what one can only call a rather serious misstatement on this point only serves to exemplify the extraordinary muddle and misunderstanding which have arisen over this particular piece of legislation. We all know that the country requires money for the proper conduct of warfare, but I think a great many of us may consider that it might have been obtained in a far better manner than by the imposition of the excess profits tax. Let us suppose that, instead of levying an excess profits tax in this manner, which hits the young rubber companies exceedingly hard, and yet gets nothing at all from the older companies, the Government had imposed a tax of 3d. per lb. on the whole of the plantation rubber crops which come under British jurisdiction. The published figures of plantation rubber crops last year were 106,000 tons. At 3d. per lb. that would have produced a revenue of roundly £3,000,000 sterling, which is a very great deal more than, in my opinion, the Government are going to get from the excess profits tax as applied to rubber companies on the present basis; and yet I do not think that any company could have honestly complained of that tax of 3d. per lb. There is another point also that I think might very well have been considered, and that is the simplicity and ease with which a tax of 3d. per lb. on rubber could have been collected from every company. In regard to the prospects of the company, the planting up of the estates is now practically completed. There are some 40 acres of swamp, which we consider unfit for planting, which will leave us with a planted area of about 420 acres. As against our crop estimate for the current year of 15,000 lbs., the crops for the months from July to October amount to 3,960 lbs. A considerable amount has been spent on development work in the past 12 months, in the construction of new coolie lines and smoke-house, and we have now, instead of contract labour, got a resident Tamil force on the estate. We have 5,000 unissued shares, and we have had offers from various shareholders to take them up at par at any time the company considers the money to be necessary. Assuming those 5,000 shares are issued, we consider that we shall have more than ample funds to bring the whole planted area into bearing, which would then stand at a capital cost of about £60 per acre. Our new manager, Mr. Trevor, took charge of the property as from July 1, and I must say that the reports of the visiting agent, Mr. Charles Cumming, have been very pleasant reading. We are in the position of having some of the very best rubber land in the State of Perak, and our property adjoins some of the best-known estates, which are at present giving yields of from 450 lbs. to 650 lbs. per acre. I think there are really good, sound prospects ahead of us. There is every probability of a rise in the price of rubber within the next few months, and that rise will benefit us in two ways—not only as rubber producers, but also indirectly from our investments in other companies, which, like ourselves, are engaged in rubber planting.

Mr. F. W. Tazewell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

DUNLOP RUBBER.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd., was held on Tuesday at 14, Regent Street, S.W., Sir Arthur du Cros, Bart., M.P., presiding, for the purpose of considering resolutions (1) increasing the capital of the company to £3,000,000 by the creation of 1,000,000 new shares of £1 each, to be called "B" preference shares, having the right to a fixed cumulative preferential dividend at the rate of 6½ per cent. per annum; (2) altering clause 5 of the articles of association by deleting the words "to the public" in lines four and five; and (3) approving the payment of an interim dividend on the ordinary shares at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum for the six months ended August 31 last.

The Assistant Secretary (Mr. A. Cunningham) read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman, in proposing the first resolution, stated that it was pointed out in the circular to the shareholders that the sales for the year were the greatest in the history of the company, and that it was anticipated that the profits for the year would exceed those shown in any previous balance-sheet of the company. While that was a very satisfactory state of affairs, he desired to make it clear that it was not owing merely to the accident of the war; exactly the contrary was the case. The war had very adversely affected the business and profits of the company in various special ways—which he explained—while they had suffered, in addition, from increased taxation, &c., like all other companies. They did not quarrel with any necessary legislation, but they found fault, and serious fault, with the methods adopted by the Government in carrying it out. There was, however, one advantage which the war had brought about—namely, the great increase in the demand for solid tyres—but there had been no proportionate supply by their company, owing to the Government restrictions and limitations. It was said that German competition had been eliminated, and that was perfectly true, but it had been replaced by American competition,

which was far more severe, as he proceeded to explain. He thought the shareholders would agree with him that some more intelligent and sympathetic consideration of trade matters by the Government was needed in this country if British industries were to hold their own. At all events, it had been decided that the time had come when the rubber industry should endeavour to help itself, and with that object in view all British manufacturers of tyres had formed themselves into a trade society, of which he had the honour to be the first president. The objects of that association would be to act in co-operation upon measures of legislation which affected their interests; to act in co-operation upon matters of policy which affected their trade; and to deal together with questions affecting the general conduct of the business and the interests of those employed in it. There was no question of an amalgamation of business interests or of controlling prices, but they felt that the tyre industry should be fully organised, so that its views should be put forward at the proper time in a manner which would command more attention than it had ever yet received from the Government. All the arrangements had been completed, and were working smoothly. The business of the associated companies continued to show great progress, and the French trade had completely recovered itself, and stood to-day in a higher position than ever. With regard to their own rubber estates, the planted area stood on August 31, 1915, at 10,547 acres, but at the end of the present planting season, which would be in December, the planted area would amount to just 16,000 acres. The company had exercised the option to purchase its own cotton mills, and they had done so without drawing on their funds. The reasons for the proposed increase in the capital by the issue of 1,000,000 new shares was set out in the directors' circular, which dealt with two factors of great importance to the company. The first of these had relation to the company's stock of raw material and manufactured goods. The minimum stock which the company should carry in peace time would be about £1,500,000, and as much more as possible in war time. That might sound a large figure, but, as a matter of fact, it did not represent a very large stock. They had been fortunate enough since he last addressed the shareholders in creating a surplus stock. To-day it was approximately £750,000 greater than it was at the time of their last annual meeting; and that had been accomplished as a result of the reorganisation of their mills, which had been steadily proceeding for three years prior to the war. The second factor had relation to the question of working capital to finance the manufacture and sale of solid tyres for transport purposes. When discussing the question of working capital, it should be remembered that the company originally started to make cycle tyres and accessories; then the business was extended to deal with pneumatic motor tyres, wheels and accessories. They then found it necessary to establish a rubber-growing industry for the protection of their business, and more recently to engage in the manufacture of cotton with the same object. Now, however, they were faced with a further great development—a development altogether too vast to be dealt with or financed out of surplus profits, and such a course would also be extremely unfair to the ordinary shareholders. He then referred to the enormous dimensions of the solid tyre industry, and stated that there must be a steady increase in motor transport in all countries for many years. In that field Dunlop tyres held, and would continue to hold, a foremost place. Their own output had increased in four years four and-half times, and they could have dealt with a much larger business had their new mill been in operation. When it was completed they would be in a position to increase that trade 15 times. There was no doubt that the demand in the future would be enormous, and the directors came to the conclusion that it was no use attempting to finance a vast development of that kind except by the issue of additional capital. They required £1,000,000 for the two purposes to which he had referred. Every penny of the issue would be represented by liquid assets. The ordinary shareholders need feel no uneasiness as to their position, because the new capital would be remunerative from the day it was brought into the business.

Mr. Douglas Hankey seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The other resolutions were also unanimously agreed to.

SUMATRA PARA RUBBER PLANTATIONS.

The ninth annual ordinary general meeting of the Sumatra Para Rubber Plantations, Ltd., was held on Wednesday, in the Council Room of the Rubber Growers' Association (Incorporated), 38, Eastcheap, E.C., Mr. H. A. Barrett (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. W. E. Crane) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: The accounts set out the position clearly. We have made no change in our investments, though we have had to again allocate a part of our profits to writing down the value of the company's holding of £20,000 Canadian Northern Ontario Railway Co. 3½ per cent. guaranteed stock. This stock now stands in our books at £72¼ per cent., the value at which it was accepted on deposit by H.M. Treasury under the scheme for the regulation of foreign exchanges. As against the drop in the value of the Canadian Northern stock, I am glad to say that each year shows a steady improvement in the value of our other investment—namely, £19,220 7 per cent. first mortgage debentures of the Sumatra Proprietary Rubber Plantations, Ltd. That company is now producing quite a useful amount of rubber monthly, and we look upon it as one of the

coming young properties. You will, I feel sure, agree that our cash position is most satisfactory. Rubber stocks, since sold, Treasury bills and cash—less an adjustment for drafts outstanding, sundry creditors, &c.—together total £60,765. The addition of our investments gives the grand total of £91,713. This is, of course, before paying the final dividend for the year, which, if you approve our recommendation, will absorb the sum of £36,458. In view of this excellent position, we have not thought it necessary to appropriate any of the profits of the year to purposes of reserve, our resources being ample to bring our present immature area into bearing and to carry through the extension programme we have in contemplation. Returning to the profit and loss account, from last year we brought forward undivided profits to the extent of £6,993, to which we have now to add the handsome figure of £56,004, representing the nett profit of the season under review. This is an increase of upwards of £23,000 on the previous season, and constitutes a record for the company. Our rubber realised a gross average price of over 2s. 8d. per lb., being nearly 5½d. per lb. better than last year. This, I think, is distinctly good, considering the extraordinary fluctuations of the market. Our "all-in" price shows but a slight reduction on last year. After deducting from our nett profits the amount of the interim dividend of 3d. per share paid in February last, and the amount written off for depreciation of investments—namely, £1,200—there remains a balance of £46,172, sufficient to pay a final dividend of 7d. per share, and to carry forward an amount of £9,713. I am glad to say we are free to carry the whole of that amount forward to next year, as up to the present the company is not affected by the excess profits duty. It is hoped during the current season that a further 450 acres will be brought into cultivation, bringing the planted area to over 4,000 acres. This addition of 450 acres will have the effect of reducing the capitalisation value of the planted area to just over £30 per acre—by no means an excessive figure. We again asked Mr. Maurice Maude, of Cicely estate, F.M.S., to visit our property, and his report has only just come to hand. I may say we are extremely gratified with what Mr. Maude has to tell us about the state of the property. He holds out hopes that, given favourable weather conditions, the estimated crop for the current season of 700,000 lbs. will be considerably exceeded. In the concluding paragraph of his report Mr. Maude says: "Everything runs like clockwork on your property, which is due to the splendid organisation."

Mr. J. C. Tate seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

RONEO.

The annual meeting of the shareholders of Roneo, Ltd., was held on Tuesday at the offices, 5, Holborn, Mr. W. T. Smedley (the chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. George E. Boraston) read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that steadily but surely the business had progressed, and in the balance-sheet now submitted the shareholders would find unimpeachable evidence of the vitality, the stability, and the permanence of their company. Year by year, from the establishment of the undertaking in 1899, the sales had exceeded those of the previous year, with one exception, and that was in 1914, when the war broke out. The setback which was then occasioned had now been redeemed, and in the year which ended on June 30 last, not only had a new record of sales been established, but also, which was of equal importance, a record in profits. Nor was this record brought about by the contracts for the Government upon which the manufactory at Romford had been engaged as a controlled establishment. The sales, apart from Government contracts, showed an increase of nearly 10 per cent. over the figures of 1913-14, which was the previous high-water mark. The resultant nett profit was equally satisfactory. In 1913 the trading profit was £39,260, in 1914 it was £39,368, in 1915 it declined to £30,135, and now it reached the substantial figure of £51,376. It was necessary that the shareholders should realise the small extent to which this increased profit had been brought about by Government contracts. Out of the total sales for the last year 73 per cent. was contributed by the normal business of the company, and 27 per cent. by Government work. The 73 per cent. normal business had produced 91.8 per cent. of the gross profits; the 27 per cent. had yielded only 8.2 per cent. The profits for the year must be considered satisfactory, and it was with pleasure that the directors felt justified in declaring a dividend of 7½ per cent., free of income-tax, on the ordinary shares, after placing £20,000 to a reserve, and carrying forward £4,936 2s. 2d. to the next account. An examination of their present balance-sheet would show that after providing for payment of the company's debts, including bills payable, the value of the assets, irrespective of goodwill, would provide sufficient to repay the preference capital and leave 18s. 3d. for each ordinary share. There was then the goodwill to be valued. The business of Roneo, Ltd., was like few others. When a duplicator, a Roneotype, a copier, or a Systems was sold, it was the beginning of an account with a new customer, not the end. The company contracted to keep the purchaser's machines in order for a period of years free of charge, providing he agreed to purchase the supplies from the firm. So that, to a considerable extent, there was a tied trade. Then they supplied, in addition, every kind of apparatus which could be used in an office, including steel furniture and fittings. But the trade was doubly tied, for instead of selling to agents,

who would make profits on their sales, the company, through its branches, directly supplied the consumer. After providing for all expenses connected with the branches, this retail profit during the past year had produced no less than £21,800 of the total profits. There lay the strength and stability of the organisation, and consequently the peculiar value of the goodwill. They had 17 branches in the United Kingdom, and five branches abroad, supplying about 23,000 retail customers. The progress of the present year showed that the tide of their prosperity was flowing, not ebbing. The profits of the first three months of the year were 130 per cent. in excess of those of the corresponding months of last year. The liabilities had been greatly reduced since the date of the balance-sheet. Shortly after the war commenced the company took advantage of the offer of the Bank of England, and received an advance to assist in meeting its bills. Although this advance was not repayable until 12 months after the conclusion of peace, the company had been able to meet this obligation, and, notwithstanding, had at the present time a much larger sum on deposit with its bankers than the total cash in hand on June 30.

Sir C. Inigo Thomas, G.C.B., seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

MOUNT YAGAHONG EXPLORATION AND FINANCE.

The twelfth ordinary general meeting of the Mount Yagahong Exploration and Finance Co., Ltd., was held on Wednesday at the London Chamber of Commerce, Oxford Court, E.C., Mr. Alan Cadell, C.S.I., J.P. (chairman of the company), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. Edward J. Townsend) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: The profits of the year approach very closely the estimate given you at the last meeting. The issued capital is a little higher, owing to the final completion of the Kellas amalgamation, and it stands at £132,047 odd. The Kellas suspense account item in consequence has disappeared. "Sundry creditors" shows an increase of some £1,150, which is attributable to the greater business we are doing, and is really an adjustment in respect of shares purchased and in course of transfer at date of the accounts. The item "loan from bankers" has disappeared. On the other side of the account, the entry "shares and other investments," at £125,925, shows a reduction of nearly £12,000, which is attributable to the realisations I have referred to above. On the other hand, we have nearly £8,000 increase in the item "cash in hand," some £3,000 in Treasury bills, and an increase of £2,500 in sundry debtors. The profit and loss account shows on the credit side £10,335, an increase of nearly £3,000, attributable to the larger dividends coming from our progressive investments. We have a substantial sum in hand, and when times become more normal and we are again able to handle financial business, the company should have a very prosperous career before it.

Mr. W. Egerton Martin seconded the resolution.

Mr. A. T. Macer said: Last year I pointed out that the company had paid off all its liabilities; it held its assets free of liability, and I told you that I hoped during the year that was immediately in front of us to begin to pay regular dividends. During the year not only have we paid 8 per cent., but our investments have largely increased in value. Those investments are well distributed. Having dealt with the principal holdings, Mr. Macer continued: Now I will summarise the position in a few words. Last year we had brought the company to a position in which the whole of the assets were represented by securities, and we had paid all our liabilities. We have not increased our capital, which remains at £132,000. As against that capital of £132,000 our assets to-day—that is to say, quoted securities, cash in hand, Treasury bills, and short-dated loans—are valued at something in excess of £200,000. I referred to the question of liquid holdings, and I am very pleased to tell you to-day that, as against a share capital of £132,000, we have something over 20 per cent. of that amount—an amount in excess of £25,000—in cash, Treasury bills, and short-dated loans, so that we are in a very strong position indeed. Roughly, our assets have increased in value since June 30, 1915, to to-day by something like £70,000, and I think that on the whole we have cause for very great thankfulness that in times of war, and with the great stress through which all business undertakings have passed, we have been able to bring this little finance company to such a position of prosperity as it is in to-day.

In reply to a question, Mr. Macer said they had an interest in the Mutamba Sugar Estates, Ltd. They had done very well in produce companies, as was shown by their investments in rubber. Sugar was a commodity that had an even bigger vogue than rubber, and they were inclined to think that big profits were going to be made out of sugar. They had gone into the Mutamba, and had financed that company; it had a big factory, and if it could bring up its planted area to double its present area, and so fill its factory, it should pay big dividends. They were considering the question now of further supporting the company, in view of the high price of sugar, and while they were going into the business on sound lines for the Mutamba Company, they had reason to hope that they would be successful in building up in the Mutamba an undertaking ranking with Kintā Kellas and Middleburg.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

ALABAMA, NEW ORLEANS, TEXAS, AND PACIFIC JUNCTION RAILWAYS.

General meetings of the holders of the "A," "B," and "C," debentures of the Alabama, New Orleans, Texas, and Pacific Junction Railways Co., Ltd., was held on Friday, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., for the purpose of considering an arrangement for the sale of securities held by the company in the New Orleans and North-Eastern Railway Co., and common stock of the South-Western Construction Co. at the request of the Treasury. Mr. C. C. Macrae presided.

The notice calling the meeting was taken as read.

The Chairman said that he was taking the chair as representing the trustees, the Railway Share Trust and Agency Co., of which he was chairman. He called upon Baron Emile D'Erlanger to deal with the proposals, and remarked that, after giving the best consideration that they as trustees could give to the proposal, they were deliberately of opinion that the proposal was for the benefit of the debenture-holders.

Baron Emile D'Erlanger said that when the Treasury scheme, known as scheme "A," was promulgated in December, 1915, in order to cope with the American exchange question, he realised at once that, in some form or other, the Texas Company would be called upon to assist towards the common goal. The scheme to which their sanction was sought, and which provided, *inter alia*, for the sale of the New Orleans and North-Eastern Railroad securities, did away with the risk of an adverse decision of the Courts. He would not weary them with details of the lengthy negotiations which had been carried on. It was proposed to sell the securities of the New Orleans and North-Eastern Railroad and the South-Western Construction Co. for £2,400,000. The sale price fixed was about £9,000 in excess of the value, capitalised on a 5 per cent. basis, of the average income derived by the company from the securities in question over the past ten years. The bargain appeared, therefore, to be a very fair one. The sale in no way affected the receipts of this company for the current year ending December 31 next, because by the date of the sale they would have received all the interest on bonds and dividends on stock from the companies concerned that they would have received in the ordinary course. Moreover, as the sale of the New Orleans and North-Eastern and South-Western Construction Co. securities was made on condition that, in addition to the purchase price of £2,400,000, there should be paid accrued interest on the bonds sold, and accrued dividends on the stock sold up to the date of payment by the purchaser, the results of the company year would not be adversely affected in that respect. The interest upon the bonds of their company for the current year had already been paid, and a dividend in the neighbourhood of 3 per cent. was anticipated. Many of the shareholders were strongly imbued with the future potentialities of the New Orleans and North-Eastern Railroad, and might have preferred to remain in undisturbed possession; but had they the right, as debenture holders, shareholders, or directors, to allow this preference to outweigh their duty to help the Treasury to provide exchange in the national need? He had very carefully weighed the pros and cons of this matter, and could only tell them that he considered it the bounden duty of the directors to recommend the sanction of the sale. Further, he was convinced that any prospective increase of revenue from the New Orleans and North-Eastern Railroad, and the consequent appreciation in capital value of the securities it was proposed to sell could be fully offset by other advantages, if the debenture holders would adopt the plan recommended. After explaining at length what the position of the company would be when the scheme had been carried through, he concluded by saying he had little doubt that, apart from the merits of the proposal, patriotic motives would lead the bondholders to approve of it with unanimity.

The resolutions were carried by each class of debenture holders.

Answers to Correspondents.

Bescombe.—These shares carry either £12 or £3 of a liability according to the issue bought, and are not suitable for your purpose. The concern itself is all right.

Sussex.—Your Nos. 3 and 5 offer the best prospects. Probably No. 1 also has a good chance, and should be worth holding if bought under 50s.

Edinburgh.—Both the rubber companies promise greater things in the future, but the premium on the first is already too high. The shares of the company in Borneo are cheaper and might be got now. The oil company is also excellent, but you might hold off a little there.

Wykhamist.—The company is small but quite promising. Capital small and debt insignificant. Price of £1 ordinary share 18s. You might buy.

L. N. T.—(1) Ore is better and the shares have a future. Might buy a few and wait. (2) These also offer chances, but no immediate great rise probable.

B. W. D.—The accounts do not show a very happy position, and we fear recovery cannot be expected for some time. There seems to be no haste to buy.

Mark.—The report is quite good, but the yield is not sufficiently high in these times to justify any big rise. Still, the stock is good to keep.

R. F. N.—Yes, it is so. Further, the proceeds must be re-invested in Government securities, and remain there until after the war.

IRISH RAILWAYS.

		£	+	£	+	£	+	£
Belfast and County Down ..	Nov. 3	3,393	+	132	+	164,684	+	6,405
Grand Canal ..	" 3	1,025	+	351	+	19,096	+	2,159
Great Northern ..	" 3	26,235	+	3,285	+	1,063,643	+	36,093
Gt. Southern and Western ..	" 3	38,191	+	3,596	+	1,473,280	+	11,843
Midland Great Western ..	" 3	13,791	+	273	+	580,800	+	11,506

* From Jan. 1. † From July 1.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

		Rs.	+	Rs.	+	Rs.	+	Rs.
Assam Bengal ..	Aug. 26	1,30,000	+	29,948	+	26,29,411	+	1,11,567
Bengal & N.-W. ..	Sep. 30	3,18,800	+	29,651	+	1,02,77,586	+	12,84,963
Bengal Nagpur ..	Oct. 7	8,07,000	+	1,000	+	2,52,48,195	+	43,44,287
Bombay, Baroda ..	" 28	11,13,000	+	40,000	+	42,66,000	+	3,44,000
Burma ..	Sep. 30	4,68,401	+	2,13,336	+	1,01,35,852	+	6,41,062
Delhi Umballa ..	Nov. 4	91,000	+	24,013	+	3,89,900	+	40,807
East Indian ..	" 4	22,12,000	+	1,47,000	+	1,06,14,000	+	6,95,000
Gt. Indian Penin. ..	" 4	18,24,700	+	3,57,200	+	81,49,700	+	3,86,878
Lucknow-Bareilly ..	Sep. 30	36,119	+	7,829	+	11,91,758	+	1,39,123
Madras and S. ..	" 30	34,352	+	4,983	+	10,59,365	+	1,52,005
Mahratta ..	Oct. 7	8,52,000	+	47,834	+	8,52,000	+	47,834
Nizam's Gd. (Broad) ..	Sep. 23	1,84,269	+	12,374	+	32,04,791	+	1,73,983
(Metre) ..	" 23	77,966	+	23,351	+	17,09,992	+	1,09,663
Rohilkund and ..	" 30	34,352	+	4,983	+	10,59,365	+	1,52,005
Kumaon ..	Oct. 7	5,67,799	+	36,968	+	5,67,799	+	36,968
South Indian ..	" 7	5,67,799	+	36,968	+	5,67,799	+	36,968

a 13 days. † April 1. ‡ October 1.

COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

		£	+	£	+	£	+	£
Beira ..	Aug. *	37,523	+	2,832	+	72,791	+	3,271
Canadian Northern ..	Oct. 31	\$1,172,000	+	\$99,460	+	\$14,423,800	+	\$404,300
Canadian Pacific ..	" 31	\$4,170,000	+	\$170,000	+	\$50,754,000	+	\$103,100
Gr. Trk. Main Line ..	Nov. 7	206,334	+	57,745	+	8,240,681	+	1,306,568
Gr. Trk. Western ..	" 7	37,027	+	3,268	+	1,634,906	+	313,046
Detroit G. H. & M. ..	" 7	12,452	+	1,424	+	579,554	+	99,144
Gr. Trk. Pac. Prairie Sc ..	Oct. 31	42,337	+	25,455	+	333,187	+	48,447
Mashonaland ..	Aug. *	64,185	+	9,328	+	—	+	—
Mid. of Westn. Aus. ..	" *	5,604	+	1	+	10,706	+	366
New Cape Central ..	Oct. 7	1,532	+	32	+	62,181	+	8,172
Rhodesia ..	Aug. *	93,554	+	11,216	+	263,784	+	18,457

a 9 days. * Months. † July 1. ‡ Jan. 1. c From Oct. 1.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

		\$	+	\$	+	\$	+	\$
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	Oct. 21	954,000	+	68,000	+	15,189,000	+	858,000
Chicago G. W. ..	" 21	400,000	+	65,000	+	5,260,000	+	695,000
Colorado & South'n ..	" 21	—	+	29,000	+	—	+	519,000
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	" 21	578,000	+	7,000	+	8,575,000	+	185,000
Louisv'e & Nashv'e ..	" 21	1,794,000	+	144,000	+	20,033,000	+	2,660,000
Minn. S.P. (Soo) ..	Sep. 21	639,000	+	65,000	+	8,426,000	+	1,423,000
Missouri Kansas ..	Oct. 21	888,000	+	224,000	+	12,178,000	+	1,475,000
Southern ..	" 21	1,625,000	+	219,000	+	23,128,000	+	2,653,000

§ Includes Wisconsin Central. † From July 1.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—HOME.

		£	+	£	+	£	+	£
Bristol ..	Nov. 3	10,480	+	829	+	445,758	+	23,537
Dublin United ..	" 3	6,250	+	466	+	268,542	+	498
Hastings and Dist. ..	" 3	807	+	46	+	46,930	+	3,016
Isle of Thanet ..	" 4	286	+	36	+	1,510	+	59
Lancashire United ..	" 1	1,774	+	161	+	81,070	+	4,235
Provincial ..	" 4	2,046	+	10	+	11,186	+	427
Yorks. (Wst. Rdn.) ..	" 5	1,801	+	86	+	79,383	+	7,964

* From Oct. 1. † From Jan. 1.

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.		GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
		Week ending	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	Wks.	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.
Alcoy and Gandia ..	Oct. 28	Ps. 99,000	+	Ps. 1,000	Ps. 539,300	+	Ps. 29,100
Antofagasta (Chili) ..	Nov. 5	36,795	+	10,405	1,515,535	+	446,395
Arauco ..	Sep. 10	10,500	+	3,300	173,238	+	27,716
Argentine N.E. ..	Nov. 4	6,400	+	862	121,802	+	4,305
Bilbao R. and Canta ..	Aug. *	6,457	+	1,235	36,518	+	2,366
Bolivar ..	Oct. *	6,750	+	1,574	30,250	+	458
Brazil ..	July *	M3,357,000	+	M78,935	M 242,660	+	M21,297
Brazil Gt. Southern ..	June *	M13,580,000	+	M7,350	M24,460	+	M5,640
B. Ayres & Pacific ..	Nov. 4	82,009	+	6,000	1,518,000	+	54,000
Do. Gt. South'n ..	" 4	519,000	+	19,000	1,806,254	+	220,346
Do. Western ..	" 5	55,000	+	6,000	946,000	+	124,000
Central Argentine ..	" 4	106,000	+	1,300	2,029,900	+	51,600
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte V. ..	" 4	14,926	+	1,392	208,815	+	5,238
Do. East'n Ex. ..	" 4	4,984	+	1,363	69,915	+	4,816
Do. North'n Ex. ..	" 4	2,197	+	159	33,296	+	127
Do. West'n Ex. ..	" 4	1,870	+	44	31,163	+	481
Colombian National ..	Aug. *	13,760	+	1,062	90,940	+	8,600
Cordoba Central ..	Nov. 4	26,600	+	2,720	573,130	+	8,530
Costa Rica ..	Sep. 30	4,171	+	221	69,919	+	4,954
Cuban Central ..	Nov. 4	8,961	+	1,153	167,962	+	24,286
Dorada Extension ..	Oct. *	9,800	+	2,700	82,300	+	4,500
Egyptian Delta ..	Sep. 10	6,889	+	615	97,921	+	16,636
Entre Rios ..	Nov. 4	11,000	+	1,900	214,300	+	39,500
French Sante Fé ..	July *	90,992	+	15,010	619,079	+	91,201
Gt. South. of Spain ..	Oct. 28	Ps. 53,423	+	Ps. 13,653	Ps. 261,226	+	Ps. 67,473
Gt. West. of Brazil ..	Nov. 4	16,500	+	5,800	434,100	+	12,200
Havana Central ..	Oct. 28	6,350	+	663	99,612	+	10,883
Inter. of C. Amer. ..	Aug. c*	15,411	+	3,052	243,164	+	91,241
La Guaira and Car. ..	" *	7,500	+	1,750	65,000	+	10,250
Leopoldina ..	Nov. 4	26,978	+	4,913	1,092,674	+	216,832
Manila (Nr. & Sth.) ..	" 4	7,910	+	2,267	408,335	+	15,768
Midland Uruguay ..	Aug. *	8,302	+	4,010	1,284,433	+	4,913
Mogiana ..	July *	M2,819,000	+	M221,678	M1,605,000	+	M100,715
N.W. of Uruguay ..	Oct. *	\$26,000	+	\$4,616	\$24,536	+	\$1,345
Nitrate ..	" 30b	27,363	+	10,748	742,550	+	257,273
Paraguay Central ..	Oct. 28	3,530	+	990	41,880	+	2,250
Paulista ..	July *	M4,000,000	+	M31,867	M1,250,000	+	M98,366
Peruvian Corp'n ..	Oct. *	\$945,596	+	\$138,690	\$3,588,830	+	\$48,773
Salvador ..	Nov. 4	\$15,800	+	\$700	\$354,705	+	\$23,803
S. Paulo (Brazilian) ..	Oct. 29	36,045	+	2,838	1,203,502	+	84,914
Sorocabana ..	May *	M1,269,000	+	M23,000	M 6,960,000	+	M292,000
Taitai ..	Aug. *	19,688	+	1,470	39,308	+	12,930
United of Havana ..	Nov. 4	34,018	+	5,355	550,236	+	98,779
West'n of Havana ..	" 4	4,945	+	193	150,180	+	15,995
Zafra and Huelva ..	Aug. *	13,099	+	3,488	91,505	+	28,688

* Months. † From Jan. 1. ‡ From July 1. c Nett. b 15 days. a 10 days.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.

		£	+	£	+	£	+	£
Anglo-Argentine ..	Nov. 4	53,120	+	1,074	+	2,243,663	+	3,370
Auckland Electric ..	Oct. 20b	21,428	+	597	+	84,286	+	1,160
Brazilian Traction ..	Sep. 3	M3,703,000	+	M2,000	+	M 34,37,000	+	M107,580
Brisbane Elec. Inv. ..	Oct. *	32,760	+	850	+	330,420	+	23,466
British Columbia ..	Sep. 3	\$540,440	+	\$23,418	+	\$1,629,026	+	\$94,158
B.A. Lacroze ..	" 3	36,431	+	5,037	+	74,870	+	6,588
Burmah Electric ..	Sept. 16b	Rs. 23,749	+	Rs. 1,586	+	—	+	Rs. 839
Calcutta ..	Nov. 4	Rs. 68,243	+	Rs. 8,255	+	Rs. 28,19,664	+	146,947
Cordoba Light ..	" 4	13,389	+	279	+	84,554	+	648
P. & T. ..	Sep. 3	14,443	+	2,154	+	583,912	+	142,590
Hongkong ..	Oct. 7	4,435	+	30	+	42,057	+	226
La Plata ..	Oct. 5	14,996	+	240	+	125,505	+	3,423
Lima ..	Aug. 3	Rs. 31,819	+	Rs. 526	+	Rs. 6,33,910	+	Rs. 45,037
Madras Electric ..	Oct. 31c	\$215,256	+	\$108,669	+	\$3,193,106	+	\$197,227
Mexico ..	Nov. 3	5,043	+	157	+	41,522	+	1,844
Rangoon ..	Oct. 8	14,223	+	2,169	+	358,597	+	42,324
Singapore Electric ..	Aug. 5	\$460,556	+	\$10,649	+	\$3,918,111	+	\$402,548
Toronto ..	Sep. 3	28,729	+	1,545	+	347,772	+	17,171
United of Monte V. ..	Oct. *	\$85,200	+	\$35,400	+	\$372,400	+	\$178,200
Vera Cruz ..	May *	\$87,853	+	\$11,127	+	\$678,883	+	\$32,283
Winnipeg ..	Sept. 3	—	+	—	+	—	+	—

b 28 days. * From Jan. 1. ‡ Nett. a From July 1. c Two weeks.

MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

NAME.	NETT EARNINGS FOR MONTH.				NETT EARNINGS TO DATE.			
	Month.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year	No. of Mths.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year		
		Dols.	Dols.		Dols.	Dols.		
Atchafalpa T. & S. F. ..	Sept.	4,784,000	+ 1,145,000	3	13,993,000	+ 3,403,000		
Atlantic Coast Line ..	"	516,000	+ 427,000	3	976,000	+ 649,000		
Baltimore & Ohio ..	"	3,268,000	+ 126,000	2	6,355,000	+ 116,000		
Canadian Northern ..	"	732,600	+ 177,300	3	3,002,000	+ 1,148,000		
Canadian Pacific ..	"	5,130,000	+ 385,000	3	14,615,000	+ 3,627,000		
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	"	1,509,000	+ 12,000	3	4,672,000	+ 418,000		
Chicago & N.W. ..	"	3,059,000	+ 298,000	3	8,301,000	+ 2,274,000		
Chicago Burl. & Q. ..	Aug.	4,113,000	+ 1,438,000	2	6,638,000	+ 2,002,000		
Chicago G.W. ..	Sept.	459,000	+ 79,000	3	1,297,000	+ 344,000		
Chicago Mil. & S.P. ..	"	3,121,000	+ 244,000	2	9,616,000	+ 930,000		
Chicago, Rock I. & P. ..	Aug.	2,360,000	+ 1,092,000	2	4,015,000	+ 2,085,000		
Colorado & Southern ..	Sept.	582,000	+ 101,000	3	1,590,000	+ 454,000		
Cuba ..	Aug.	264,000	+ 67,000	2	523,000	+ 115,000		
Delaware & Hud. ..	"	696,000	+ 120,000	8	5,205,000	+ 316,000		
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	"	875,000	+ 131,000	2	1,631,000	+ 357,000		
Erie ..	Sept.	1,557,000	+ 864,000	9	13,971,000	+ 991,000		
Gr. Tr. Main Line ..	"	\$311,900	+ \$70,200	9	\$2,043,400	+ \$204,100		
Grand Trunk Westn ..	"	\$26,500	+ \$19,650	9	\$260,100	+ \$29,150		
Detroit G.H. & Mil. ..	"	\$4,300	+ \$17,700	9	\$23,350	+ \$15,250		
Gt. Northern ..	Aug.	3,403,000	+ 790,000	2	6,691,000	+ 1,502,000		
Illinois Central ..	"	1,471,000	+ 347,000	3	2,494,000	+ 838,000		
Kansas City Southn. ..	Sept.	330,000	+ 80,000	3	1,022,000	+ 96,000		
Lehigh Valley ..	"	1,085,000	+ 165,000	3	3,514,000	+ 245,000		
Louisville & Nashvl. ..	Aug.	1,121,000	+ 447,000	2	3,241,000	+ 738,000		
Minn. S.P. (Soo) ..	Sept.	758,000	+ 173,000	3	3,867,000	+ 1,017,000		
Miss. K. & Texas ..	"	706,000	+ 80,000	3	2,081,000	+ 347,000		
Missouri Pacific ..	Aug.	1,653,000	+ 598,000	2	2,774,000	+ 682,000		
New York Cent. & H. ..	"	11,511,000	+ 2,799,000	7	35,358,000	+ 12,600,000		
N.Y. N. Haven & H. ..	"	2,366,000	+ 251,000	2	4,743,000	+ 435,000		
New York Cent. & W. ..	Sept.	188,000	+ 1,000	3	970,000	+ 54,000		
Norfolk & Western. ..	"	1,986,000	+ 90,000	3	5,949,000	+ 551,000		
Northern Pacific ..	"	3,344,000	+ 293,000	3	8,505,000	+ 1,629,000		
Pennsylvania East ..	"	"	"	"	"	"		
and West Lines ..	Aug.	12,547,000	+ 1,742,000	8	74,210,000	+ 24,842,000		
St. Louis & San F. ..	"	1,631,000	+ 375,000	2	2,727,000	+ 401,000		
Seaboard Air Line ..	"	521,000	+ 175,000	2	1,734,000	+ 7,000		
Southern ..	Sept.	1,855,000	+ 176,000	3	5,082,000	+ 607,000		
Southern Pacific ..	"	5,733,000	+ 955,000	3	16,461,000	+ 2,534,000		
Union Pacific ..	"	5,079,000	+ 1,150,000	3	13,906,000	+ 2,720,000		
Wabash ..	"	1,147,000	+ 297,000	9	8,257,000	+ 4,572,000		

The Treasury has been consulted under the notification of the 18th January, 1915, and raises no objection to this issue. It must be distinctly understood that in considering whether they have or have not any objection to new issues, the Treasury does not take any responsibility for the financial soundness of any schemes, or for the correctness of any of the statements made or opinions expressed with regard to them.

Fellows Magneto Company,

LIMITED.

CONTRACTORS TO THE WAR OFFICE.

AMONG the numerous "key" Industries held by the Germans in Pre-War Days, one of the most important was the Manufacture of Magnetos. Magnetos are an essential part of every Motor-car, Aeroplane, Transport Lorry, Motor-boat, and Farm, Field, or Factory, Petrol or Gas Engine.

As accurately made as a Watch, wrought and stamped of special metal and materials, each Magneto yields an intense spark every definite fraction of a second. Each Cylinder of a Petrol Engine as it compresses its charge of Air and Petrol Vapour takes in its turn a new impulse from the explosion caused by the LIGHTNING SPARK of the MAGNETO.

It is a marvellous piece of mechanism—complex, yet perfect. Its very intricacy, the skill required in its Manufacture, and the partly secret materials used render its production a highly specialised and most profitable branch of Industry.

THE DEMAND FOR MAGNETOS.

The Demand is great. Nearly £200,000 worth of Magnetos were sold each month in England before the War. Two powerful German Companies, who controlled the Market, have grown great on the profits they obtained.

But as every German Industry—no matter how technical—can be mastered, so the Manufacture of Magnetos has been perfected in this country.

FELLOWS MAGNETO CO., LIMITED.

From a small Magneto Repair Shop the Business of Fellows and Company, now "Fellows Magneto Company, Ltd.," has developed. The Story of the rise of this Firm is a striking example of the British spirit of Perseverance in overcoming difficulties.

The shortage of the necessary Metals and Materials, the scarcity of the intricate automatic machinery needed, and the absence of skilled labour had to be faced. Costly and continuous experimental work had to be undertaken. The cramped conditions under which urgent Magneto Repairs had to be carried out at express speed were not the least of the troubles which the Firm experienced. Notwithstanding these serious difficulties, a British Magneto was finally produced, equal in every respect to the German product.

A BRITISH-MADE MAGNETO.

For nearly a year now FELLOWS MAGNETOS have been supplied. Each Magneto, before leaving the Factory, undergoes most stringent tests, and the results are a proof that the FELLOWS MAGNETO is a machine of the highest possible efficiency and durability.

The success attained shows unflinching determination in the face of exceptional difficulties on the part of Fellows and Co. in laying the foundations of a business, which, in the future, should rank high among the Manufacturing Concerns of this Country.

THE EXTENSION OF THE BUSINESS.

The orders received for FELLOWS MAGNETOS, the requirements of the British Government, and the Trade Opening that exists induced the Firm to purchase a modern Factory at Park

Royal at a cost of over £8,000. Orders have been placed for large extensions and for additional machinery. Further Capital is needed to take advantage of present opportunities.

AN ISSUE OF £50,000, IN £1 SHARES

entitled to an 8% Cumulative Preferential Dividend each year, and to 20% of the further distributed Profits of the Company, is being made. It is estimated that an output of 50 Magnetos per day (i.e., half the proposed output of the new Factory) will permit of a Dividend of from 10% to 12½% being distributed on these Cumulative Preferred and Participating Shares, after allowing for Excess-Profits Duty, and setting aside a substantial sum for Reserve and Depreciation.

This rate of Dividend will increase as the Output and Profits of the Company expand.

At the full output of the new factory, which should be reached within a year from date, the net profits should approximate to over £30,000 per annum, after deduction of Excess-Profits Tax. This would permit of 16% being paid on the Preferred Shares, and £6,000 being set aside for Reserve and Depreciation.

ORDERS IN HAND.

Large Government Orders are in hand. France, Russia and Italy urgently require Magnetos. The great demands of the Home Motor Trade and of our Dominions and Colonies have also to be satisfied.

The past year's earnings, according to the certified figures given in the Prospectus of the Company, show the profitable nature of the business.

ISSUE OF CAPITAL.

Only 50,000 Preferred Shares are now being offered for Public Subscription, as this sum is considered sufficient for present requirements to enable an output of 100 Magnetos per day, of a value of, say, £300,000 per annum, to be produced. The market demand in England alone may be estimated at over £2,000,000 per annum in value (according to the report of the Sub-Committee of the Board of Trade), of which the Company will be in a position to take every advantage both during and after the war.

The 8 per cent. Cumulative Preferred and Participating Shares of £1 each, entitled to 20 per cent. of the net profits of the Company, are payable as follows:—2s. on Application, 8s. on Allotment, and 10s. 3 months after allotment. Applications can only be accepted when made on the forms to be supplied with and on the terms of the Company's Prospectus.

Those interested in the matter should notify their Stockbroker or write to the West End Offices of the Company, "The Secretary, Fellows Magneto Company, Ltd., Trafalgar House, 11 Waterloo Place, London, S.W.," so that a Prospectus may be sent to them. Applications will be dealt with in order of priority of receipt.

W. & CO.

The Investors' Review

FOUNDED BY A. J. WILSON, FEBRUARY, 1892.

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THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.

(Registered in Japan.)
ESTABLISHED 1880.

Subscribed Capital	Yen 48,000,000
Capital Paid Up	.. ..	Yen 30,000,000
Reserve Fund	.. ..	Yen 20,800,000

Head Office: YOKOHAMA.

Branches and Agencies at		Shanghai.
Antung-Hsien.	Harbin.	Nagasaki.
Bombay.	Honolulu.	Singapore.
Calcutta.	Hong Kong.	Sydney.
Changchun.	Kobe.	Tientsin.
Dairen (Dainy).	Liaoyang.	Tokyo.
Fengtien (Mukden).	Los Angeles.	Tsinaifu.
Hankow.	Lyons.	Sao Francisco.
		Tsingtau.

The Bank buys and receives for collection Bills of Exchange, issues Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit on above places and elsewhere, and transacts General Banking Business.

Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be obtained on application.

London Office: 7, BISHOPSGATE, E.C.
K. TATSUMI, Manager.

THE LONDON & RIVER PLATE BANK (LIMITED).

ESTABLISHED 1862.

Authorised Capital	£4,000,000
Paid-up Capital	1,800,000
Reserve Fund	2,000,000

BRANCHES—

ARGENTINE.—Buenos Aires, Rosario, Mendoza, Concordia, Bahia Blanca, Cordoba, Tucuman, Parana, Barracas (Buenos Aires), Once (Buenos Aires), Boca (Buenos Aires), Calle Santa Fe (Buenos Aires), Calle B de Irigoyen (Buenos Aires) URUGUAY.—Montevideo, Montevideo Agency (Calle Rio Negro), Paysandu (Agency), Salto (Agency). BRAZIL.—Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Santos, Pernambuco, Para, Bahia, Victoria, Curitiba, Manaus (Agency). CHILE.—Valparaiso. FRANCE.—Paris (16 Rue Halévy). Agency in New York and Agents throughout the world.

Letters of Credit, Drafts, and Cable Transfers issued. Bills negotiated, advanced upon or sent for collection.—7, Princes Street, E.C.

BANK OF NEW ZEALAND.

(Incorporated July 4th, 1861.)

BANKERS TO THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT.

London Office: 1, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL £5,500,000

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL.

Four per Cent. Guaranteed Stock	.. ..	£529,988
"A" Preference Shares issued to New Zealand Government	.. ..	500,000
"B" Preference Shares issued to New Zealand Government	.. ..	250,000
Ordinary Shares	.. ..	1,500,000

Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits £2,779,988

Negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange.
Grants drafts on its Offices in New Zealand, Australia, Fiji and Samoa. Remittances made by telegraphic transfer.

ALEXANDER KAY, Manager.

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LTD.

Head Office: 15, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.

Capital Authorised	... ..	£1,500,000
Capital Issued	... ..	1,125,000
Capital Paid Up	... ..	562,500
Reserve Fund	... ..	550,000

Branches:

INDIA, BURMAH, CEYLON, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS
CHINA, AND PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS.

The Bank buys and sells Bills of Exchange, issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, and transacts banking and agency business in connection with the East, on terms to be had on application.

DEPOSITS received for one year at 5 per cent. per annum. Rates for other periods on application.

On current accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on daily balances.

THE BANK OF TAIWAN, LTD.

Incorporated by the Special Charter of the Imperial Japanese Government, 1899.

HEAD OFFICE - - TAIPEH, FORMOSA.

BRANCHES—Tokio, Kobe, Osaka, Amoy, Canton, Foochow, Hongkong, Hankow, Shanghai, Singapore, Swatow, Soerabaya, and principal towns in Formosa (Taiwan), &c.

The Bank has Correspondents in the Commercial Centres of Russia, Manchuria, Indo-China, India, Philippine Islands, Java, Australia, America, and elsewhere.

LONDON OFFICE - 58, OLD BROAD STREET, E.C.

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND.

Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1727.

CAPITAL PAID UP £2,000,000

REST & UNDIVIDED PROFITS £800,986

Head Office: ST. ANDREW SQUARE, EDINBURGH.

ADAM TAIT, Cashier and General Manager
A. K. WRIGHT, Secretary.

London Office: 3, BISHOPSGATE, E.C.

WILLIAM WALLACE, Manager.

166 Branch Offices throughout Scotland.

Banking Business of every description transacted. Accounts opened for Foreign and Colonial Correspondents. Bills, Cheques, and other documents collected. Deposit received at interest repayable at call or at notice

LONDON COUNTY & WESTMINSTER BANK, LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED IN 1836.

CAPITAL £14,000,000, in 700,000 Shares of £20 each.

Paid-up Capital - - £3,500,000.

Reserve - - - £4,000,000.

Chairman: The Right Hon. The VISCOUNT GOSCHEN. Deputy Chairman: WALTER LEAF, Esq.

HEAD OFFICE: 41, LOTHBURY, E.C.

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Passing Events.

Revenue from the usual sources was poor last week, only £7,427,000, against £8,390,000 in the previous week, but the excess profits tax continues to give large amounts, and last week contributed £3,414,000 of the total. The shortage, in fact, came from the Post Office and the ordinary income-tax more than from other sources, but the collection of the income-tax by instalments will soon again begin to cause that branch of the revenue to expand. Although the week's outgoings were only £36,038,000 all told in meeting current requirements, or £5,148,000 a day, as against £5,633,000 daily the week before, the smallness of the regular income necessitated considerable borrowing, and over and above the current requirements, which included £2,606,000 for miscellaneous debt charges, there was £28,000,000 of floating debt to be renewed, consequently the total outgoings amounted to £64,342,000, and the nett increase in the amount of Treasury bills outstanding was £12,676,000, raising the aggregate to £1,102,829,000. In addition to this 6 per cent. Exchequer bonds to the amount of £12,726,000 were disposed of, War Savings certificates again provided £1,000,000, and Expenditure certificates yielded £648,000, or £44,000 more than in the previous week. In consequence of the supplies from these sources, the Exchequer balances were larger by £8,621,000 at £35,560,000 at the end of the week. A year ago these balances amounted to only £19,334,000. Including last week's sales the total amount of 6 per cent. Exchequer bonds now outstanding has been increased to £89,342,000.

People ask, some of them grumblingly, and with very ill reason, where all this money is going, and it seems necessary to recall at frequent intervals the fact that our Government has to provide for both the Belgian and Serbian armies either wholly or in larger part; that it now has to give large financial support to the Greek patriots at whose head stands Mr. Venizelos, and that it has also to supply munitions and guns, probably other materials also, to the great Powers, our Allies, as well as to Rumania, and to bear the cost of all the military operations in Mesopotamia and in Egypt. Moreover, the cost of bringing

supplies from overseas to this country seems to be more and more falling upon the Home Government. It now controls the meat supplies coming from abroad, as well as imports of sugar and wheat. Soon probably it will have to take over the management of supplies of other commodities necessary to the country's existence, and every new obligation thrown upon it means increased pressure upon the Imperial Treasury, but not necessarily increased ultimate nett loss. Why cannot the average citizen try to get into his head some comprehension of this aspect of the struggle? These weekly exhibits of the Treasury tell us with increasing emphasis that the whole energies of the nation are being sucked into the maelstrom, and that if we are to sustain to the victorious end our portion of the tremendous conflict, we have got to surrender many prejudices, to draw together in self-abnegation and combined effort in a manner never before seen, to part also with our earnings and savings with an unselfishness more perfect than any heroism nations have hitherto developed.

Further examination of the debate in the House of Commons on the sale of the enemy properties in Nigeria strengthens our approval of the policy of the Colonial Office. What Mr. Bonar Law and his under-secretary, Mr. Steel-Maitland, fear in the absence of free competition is that the combine in the West African trade may rather regard its own commercial interests than the rapid development of the great latent resources of the country. For this apprehension there seems to be some ground. The recent history of the palm kernel trade is not quite reassuring. Since the combine came into operation the price paid to the native producer in West Africa has declined. The price paid by the British consumer has risen enormously. According to Mr. Steel-Maitland, the intermediary charges between the price paid to the producer and the price obtained from the British consumer have gradually risen from between £4 and £5 to £6, £7, £8, £10, £12, and £14. Of course, freights account for some of the increase, but nevertheless it appears that largely enhanced profits are going to the trading companies. No doubt as active commercial concerns, it is in their interest that the properties which were in enemy hands should be eliminated altogether or ab-

sorbed by them. The admission of bidders of allied or neutral nationality certainly tends to widen the market and to counteract anything in the nature of "knock-out" prices. That was not the whole of the Colonial Office case. Mr. Bonar Law's desire is to develop the palm kernel industry and to divert to this country the oil-crushing industry, of which Hamburg was a most important centre. That enterprise requires the outlay of capital both in Nigeria and in this country. Have we at present such resources of our own that we can afford to shut out, say, Dutch assistance? British firms in Nigeria have told the Colonial Office quite plainly that unless they can get their men exempted from military service they cannot carry on existing stations in West Africa. The scarcity of commercial capital in this country will increase. We have now got a Dutch firm which has bought 90 acres at Purfleet on which to erect oil-crushing factories. We have every sympathy with all honest endeavours to exterminate German influences in every branch of our trade. Mr. Bonar Law is animated by that spirit, and we do not see that he has departed from it in regard to these Nigerian properties. And as regards the protest made by Liverpool interests against the payment of the purchase money received for the German-owned properties sold to those who, in ordinary circumstances, would be its legitimate owners, it seems to rest on a misapprehension. The money does not go to the dispossessed German proprietors, but to the Public Trustee, to be held by him until counterclaims have been ascertained and provided for.

Probably through the exercise of malign German ingenuity, the action of our Government in black-listing certain business firms in the United States was made to appear like an effort on our part to capture, or to monopolise, trade after the war, to the hurt of neutrals. Supreme upon the sea, we were accused of desiring to stifle or to supplant all rivals. That was an utterly false conception of our action, as Viscount Grey had no difficulty whatever in proving. "We are the trustees of the freedom of the sea," he pointed out. "His Majesty's Government are not unmindful of the obligations of those who possess sea-power nor of that traditional policy pursued by the British Empire, by which such power has been regarded as a trust and has been exercised in the interests of freedom." That is a definition of our position which deserves to be remembered. Our policy on the ocean has been so perfectly devoid of any monopolising selfishness of the Teutonic or Yankee kind that one might say this war has come about through our liberality towards all competitors. We gave as much freedom at sea to the German, to the American, to everybody as to our own shipping, and did it whether they had armed navies or not. But this war has brought us face to face with the consequences of our magnanimity in trusting to the honour of an envious, covetous race, and in dealing with the complaint about the restriction put by the Government on supplies of our bunker coal to vessels that may be trading with the enemy, Lord Grey took occasion to point out that the German Government by their submarine warfare have sought to diminish the world's tonnage and have sunk illegally, not merely merchant ships of the Allies without warning, but hundreds of vessels belonging to Norwegian, Danish, Swedish, Dutch, Spanish, Greek, and other nationalities. Between June 1 and September 30 last, 262 vessels have been sunk by enemy submarines, viz., 72 British, 123 Allied, and 66 neutrals. Ten of the British vessels were sunk without warning, involving a loss of 81 lives, also two Allied vessels were sunk, on one of which two lives were lost. What became of the crew of the other is not known. Are we to place the stocks at our naval depots at the service of all and sundry of the ships that sail the sea, regardless whether they may be conveying contraband to the enemy or not? One of the most effective preventives against far-ranging submarine activities is the destruction of their own bases abroad and the stoppage of all supplies of coal to ships that may be reasonably suspected of acting as enemy

submarine tenders. "It is common knowledge," says the Foreign Secretary, "that German business establishments in foreign countries have been not merely centres of German trade, but active agents for the dissemination of German political and social influence, and for the purpose of espionage. In some cases they have even been used as bases of supply for German cruisers, and in other cases as organisers and paymasters of miscreants employed to destroy by foul means factories engaged in making, or ships engaged in carrying, supplies required by the Allies. Such operations have been carried out in the territory even of the United States itself, and I am bound to observe, what I do not think will be denied, that no adequate action has yet been taken by the Government of the United States to suppress breaches of neutrality of this particularly criminal kind, which I know that they are the first to discountenance and deplore." Will the President again ask us to give these enemies the freedom of the ocean, plus our coal?

Why are "controlled establishments," as a rule, so diffident about presenting their accounts? It makes us wonder if they have anything to fake or conceal. Why is it that even excess profits duty is rarely, if ever, definitely stated? Both shareholders and the public have a right to know how they are being treated, but our "nibs" on boards of directors do not appear to think so. In announcing a dividend of 3 per cent. (the same as last year), the Cargo Fleet Iron Co., Ltd., states that it cannot present the report and accounts at the forthcoming annual meeting. Part of the business became a "controlled establishment" on November 8, 1915, and is therefore subject to the Munitions levy, while the rest of the works are liable for excess profits. But it would surely be a comparatively simple matter to show the business done, and make provision for the Government imposts either by specific allocation, or by placing an amount to suspense that would cover any margin of dispute that may arise. We think there would be much less chance of their being none too generously treated if they adopted this course, but if they prefer the other they must put up with the consequences. Only they will get scant sympathy if they whine afterwards, and Somerset House knows how to apply the screw.

With the present prosperous state of affairs in Japan it is only natural that the Yokohama Specie Bank should make a good display for the half-year ended June 30. The gross profits, including a slightly larger balance of 1,336,717 yen brought forward, were 4,876,421 yen up at 24,761,465 yen. Expenses, interest, taxes, and other charges absorbed 21,124,009 yen, or 4,777,589 yen more, leaving the nett revenue 98,831 yen better at 3,637,456 yen. The reserve again gets 400,000 yen, bringing that fund up to 20,800,000 yen, as against the paid-up capital of 30,000,000 yen, and after paying a dividend at the usual rate of 12 per cent. per annum the balance carried forward is increased by the amount of the gain in nett profits to 1,437,456 yen. Practically every item in the balance-sheet reflects the activity in business. Deposits are 86,494,209 yen up at 249,949,817 yen, and bills payable, &c., 8,307,881 yen up at 109,342,702 yen, while the note circulation has risen by 4,550,489 yen to 10,114,390 yen. Cash is 43,485,091 yen higher at 78,371,022 yen, but bullion and foreign money has been reduced by 3,441,598 yen to 1,682,760 yen, and investments are 446,065 yen down at 20,242,738 yen. Bills discounted, loans, &c., however, show an increase of 6,680,632 yen at 110,563,424 yen, while bills receivable and other sums due to the bank come to 210,374,207 yen, or 54,936,524 yen more, and the aggregate of the balance-sheet is 100,781,905 yen larger at 425,160,695 yen.

A very satisfactory improvement of £23,678 to £212,609 in gross profits was realised by the Anglo-Egyptian Bank in its year ended August 31, and as expenses only rose by £13,152 to £99,784, the nett

profits were £10,526 up at £112,825. The balance brought forward, however, was £27,000 smaller at £50,000, so that the amount now to be dealt with is £16,474 less at £162,825. Of this £10,000 is transferred to reserve, compared with £26,744 written off investments, and £5,152 is applied in reduction of premises account, but nothing is set aside for special purposes, as against £20,000 for war contingencies a year ago. The directors are consequently able to pay a bonus of 2s. 6d. per share, free of income-tax, in addition to repeating the dividend of 15 per cent., less tax, and to carry forward £52,000, or £2,000 more. Deposit, current, and other accounts, including the contingency fund, are £2,349,821 up at £7,495,125, and bills payable have risen by £93,737 to £203,163, but acceptances show a decrease of £153,900 at £373,657. On the other hand, cash is £506,503 up at £1,786,160, investments have increased by £133,942 to £776,530, and bills receivable, including £3,550,000 Treasury bills, or £2,150,000 more, have risen by £1,994,977 to £4,347,124. Advances and other accounts have been reduced by £179,163 to £2,124,363, and after allowing for the reduction to £85,000 in the value of freehold premises, the aggregate of the balance-sheet is £2,296,674 higher at £9,492,835.

Nett profits of the Trust and Loan Co. of Canada for the six months ended September 30 improved by £5,829 to £66,201, of which £24,100, or £2,914 more, being the moiety of profits over 6 per cent. per annum, is transferred to the statutory reserve as required by the company's charter. Adding £4,048 brought forward, the available balance was £3,011 larger at £46,149, and out of this £450, or £350 less, is transferred to special reserve, making that fund £135,000. Income-tax required an extra £2,571 at £11,401, but nothing is written off, compared with £5,003 for debenture issue expenses a year ago, and after again paying an interim dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, £4,298, or £1,293 more, is carried forward. The securities held on account of the statutory fund were revalued as at September 30 and showed a depreciation of £45,428, which has been written off, and after providing for income-tax, loss on sale of investments, &c., the total of the fund is £453,533, or £17,121 more than at the corresponding date last year, but £29,775 down compared with the figure of March 31. The company has evidently followed the example set by other trusts, and brought a good part of its funds home, as investments and sundry debtors in Canada have been reduced by £321,998 to £3,305,515, while the statutory reserve investments are £68,450 down at £224,345. Part of the money has been used to pay off debentures, which show a decrease of £139,037 at £1,863,707, but the holding of Treasury bills has also been increased by £282,479 to £385,637.

Very satisfactory results are shown in the report of Dalgety and Co., Ltd., for the year to June 30. Trading profits amounted to £643,930, an increase of £62,000, but expenses advanced £23,000, and taxes were £41,000 higher. After providing for debenture interest the nett profit is £2,800 less at £213,858, to which has to be added £208,687, or £12,000 more, brought forward. In addition to the dividend of 8 per cent. (the same as last year), it is proposed to pay a bonus of 2 per cent.; £50,000 is again placed to reserve fund, raising it to £650,000, and £40,000 is written off cost of premises, leaving £197,544 or £11,000 less, to be carried forward. Conditions on the whole appear to have been favourable, although the effects of the recent drought were still being felt, and owing to the reduction in stock complete recovery must necessarily be somewhat slow. New Zealand enjoyed prosperous conditions in consequence of the high value of her articles of export, and although the Australasian wool clip was reduced in quantity, it realised average prices considerably in excess of anything known in recent years. Wheat gave a much larger yield than ever previously recorded, and although lack of shipping

delayed its realisation this has since been put right, and the prospects are for another bumper crop. Changes in the balance-sheet are considerable, but have no particular significance except as pointing to the increasing strength and solidity of the business. Terminable debentures have been reduced by £73,000, bills payable by £44,000, and balances in transit by £117,000, but sundry creditors and customers' balances are £127,000 higher at £2,013,000. As against a decrease of £121,000 in cash, there is an increase of £170,000 in Treasury bills, advances on land, produce, &c., are £293,000 higher at £3,826,000, and sundry debtors have risen £148,000 to £880,000. It is a great concern, and wonderfully well managed, considering the magnitude of its operations. We ought to mention that premises, plant, &c., have been written down £300,000 to £555,640, or £70,000 less than a year ago.

Owing to a slight change in the form of accounts the results of the Australian Mercantile, Land, and Finance Co., Ltd., for the year to June 30 require some disentangling before proper comparison can be made with the previous 12 months. Gross profits amounted to £231,595, an increase of £9,000, which follows a decrease of £87,000, and the nett profit, after providing for debenture interest and income tax (£11,000 up), is £58,050. Last year, on the same basis, the nett profit was £61,300, and with £226,400 brought forward the directors were able to place £30,000 to investment reserve and to pay the usual dividend of 10 per cent., leaving about £21,000 less at £205,780 to be carried forward. Subsequently £100,000 was placed to equalisation reserve and £100,000 was set aside for contingencies, so that only £5,780 is brought into the present profit and loss account. After repeating the 10 per cent. dividend the carry forward is increased to £11,830. Cash balances have increased £305,000 to £584,700, and investments £108,000 to £473,700 (with a market valuation of £485,800), but loans, &c., after providing £100,000 for contingencies, have been reduced £430,000 to £1,984,700, sundry debtors £75,000 to £79,500, and premises, plant, &c., £10,000 to £194,000. It will be seen, therefore, that the company is in a very strong position, as in recent years it has been one of the best managed Australian land companies. Weather conditions continued up to last June to be unfavourable over a considerable area, but advices since received show that the drought generally has broken up, and the prospects are good. No change can be reported regarding Argentina, where the shipment of produce has been much hampered by the shortage of shipping and the very high freights.

Evidently the British Cotton and Wool Dyers' Association, Ltd., or "Slubbers," as it is familiarly called, had a very prosperous half-year to September 30. Indeed, the results are considerably better than the company has ever previously secured, and although the directors have not departed from their usual custom of refraining to declare an interim dividend, it looks as if they would have been perfectly safe to do so, although the second half of the year has not infrequently belied the fair promise of the first half. Gross profits, after providing for excess duty (a new item), amounted to £125,260, an increase of £14,000 over the corresponding period, and it compares with a loss of £15,700 in the first half of 1914. After deducting £1,750 for depreciation of investments and £26,400 for repairs and renewals (an increase of £8,400) there is a balance of £97,100. Administration expenses have been reduced £2,000, which is rather a notable feat in these times, and after paying debenture interest and setting aside the usual £12,500 for depreciation there is a nett profit of £62,270, or nearly £10,000 more than last year. To this has to be added £40,380 brought forward at March 31, so the current half-year started with the handsome balance of £102,650 in hand. This is a very fine record, considering the difficulties with which the company has

had to contend. No particulars are given in the interim statement, but it is probably safe to assume that the improvement is largely due to the problem of dyeware supplies being satisfactorily solved. We hope so, at any rate, for this is a business that should never have been allowed to fall so completely into German hands, and we may be fairly certain it will never be permitted to do so again. In any case, the masterly way in which the gap—and a big gap too—has been filled is a feather in the cap of our chemists and manufacturers.

Lord St. Davids made the best of a somewhat bad job at the meeting of the Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway, and although he had to face a good deal of criticism, he smoothed down the malcontents very adroitly. Complaint was made about the smallness of the dividend—only 1 per cent. on the ordinary after two blank years. For our own part we think it would probably have been more prudent to pass it altogether, in spite of the fact that a very substantial sum is carried forward. But it is quite evident that so far as the year's earnings are concerned, the dividend is paid out of interest, profit on exchange, and other miscellaneous items, not from the working of the railway, which is the company's real business. These fortuitous gains should be tucked away to reserve instead of being used to pay a dividend that has not been properly earned, for they cannot be depended on to materialise regularly, and if they drop out at the same time as traffics happen to be poor the disappointment is all the greater.

More favoured than some of its neighbours, the Argentine Great Western Railway Co., Ltd., managed to increase its earnings in the year to June 30. Gross receipts amounted to £920,550, an increase of £51,750, or 5.62 per cent., but as the line is now worked as part of the Buenos Ayres and Pacific system, we do not get any particulars of expenses or profits. However, the shareholders get their 5 per cent. dividend in a lump sum instead of in two instalments as they did last year, and they have no occasion to worry about the details. Passenger receipts were £6,500 less at £206,110, but parcels made up about half the deficiency. Goods traffic at £689,540 showed an increase of £53,620, or 8.43 per cent., by far the largest item being vine products, which yielded £370,850, an increase of £28,700, or 8.39 per cent. Prospects are regarded as promising, and the line is proving a very useful adjunct to the Pacific system.

Mr. Godfrey Isaacs has sent a long letter to the Press, which we have not space to reprint in full, dealing with the stupid clamour raised, partly by ignorance but more by malice, about the alleged association of the Marconi companies with Germany. It is a merely spiteful campaign that has been raging in certain quarters that ought to know better, but it looks as though some papers would go to almost any lengths of unreasoning vilification to serve their sordid political ends. Mr. Isaacs has no difficulty in giving a complete answer to the charges and innuendoes brought against the Marconi group. Like most other businesses with world-wide connections, the Marconi companies had transactions with Germans before the war, but there was nothing very extraordinary or culpable in that. It is largely due to Marconi enterprise that Britain was not in a much worse position in regard to wireless stations at the outbreak of the war than was the case, and that German schemes for dominating wireless communication were frustrated. Mr. Isaacs points out that while it is true that the Marconi Co. was interested in the German (Telefunken) Co., and had directors on its board, the English Marconi Co. has never had any German director on its board, nor has the German company at any time held any interest in the English company. The recklessly vitriolic attacks on the company are calculated to create a false alarm, for which there is not the slightest foundation,

but we suppose the yapping will go on until the public are sick and tired of it.

A settlement, which has yet to be confirmed, has been arrived at between the Municipality of Buenos Aires and the Primitiva Gas Co. The settlement is in the nature of a compromise, like most settlements in which British creditors and South American debtors are concerned. The municipality has agreed to allow the company to increase the present gas tariff by 3 cents a unit to private consumers, instead of 3½ cents which the company had asked for; but the municipality is allowing 4,000 calories for the quality of gas instead of the 4,200 proposed by the company, and this concession practically represents the ½ cent difference. The arrangement, however, is to be based on the collective cost of the company's producing materials. As regards the debt owing by the municipality, the latter has agreed to release \$220,000 in respect of taxes, and the company is to retain \$110,000, which in the ordinary course would be payable as tax shortly. These two payments will be equivalent to a cash payment of \$330,000, and \$2,000,000 will be issued to the company in municipal bonds carrying 7 per cent. The claim of the company is to be regarded as cancelled by these arrangements, which will be quite satisfactory if the municipality does not default upon its bonds. A definite agreement embodying these conditions was to have been signed last month, but at the crucial moment the Intendente went out of office, and his successor has not yet been appointed. Consequently the whole matter stands in abeyance for the time being. When the settlement is completed the shareholders may expect a resumption of dividends.

The Ste. Madeleine Sugar Co. seems to possess a fine property in Trinidad, and in the year ended June 30 it not only produced 3,823 tons more sugar at 20,890 tons, but also benefited considerably from the higher prices ruling. Gross receipts rose by £121,131 to £416,493, of which £121,871, or £41,568 more, was retained as nett profit, and as the balance brought in was £37,955 larger, the divisible surplus is £79,523 up at £160,450. Of this, £25,000 is again transferred to reserve for factory renewals, and in addition to paying the statutory dividend of 6 per cent. a distribution of 2s. per share is made on the nominal amount of the shares issued, as compared with 1s. 6d. per share last year. These dividends only absorb a comparatively small proportion of the available profits, owing to the necessity of providing for excess profits duty. The basis on which this is to be charged on sugar plantations has not yet been decided by the Board of Referees, but the amount is certain to be large, and the balance carried forward is therefore increased by £75,760 to £114,339. The company is very moderately capitalised at £150,000 in £1 shares, of which 55,100 are fully paid, and 94,900 are 10s. paid, while reserves now amount to £60,815, and altogether the position looks very healthy. Properties are valued at £55,000, and £49,231 has been invested in War Loan and Treasury bills. Stocks, taken mostly at prices since realised, have risen by £72,649 to £197,076, stores and materials are £10,094 up at £18,474, debtors owe £30,336 more at £36,060, and cash is £17,662 higher at £40,628, but bills receivable for £30,000 shown in the previous accounts have disappeared. On the other hand, liabilities to sundry creditors come to £44,654, or £24,498 more, and bills payable to £53,000, or £18,000 more.

Mr. X. Castelli has been appointed general manager of the London branch of the Swiss Bankverein.

Messrs. William A. Read and Co., New York, have sold privately to investors \$1,500,000 of Minneapolis, St. Paul, S. S. Marie 4½ per cent. equipment notes.

The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation has been appointed official liquidator of the Deutsch-Asiatische Bank's business in Hong Kong.

The Commonwealth trade statistics for September show that the imports amounted to £7,910,000, an increase of £1,806,000. Exports amounted to £5,709,000, a decrease of £1,342,000.

Mr. Runciman on Food and Its Control.

With no small anxiety the country has been waiting for information concerning what the Government intend to do about food supplies. In one sense it may be said to have been caught napping, but much more have the upper classes, especially the land-owning class, not the nation, been at fault, and nothing can be more true than Sir Edward Carson's remark that "every inch of ground in this country should be producing something for the people." He added that the Government should "acquire power to take possession of any land they required for the purpose of producing food." That, we agree, is the first essential, and we regret nothing more keenly than the supineness of the small knot of our fellow-citizens who hold most of the nation's land in their life-stifling grip, and have done nothing whatever, so far as can be seen, to come to the help of the nation in its present supreme emergency. Mr. Runciman's proposals, which we shall append in his own words to these observations, seem to be well conceived as far as they go, and calculated to help the people to obtain food, plain necessities, at a cost not absolutely ruinous, but unless the control of our food supplies goes further than the President of the Board of Trade indicated, it will be like a system of conduits elaborately designed for the conveyance of water to a town, but without a reservoir.

If the diabolical submarine activities of the enemy do nothing else than rouse the Government and people to take drastic action in the direction of land reclamation and the development of more intensive agricultural production, as in Germany, on lands already under tillage, they will have been almost a blessing in disguise. No doubt the losses inflicted by this cowardly form of piracy on the high seas have been exaggerated. They have only, said Dr. Macnamara, cost us $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of our nett tonnage since the war began, but including the mischief wrought among neutral shipping, it is unquestionable that supplies of foreign food to this country have been delayed and to some small extent prevented by destruction by German submarines. The effects, in fact, are greater than we can measure by the actual damage done, and unceasingly successful though our fleet's vigilance in combating this loathsome kind of war is—much more successful than people suppose—we cannot hope to see the nuisance abated for some little time yet. The Prussians are in such desperate straits.

Therefore the drastic-looking measure now to be applied by the Government to the civil population and its food supply must only be one more step forward. It was candidly admitted by Mr. Runciman that hustle or pressure was needed to induce the Government to advance as far as it has done, but there must be neither reluctance nor dubiety about the further steps to be taken, and taken without delay. We have 60,000 to 70,000 German prisoners now in our hands, and every one of these men ought to be set to work on the land. Their labour ought to be organised and distributed under efficient guidance, and directed to reclamation of some portion of the millions of acres of waste or undrained land we still possess, and are not ashamed to see in this country. Much could be done in this direction between now and the spring planting. Potatoes are in short supply, notwithstanding the fine crop of Ireland, Mr. Runciman says. Are there not at a guess a quarter of a million acres now lying waste in England alone, capable of growing excellent potatoes, if taken in hand at once? We know one tiny village where 20 acres of excellent garden land is smothered in noxious weeds because it is "common." It is a standing reproach and a shame. The Board of Agriculture is stated to be prodding on the farmers to grow more wheat, and that is something; but is there any younger son of a big landlord, titled or untitled, willing to condescend to be a farmer himself? For upwards of 40 years we have followed the life led by these younger sons of the landlord class, and have been throughout amazed at the crowds of them who came to the City literally to sponge and to plunder. It was beneath their dignity to handle a plough, or even to superin-

tend and help in sheep-shearing—as "Coke of Norfolk" did in his day—but their public school and university education—lauded as the most wonderful honourable-gentleman-producing thing on earth by all newspapers and preachers—did not prevent them from selling themselves by the thousand to the speculative or even to the fraudulent company promoter. Farmers? Not they, but stock jobbers, public company directors, share punters, and decoy men for the financier—yes, in any number. In one of those cheap magazines we have fallen into a habit of buying to send to the trenches, we came across, some months ago, a short article by the Countess of Warwick, in which she enthusiastically divagates on an after-the-war fusion of these privileged classes with those they have been for generations educated to despise or patronise as their inferiors. The comradeship of the trenches, she thinks, will break down the barriers, and all ranks will coalesce to work for the recuperation of the country when the war ends. We trust her ladyship may prove to have been a true prophet, but must confess that as yet we have seen no signs favourable to the realisation of her dream.

Coming back to Mr. Runciman's proposals, which are modelled on the much more thorough-going and altogether despotic German measures already in force, as far as lack of experience may permit us to judge, they are in the right direction. Much will depend upon the character, capacity, and business acumen of the man appointed to the responsible position of "food dictator." If he is a man of sense and understanding, a man of inflexible will also when his mind is made up, and if loyal and competent business colleagues or subordinates are placed around him, then he may teach the nation valuable lessons in thrift, in co-operation, in simple living, and so on, that might change its social habits for all time to the great benefit of the race. But the work before him is so stupendous, the habits of over-feeding so engrained amongst the people, that he ought to be given time to find his feet and order his campaign. In all probability he will not be given time. The fussy, self-asserting newspaper critic will be on his track with yappings and complaints almost before he has acquired knowledge of the drawers in his desk.

We are not to have any more white wheaten bread. Pure white flour is not to be milled any more, but what if it comes in from abroad? We cannot prescribe the method of grinding the corn prevailing in the United States or Canada, in Australia, in any neutral country. For a time the supplies of white flour must be used up, or arrangements made for mixing with the new brown flour or yellow. Mr. Runciman has been told that the inclusion of what is now called "offal" in the flour henceforth to be produced is equivalent to an addition of some $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to the nutritive qualities of the bread, and if that is true the resulting economy ought to be considerable. But in the consumption of meat and bread the habits of the people will have to be considerably altered, probably under pressure, ticket or other, before the expected savings can become visible. Doctors tell us that we all eat too much, and our own experience is that doctors are right. We need not now particularise or comment upon the other portions of the scheme Mr. Runciman unfolded. It is better to let him speak for himself, and to wait and see. Therefore we append here that portion of his most interesting and valuable speech which gives the necessary information. It shows that besides appointing a food controller, prices are to be fixed where the supply cannot be affected, and that besides flour, milk and potatoes will be first taken in hand. Moreover, the waste of sugar in the production and sale of sweets and sweet cakes is to be, if not stopped, at any rate, severely restricted. Hardships will result, and many people, besides some chocolate manufacturers, will probably suffer; but they must all learn to bear hardships in the interests of a nation, nay, an Empire, driven by a ruthless and devil-possessed enemy to fight not only for its liberties, but for its existence.

In the first place, we shall avail ourselves of provisions to enable us to proceed against any person who wastes or un-

necessarily destroys any article. An instance was given of milk having been poured down the sewer because the contract price did not suit. That is the kind of thing which must stop. There are other forms of food which are sometimes destroyed because the producer or the owner is afraid that the market will drop too heavily if he is compelled to go to a forced sale. We are prepared to go to a forced purchase, and we cannot permit anybody for fear of a forced sale to destroy any food within these islands. The next power we wish to have is that of prescribing the purposes for which an article shall or shall not be used. Here let me take the case of milk. Our advice is that the best use we can make of milk is not to give it to pigs, and we propose at once to issue an order under the Regulations to put a stop to that practice wherever it may be resorted to. (Hon. Members: "Skimmed milk?") I am talking about whole milk. It has been brought to our knowledge that whole milk has been given to pigs on the advice of an agricultural association, because they did not like the contract prices which at that moment were prevailing. My hon. friend the Parliamentary Secretary, I regret to say, had sent to him the copy of a circular issued by one of our agricultural societies—a most unimportant one, I am glad to add—actually advocating this use of milk if the contract prices were not satisfactory to the owners of milk. We must put a stop to that. Then there comes the Regulation with regard to the manufacture of certain articles of food. This is intended particularly to apply to flour. The Government have decided that 70 per cent. of flour cannot now be permitted in this country. Pure white flour, from which has been abstracted, as some people think, some of its most valuable qualities, will not be milled in future. We shall retain in the flour a good deal of what I believe in some quarters is called offal and in others precious food. I am authorised by the Local Government Board to say that they will make Regulations under the Defence of the Realm Act, requiring millers to produce only a straight grade flour and to mill not less than some fixed percentage. In this country we have to deal with a number of different kinds of wheat, the flour content of which varies to a considerable extent. It will therefore be necessary to have a scale of percentages. The general average percentage which it is proposed at once to fix will raise the yield of flour about 8½ per cent. In order to prevent unfair competition with our own millers, steps will be taken to control imported flour. Then we wish to have powers to deal with the mode of sale and distribution of articles. If it becomes necessary for us to embark on food tickets, obviously we must have the power given to us to do it without long and protracted discussion. Directly the need becomes apparent, power ought to be given to us to act. Moreover, I need hardly say that to have this power in our hands is not without its influence on the market. Then we seek power to regulate, if necessary, market operations. Some hon. members will remember that not long ago there was a large operation in tea which had a most disturbing effect upon the tea market. Whether that operation was good or bad from the point of view of the purchaser I do not know, but from the point of view of the general consumer it was one of the most disturbing things which had happened to the tea market for many years past. That sort of cornering must obviously be prevented, and up to the present we have had no powers to prevent it. In some of the smaller commodities there are already a good many transactions which come under the head of cornering or something like it.

Mr. Keating: Are you taking power to deal with the cornering in maize?

Mr. Runciman: This will cover every sort of article—wheat, maize, potatoes, currants, rice, everything. If there is any sort of cornering, the Government will have power to act. (An Hon. Member: "Does it apply to Ireland?") Yes, it applies to the United Kingdom.

There are some cases where we altogether fix maximum prices. There are the cases of foodstuffs which are controlled by the State. Obviously, it is within our power, without interfering with the amount of food that comes into this country, to fix the maximum price of flour, wheat, and sugar, and certain forms of meat. We can fix those prices without doing anything whatever to prevent the flow of food into this country. Where we are concerned with food which is not under State control or which is not owned by the State, maximum prices might actually lead to the stuff not coming to these shores. I have more than once explained the real harm that would be done if even by the smallest fraction the price in this country were below the world-price outside, and we cannot in the least afford to have any interruption of the flow of foodstuffs here. With regard to foodstuffs not under our control we do not intend at the present time generally to fix maximum prices, but there are some things where we can limit the increase of price, and make that limitation depend upon the cost of production, and at the same time take into account the security of the continuance of our supplies. I think milk is one of those articles. We can ascertain the cost of milk. Our best expert advisers tell us that we can ascertain that cost, and if we fix the price at a fair price there is no reason in the world why we should diminish the output by a single gallon on that account. We therefore ask for powers to fix these prices. It would refer to products produced in this country if necessary. There, again, we must keep before our eyes the fact that if we limit the price too low we may actually destroy the very source of our supply. The suggestion has been made that we should take over the whole of our wheat crops at a fixed price. If we took them over at the market price I do not suppose that we should do any harm except to those firms who have been in the habit of dealing in that particular

commodity, but I should like to know what advantage would accrue from it. If we took them over at more than the market price, obviously we should at once do harm to the State, and no one would recommend that. If we took them over at less than the market price, we should certainly be accentuating the tendency of farmers not to sow wheat for the coming season. What with the pressure of shortage of labour, bad weather, and dirtiness of the land, we should undoubtedly, if we fixed the price below the market price, tend to put that land out of cultivation. I give no final opinion even on that at the present time. I would ask that the Government might be left free to act under the organisation which will be at the disposal of the Food Controller, the one person who will have all these problems sent to him, and power should be left to him to act as he sees best. I am told that the country is tired of being lectured on food questions and wishes to be governed. I ask the House of Commons to give us power to govern. (Cheers.)

Finally, I would refer to the fact that we must have more information if we are to have an influence on the market. We must have further returns, not only from merchants, but from those who have goods stored in their warehouses. We must have returns sent in, and sent in if necessary under oath, as to the stocks of articles held by the individuals, as to any contracts that he has entered into for the purchase of his goods or for the sale of his goods, as to the prices that are being paid by him or received by him, as to the cost of production of his article; and we must have absolute means of testing the accuracy of his returns. By these means we shall be much better informed for dealing with these problems as they become more intense, as they may during the next twelve months. These are very wide powers. When the House passed the Defence of the Realm Acts it took upon itself the responsibility of giving to the Government wide powers. We propose, if this regulation is not seriously objected to in the House to-night, to issue orders this week, and that is one of the reasons, the main reason, why we propose to proceed by regulation rather than by Bill.

We propose to issue orders this week—this is only the first instalment, I may say—providing for a return of milk contracts as well as purchase prices and the like, for limiting the increase in the price of milk, for a return of stocks of potatoes where those stocks are over twenty tons, for giving the names of purchasers in the case of sales exceeding twenty tons, and requiring a statement of the stocks in hand at the beginning of December—a return which all growers of more than ten acres of potatoes will be required to make as well as merchants and dealers who may have owned potatoes or bought them. We shall issue an order limiting the percentage of milling of flour, and finally we shall issue an order which deals with the waste or destruction of food. These are drastic orders, but I feel that we are justified in asking the House for power to issue them.

Must not a new interdependence of classes, neighbourhoods, businesses, and the various agencies of production come into existence as effect of this great step towards State regulation of the modes and means of living? For the present, the Board of Trade is to be the centre of authority.

Consolidated Goldfields Report.

This glorified bucket-shop always attracts us because we are sure of half an hour's amusement from a perusal of its report. That eminent cricketer, Lord Harris, remains chairman, and is assisted in his directorial duties by such prominent financiers as Colonel Frewen, Major Sapte, S. Christopherson, J. C. Prinsep, J. Rochfort (reduced to plain "R.") Maguire, and E. Birkenruth. In these days we hear so much about playing the game, even if the advice is not always followed, that it is good to have a first-rate exponent at the head of one of our national paper-printing industries, and the *mot d'ordre* ought to be "tip and run"—run like the deuce, if you have not already been stumped by the fall in the shares from 16 (or was it 18?) to 1½. These fine gamblers have had a trifle of £4,500,000 to play with, and although there have been many changes in the team, their dividend score is so impressive that we are fain to put it on record. For the years ending June 30 it is as follows:—

	Per Cent.		Per Cent.
1893.....	10	1905.....	15
1894.....	15	1906.....	nil
1895.....	125	1907.....	12½
1896.....	125	1908.....	20
1897.....	50 (in scrip)	1909.....	35
1898.....	25	1910.....	35
1899.....	nil	1911.....	30
1900.....	nil	1912.....	17½
1901.....	nil	1913.....	10
1902.....	25	1914.....	5
1903.....	nil	1915.....	7½
1904.....	12½	1916.....	7½

Very wonderful, is it not? For the past four years the dividend has averaged $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.—that is after the company had attained what is usually regarded as years of discretion—and the yield has been considerably less than could be obtained on the finest Government securities. If you have not already been “stumped,” cannot you now join in our laughter?

It is rather futile to go through the figures of the accounts, they are so studiously unilluminating, but we may set them out as a matter of form. Revenue consists of “dividends, profits realised by sales of investments, and sundry receipts, less nett commission and amounts written off”—only that and nothing more. It is a lovely motor-omnibus sort of item that we should like to linger over and admire, but we must be content to mention that the total is £461,380, or £138,000 more than for the previous 12 months. And we need not worry about £12,130 for “directors’ fees, engineering department, salaries, office and other expenses, London, South Africa, and Paris, less amounts received from other companies, including transfer fees.” We follow the report’s punctuation, but cannot run to its capitals. As rather less was required for debenture interest, the nett profit is £140,000 up at £440,140, but we are arrested by the fact that £232,265 has to be written off for depreciation of investments, and in order to maintain the dividend at $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and the carry forward at £80,000 odd, £100,000 has to be taken from the reserve, which is thus reduced to £700,000. That looks good, although only a little over half is invested outside the business, but it was £1,800,000 two years ago. So rapidly do the wickets fall! The depreciation, we are told, “is largely due to the fall in the value of shares in mining companies whose length of life is now becoming a factor in the market price.” Of course, the “length of life” has only been discovered in the past 12 months, but that is “cricket” as it is understood in Old Jewry. The liability under the guarantee of Simmer and Jack East debentures has been reduced £93,000 to £10,280, and creditors are £85,000 lower at £131,210. In spite of the amount written off for depreciation, shares in other companies are only £100,000 lower at £3,670,500, but pre-war loans on the Stock Exchange have been reduced £108,000 to £277,250, and we should judge that this balance must be a terribly tough mouthful. Other debtors are £73,000 down at £171,200, and cash advances, mortgages, &c., are £270,000 less at £531,000, but cash, Treasury bills, &c., have increased £280,000 to £598,000, so that, leaving the happy shareholders out of account for the moment, the position is decidedly healthier, although we must not overlook the fact that uncalled liability on investments has risen £120,000 to £670,000.

This is the triennial report in which a list of investments is given, and it is a terribly weird affair. South Africa did not provide sufficient scope for the Consolidated Gold Fields of South Africa, so we find it busy in that darling of the gods, Rhodesia, the Gold Fields Rhodesian Development Co. (whose capital is to be “reorganised”) having taken over a mass of rubbish still represented by 578,000 shares which the parent has been unable to dispose of, apart from holdings in Cam and Motor, Falcon, Lonely Reef, Shamva, &c. There was a plunge into the jungle of West Africa with sad and sorry results, and bites at Canada, Trinidad, Colombia, and Brazil. But the palm of venturesome imbecility is easily carried off by the intrepidity with which our South African buccaneers have essayed to teach the Yankees their business in their own kail-yard. Of course, a special company had to be formed for this purpose, and £1,800,000 has been sunk in the Gold Fields American Development Co., independently of smaller chunks in the American Trona Corporation (a potash concern in California), and the Mississippi River Power Co. Gold dredging in Klondyke, tin dredging in Nigeria, platinum dredging in Colombia, chemicals in California, oil somewhere else, and electric power supply anywhere—that is the modest programme this South African team has set out to accomplish; to play at skittles with millions of other people’s money. Has any one of the board the re-

motest knowledge of any of the varied businesses they pretend to direct? Well, look at their record in Rhodesia, where they might be presumed to have at least a nodding acquaintance with the conditions, and answer the question for yourself. And on top of that to embark gaily on hydro-electric schemes in America! Bah! “imbecility” is not the word we should have used for choice in this connection.

Union Cold Storage Co., Ltd.

No doubt owing to the pressure and disturbance caused by the war the report of this important company is nearly four months later than usual, the accounts for the year 1915 being only now ready for presentation. It may be, however, that the proposals for raising additional capital have been partly responsible for the delay. Accompanying the report are circulars addressed to the share and debenture holders, the purport of which is that the Treasury has sanctioned the issue of £350,000 in $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. debenture stock and £400,000 in 6 per cent. preference shares for the purpose of financing the construction of four refrigerated steamers. In common with all other shippers, the operations of the company have been hampered by the shortage of tonnage, and an agreement has accordingly been entered into with the Blue Star Line to provide and work four suitably equipped steamers, the Union Cold Storage Co. finding the necessary capital up to the £750,000 it is now proposed to raise. The steamers will be worked as single ship concerns, and it is expected that the first will be delivered by the builders next February, and the other three in March, May, and October. Interest on the amount advanced to the Blue Star Line will be charged at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, and the loan will be repayable by instalments of £12,500 per steamer per annum. One steamer will be released after repayment of £250,000, and all interest then due, a second after repayment of £500,000, a third after repayment of £650,000, and the fourth when the balance of all moneys due is paid. The company therefore seems well protected, and apart from that the Vestey family, who are so prominently identified with the Union Cold Storage, are also largely interested in the Blue Star Line, which provides a further guarantee of mutual advantage. Moreover, the National Cold Storage Co. of New York, together with Sir Wm. Vestey and Mr. E. H. Vestey, guarantee the dividends and interest on the whole of the share and debenture capital of the Union Co., including the proposed new issues. The four steamers contracted for will provide a deadweight carrying capacity of 31,000 tons, including over 1,200,000 cubic feet of refrigerated space, and the command of this tonnage will doubtless prove of great benefit to the business of the Union Co.

For the year 1915 the company did not do quite so well as in the previous 12 months, the trading profits being £248,190, or £5,500 less than in 1914, but £105,000 more than in 1913. The company has done and is still doing a large amount of work for the British and Allied Governments, and it is stated that the volume of its other business showed a considerable increase over any previous year, notwithstanding the extremely difficult and disturbed conditions caused by the war. Expenses took £4,600 more, and £14,000 more at £54,635 was set aside for depreciation, so that the nett profit of £182,720 is £24,400 lower. This, however, is almost exactly offset by a similar amount (against nil) brought forward, after deducting £13,390 written off capital issue expenses, and the available balance is practically the same at £207,207. It is proposed to pay the usual dividend of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, leaving £37,627 to be carried forward, subject to excess profits duty, if any. During the year £42,930 of debenture stock and £6,000 of mortgages were paid off, reducing the former to £980,000 and the latter to £61,000, while the issued capital stands at £1,300,000 in preference and £300,000 in ordinary shares. Sundry creditors have increased £106,000 to £422,000, and sundry debtors are £53,000 higher at £353,000. Capital expenditure

amounted to £40,400, in addition to £160,000 paid for Argentine property in course of construction, with the result that cash balances have been reduced £126,000, but still stand at the handsome total of £314,400. The depreciation fund now amounts to £272,800, and there is no other reserve fund, but goodwill is taken at the almost nominal sum of £26,000, and the position is undoubtedly a strong one, although we should not regret to see the items discount on debenture stock and capital issue expenses, amounting to £50,000, disappear from the credit side of the balance-sheet. However, the full benefit of the capital expenditure of over £1,000,000 in Argentina has not yet accrued, and there is every reason to expect that the company will continue to enjoy increasing prosperity.

By-the-Way War Notes.

It is legitimate to rejoice over the renewed offensive in Picardy and to hope that the weather will permit it to be continued without pause until the enemy's line there is entirely smashed. But we must not hastily conclude from a victorious progress of this kind, whether by the French or ourselves, that the war will soon be over. For the present, at any rate, the madmen's resolve of the baffled, once defeated, Prussians, Austrians, and Magyars, but especially of the Prussians, is to throw the whole of the peoples, German and non-German, within their power into the vortex of war. Rather than give in the entire population may perish, and ultimately this hideous resolve and the essay at its execution should make easier the task of the Allies in arranging peace and in apportioning the Austro-Prussian dominions amongst the races their beaten and dispossessed rulers have oppressed, but for the time being the fury of the war is certain to be increased in every direction, on land and sea.

All the German nation, man, woman, and child, is to be put to war-work, says the latest news from the land of darkness, illusions, and lies. The Reichstag is again to be summoned to "sanction"—pure formula—a Bill empowering the Government to compel civilians between the ages of 16 and 60 to do war-work. And every kind of work is to be "war-work." Women are to be pressed in and the whole nation placed under discipline for this one purpose, to carry the war to a successful end.

Of course, it is all our fault that this sacrifice should be necessary. Germany, it seems, "considerably under-estimated" the English as a nation, but now knows herself to be up against a Power determined to lay her low. Therefore all work except war-work is to be set aside. May these resolved Teutons allow us to say that we are very glad to hear this news! It will, doubtless, make the fury of war all the more bitter this winter, but the triumph of the Allies in the end cannot fail to be more complete. And the demented abandon of the enemy is most encouraging to us as proof that he knows himself to be already beaten. When his rage exhausts itself and him he will be as the bulk of his men the Allies capture are now.

Unhappily it is not only the German people and the suppressed races and scraps of races non-German within the borders of the empire who are to be mobilised; the Prussian in his fury is determined to force neighbours into his war. The Dutch and the Danes are being threatened with retribution, as well as the Norwegians, because they continue to trade with the British. The Belgians and many of the French living still within the lines of the German defences in Northern France are being seized like cattle and taken away into slavery to assist the wolf of the north now at bay in continuing the struggle until all the able-bodied males and much of the material required for the production of wealth contained in his dominions and in the territories he temporarily squats upon have been swept out of existence. It is a ghastly outlook, a woeful Calvary for innocent people, and the sight of these crimes, the sound of these sinister threats, cannot fail to rouse the Allies to the utmost heroism of exertion

until the horror is destroyed. But should we not also get ready to organise our forces—in a better spirit, for a nobler purpose, but still to organise in a fashion more completely methodical, more co-ordinated and wisely arranged than the tyrannous drilling of our enemies, so that our triumph in the conflict may be the sooner assured? Is there not even now an amateurishness in our proceedings, a want of orderly centralisation, a multiplicity of authorities, of responsible heads of departments who have no well-defined sphere of duties and who consequently accept no responsibility? We surely want a "head centre," and a stern determination to win through, not merely to muddle through. At the front we believe this fine, disciplined, ordering of the battle and all that relates thereto has already been attained; but has it here? Have we arranged work for everyone and provided everyone with the work to be done? What are we doing with our untilled or half or quarter tilled land, what with our flocks and herds, what with our German prisoners? A thousand questions rise up before us demanding solution, and we must organise for our salvation, not as the Prussians who, in the fury of their raging despair, already announce their own doom, but as men free to act in co-ordination.

The story of the week's fighting has been good almost at all points. In some of the Transylvanian passes the Rumanians have been pressed back a little, but in others they continue to be victorious, and at no point have the hosts driven forward by von Falkenhayn succeeded in escaping from the hills. Every day, too, the fighting power of the Rumanians grows more skilled and efficient. What is happening on the Danube and in the Dobrudja is obscure, and probably meant to be, but "General Zero" is coming to take a hand in the campaign there also. So Mackensen, smartest of Prussian leaders, is not having quite the happy time of his life. How he contrives to feed, clothe, shelter, and munition his heterogeneous masses of troops—Bulgar, Turk, and German—is more than we can say. The puzzle of the Bulgar and his German master in Macedonia is just as curious. How long can they resist the Serbs and the Allies there?

But is not this supply question the most imperative one for the enemy on all fronts? We concentrate our minds too exclusively on feats of arms, and are almost inclined to be depressed even before dazzling performances like those of the French advance at Verdun and the latest British victory on the Ancre. The strenuousness of the fighting involved in storming German trench fortresses throws a disquieting glare of light on the scenes, and warns the Allies that the work still to be done is stupendous, and we grow wistful of the future. For all that, the enemy is weakening faster than he seems, and we need not fear. All goes well.

Contemplate the position of Prussia-ridden Germany at the present hour. The Junker functionaries in Berlin have proved themselves to be the most stupid diplomats modern Europe has ever known. You see the effect in Russia of that Berlin hoax, "An independent kingdom of Poland," to be formed out of the Russian provinces of that ancient kingdom, at present under Hohenzollern domination. The Russian Government and Duma have been moved anew thereby to re-consecrate the Tsar's promise of liberty to the whole of Poland, and the keeping of that pledge will bring the revived kingdom close enough to the gates of Berlin to tarnish its tawdry magnificence, let us hope for ever.

In everything else it is the same, and before long the Kaiser may find open foes in Holland, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden, not to mention the United States of North America. As he and his Ministers see ruin drawing nearer they seem to grow more dementedly reckless, and in doing so contribute to their own defeat almost as much as the closing-in march of the Allied armies. The manifestations of abandoned barbarism by which the civilised world is horrified, revealed in the infamous deportation of the Belgians, French, Poles, and Serbs into slavery in Germany and Hungary, in the spiteful energy and haphazard miscellaneousness of the submarine piracy, in the venomous

airship raids on undefended places, all point to a deepening moral degeneracy begotten of despair.

And how inspiring is the contrast between the position of the Allies of the Entente and of Germany and Austria. We are united more and more as one man in fighting the fight forced upon us to a satisfactory conclusion; the two brigand Empires are internally torn more and more by race and faction strife. The Hohenzollern Empire contains a larger German population than the Habsburg one, but even that is not any longer homogeneous in purpose, and the Habsburg assortment of suppressed races is so great a source of weakness that German troops have to be used to harden up the fighting on every Eastern front. In Macedonia Germans have to be used to keep the base Bulgars up to the scratch; they are equally needed in the Dobrudja, among the Walachian and Moldavian passes, and on the Italian frontiers. The strain this necessity imposes on the Empire which began the war in the manner of wild beasts let loose must be growing overwhelming, and the losses incurred cannot but surpass by much the totals from time to time published for purposes of deception by the Prussian war chiefs. The Germanic peoples are furiously busy in compassing their own obliteration from among the civilised races that do not in the world.

And what must the financial position be? Austria, it was long since reported, has iron coins in circulation of the nominal value of one-fifth of a penny (2 heller), and paper discs, supposed to represent coins, prevail in both Empires. Is it with these that the new Austrian loan will be subscribed? Where is that loan? Can the imagination conceive the economic position the two criminal Empires will have to deal with when peace comes? All the wealth amassed by generations of industry will have been shot away in wars meant to be profitable, actually ruinous. All the capital of the "munitioners" will be gone, or be represented merely by the paper of a Government which is to-day bankrupt beyond hope of recovery. What would be the value of a Krupp share then? The masters in industry among the Germans still behold visions of trade conquests to be resumed after peace returns as if nothing had happened. Their capacity for self-deception is therefore as measureless as their capacity for brutality in war. It will be a strange world they will find themselves in at the peace. Europe—the world—will be in no humour for trade with the Germans then, and even if it were, it will not possess the wherewithal. Every resource creatable, and all the means the Allies may have left after the war costs have been provided for, will have to be devoted to the recuperation of their own industries, and to such harmonious co-operation in repairing the damages suffered as will leave no room for German trade. As is always insisted on by us, German producers can only be permitted to supply the world with what it cannot get from other sources, or with what may be helpful to the Allies in their own work of recuperation. For them there can be no "free trade" until expiation has been made.

In prolonging the war, then, the barbarian Empires are labouring to destroy themselves, and in that praiseworthy—alas! that it should be praiseworthy!—operation the Allies are loyally united in helping them all they can.

American Business Notes.

All exciting talk about the recounting of votes in this place and the other would seem to have died down, and the defeated East, thinking better of it, has decided to allow re-elected President Wilson to keep his seat in the Presidential chair without open opposition. Many years ago a shrewd American business man, who has now passed over to the majority, told this writer that the West would master the East one day. This election seems to fulfil that forecast, and a new ideal may come to prevail in the North American Republic. Ever since the Civil War closed the Northerners of the Eastern States, the victors, have kept a ruthlessly selfish grip upon the country, and held its inhabitants in a state of

slavery by means of their infamous Protectionism. Are they going to be knocked off their monopoly juggernaut car, and forced to walk in the paths of civilisation and peace? The Yankee in trade and finance has been a man of war as ruthless as the German, if less ghoulishly imaginative, and it seems as if in this election the West and South had united to say to these giants of finance and industry who have hitherto held the whole country in tribute, "we have had enough of you."

President Wilson's strength with the people evidently rested upon his domestic policy, and his attitude towards the war in Europe—towards the Allies of the Entente or towards Germany—had little or no influence upon votes west, one may say, of the Alleghenies. His Federal Bank law, still more, perhaps, his Rural Credit Banks, organised and set agoing with the purpose of making credit easy and easily accessible for the poorest user thereof, must have had an enormous influence in popularising his administration amongst the farmers and small business men to be found in the new West. Also when, just before it adjourned to disappear, he forced through Congress, like the dictator he has proved himself to be, his eight hours law for railway men, he must have won to his side the labour vote almost everywhere. Against facts like these the spiritless harangues of his able opponent, Judge Hughes, proved the reverse of attractive. And we think the stridency of Mr. Theodore Roosevelt was probably more helpful to President Wilson than to the rival whom the ex-President and party rebel set out to help.

What will Dr. Wilson do now that he has been given four more years of freedom in which to work his will untrammelled by the necessity of shaping his course with a view to yet another term in office? We cannot in the least degree attempt a forecast so far as his domestic policy is concerned, nor is much room open for conjecture with regard to his foreign policy, whether in Mexico or in Europe. Evidently the great mass

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of the American electorate has not been stirred to its depths, as we were told it had been, by submarine atrocities either past or passing, and therefore the President may not think it necessary to assume any more determined attitude towards the perpetrator of these crimes against unarmed people now than he did during his first term. On the other hand, it is not impossible that he may be less disposed than before to enter into wordy technical arguments with the British Government. We hope, at least, that it will be so, for some of the dispatches sent by his Secretary of State to our Foreign Office concerning various incidents in the blockade and our attitude therein, have been couched in terms for which an upright-minded man, on reflection, ought surely to feel ashamed, so spitefully minded are they, so unsympathetic and purely self-seeking. The latest exhibition of this sort of diplomatic obliquity is furnished by the correspondence just published with regard to the British "Black List" of firms. It was declared by Mr. Lansing that "the Government of the United States is constrained to regard that practice"—i.e., the practice of indicating the firms with which it was advisable British merchants should at present have no dealings—"as inconsistent with that true justice, sincere amity, impartial fairness which should characterise the dealings of friendly Governments with one another," a monstrous assertion. All that our Government did was to publish the names of certain American firms with which it advised our men of business to have no transactions during the war. Naturally these firms and their pro-German surroundings, in America made a tremendous hubbub, to which Dr. Wilson flabbily yielded, and set his Secretary of State a-scolding of us in this fashion. The answer which Lord Grey sent to the unworthy letter, after a delay of nearly three months, ought to stop further displays of this sort of political hypocrisy for the future. It is impossible for us to summarise Viscount Grey's answer, but his citation of one precedent is interesting. On July 5, 1862, he reminds the United States, instructions were issued by Lord Russell to the merchants of Liverpool in regard to trade with the Bahamas. "Their true remedy," he said, would be "to refrain from this species of trade on the ground that it exposes innocent commerce to vexatious detention and search by American cruisers." That was during the American Civil War, and the attitude of acquiescence in Yankee blockade high-handedness was the right and proper one in trying circumstances, an attitude, therefore, which Dr. Wilson's new Government—for it will doubtless be changed to some degree in *personnel*—would do well to imitate during this war. Whether or not, he may depend on it that no clamour from him can modify our policy. Rather will it increase the stringency of our blockade. The course followed by the President and his advisers has hitherto been often quite Prussian in its insolent assumption of the "right" to dictate to an independent Government at death grips with a savage foe the policy it should follow in ordering its commercial intercourse with other nations. They will do well to change that attitude.

The Week in Mines.

There have been a number of interesting movements in the Mining markets this week, though in most departments there has been no decided tendency. One of the notable exceptions has been the Diamond market, which has shown strength on dividends, actual and prospective. Premiers have risen sharply on the payment of 12s. 6d. of preference dividend arrears. Jagersfontains on a distribution of 5s., the first since the outbreak of war, have also risen appreciably, while De Beers have been prominent on talk of a dividend of 10s. per share. Tin shares have developed an upward tendency in sympathy with the market for the metal, and Copper shares have shown a disposition to respond to a similar movement in the commodity.

SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

Interest in South African Gold shares has centred, as usual, in the Eastern Rand group. Of the nine tenders which, it is stated, have been offered for the Brakpan and Modderfontein areas, the General Mining and Finance Corporation has offered to work the Brakpan, and the Van Ryn Gold Mines has tendered for the 651 claims on Modderfontein, situated between the

existing Modder, B and Cloverfield mines. It is also reported that the Central Mining interests have tendered for the latter, with the object of amalgamating it with the Rand Klip and Cloverfield mines. But some time is expected to elapse before the result of the tenders is announced. Central Minings have, on dividend hopes, risen $\frac{1}{2}$ to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$, Gold Fields, in view of new interests in the Far Eastern area, have recovered to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$, Modder Leases have improved 1s. 3d. to 52s. 6d., and Modder B's are 3-32 higher at 7 1-32. The C.M.S. group has moved irregularly, and finally downward. Brakpans are $\frac{1}{8}$ lower at 4 $\frac{3}{8}$, C.M.S. ss. at 22s. 3d., and Rand Selections 3-32 lower at 3 $\frac{3}{8}$. Daggafonteins have weakened to 14s. 6d. Among Rhodesians, Shamvas have hardened to 1 $\frac{1}{8}$, but Tanganyikas at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$, Gaikas at 8s. 6d., and Falcons at 15s. are easier. Diamond shares have displayed considerable activity and strength, but the best prices were not held owing to a reaction in Johannesburg. De Beers deferreds have advanced $\frac{1}{2}$ to 13 $\frac{1}{2}$, Jagersfontains $\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 $\frac{3}{8}$, Premier deferreds $\frac{3}{8}$ to 6 $\frac{1}{2}$, and the Prefs. $\frac{1}{2}$ to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$. In the West African group, Abossoos and Taquahs were affected by the reports, but Ashanti Goldfields advanced 9d. to 18s. 3d. on the dividend.

COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Copper shares have advanced in response to a rise of £5 $\frac{1}{2}$ per ton in the price of the metal. Utahs have spurted 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ on American buying, and Mount Elliots 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 $\frac{1}{2}$, partly on French buying. Hampdens at 36s. 9d., however, are lower, and Mount Lyells have fallen 2s. to 26s. 6d. on the reference in the report to the excess profits tax in the Commonwealth. Tin shares show a general advance on the rise in the metal. Dolcoaths have been prominently active, and are 2s. higher at 11s. 6d., while Bisichis have similarly risen to 12s. 6d. Ipohs at 27-32, Malayan Tin Dredgings at 2 $\frac{1}{8}$, Roppas at 18s. 9d., and Mongus at 10s. are all higher, while Nigerian Tin Corps. have now passed the pre-war making-up level of 10s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Broken Hill shares have hardened owing to the rise in silver. Sulphides have been bought in anticipation of a good report, and are 1s. 3d. higher at 27s.

The Russian group has been a little steadier. Burma Corporations have declined $\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 $\frac{3}{8}$. Of the American issues, Frontinos have risen 9d. to 12s. 3d., and Nechi prefs. at 12s. ex dividend are a trifle harder. An official circular sent out with the second half-crown return of capital on Nechi preference 10s. shares states that the whole 7s. 6d. could have been paid, as foreshadowed some time ago, but the directors have been advised to keep funds in hand to meet possible excess profits tax demands. In the Westralian market the tone has been dull, owing to the serious situation created by the coal strike. Oroya Links were offered for sale at 9d. per share on the news of the shutting down of the mine.

MINING NEWS.

TRANSVAAL GOLD OUTPUT.—The production last month was £3,365,642, a decrease of £22,480 on October last year. The total is the largest since March, and the second largest this year. Production should tend to increase as more labour becomes available. The following table shows the monthly production since January, 1911:—

Month.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
January	2,765,386	3,130,830	3,353,116	2,708,470	3,037,058	3,344,948
February	2,594,634	2,989,832	3,118,325	2,660,186	2,872,406	3,201,063
March	2,871,740	3,528,688	3,358,050	2,917,346	3,202,514	3,384,121
April	2,836,267	3,133,383	3,334,358	2,904,924	3,160,651	3,205,643
May	2,913,734	3,311,794	3,373,998	3,059,340	3,243,347	3,303,177
June	2,907,854	3,202,517	3,173,382	3,049,558	3,208,224	3,235,777
July	3,012,738	3,255,198	2,783,917	3,111,398	3,272,258	3,232,891
August	3,030,360	3,248,195	3,092,754	3,024,037	3,307,975	3,318,116
September	2,976,065	3,176,846	2,999,686	2,982,630	3,299,493	3,277,468
October	3,010,130	3,265,150	3,051,701	3,116,754	3,388,122	3,365,642
November	3,057,213	3,216,965	2,860,788	3,040,677	3,317,534	—
December	3,015,499	3,297,962	2,857,938	2,952,755	3,317,949	—
Total.	34,991,620	38,757,560	37,358,040	35,588,075	38,627,461	32,868,976

NATIVE LABOUR RETURNS—These returns show a further increase, amounting to 2,095, which compares with an increase of 5,156 in September. There was an increase of 1,596 at the gold mines, and at the diamond mines there was a decrease, the first this year, of 169:—

Month.	Natives on Gold mines.	Natives on Coal mines.	Natives on Diamond mines.	Total natives.
October 1915	210,017	9,513	—	219,530
November	210,068	9,432	—	219,500
December	209,438	9,309	132	218,879
January, 1916	209,835	9,225	802	219,865
February	209,426	9,468	970	219,864
March	203,575	9,588	917	214,080
April	199,936	9,847	938	210,701
May	194,765	9,811	1,459	206,035
June	192,809	9,859	2,105	204,773
July	192,130	9,932	3,339	205,401
August	194,112	10,086	5,146	209,344
September	197,734	10,239	6,527	214,500
October	199,330	10,907	6,358	216,595

ABOSSO GOLD.—The accounts for the year ended June 30 show a credit of £25,024, as compared with £23,921. A dividend of 1s. per share is again paid, but the carry forward is reduced from £50,623 to £35,646. Production was almost equal to that of the preceding year, the total value being £182,223, against £182,152, but the yield declined from 33s. 11d. per ton crushed to 31s. 8d. per ton. At the same time, costs, owing partly to the larger tonnage treated, declined by 2s. 2d. per ton to 25s. 7d. per ton, with the result that the profit per ton was only a shade lower than in 1914-15. Reserves of ore are estimated at 237,820 tons, of an average mill-head value of 32s. 6d. per ton over a stoping width of 73 inches. These figures show a decrease of 32,880 tons in quantity, and a further diminution in value amounting to 9d. per ton.

TAQUAH.—After making provision for depreciation and shaft redemption, the profit amounts to £68,445, an increase of £7,132. The dividend is raised from 15 per cent. to 20 per cent., but the balance carried forward is reduced from £45,871 to £36,820. Gold to the value of £202,059 was recovered from the crushing of 68,012 tons of ore, which figures compare with £207,687 and 69,509 tons respectively. The yield per ton was again lower, 59s. 5d. per ton against 59s. 9d. in 1914-15. Costs at the same time rose by 2d. per ton to 34s. 3d. per ton. Reserves of ore have increased by 12,496 tons to 209,299 tons, but the average value has declined by 4s. to 56s. 9d. per ton.

MOUNT LYELL.—This copper mining company earned a profit of £128,400 in the half-year ended September 30, against £110,599 in the preceding six months. Under present conditions, the directors say they cannot regard the whole of this profit as available for distribution. The position regarding taxation is quite indefinite, and the total amount payable may be higher or lower than the provision made, which is based on a war-time profits tax of 50 per cent. As the Government proposal is to take all excess profits after June 30, a further deduction from net profits may have to be made, but the directors hope that the proposal will be modified. A dividend of 1s. 3d. per share, less tax, is proposed, the same as last year.

BROKEN HILL BLOCK TEN.—Operations in the half-year ended September 30 resulted in a net profit of £13,853, as against a net loss of £155 in the preceding six months. Before arriving at the profit, £4,992 was written off for depreciation. After deducting £5,000 for the dividend paid during the half-year, and £11,200 for option expenditure, there remains a balance at the credit of profit and loss account of £55,340. Liquid assets exceed liabilities by £63,239. The Misima option has been exercised. Amalgamation of all interests in the island has been agreed to. A new company will be formed with a capital of £200,000, in £1 shares. The Block Ten Company will take 69,666 fully-paid shares, and will contribute £30,000 of working capital. Fifty thousand will be held in reserve, and the balance will be allotted to the vendors. The new company will take over the properties as from June 8 last.

MALAYAN TIN DREDGING.—After deducting £15,247 in respect of depreciation against £5,953 last year, the profits for the year ended June 30 amounted to £43,020, against £12,002. The dividend is raised from 5 per cent. to 20 per cent., less tax, and in view of the company's heavy liability for excess profits duty, the carry forward is increased from £7,087 to £29,348. The total quantity of tin ore produced was 1,020½ tons, as compared with 503½ tons, which realised £105,895, against £44,989, or an average of £103 14s. 10d. per ton, against £89 6s. 9d. per ton.

HORDEN COLLIERIES.—A rather larger output of coal was obtained in the year ended September 30, but the greater portion was sold at prices limited by the Government, and the sales at the high figures otherwise obtainable affected the average to a limited extent only. The past year was the first complete annual period that the by-product ovens at Shotton were in operation, and the directors say that they have materially increased the profits. After providing for depreciation, income-tax, and contingencies, the net profits showed a substantial recovery of £97,375 to £183,505, and, with £44,437 brought in, gave £227,942, or £94,130 available. Of this £30,000, as against £10,000, is transferred to reserve, and the dividend is raised from 7 per cent. to 12½ per cent., leaving £21,165 more at £65,602 to be carried forward.

MIDDLEBURG STEAM COAL.—Production of coal in the year ended June 30 increased by 25,490 tons to 297,224 tons, and the profits rose by £912 to £17,333. A further £2,500 is placed to investment reserve, the dividend is maintained at 7½ per cent., and £2,502, against £4,390, is carried forward. Provision has been made for depreciation, but the amount is not mentioned. Costs of production increased considerably.

LANKA PLANTATIONS.—An increase of 102,418 lbs. to 1,343,899 lbs. was obtained in the tea crop for the year ended June 30, but owing to heavier freight and insurance charges, the net price was 50d. smaller at 8.80d. The rubber output also was 33,761 lbs. larger at 87,441 lbs., and realised 8½d. more, at 2s. 8½d., but the cocoa crop fell off by 36 cwts. to 654 cwts. Net profits, including £2,027 more at £5,455 brought in, were £4,616 up at £25,719, out of which £3,326 has been paid for excess profits duty for 1914-15, and the dividend of 7½ per cent. on the ordinary shares is repeated, together with the appropriation of £2,500 to reserve, leaving £7,223, or £1,768 more, to be carried forward. The crops for the current year are estimated at 1,305,000 lbs. tea and 105,000 lbs. rubber.

Insurance News.

Participating policyholders in the Norwich Union Life Insurance Society will no doubt be disappointed at not being allotted bonuses this year, in view of the fact that a substantial surplus is disclosed in the quinquennial valuation as at June 30. Provision is made for interim bonuses on policies which become claims by death or maturity before the next valuation. This provision allows for payment of interim bonuses retrospectively from 1911 on the basis of 80 per cent. of the yearly bonus then added. The surplus disclosed, after allowing the large sum of £617,707 for depreciation, and £188,325 caused by the extra strain through war claims, was £612,552, which compares with a surplus of £727,153 as at June 30, 1911 (when the volume of business done was smaller), and when £627,504 was distributed. Of the present surplus, £90,830 is required for interim bonuses, £138,147 is applied to strengthening to a full net premium 2½ per cent. reserve, the basis of valuation which at 1911 fell slightly short of that standard, and to the adoption for annuity business of the British Offices Experience table in place of the Government 1883 table, which hitherto has been used. The remaining balance of £383,575 is retained as a floating war contingency fund. No fault can be found with the very excellent reasons advanced by the actuaries for not in any way weakening the reserves at the present time, and the very large amount carried forward will prove a welcome provision for the uncertainties of the immediate future. The directors emphasise two points: the significance from a post-war standpoint of the figures involved on the basis of strictly normal conditions; and the impregnable strength of the society, as against all war contingencies, implied in the adherence at such a juncture to a net premium basis of valuation on the assumption of an earned net interest rate of only 2½ per cent., coupled with extra reserves to the extent of £383,575. The actuaries remark in their valuation report that they feel the directors might be well advised not to decide now that the next valuation shall be deferred for a full quinquennial period.

One of the most important of the Russian insurance companies, the Jakor Insurance Co. of Moscow, has decided to open a marine office in London, and the underwriter appointed is Mr. W. J. Fox, who was for some years deputy-underwriter to the Standard Marine Insurance Co. The balance-sheet of the Jakor Co., made up at the close of last year, disclosed a strong position, the total assets amounting to nearly 32 millions of roubles. The company transacts fire, marine, life, and accident business.

According to the *Post Magazine*, the price offered by the City Life Assurance Co. for the shares of the North and South Insurance Corporation, which are of the denomination of £1, with 13s. 9d. a share credited as paid up, is 2s. a share in cash. The acceptance of the offer made will safeguard the shareholders of the North and South Co. at a time when it appears to be a practical certainty further calls are pending.

MANCHESTER AND COUNTY BANK.—The Hon. Marshall Jones Brooks, J.P., of Sunnyside House, Rawtenstall, has accepted a seat on the board in place of the late Sir George Pilkington.

AUSTRALIAN MUTUAL PROVIDENT

Estd. SOCIETY. 1849.

The Largest Mutual Life Office in the Empire.

Funds, £35,000,000.

Annual Income £4,500,000.

MODERATE PREMIUMS.

LIBERAL CONDITIONS.

WORLD-WIDE POLICIES.

Every Year a Bonus Year. Whole-life Policies, 20 years in force, show average increase of the sum assured by Bonus exceeding 50 per cent.

ENDOWMENT ASSURANCE RESULTS ALSO UNSURPASSED.

37, Threadneedle Street, London, E.C.

OCTOBER RUBBER OUTPUTS.

Company.	Current Estimate.	Last All-in Cost.	October. lbs.	(+) or (-) lbs.	Months.	Aggregate lbs.	(+) or (-) lbs.
Aboyné Clyde	392,629	1/0.50	37,113	—	433	136,926	+ 4,419
Allagar	312,000	1/2.05	30,600	+ 5,600	10	233,300	+ 14,700
Alliance	163,716	—	17,476	—	2,300	113,690	— 3,291
Alor Pongsu	270,000	1/0.86	22,171	+ 1,305	10	209,391	+ 32,499
Ampat	130,000	1/3.30	15,340	+ 4,920	12	155,530	+ 67,250
Anglo-Java	1,697,000	—	147,300	+ 87,400	1	1,352,020	+ 795,980
Anglo-Johore	270,000	1/4.20	23,337	+ 789	7	145,868	+ 7,598
Anglo-Malay	1,600,000	1/1	156,443	+ 4,638	10	1,425,690	+ 198,412
Anglo-Sum.	880,000	1/0.1	80,024	+ 13,402	5	394,218	+ 69,593
Asahan	257,353	1/4.13	38,511	+ 18,043	3	102,936	+ 38,671
As. T. Ceylon.	235,000	1/1.55	20,855	+ 1,925	4	71,029	+ 8,945
Ayer Kuning	595,000	1/2.98	76,450	+ 28,450	10	558,970	+ 231,432
Bagan Serai	348,550	1/0.28	35,000	+ 7,031	10	281,726	+ 64,703
Bah Lias	—	—	12,125	+ 1,154	12	101,903	+ 35,924
Bajoe Kidol.	110,000	1/0.12	21,000	+ 12,395	7	109,566	+ 40,367
Bakap	375,000	—	25,800	— 938	4	106,000	+ 7,189
Bakramkelly	260,000	1/1.43	22,663	+ 1,233	7	117,764	+ 16,271
Bandar Sum.	200,500	1/8.45	32,155	+ 8,507	3	93,910	+ 27,112
Bandarjari	213,000	—	21,370	+ 9,770	10	199,230	+ 73,737
Bandarapala	300,000	—	24,000	— 3,000	10	155,870	+ 43,000
Bantam	220,000	1/7	23,020	+ 8,020	4	76,960	+ 13,660
Banteng	495,000	1/1.80	—	—	2	128,263	—
Batak Kabit.	341,000	1/1.1	32,670	+ 4,480	6	181,280	+ 49,680
Batak Mal.	292,000	1/1.99	26,500	+ 4,340	4	110,500	+ 29,225
Batu Caves	300,000	1/2.60	31,223	+ 10,635	10	230,983	+ 63,667
Matang	600,000	1/9.13	68,593	+ 7,409	10	547,688	+ 46,388
Rata	160,000	—	13,997	+ 1,760	4	52,007	+ 5,957
Tiga	420,000	1/1.50	44,000	+ 10,000	4	156,830	+ 32,790
Be'ur'ri'no	775,000	1/0.39	65,000	+ 10,000	10	613,164	+ 75,490
Bekoh	231,500	1/5.75	20,500	—	6	120,000	—
Bentota	420,000	1/21	33,000	+ 8,074	4	131,800	+ 28,719
Berangang	210,000	1/0.33	16,082	+ 2,487	10	166,650	+ 34,445
Bernam-Perk	280,000	1/7.95	25,071	+ 6,427	4	99,470	+ 34,694
Bidor	260,000	1/2.86	22,600	+ 2,400	4	90,200	+ 17,000
Bikan	—	1/1.83	33,800	+ 800	7	232,450	+ 22,450
Bode	310,000	1/4.24	33,000	+ 6,690	10	325,650	+ 102,423
Bradwall	400,000	1/6.98	20,100	+ 9,340	10	155,604	+ 73,544
Brasstown	360,000	1/5.08	47,929	+ 7,810	10	326,160	+ 95,704
Brit Born Para	260,000	1/1.10	34,200	+ 3,700	1	34,200	+ 3,700
British Malay	280,000	1/1	23,800	+ 2,300	6	131,250	+ 14,250
Brooklands	570,000	1/1.47	36,200	+ 27,200	10	218,266	+ 172,447
Broome	350,000	1/4.57	34,726	+ 3,053	4	172,332	+ 56,910
Bukit Cloh	290,000	1/1.82	32,702	+ 11,182	4	131,695	+ 51,818
Ilok	280,000	1/0.39	25,000	+ 1,500	10	198,500	+ 17,000
Kajang	800,000	1/0.74	25,000	+ 4,000	10	253,500	+ 65,500
Lintang	300,000	1/1.12	80,000	+ 16,840	4	324,850	+ 81,900
Mertim	780,000	1/1.08	25,960	+ 960	4	101,100	+ 5,770
Pani'ng	455,000	1/0.7	63,660	+ 10,955	7	417,737	+ 96,725
Rajah	877,000	1/1.83	43,600	+ 1,600	10	398,600	+ 93,840
Semba	85,000	1/0.77	93,189	+ 21,528	7	569,484	+ 156,745
Carey United	283,000	—	68,000	+ 18,000	10	581,693	+ 152,982
Castlefield	555,000	—	27,196	+ 7,879	1	27,196	+ 7,879
Cent. Trav.	240,000	1/3.08	45,852	+ 3,302	4	183,479	+ 17,386
Ceylon Para	682,031	1/4.23	39,495	+ 1,630	10	162,648	+ 30,863
Ceylon T. & R.	260,000	1/3.92	89,495	+ 5,073	10	652,575	+ 121,902
Changkat-Sal.	630,000	1/1.32	20,372	+ 1,628	10	177,777	+ 101
Chamb Malay	585,000	1/1.39	70,000	+ 3,300	10	618,000	+ 213,000
Cheras	170,000	1/6.62	40,252	+ 3,872	10	331,935	+ 61,172
Chersonese	720,000	1/13.44	60,716	+ 9,500	10	139,200	+ 66,949
Cheviot	370,000	1/3.48	40,747	+ 5,625	10	558,467	+ 29,326
Chimpul	150,000	1/1.75	22,834	+ 14,690	10	292,610	+ 8,960
Chota	190,000	1/2.34	28,534	+ 8,327	7	109,195	+ 32,409
Cicely	345,000	1/1.08	29,140	+ 2,318	7	173,199	+ 48,320
Cluny	225,000	1/3.01	18,679	+ 2,379	7	205,504	+ 18,770
Cons. Malay	800,000	1/1.93	87,320	+ 13,822	10	681,897	+ 82,479
Dalketh	400,000	1/0.79	36,400	+ 3,400	10	282,200	+ 43,897
Damansara	650,000	1/1.95	67,872	+ 5,763	10	637,719	+ 127,865
Dangan	225,000	1/2	18,211	+ 592	4	75,801	+ 4,935
Dennistoun	580,500	1/1.1	52,300	+ 616	10	473,765	+ 67,516
Devitural	320,000	1/0.27	16,601	+ 2,172	10	220,251	+ 4,332
Dimbula	340,000	1/0.36	31,700	+ 700	10	254,332	+ 10,744
Djasinga	242,120	1/4.51	22,000	+ 11,646	4	99,710	+ 59,085
Djember	160,000	—	17,400	+ 9,700	10	133,300	+ 73,900
Dorankande	210,000	1/2.30	18,100	+ 8,38	10	133,142	+ 2,108
Duff Develop.	400,400	1/7.40	55,274	+ 12,274	10	499,274	+ 215,274
Dusun Durian	520,000	1/1.47	68,254	+ 30,938	10	586,075	+ 283,203
E. Ind. & Cey.	175,540	1/3.36	14,276	+ 1,394	10	132,306	+ 8,312
Edinburgh	327,000	1/9.71	41,000	+ 11,000	10	344,000	+ 101,500
Elphal	170,000	1/8.21	16,259	+ 3,741	10	146,174	+ 54,304
Emerald	320,000	1/2	36,500	+ 14,000	9	252,200	+ 96,800
Eow Seng	170,000	1/1.20	14,350	+ 1,510	10	128,458	+ 5,630
Escot	180,000	1/2.32	16,620	+ 620	1	16,620	+ 620
Fed. Malay S.	1,538,982	1/9.50	149,000	+ 13,000	5	786,000	+ 167,468
Fed. Selangor	345,000	1/0.01	31,194	+ 113	7	203,994	+ 19,337
Galaha	103,144	—	11,640	+ 412	10	85,150	+ 8,542
Galang Besar	388,730	1/8.24	39,150	+ 3,070	4	143,150	+ 13,170
Kan Kee	135,100	1/5.37	14,247	+ 3,870	4	56,537	+ 12,601
Garing	150,000	1/3.49	14,300	+ 1,050	1	14,300	+ 1,050
Gedong	184,000	1/0.68	16,896	+ 3,152	12	163,650	+ 68,544
Gen. Ceylon	835,000	1/0.10	81,020	+ 4,494	10	657,800	+ 91,159
Glen Bervie	220,000	1/2.57	20,058	+ 1,355	1	20,058	+ 1,355
Glendon	240,000	1/1.96	22,113	+ 457	1	22,113	+ 457
Glenshiel	295,600	1/3.06	34,652	+ 13,382	10	299,102	+ 122,653
Goldconda	498,000	1/1.86	25,017	+ 8,245	10	477,430	+ 97,995
Golden Hope	225,000	1/2.04	25,216	+ 7,254	10	211,235	+ 49,204
Grand Cent.	4,000,000	1/0.72	394,317	+ 11,370	3	1,337,953	+ 461,205
Gula Kal'p'g.	1,269,000	1/1.1	114,329	+ 6,912	10	947,211	+ 107,744
Harpender	432,000	1/1.23	49,000	+ 11,500	10	425,610	+ 94,225
Harjoep	451,000	1/4.59	43,991	+ 7,107	10	404,401	+ 126,711
Heawood	200,000	1/2.80	19,697	+ 5,797	10	160,366	+ 15,334
Heuwag	650,000	1/2.80	59,500	+ 7,000	10	460,200	+ 49,100
Hid. Streams	190,000	—	22,965	+ 4,465	10	192,138	+ 17,688
Highlands	1,233,000	1/11.22	120,756	+ 4,651	10	1,073,613	+ 114,786
Inch-Kenneth	354,000	1/3.41	36,500	+ 14,050	5	176,420	+ 68,020
Insulind	175,140	1/8.92	20,100	+ 8,200	4	77,860	+ 29,710
Java Amal.	480,000	—	50,300	+ 27,800	10	422,870	+ 158,400
Java R. & Prod	240,000	—	24,100	+ 13,100	10	242,433	+ 158,400
Java Para	250,000	1/1.20	27,700	+ 15,510	10	209,559	+ 92,665
Jeram	—	—	24,095	+ 2,554	7	148,543	+ 22,736
Johore Para.	167,100	1/1.80	16,600	+ 3,900	4	59,932	+ 5,832
Rub. Id.	1,046,000	1/0.6	96,605	+ 47,307	10	677,137	+ 353,605
Jong Lander	650,000	—	56,796	+ 13,361	4	226,336	+ 68,684
Jugra Estate	350,000	1/0.60	30,333	+ 468	7	206,066	+ 27,797
Jugra Land	1,090,000	1/1.35	103,917	+ 17,938	6	533,207	+ 162,895
Kalag	160,000	1/1.95	28,000	+ 18,750	10	203,825	+ 133,375
Kali Glagah	200,000	—	18,800	+ 11,600	7	102,100	+ 42,749
Kamp Kua'n	350,000	1/0.93	30,000	—	10	287,700	+ 25,700
Kamuning	810,000	1/1.49	80,270	+ 12,590	4	295,980	+ 36,570
Kaper Para	762,800	1/0.62	74,130	+ 19,886	10	644,483	+ 220,160
Karak	138,201	2/1.88	18,140	+ 3,888	10	162,072	+ 50,160
Kasintoe	200,000	—	21,000	+ 15,233	10	202,426	+ 152,188
Kawie Java	450,000	—	33,000	+ 10,800	7	251,100	+ 67,980
Kepitigalla	391,000	1/4	58,424	+ 141	7	349,844	+ 51,931
Kepong	300,000	1/9.53	25,000	+ 1,500	10	240,000	+ 22,000
Kerala	215,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
Khota Tampn	200,000	1/3.30	18,700	+ 2,400	9	130,600	+ 29,000
Killinghall	220,879	1/2.12	22,993	+ 5,782	4	96,969	+ 22,647
Kinamin	263,000	2/1.39	34,000	+ 17,720	10	206,300	+ 120,450
Kinta Kellas	445,000	1/2.81	42,794	+ 11,694	7	278,688	+ 108,888
Klabang	220,000	1/4.15	19,807	+ 3,416	10	177,708	+ 39,789
Klangang	—	1/0.91	34,778	+ 18,718	10	347,913	+ 38,230
Kombok	419,000	1/1.59	48,850	+ 5,390	10	430,340	+ 155,056
Kuala Klang	175,000	1/1.57	18,549	+ 756	1	18,549	+ 756
Kubn.	150,000	—	11,722	+ 1,183	4	48,966	+ 8,524
Lumpur	1,600,000	1/0.64	126,720	+ 2,295	4	537,570	+ 42,195
Nal	210,000	1/2.36	20,500	+ 8,650	10	156,300	+ 60,627
Pah	160,000	—	18,113	+ 7,652	10	133,106	+ 51,313
Selangor	600,000	1/9.2	52,418	+ 4,584	10	519,037	+ 63,230
Kurau							

Tanj. Malim	1,100,000	1/2.97	99,000	+ 36,145	4	351,450	+ 115,558
Tandjong	1,455,000	1/0.59	117,893	+ 19,008	11	472,074	+ 105,926
Tangoel	290,000	1/5.67	21,450	+ 13,031	11	26,087	+ 47,596
Tebrau	933,041	1/1.95	99,150	+ 27,100	4	369,692	+ 83,743
Tekong	222,170	1/5	28,286	+ 3,195	3	76,936	+ 19,069
Telagoredjo	237,000	—	39,000	+ 33,627	10	284,568	+ 239,152
Tenomb'neio	530,000	1/11.93	56,500	+ 15,800	10	467,650	+ 104,845
Third Mile	425,000	1/10.30	31,356	+ 10,189	10	352,781	+ 85,060
Tremelbye	350,000	1/10.80	50,000	+ 3,000	4	235,000	+ 40,850
Trolak	225,000	1/3	26,460	+ 8,985	11	26,460	+ 8,985
Ulu Rantau	227,648	1/2.49	29,374	+ 5,632	10	211,143	+ 27,909
U. Sua Betong	800,000	1/2.77	84,921	+ 37,030	10	626,912	+ 304,402
U. Serdang	2,913,800	1/11.79	279,339	+ 25,163	2	551,595	+ 57,645
U. Sumatra	800,000	1/0.7	79,340	+ 10,250	10	666,710	+ 146,000
U. Temiang	387,830	1/3.28	50,740	+ 24,360	3	143,520	+ 58,030
Uva	154,450	—	16,551	+ 2,900	10	154,471	+ 26,126
Val d'Or	250,000	1/3	29,800	+ 8,300	12	292,431	+ 119,999
Victoria	164,000	1/5.28	13,800	+ 9,436	4	48,340	+ 36,761
Windsor	253,000	1/4.21	26,400	+ 10,287	10	214,260	+ 98,999
Woodend	180,000	—	18,900	+ 1,853	10	135,148	+ 24,688
Yam Seng	300,000	1/2.75	32,513	+ 2,476	12	355,102	+ 103,496
Yatiantota	—	—	41,379	+ 8,514	10	315,538	+ 21,243

a Last year's crop.

* For September.

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down	Nov. 10	£ 3,477	+ £ 671	+	168,161	+ 7,096
Grand Canal	" 10	1,041	+ 55	+	20,137	+ 2,214
Great Northern	" 10	23,210	+ 1,210	+	1,086,853	+ 37,303
Gt. Southern and Western	" 10	35,890	+ 3,344	+	1,509,170	+ 8,499
Midland Great Western	" 10	14,051	+ 734	+	594,851	+ 12,240

* From Jan. 1.

† From July 1.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

Assam Bengal	Sep. 30	Rs. 1,46,000	+ Rs. 18,977	+	33,21,793	+ 27,494
Bengal & N.W.	" 30	3,18,800	+ 29,651	+	1,02,77,589	+ 12,84,903
Bengal Nagpur	Oct. 7	8,07,000	+ 1,000	+	2,52,48,195	+ 43,44,287
Bombay, Baroda	Nov. 11	12,99,000	+ 11,000	+	67,44,000	+ 4,20,000
Burma	Sep. 30	4,68,401	+ 2,13,336	+	1,01,58,852	+ 6,41,062
Delhi Umballa	Nov. 11	97,000	+ 34,371	+	4,86,900	+ 75,177
East Indian	" 11	21,35,000	+ 1,23,000	+	1,47,49,000	+ 8,18,000
Gt. Indian Penin.	" 11	18,60,700	+ 2,08,300	+	1,00,10,400	+ 5,95,178
Lucknow-Bareilly	Sep. 30	36,119	+ 7,829	+	11,01,758	+ 1,39,123
Madras & S.	Oct. 7	8,52,000	+ 47,834	+	8,52,000	+ 47,834
Nizam's Gd. (Broad)	" 7	97,985	+ 30,650	+	97,985	+ 30,650
" (Metre)	" 7	50,871	+ 23,855	+	50,871	+ 23,855
Rohilkund and	Sep. 30	34,352	+ 4,983	+	10,59,365	+ 1,52,005
Rumaon	Oct. 7	5,67,709	+ 36,968	+	5,67,709	+ 36,968

a 13 days.

† April 1.

‡ October 1.

COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

Beira	Sep. *	£ 27,898	+ £ 10,848	3	100,689	+ 7,577
Canadian Northern	Nov. *	£ 885,000	+ £ 78,500	+	£ 15,308,100	+ £ 412,100
Canadian Pacific	" 7	£ 3,036,000	+ £ 21,000	+	£ 53,790,000	+ £ 103,600
Gr. Trk. Main Line	" 7	206,334	+ 57,745	+	8,240,681	+ 1,306,568
Gr. Trk. Western	" 7	37,027	+ 3,268	+	1,634,906	+ 313,046
Detroit G. H. & M.	" 7	12,452	+ 1,424	+	579,554	+ 99,744
Gr. Trk. Prairie Sc.	" 7	26,010	+ 15,322	+	359,197	+ 63,669
Mashonaland	Sep. *	54,414	+ 1,436	4	—	—
Mid. of Westn. Aus.	" *	6,464	+ 811	3	17,169	+ 444
New Cape Central	Oct. 14	1,674	+ 28	3	63,855	+ 8,200
Rhodesia	Sep. *	87,187	+ 8,740	4	350,971	+ 27,197

a 9 days.

* Months.

† July 1.

‡ Jan. 1.

c From Oct. 1.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Chesapeake & Ohio	Oct. 31	£ 1,398,000	+ £ 25,000	+	16,587,000	+ 947,000
Chicago G.W.	" 31	434,000	+ 75,000	+	5,694,000	+ 770,000
Colorado & South'n	" 31	—	+ 24,000	+	—	+ 533,000
Denver & Rio Gran.	Nov. 7	569,700	+ 49,300	+	9,947,600	+ 266,900
Louisville & Nashv.	Oct. 31	1,827,000	+ 189,000	+	21,882,000	+ 2,882,000
Minn. S.P. (Soo)	" 21	726,000	+ 22,000	+	11,474,000	+ 1,135,000
Missouri Kansas	" 31	1,226,000	+ 205,000	+	13,537,000	+ 2,783,000
Southern	" 31	2,340,000	+ 363,000	+	25,491,000	+ 3,016,000

§ Includes Wisconsin Central.

† From July 1.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—HOME.

Bristol	Nov. 10	£ 10,124	+ £ 406	+	455,882	+ 23,943
Dublin United	" 10	6,040	+ 160	+	274,583	+ 346
Hastings and Dist.	" 10	829	+ 31	+	47,759	+ 3,056
Isle of Thanet	" 11	279	+ 31	+	1,789	+ —
Lancashire United	" 8	1,815	+ 219	+	82,888	+ 4,450
Provincial	" 11	1,086	+ 32	+	13,071	+ 391
Yorks. (Wst. Rng.)	" 12	1,835	+ 383	+	13,268	+ 8,347

* From Oct. 1.

† From Jan. 1.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.

Anglo-Argentine	Nov. 11	£ 53,460	+ £ 631	Ms.	£ 2,296,123	+ £ 2,739
Auckland Electric	" 20	21,428	+ 597	+	84,286	+ 1,160
Brazilian Traction	Sep. 1	£ 6,929,000	+ £ 426	g	£ 61,249,000	+ £ 379,190
Brisbane Elec. Inv.	Oct. 1	34,700	+ 850	+	330,420	+ 23,460
British Columbia	Sep. 1	£ 540,440	+ £ 23,413	3	£ 1,029,020	+ £ 94,155
B.A. Lacroze	Oct. 1	39,750	+ 2,846	4	151,613	+ 13,184
Burmah Electric	Sept 16	Rs. 23,749	+ Rs. 1,586	+	Rs. 28,89,862	+ Rs. 859
Calcutta	Nov. 11	Rs. 79,193	+ Rs. 9,386	+	—	+ 156,333
Cordoba Light	" 11	—	—	—	—	—
P. & T.	Sep. 1	13,389	+ 179	5	84,554	+ 648
Hongkong	Oct. 7	£ 14,443	+ £ 2,154	+	£ 583,912	+ £ 142,590
La Plata	Oct. 9	4,435	+ 30	10	42,057	+ 226
Lima	Sept. 1	33,488	+ 2,818	9	304,050	+ 288,281
Madras Electric	Oct. 31	Rs. 31,819	+ Rs. 526	+	Rs. 60,33,910	+ Rs. 45,037
Mexico	Nov. 1	£ 235,250	+ £ 108,669	+	£ 3,193,106	+ £ 197,227
Rangoon	Oct. 1	5,043	+ 157	+	41,522	+ 1,844
Singapore Electric	Sept. 23	£ 12,404	+ £ 841	+	£ 477,374	+ £ 49,858
Toronto	Sep. 1	£ 460,556	+ £ 10,649	5	£ 3,918,111	+ £ 402,548
United of Monte V.	Sep. 1	28,729	+ 1,545	12	347,772	+ 17,171
Vera Cruz	May 1	£ 85,200	+ £ 35,400	6	£ 372,600	+ £ 178,200
Winnipeg	Sept. 1	£ 87,853	+ £ 11,127	+	£ 678,883	+ £ 32,283

b 28 days. * From Jan. 1. § Nett. a From July 1. c Two weeks.

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.		GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			Wks.	GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
		Week ending	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.		Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	
Alcoy and Gandia ..	Nov. 11	£	Ps. 14,500	—	Ps. 1,500	£	Ps. 567,800	+ Ps. 32,600
Antofagasta (Chili) ..	" 12		40,210	+	8,800	+	1,555,745	+ 455,195
Arauco ..	Sept. 1		10,500	+	3,300	+	173,238	+ 27,716
Argentine N.E. ..	Nov. 11		6,700	+	221	+	128,502	+ 4,084
Bilbao R. and Canta ..	Oct. *		5,337	—	558	10	46,807	— 3,541
Bolivar ..	" *		6,750	—	1,574	10	30,250	— 358
Brazil ..	Sept. *	M	3,863,000	—	M365,734	M	3,202,000	+ M268,942
Brazil Gt. Southern ..	July *	Mis.	31,130	+	M1,330	+	M245,820	+ M6,970
B. Ayres & Pacific ..	Nov. 11		84,000	+	11,000	+	1,602,000	+ 65,000
Do. Central ..	Oct. 1		27,415	—	202	4	1,02,558	— 3,631
Do. Gt. South'n ..	Nov. 12		111,000	+	3,000	+	1,917,254	+ 223,346
Do. Western ..	" 12		52,000	—	1,000	—	998,000	+ 123,000
Central Argentine ..	" 11		114,000	+	1,800	+	2,143,900	+ 49,600
C. Ur'g'ay of Mts V. ..	" 11		14,220	+	399	+	223,935	+ 5,637
Do. East'n Ex. ..	" 11		4,947	+	644	+	74,862	+ 5,460
Do. North'n Ex. ..	" 11		2,293	—	241	—	35,589	— 368
Do. West'n Ex. ..	" 11		2,220	—	522	—	33,383	— 41
Colombian National ..	Oct. *		12,400	+	2,200	10	115,850	+ 11,608
Cordoba Central ..	Nov. 11		28,400	+	3,040	+	1,590,771	+ 7,045
Costa Rica ..	Oct. 7		4,517	—	357	7	73,536	+ 4,297
Cuban Central ..	Nov. 11		7,977	—	101	+	175,939	+ 24,387
Dorada Extension ..	Oct. *		9,800	+	2,700	+	82,300	+ 4,500
Egyptian Delta ..	" 202		8,233	+	2,359	+	106,154	+ 18,995
Entre Rios ..	Nov. 11		9,900	+	100	+	224,200	+ 39,500
French Santa Fé ..	Sept. 1		99,264	—	21,521	9	818,311	+ 133,999
Gt. South. of Spain ..	Nov. 4	Ps.	66,867	—	Ps. 6,533	+	Ps. 3,328,093	+ Ps. 704,006
Gt. West. of Brazil ..	" 11		18,700	+	6,200	+	452,500	+ 18,400
Havana Central ..	" 11		6,294	—	510	—	118,953	+ 13,330
Inter. of C. Amer. ..	Oct. *		33,082	—	5,424	+	479,670	+ 78,953
La Gualra and Car. ..	" *		6,500	—	250	—	78,250	+ 10,500
Leopoldina ..	Nov. 11		29,706	—	2,050	+	1,122,380	+ 218,882
Manila (N. & Sth.) ..	" 11		8,878	—	2,003	+	417,213	+ 22,656
Midland Uruguay ..	Oct. 1		14,043	—	4,557	4	44,639	+ 2,133
Mogiana ..	Sept. 1	M	2,300,000	—	M131,436	M	1,666,000	+ M174,162
N.W. of Uruguay ..	Oct. *		26,000	—	4,676	3	592,536	+ 81,345
Nitrate ..	" 31b		29,800	—	10,955	+	559,218	+ 27,549
Paraguay Central ..	Nov. 11		3,480	—	950	+	48,580	+ 3,910
Paulista ..	Sept. *	M	3,500,000	—	M393,404	M	2,275,000	+ M175,742
Peruvian Corp'n ..	Oct. *	S	945,590	—	S138,690	4	S3,588,830	+ S482,773
Salvador ..	Nov. 11		21,400	—	8,500	+	376,105	+ 29,200
S. Paulo (Brazilian) ..	" 5		26,827	—	4,944	+	1,430,329	+ 89,878
Sorocabana ..	Sept. *	M	1,856,000	—	M137,883	M	1,336,000	+ M91,634
Taital ..	Oct. *		22,395	—	4,687	4	78,660	+ 13,206
United of Havana ..	Nov. 11		33,374	—	6,602	+	585,610	+ 105,392
West'n of Havana ..	" 11		5,333	—	460	+	110,513	+ 16,355
Zafra and Huéla ..	Oct. *		12,003	+	657	10	116,211	+ 31,892

C. M. & G.

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Apply to A. D. BESANT (General Manager),
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SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

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PHENIX ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1782.

Head Office: PHENIX HOUSE, KING WILLIAM STREET, LONDON, E.C.

Total Assets Exceed £16,000,000.

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Incorporated A.D. 1720.

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The Investors' Review.

Money and Credit Notes.

BANK RATE 6 PER CENT. (Increased from 5 per cent. on Thursday, July 13.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

Throughout the week money has been wanted, and the supply has been barely sufficient for current necessities, consequently both call and notice loans have generally commanded 5 per cent. A slight easing off took place yesterday, but it was not sufficient to alter quotations, except towards the close, when lower rates seldom meant anything. The cause of the scarcity is partly to be found in the Bank return, but more in the credit transactions caused by the financing of bills drawn by our Allies. Considerable amounts have this week been raised on Russian bills, and although against this there was a repayment yesterday of £3,500,000 of India yearling bills, the effect of this release of credit on rates was only slight, as we have just stated. Discount rates have been steady all the time, and only the very finest three months' remitted bills could be melted at 5½ per cent. Other quotations are tabulated as usual.

A sentence almost may suffice for the Bank return this week. Liabilities on public and private deposits have increased, the one by £2,141,000, and the other by £3,673,000, or together £5,814,000. On the other side, we have assets augmented by £5,551,000 added

to the other securities held, raising the total to £106,234,000. The reserve is slightly stronger, thanks to the reflux of notes from the active circulation, but the stock of gold is £19,000 down. Its total of £56,476,000 is, however, £2,907,000 larger than at this date last year.

From a White Paper setting forth the position of the National Debt at this time, it is ascertainable that the total of the 4½ per cent. War Loan now outstanding is £899,997,000. About £835,000 of the gross has been cancelled in various ways, no less than £401,000 having been paid off out of the Chinese indemnity, and £103,335 cancelled by utilising the Ceylon war contribution. Also £223,000 has been converted into life annuities. The large total of £900,000,000 includes £587,196,000 of cash subscriptions, £23,864,000 arising from the cancellation of £35,795,000 of Consols held in the Savings Banks, £146,261,000 provided by the conversion of £219,392,000 of Consols, and £5,239,000 the result of the conversion of £8,172,000 of 2½ per cent. annuities. Other smaller sums turned into the loan bring its total up to the figure given. For instance, £50,000,000 of the 3 per cent. Exchequer bonds issued last year have been reduced to £21,660,000 by converting £28,340,000 of them into War Loan stock.

The Yokohama Specie Bank announces the cancellation of a further £500,000 4½ per cent. sterling bonds, half of the first series and half of the second, which have been purchased on behalf of the Japanese Government. With this payment the Government has now paid off altogether £2,500,000 since the beginning of its financial year on April 1.

What a pity it is that the uninformed and scarey sections of the community are so much in evidence. To the Germans, who watch everything that goes on here with that minuteness of incomprehension so characteristic of the Teutonic mind, it must often seem that we are on the eve of being beaten, if not already overthrown. From this point of view the hubbub which has been raised about the branches of German banks in London that are permitted to continue to be open here is a humiliating spectacle. No one in the least familiar with the routine or intricacies of banking business would ever have thought for a moment that Sir William Plender's supervision of the three German bank branches in London was other than faithful and efficient. He is a man too eminent in his profession to have permitted any departure from the one and only course of duty before him. It was left to the restless and morbidly self-vain Lord Northcliffe to think otherwise, and to be ill-bred enough to advertise his ignorance.

"Ah, but there are Germans still employed in these banks living in London," is the shout, and it is a silly, contemptible shout. Mr. McKenna, however,

THE MANCHESTER AND LIVERPOOL DISTRICT BANKING COMPANY

LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1829.

Head Office: Spring Gardens, Manchester.
London Office: 75, Cornhill.

Deposits	-	-	-	-	£30,630,010
Cash, etc., Bills, Investments					20,487,555
Advances	-	-	-	-	13,454,332

30th June, 1916.

Foreign Banking Business transacted.
Bank acts as Trustee or Executor.

continues to be pestered with questions, and even his last perfectly satisfactory replies will not put an end to the clamour. Because these branch banks have been kept open to wind up current accounts, collect moneys due, and effect transfers of securities from enemy owners to non-enemy, to pay debts also to British and neutral creditors, and because time is needed to wind up the intricate mass of engagements open when the war broke out, it does not follow at all, as the carpers assume, that these branches have done any new banking business since they were laid hold of by the Government at the beginning of August, 1914. "The German banks," said Mr. McKenna, "have been closed for business since the outbreak of the war." Why cannot the ignorant and scarey public get that fact into its head and cease to make a fool of itself? That, indeed, would not matter if it did not make a fool also of the Government and the nation.

The same course is being pursued in dealing with the London offices of the Austrian Laenderbank and Anglo-Austrian Bank. It seems that "the Anglo-Austrian Bank has discharged all its liabilities to British, Allied, and neutral creditors. The Oesterreichische Laenderbank, however, is still indebted to British, Allied, and neutral creditors to a considerable amount. Neither bank has discharged its liabilities to the Bank of England." But in the view of our Teuto-phobists the rights of the Bank of England, as of other creditors, do not weigh at all against the fact that "ex" Germans, or twice ex, should be allowed to continue to move about in the City. Really, the nation has not yet fallen to this depth of funk. Germans, though, may perhaps see in its manifestation something of what their reception by the rest of the world will be when the war is over. We fully sympathise with those who say: "No more German banks, no more German traders, no more German scientists in this country when peace comes back."

It is understood that, owing to the disinclination of American bankers to see any further imports of gold into the United States, negotiations are proceeding for arranging for payments to be made for Allied purchases in the form of short-term Treasury notes on behalf of both the British and French Governments. But it is suggested that unless arrangements are made for paying these notes on maturity in longer-dated scrip, the gold problem will only be deferred and not avoided. It is not proposed to cease gold imports altogether, but to restrict them to the needs of the American monetary situation, which bankers are afraid may get out of hand, if the recent enormous inflation of credit is allowed to continue unchecked. The idea was promulgated a very long time ago, but it has only just come into the region of practical politics owing to the protests of American bankers. It is also reported that, in order to encourage American purchases of British securities, the British Government will arrange to guarantee a minimum rate of exchange on redemption. As a further indication of the changing problem of financing our huge purchases in the United States, Mr. Davidson, of Morgan's, recently suggested that the present collateral loans would probably be followed by unsecured issues.

Applications for the Rs. 50,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 5,41,50,000. Of these Rs. 59,000 were allotted in bills, Rs. 3,23,000 in deferred transfers, and Rs. 46,18,000 in immediate transfers. Tenders for bills and deferred transfers at rs. 4 3-32d., and for immediate transfers at rs. 4 1/2d., will receive about 9 per cent. Special sales have also been made of Rs. 12,50,000 in deferred transfers at rs. 4 1/2d., and of Rs. 1,26,00,000 in immediate transfers at rs. 4 5-32d. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is again Rs. 50,00,000. Since April 1 the total sales have been Rs. 18,96,03,944, realising £12,732,218.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, November 15, 1916.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued	£ 72,979,235	Government Debt	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	54,579,235
		Silver Bullion	—
	£72,979,235		£72,979,235

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 42,188,405
Reserve	3,217,091	Other Securities	106,233,903
Public Deposits (including		Notes	30,084,265
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,947,186
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	53,738,394		
Other Deposits	114,924,843		
Seven Day and other Bills	20,431		
	£186,453,759		£186,453,759

Dated Nov. 16, 1916.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year.

Last year. Nov. 17.		Nov. 8, 1916.	Nov. 15, 1916.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,235,272	Rest	3,220,912	3,217,091	—	3,821
50,181,683	Pub. Deposits ..	51,597,052	53,738,394	2,141,342	—
91,676,189	Other do. ..	111,252,003	114,924,843	3,672,840	—
15,694	7 Day Bills ..	20,498	20,431	—	67
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
18,895,068	Gov. Securities.	42,187,741	42,188,405	—	664
101,761,023	Other do. ..	100,682,658	106,233,903	—	5,551,245
39,005,747	Total Reserve ..	37,773,066	38,031,451	—	258,385
				5,814,182	5,814,182
£		£	£	Increase.	Decrease.
33,013,920	Note Circulation	37,172,165	36,894,970	—	277,195
53,569,667	Coin and Bullion	56,525,231	56,476,421	—	48,810
27.5 p.c.	Proportion ..	23.2 p.c.	22.2 p.c.	—	7 p.c.
5 "	Bank Rate ..	6 "	6 "	—	—

CURRENCY NOTES.

Return of Currency Notes for the week ended November 15, 1916.

	Issued.	Cancelled.	Outstanding.
	£	£	£
£1 notes	2,798,528	3,076,160	95,139,178
10s. notes	1,017,776	1,092,069	29,380,792
Note certificates ..	160,000	10,000	14,360,000
Previous total	467,370,759	328,298,474	—
	471,356,673	332,476,703	138,879,970

Ratio of gold held against notes: this week, 22.89 p.c.; last week, 22.82 p.c.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For 7 days ended Nov. 11.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE
	£
Customs	1,665,000
Excise	580,000
Estate, &c., Duties ..	530,000
Stamps	286,000
Land Tax and House Duty.	—
Property and Income Tax ..	312,000
Excess Profits Tax	3,414,000
Land Values	10,000
Post Office	550,000
Crown Lands	—
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	—
Miscellaneous	80,001
Bullion advances repaid ..	70,000
For Treasury Bills	41,067,000
War Loan, 1925-8	—
War Loan, 1925-45	—
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919..	—
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920..	25,000
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1921..	—
6% Exchequer Bonds, 1920..	12,726,000
War Expenditure Certificates	647,500
War Savings Certificates ..	1,000,000
Other Debts created under	—
War Loan Act, 1915	10,000,000
Telegraph Money Act, 1913	—
Under Post Office Rly. Act,	—
1913	—
Under Military Works Acts,	—
1897-1903	—
Under Housing Act	—
Redemption of Exchequer	—
Bonds, 1904	—
Cunard Loan—repayment on	—
account of principal ..	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares..	—
Ways and Means Advances	—
Decrease in Exchequer	—
balances	—
	£72,962,561
	£
National Debt Service ..	—
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	2,395,673
Development & Road Impvt.	—
Payments to Local Taxation	300,000
Other Consolidated Fund	—
Charges	—
Supply Services	33,432,720
Bullion Advances	20,000
For Advance for Interest	—
on Exchequer Bonds under	—
Capital Expenditure	—
(Money) Act, 1904	—
For Treasury Bills	19,291,000
For Exchequer Bonds issued	—
under the War Loan Red-	—
emption Act, 1910	—
Issues under Section 61 of	—
Finance Act, 1916	16,200
Under Telegraph (Money)	—
Act, 1913	10,000
Under Post Office (London)	—
Railway Act, 1913	—
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11..	—
For Redemption of Ex-	—
chequer Bonds, 1904 ..	—
Exchequer Bonds, 1916 ..	—
Cunard Loan repayment issued	—
to reduce debt under	—
the Cunard Agreement ..	—
Deficiency advances repaid	—
Ways and Means Advances	—
repaid	8,966,000
Increase in Exchequer	—
balances	8,620,908
	£72,962,561

SHORT TERM GOVERNMENT LOANS.

	Nett Sales Last Week.	Nett Sales This Week.	Total Outstanding.
Treasury Bills	7,345,000	12,076,000	1,102,829,000
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919 ..	—	—	34,222,000
Do. 1920	969	—	237,805,969
Do. 1921	—	—	62,164,000
6% Exchequer Bonds	12,479,000	12,720,000	89,342,000
War Expenditure Certificates ..	603,500	647,500	27,909,500
War Savings Certificates	1,000,000	1,000,000	34,550,000

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1916.	1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
January	£ 1,071,948,000	£ 918,685,000	£ 153,263,000	—
February	1,107,655,000	960,743,000	146,912,000	—
March	1,364,599,000	1,231,392,000	133,207,000	—
April	1,090,356,000	976,264,000	114,092,000	—
May	1,447,416,000	1,164,194,000	283,222,000	—
June	1,147,630,000	960,209,000	187,421,000	—
July	1,239,193,000	1,316,695,000	—	77,502,000
August	1,364,782,000	1,352,519,000	12,263,000	—
September	1,136,590,000	1,000,008,000	136,582,000	—
October	1,304,880,000	1,090,919,000	213,961,000	—
Nov. 1	315,087,000	273,423,000	41,664,000	—
" 8	312,043,000	269,284,000	42,759,000	—
" 15	322,327,000	262,398,000	59,929,000	—
Total	13,224,506,000	11,776,733,000	1,447,773,000	—

FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	Oct. 20, 1916.	Oct. 13, 1916.	Oct. 22, 1915.
Gold coin and certificates ..	£ 52,303,000	£ 53,480,000	£ 45,401,000
Gold Redemption Fund ..	283,600	337,400	242,400
Gold Settlement Fund ..	24,270,200	25,052,200	19,934,000
Legal tender notes, silver, &c.	2,112,200	2,275,400	6,925,200
Total reserves	78,969,000	81,145,000	63,502,600
5% redemption fund against F.R. bank notes	84,000	74,000	—
10-day bills and loans	2,862,200	2,708,600	1,452,600
30-day bills and loans	4,892,200	5,435,000	2,239,600
60-day bills and loans	7,185,600	6,718,200	2,818,800
90-day bills and loans	5,629,400	4,797,200	1,795,600
Maturities over 90 days ..	242,000	238,200	357,800
Total	20,811,400	19,897,200	8,064,400
Investments—			
U.S. Bonds	8,267,000	8,528,400	2,096,000
One year U.S. Treasury notes	2,339,400	2,088,800	—
Municipal Warrants	6,508,600	6,308,400	5,076,200
Federal Reserve notes—nett.	3,036,200	3,056,000	3,136,000
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—nett.	6,120,800	6,017,800	2,468,400
All other assets	526,000	535,000	632,400
Total assets	126,062,400	127,650,600	85,576,000
Paid-up capital	11,136,400	11,136,400	10,966,800
Government Deposits	5,223,200	4,043,000	3,000,000
Reserve deposits—nett. ..	107,620,400	108,868,600	68,688,800
Note circulation—nett. ..	2,379,200	2,463,200	2,961,800
Fed. Res. notes in circulation	206,400	206,600	—
All other liabilities	96,800	92,800	558,400
Total liabilities	126,062,400	127,650,600	85,576,000
Gold reserve against nett liabilities	70.4%	71.6%	79.3%
Cash reserve against nett liabilities	72.4%	73.6%	88.9%

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	Nov. 11, 1916.	Nov. 4, 1916.	Oct. 28, 1916.	Nov. 13, 1915.
Loans	£ 680,378,000	£ 669,322,000	£ 660,912,000	£ 622,632,000
Reserve held in own Vaults ..	93,632,000	92,293,000	89,054,000	104,874,000
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk.	34,634,000	34,664,000	34,338,000	33,866,000
Reserve held in Other Depos.	10,800,000	10,670,000	10,606,000	9,710,000
Nett Demand Deposits	678,988,000	667,352,000	665,038,000	640,074,000
Nett Time Deposits	33,854,000	33,118,000	33,176,000	28,894,000
Circulation	6,248,000	6,300,000	6,320,000	6,978,000
Excess Lawful Reserve	21,946,000	22,474,000	21,146,000	37,760,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits.

NEW YORK STATE BANKS & TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.).

	Nov. 11, 1916.	Nov. 4, 1916.	Oct. 28, 1916.	Nov. 13, 1915.
Loans	£ 147,274,000	£ 146,840,000	£ 146,770,000	£ 122,566,000
Specie	12,074,000	12,138,000	12,104,000	10,476,000
Deposits	157,610,000	155,674,000	156,320,000	127,876,000
Legal Tenders	2,018,000	1,944,000	1,944,000	1,882,000

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Nov. 16, 1916.	Nov. 9, 1916.	Nov. 2, 1916.	Nov. 18, 1915.
Gold in hand	£ 200,920,160	£ 200,376,000	£ 199,680,800	£ 192,284,680
Silver in hand	12,767,480	13,031,920	13,043,760	14,489,240
Bills discounted	24,734,240	25,282,080	23,050,240	11,292,120
Advances	54,164,440	54,282,080	55,212,000	22,714,920
Note circulation	635,771,280	638,901,640	645,131,440	568,431,320
Public deposits	2,895,600	4,882,000	7,235,320	2,250,640
Private deposits	69,204,800	71,912,880	69,731,760	104,676,260
Foreign Bills	11,500	203,520	124,880	52,480

Proportion between bullion and circulation 33.61 per cent., against 32.40 per cent. last week. Advances to the State £256,000,000, unchanged. The adjourned payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium, £24,885,520, decrease £46,080, and at the branches £29,751,920, decrease £71,680.

IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Nov. 14, 1916.	Nov. 4, 1916.	Oct. 29, 1916.	Nov. 13, 1915.
Notes in reserve	£ 11,660,000	£ 9,010,000	£ 10,510,000	£ 9,346,280
Gold	156,050,000	155,670,000	155,880,000	160,316,300
Gold in reserve abroad	205,510,000	205,500,000	205,500,000	15,017,300
Loans and Discounts including Treasury Bonds	896,710,000	668,550,000	600,350,000	—
Circulation note issue	868,340,000	793,490,000	784,490,000	513,400,000
Deposits, including Treasury deposits ..	22,617,000	23,123,000	22,373,000	21,137,000

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Nov. 7, 1916.	Oct. 31, 1916.	Oct. 23, 1916.	Nov. 6, 1915.
Total Coin & Bullion	£ 126,394,750	£ 126,113,300	£ 125,998,850	£ 123,344,250
Treasury Notes	12,647,150	11,472,300	18,048,600	48,016,150
Bills discounted	389,769,750	393,880,350	380,794,050	214,264,750
Advances	731,650	698,400	569,550	781,400
Note circulation	362,312,700	363,018,350	351,697,750	295,500,000
Deposits	170,183,250	172,918,000	165,965,900	78,726,800

Clearing House returns during Oct., £309,547,600 against £282,125,250 in Sept.

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Nov. 4, 1916.	Oct. 28, 1916.	Oct. 21, 1916.	Nov. 6, 1915.
Gold	£ 47,532,110	£ 47,434,062	£ 47,396,013	£ 32,036,107
Silver	29,648,902	29,885,202	29,752,839	29,354,796
Foreign Bills	3,897,489	4,018,277	4,031,801	4,093,054
Discounts and Short Bills ..	25,707,127	25,143,027	24,815,846	27,316,005
Treasury Account, &c.	30,337,504	30,890,358	31,869,324	28,570,560
Notes in Circulation	93,715,496	92,349,380	92,277,777	83,729,789
Current Accounts, Deposits ..	28,362,397	29,170,709	29,449,816	25,681,092
Dividends, Interest, &c. ..	1,630,406	1,994,025	1,594,856	1,465,670
Government Securities	3,939,027	4,117,644	4,448,106	1,262,419

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	Oct. 10, 1916.	Sept. 30, 1916.	Sept. 20, 1916.	Sept. 10, 1916.
Total cash	£ 42,670,600	£ 42,379,320	£ 42,496,720	£ 43,130,520
Inland Bills	21,304,000	21,477,000	20,448,680	19,514,520
Foreign Bills	833,600	835,120	834,400	834,400
Advances	7,624,160	7,671,000	7,047,120	7,548,800
Government securities	8,785,680	8,798,040	8,831,040	8,828,320
Circulation	146,989,960	144,848,520	139,766,920	138,103,560
Deposits at notice	15,469,800	14,813,160	15,479,120	14,127,640
Current accounts	13,727,360	13,727,320	15,174,520	15,878,640

BANK OF NORWAY.

	Nov. 7, 1916.	Oct. 31, 1916.	Oct. 22, 1916.	Nov. 7, 1915.
Gold	£ 6,114,000	£ 6,127,000	£ 6,173,000	£ 3,797,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills	5,671,000	5,180,000	5,501,000	3,687,000
Govt. Securities	767,000	767,000	767,000	781,000
Discounts & Loans	7,368,000	7,382,000	6,522,000	4,109,000
Notes in Circulation	13,323,000	13,060,000	12,677,000	8,403,000
Deposits at notice	4,669,000	4,045,000	3,731,000	1,392,000

BANK OF SWEDEN.

	Nov. 4, 1916.	Oct. 28, 1916.	Oct. 21, 1916.	Nov. 6, 1915.
Gold	£ 9,885,000	£ 9,885,000	£ 9,580,000	£ 6,298,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills	8,528,000	8,969,000	9,332,000	6,687,000
Swedish and Foreign Govt. Securities	3,799,000	3,812,000	3,826,000	2,951,000
Discounts and Loans	4,932,000	4,267,000	4,318,000	5,051,000
Notes in circulation	21,025,000	19,942,000	19,707,000	16,888,000
Deposits at notice	5,176,000	5,722,000	6,061,000	4,093,000

NETHERLANDS BANK (12 Florins to the £).

	Nov. 11, 1916.	Nov. 4, 1916.	Oct. 28, 1916.	Nov. 13, 1915.
Gold and Silver	£ 49,217,166	£ 49,293,250	£ 49,181,083	£ 33,215,013
Bills and Advances	13,047,750	13,420,500	14,633,416	14,233,925
Note circulation	61,931,250	62,350,583	61,077,333	47,166,589
Deposits	3,957,750	4,014,416	6,136,000	1,840,372

SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	Nov. 7, 1916.	Oct. 31, 1916.	Oct. 23, 1916.	Nov. 6, 1915.
Gold and silver	£ 13,589,200	£ 13,619,908	£ 13,690,144	£ 12,141,528
Bills	7,417,520	7,563,356	7,268,532	5,652,544
Note circulation	19,140,212	19,420,732	18,329,996	17,553,212
Current and deposit accounts	3,521,752	3,668,436	4,814,824	2,361,956

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.
Paris	cbqs.	27.79	27.80	Antwerp	st or	—	—
Brussels	cbqs.	—	—	Italy	st, ht	31.40	31.95
Amsterdam	sight	11.63	11.62	Constantinople ..	3 mths	—	—
Christiania	—	17.17	17.32	Rio de Janeiro ..	90 days	12.1d.	12.1d.
Stockholm	—	16.77	16.87	Buenos Aires	90 days	50.2d.	50.2d.
Copenhagen	—	17.60	16.87	Calcutta	T.T.	1/4.2d.	1/4.2d.
Petrograd	3 mths	16.32	15.52	Bombay	T.T.	1/4.4d.	1/4.4d.
New York	cable	4.76	4.76	Hong Kong	T.T.	2/3.3d.	2/3.3d.
Lisbon	sight	32.4d.	32d.	Shanghai	T.T.	3/3.3d.	3/3.3d.
Madrid	sight	31.32d.	23.18d.	Singapore	T.T.	2/4.2d.	2/4.2d.
Switzerland	—	24.85	24.75	Yokohama	4 mths	2/1.2d.	2/1.2d.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Nov. 14, 1916.		Nov. 16, 1916.	
		Sellers.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Buyers.
Amsterdam ..	Cable transfers ..	11.62	11.65	11.62	11.65
"	Three months' bills ..	11.78	11.85	11.78	11.83
Paris ..	Cable transfers ..	27.77	27.82	27.78	28.82
"	Three months' bills ..	28.15	28.25	28.15	28.25
Marseilles ..	Cable transfers ..	28.15	28.25	28.15	28.25
Switzerland ..	Three months' bills ..	24.80	24.90	24.70	24.80
Petrograd ..	Cable transfers ..	25.16	25.26	25.06	25.16
"	Three months' bills ..	157	160	153	155
Genoa, &c. ..	Cable transfers ..	31.82	31.92	31.83	31.93
"	Three months' bills ..	32.00	32.00	32.28	32.38
Spain ..	Cable transfers ..	23.27	23.37	23.10	23.20
"	Three months' bills ..	48 1/2	48 1/2	48 1/2	48 1/2
Lisbon and Oporto ..	Cable transfers ..	32	33	32	33
Copenhagen ..	Cable transfers ..	17.53	17.63	17.58	17.68
Christiania ..	Cable transfers ..	17.15	17.25	17.22	17.32
Stockholm ..	Cable transfers ..	16.74	16.84	16.78	16.88

TREASURY BILLS.

	Last week.	This week
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months ..	5 1/2 ..	5 1/2 ..
Six months ..	5 1/2 ..	5 1/2 ..
Nine months ..	5 1/2 ..	5 1/2 ..
Twelve months ..	5 1/2 ..	5 1/2 ..

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Last week.	This week
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted ..	5 1/2 ..	5 1/2 ..
Three months ..	5 1/2 ..	5 1/2 ..
Four months ..	5 1/2 ..	5 1/2 ..
Six months ..	5 1/2 ..	5 1/2 ..
Three months fine inland bills ..	5 1/2 ..	5 1/2 ..
Four months ..	5 1/2 ..	5 1/2 ..
Six months ..	5 1/2 ..	5 1/2 ..

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Last week.	This week
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate ..	6 ..	6 ..
" short loan rates ..	6 1/2 ..	6 1/2 ..
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	4 ..	4 ..
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call) ..	4 1/2 ..	4 1/2 ..
" 7 and 14 days' notice ..	4 1/2 ..	4 1/2 ..
Current rates for 7 day loans ..	5 ..	5 ..
" for call loans ..	4 1/2 ..	4 1/2 ..

The Week's Stock Markets.

Conditions in the Stock Exchange have been dismally dull all the week, and the daily markings of business have not once reached 3,000 transactions. Accordingly members have had plenty of time to vent their disappointment with the Committee's decision not to close the House on Saturdays. Some 90 per cent. of the active members were in favour of closing, and whether it was altogether a desirable step or not they naturally think that the wishes of such an overwhelming majority ought to have been conceded. It is understood that the Saturday holidays were only lost by the casting vote of the chairman, and this has not tended to sweeten ruffled tempers. But no doubt, as usual, it will all be forgotten before the next Committee election. Little attention has been paid to the war news and the magnificent progress on the Western front, anxiety being still felt about the position of Rumania. Gilt-edged securities have consequently been dull in tendency, and even French loans have given way a little. Home Railways generally are as stagnant as the slough of despond, but Underground Electrics came into some prominence on reports of good earnings. No doubt the darkened streets are driving many wayfarers into the Tubes. Americans gave way in Wall Street on peace rumours, but Steels and International Mercantile Marine bumped up again, and they were almost the only stocks that attracted much attention. It is announced that Ecuador, which has been in default since 1914, will resume payments as from January 1 next, and this helped Guayaquil and Quito bonds. Among miscellaneous securities iron, engineering, and allied concerns received a fair amount of support in connection with the fine results now being published, but, speaking generally, markets have scarcely shown a breath of animation.

Although business has not been active in the stock markets, the tone has been firm on the war news, and there has been some inquiry for munitions on dividend possibilities. Investment stocks were inclined to be easier from lack of support, and Consols fell 1/4 to 56, while the 3 1/2 per cent. War Loan dropped to 84. The 4 1/2 per cent. issue improved to 96 1/2 on talk of an early reduction in the Bank rate, but closed only 1/8 up on

the week. Irish Land stock gave way 1/2, and India 3 and 3 1/2 per cents. were 1/2 to 3/4 lower. Bank of England stock was further marked down 3 to 100. In the Foreign bond market the French Loan at first gave way, but rallied, and closed unchanged at 87 1/2, which is also the quotation for the new issue. Russian bonds continued weak, and one or two fell 1 to 1 1/2, but Greek loans recovered 1/4 to 1, and Egyptian Unified was

	Last Week	This Week		Last Week	This Week
Consols ..	56 1/2	56	N.S.W. 4 1/2 1922-7 ..	94	94
War Loan 3 1/2 ..	84 1/2	84	" 5 1/2 1921-3 ..	90 1/2	90 1/2
India 3 1/2 ..	64 1/2	64	" 5 1/2 1921-2 ..	97 1/2	97 1/2
" 3 1/2 ..	67 1/2	66 1/2	New Zealand 4 1/2 ..	84 1/2	84 1/2
Australian 5 1/2 1920-22 ..	97 1/2	99 1/2	Queensland 4 1/2 ..	84 1/2	84 1/2
Canada 4 1/2 1940-60 ..	82 1/2	83	" 4 1/2 new ..	93 1/2	93 1/2
" 4 1/2 1920-5 ..	94 1/2	95	Union of S. Africa 4 1/2 ..	92	92
N.S.W. 4 1/2 ..	83	83	1920-5 ..	92	92
" 4 1/2 5 yr. bds. ..	95	95	Victoria 4 1/2 1920-5 ..	93	92 1/2
Belgian 3 1/2 ..	61	62	Westn. Aus. 4 1/2 ..	81 1/2	81 1/2
Brazil, 1913 ..	63	63	French War Loan, 5 1/2 ..	81 1/2	81 1/2
" New Funding ..	77 1/2	77 1/2	New ..	81 1/2	81 1/2
Chinese 1896 ..	78 1/2	78 1/2	Japan 4 1/2 (1st) ..	95	95
Egypt Unified 4 1/2 ..	71 1/2	71 1/2	" (2nd) ..	95	95
French War Loan, 5 1/2 ..	82 1/2	81 1/2	Russia 4 1/2 ..	67	66
Brighton defd. ..	63 1/2	61 1/2	" 4 1/2 ..	77	77
Caledonian defd. ..	9	8 1/2	" 5 1/2 ..	81 1/2	81 1/2
Chatham ord. ..	9	8 1/2	London and S.W. dfd. ..	22 1/2	22 1/2
Gt. Central dfd. ..	14	14	Do. new pf. ..	98	98
" dfd. ..	7 1/2	7 1/2	Metropolitan ..	22 1/2	22 1/2
Gt. Eastern ..	35	35 1/2	Do. 5 1/2 New pf. ..	90	90
Gt. Northern dfd. ..	37 1/2	37 1/2	Met. District ..	15	15 1/2
Gt. Western ..	90 1/2	90	Midland dfd. ..	50 1/2	50 1/2
Lancs. and Yorks. ..	68	68	Nth. British dfd. ..	13 1/2	13 1/2
			Nth.-Eastern ..	101 1/2	100 1/2
			Nth.-Western ..	98	97 1/2
			Sth.-Eastern dfd. ..	26	26
Canadian Pacific ..	181	179 1/2	Chesapeake ..	72	70
Do. 6 % Notes ..	109	108 1/2	Erie ..	41 1/2	38
E. Indian Guar. 4 1/2 % debts. ..	93	93	Milwaukee ..	99 1/2	96 1/2
Grand Trunk ord. ..	10 1/2	10 1/2	N. Y. Central ..	114	111 1/2
Do. 3rd pf. ..	25	24 1/2	Southern ..	31 1/2	29
Do. 5 1/2 % 3-yr. Notes ..	96	96	Southern Pacific ..	106 1/2	104 1/2
Do. 5 1/2 % 5-yr. ..	96	96	Union Pacific ..	159	154 1/2
Atchison ..	112 1/2	109 1/2	U. S. Steel ..	151 1/2	130
Baltimore ..	92 1/2	89 1/2			
Antofagasta dfd. ..	129 1/2	127 1/2	Cent. Argentine ord. ..	71 1/2	69 1/2
Do. 6 % Notes ..	102	102	Do. 5 % Notes ..	96 1/2	94 1/2
Brazil Common ..	52	52	Do. 6 % ..	101	94 1/2
B. A. & Pacific ..	44	43 1/2	Leopoldina ..	34	34 1/2
B. A. Gt. Southern ..	81 1/2	81	Mexican ord. ..	18 1/2	17 1/2
B. A. Western ..	81 1/2	80 1/2	San Paulo (Brazilian) ..	185	183 1/2
Bank of Australasia ..	115	114	United of Havana ..	82 1/2	84
Barclay & Co. "A" ..	72 1/2	72 1/2	London City & Midland ..	7 1/2	7 1/2
Do. "B" ..	10 1/2	10 1/2	London County & West. ..	15	15
Capital & Counties ..	23 1/2	23 1/2	London Joint Stock ..	21 1/2	21 1/2
Chartered of India ..	58	58	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (£10 pd) ..	26	25 1/2
Hongkong & Shanghai ..	78 1/2	78	Do. (£12 pd) ..	30 1/2	30 1/2
Lloyds ..	23 1/2	24	Parr's ..	28 1/2	28 1/2
London & Provincial ..	16 1/2	16 1/2	Standard of S.A. ..	10	10
London & S.W. ..	11 1/2	11 1/2	Union & Smiths. ..	24	24
Apollinaris ord. ..	1	1			
Armstrong, Whitworth ..	39	40 1/2	Forestal Land ..	50 1/2	51 1/2
Associated Cement ..	3	3	Furness, Withy ..	50 1/2	52 1/2
Birmingham Small Arms ..	47 1/2	47 1/2	Hudson's Bay ..	6 1/2	6 1/2
Borax dfd. ..	35 1/2	34 1/2	Imperial Tobacco 'B' pf. ..	22 1/2	22 1/2
Bovril ..	20 1/2	20 1/2	Do. 'C' pf. ..	34 1/2	34 1/2
Brazil Traction ..	54 1/2	54	Kynochs ..	29 1/2	30 1/2
British Amer. Tobacco ..	41 1/2	41 1/2	Lever Bros. "C" pf. ..	20 1/2	20 1/2
Brown (John), & Co. ..	35 1/2	36 1/2	Lyons, J. ..	42	41 1/2
Brunner, Mond ..	4 1/2	4 1/2	Marconi ..	28 1/2	3
Cammell-Laird ..	6 1/2	6 1/2	Maypole Dairy dfd. ..	20 1/2	20 1/2
Castner-Kellner ..	3 1/2	3 1/2	Mond Nickel ord. ..	32	32
Coats ..	6 1/2	6 1/2	National Steam Car ..	19 1/2	19 1/2
Cunard ..	86 1/2	88 1/2	Pears, A. & F. ..	14 1/2	14 1/2
Dennis Bros. ..	35 1/2	35 1/2	P. & O. dfd. ..	344 1/2	345 1/2
Dorman, Long ..	35 1/2	35 1/2	Royal Mail ..	119 1/2	120
Eastmans ..	7 1/2	7 1/2	South Durham Steel ..	34 1/2	33 1/2
English Sewing Cotton ..	44 1/2	45 1/2	Underground Inc. Bds. ..	89 1/2	90 1/2
Fine Cotton Spinners ..	29 1/2	31 1/2	Vickers ..	379 1/2	379 1/2
Anglo-Egyptian "B" ..	12 1/2	12 1/2			
Baku (ros.) ..	3 1/2	3 1/2	Mexican Eagle pf. ..	37 1/2	37 1/2
Burmah ..	48 1/2	48 1/2	North Caucasian ..	25 1/2	25 1/2
Lobitos ..	43 1/2	43 1/2	Roumanian Cons. ..	14 1/2	13 1/2
Maikop Combine (ros.) ..	3 1/2	3 1/2	Royal Dutch (100 gulden) ..	44 1/2	44 1/2
Maikop Pipeline ..	4 1/2	4 1/2	Shell ..	50 1/2	50 1/2
Mexican Eagle ..	36 1/2	37 1/2	Spies (10/-) ..	14 1/2	13 1/2
Anglo-Java Rub. (2/-) ..	5 1/2	5 1/2	Ural Caspian ..	31 1/2	30 1/2
Anglo-Malay 2/- ..	11 1/2	11 1/2	Malayalam £1 ..	35 1/2	35 1/2
Ayer Kuning £1 ..	35 1/2	32 1/2	Merlimau 2/- ..	50 1/2	54
Bukit Mertajam 2/- ..	4 1/2	4 1/2	Pataing 2/- ..	32 1/2	32 1/2
Bukit Sembawang 2/- ..	3 1/2	3 1/2	Port Dickson 2/- ..	3 1/2	3 1/2
Carey United £1 ..	40 1/2	40 1/2	Rubber Trust £1 ..	25 1/2	25 1/2
Grand Central £1 ..	26 1/2	26 1/2	Sapumalkande £1 ..	22 1/2	22 1/2
Gula Kalumpung £1 ..	31 1/2	31 1/2	Sialang £1 ..	67 1/2	66 1/2
Highlands £1 ..	54 1/2	54 1/2	Singapore Para 2/- ..	4 1/2	3 1/2
Java Para £1 ..	30 1/2	30 1/2	Singapore United 2/- ..	3 1/2	3 1/2
Johore Rubber Lands £1 ..	31 1/2	31 1/2	Taiping 2/- ..	3 1/2	3 1/2
Langen Java £1 ..	45 1/2	45 1/2	Tanjong £1 ..	84 1/2	83 1/2
Linggi 2/- ..	21 1/2	21 1/2	Tanjong Malim £1 ..	30 1/2	30 1/2
London Asiatic 2/- ..	7 1/2	7 1/2	Tebrau £1 ..	70 1/2	71 1/2
Malacca £1 ..	85 1/2	85 1/2	United Serdang 2/- ..	11 1/2	11 1/2
Abbotiakoon (10/-) ..	6 1/2	5 1/2	Vallambrosa 2/- ..	18 1/2	18 1/2
Brakpan ..	44 1/2	44 1/2	De Beers dtd. (£2 ros.) ..	13	13 1/2
Broken Hill Prop. (8/-) ..	54 1/2	54 1/2	East Rand ..	15 1/2	15 1/2
Cam & Motor ..	11 1/2	11 1/2	Gt. Boulder (2/-) ..	11 1/2	11 1/2
Central Mining (£12) ..	7 1/2	7 1/2	Meyer & Charlton ..	5 1/2	5 1/2
Chartered ..	11 1/2	11 1/2	Modder "B" ..	7 1/2	7 1/2
City Deep ..	44 1/2	44 1/2	Do. Deep ..	7 1/2	7 1/2
Cons. Gold Fields ..	14 1/2	14 1/2	New Modder (£4) ..	18 1/2	18 1/2
Cons. Langlaagte ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Mines (5/-) ..	4	3 1/2
Crown Mines (10/-) ..	3 1/2	3 1/2	Rio Tinto (£5) ..	61 1/2	61 1/2
			Van Ryn Deep ..	3 1/2	3 1/2

1 better. Several Brazilian stocks were lower, but amongst other South American things Argentine 5 per cent., 1909, was 1 harder, and Chilean 4 per cent., 1886, improved 2, while the 5 per cent., 1910, dropped 1. Cuban 4 1/2 per cents. gained 1, but there was a reaction to 35 1/2 in Cuban Ports.

Home Railway stocks have been weak, with more buyers than sellers in the market, but Great Northern deferred, Great Eastern and South-Eastern deferred were fractionally harder. North-Western fell to 97 1/2, North-Eastern to 100 1/2 and Great Western and Hull and Barnsley were both lower. Brighton

deferred declined to 61½, Metropolitan was a shade easier, but District rose ½, and there was a good demand for Underground ordinary shares and income bonds, and prices improved to 2 and 90½ respectively. Canadian Pacific shares, after fluctuating within very narrow limits, closed 1½ down, Grand Trunk stocks were offered and generally lower, and Canadian Northern income debenture was marked down 3. A general reaction in the American Railroad market left prices throughout the list substantially lower. United States Steel also fell sharply, but close above the lowest at 129½, and International Mercantile Marine improved to 49. In the Foreign Railway section most interest attached to Guayaquil and Quito bonds, which jumped 9 to 42 on the publication of a telegram by the Council of Foreign Bondholders from its representative in New York stating that the Government of Ecuador had given definite assurances that the daily deposits of the Customs receipts for the service of these bonds and also the payments for the service of the Salt bonds would be renewed as from January 1. Argentine Railways continue neglected, and Buenos Ayres Western has fallen another 1, while Central Argentine is 1½ down. United of Havana came in for a fair amount of support on the report and official forecast of a big sugar crop, and finished 1¼ up at 83¾. Mexican ordinary and preferred fell 1 each.

Bank shares have hardly been mentioned, but Capital and Counties rose ¼ and London City and Midland and Lloyds ½ each, while National and Provincial £10½ paid fell ½. Anglo-South American improved ½, but British of South America lost that fraction, and Hongkong and Shanghai were marked down ½. Amongst Colonial banks, Australasia and Union of Australia were both 1 lower. Among Shipping shares, P. and O. and Royal Mail both improved 1, and Cunard hardened to 88½; but the outstanding incident in this section was a jump in Khedivial Mail to 36s. 6d., on the annual report. Union of New Zealand also met with good support, and improved to 55s. Brazilian Traction dropped to 54, and Mexican Light and Power common and Mexico Trams were both marked down; while in Canadian things, Lake Superior closed at 28½, after touching 26, but Spanish River Pulp and Paper common and preference both gave way. Steel Company of Canada preferred was marked up 7, and Nova Scotia Steel 7½, but Dominion Steel was 1½ easier. Motor shares were quiet, and Dennis Bros. was sold down to 33s. 3d., on the absence of a dividend, but recovered to 35s. 6d. after the report came out. Salt Union were easier, but Egyptian Salt and Soda were inquired for, and improved to 22s. Imperial Continental Gas was marked down 2, and Gas Light and Coke ordinary fell 1. Among Land shares, Hudson's Bay were ½ lower at 6½, but Niger improved to 37s. A fair inquiry was experienced for Engineering shares, most of which show small gains. Weardale preference and deferred spurred, on the report, but Cargo Fleet, South Durham, and Fraser and Chalmers were all lower on the dividend announcements. Textiles were firm, Fine Cotton Spinners improving, on the interim dividend, while Coats recovered to 67½. Courtaulds were offered, and fell to 6½. Meat shares were firm, and Catering shares quiet, with small losses in Lyons and Aerated Bread.

The Oil share market was quiet and uninteresting on the whole, but a fair business was done in Anglo-Egyptian "B," on the further good returns from the Hurgada field, and there was also a moderate inquiry for Mexican Eagle ordinary and preference. "Shell" were unchanged at 5 1-32, but Royal Dutch lost ¼, and Russian things generally were easier. Business has again been on a very small scale in Rubber shares, but Bukit Kajang improved smartly, on the report, and several others were harder. Lanadron, Tandjong, Tremelbye, and Banteng, however, all gave way. Java descriptions were quiet, but there was a little more inquiry for Indian and Ceylon issues.

LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

SUGAR.—The market remained unaltered, and a sustained demand was experienced. Stocks of raw descriptions in the three principal ports of the U.K. total 48,500 tons, as compared with 42,000 at corresponding period last year.

COFFEE.—Spot steady, and moderate assortment in auction this week aroused fair competition. Bold Mysore sold, 78s.; washed Dumont, 62s.; Peruvian, 77s. 6d. The terminal market ruled quiet, but tolerably steady. December sold, 46s. 3d.; March, 47s. 3d.

COCOA remains in the same inactive state, and of 17,900 bags brought to auction only slightly over 1,500 bags were disposed of at 3s. to 5s. per cwt. reduction. Fine Grenada sold, 75s.; good Trinidad, 80s. Privately, Cameroon sold, 67s.

TEA.—There was a strong inquiry for all grades, and prices on the week are appreciably dearer. Some 57,000 packages Indian, 26,000 packages Ceylon, and 6,500 packages Java were catalogued.

SPICE.—Pepper market quiet, but without much animation. Singapore black, November-December, sold, 8½d.; white ditto, 9½d.; and Muntok, 9½d. Fair Zanzibar cloves, spot, sold, 7½d. to 7½d. Tapioca and sago sparingly offered, and firm.

FRUIT.—In auction some 585 tons Valencia raisins were offered, and only partly sold at 4s. to 5s. per cwt. decline. Halves sold, 63s. to 64s.; quarters, 64s. to 82s. Muscatels steady. Choice sold, 130s. Currants and sultanas steady, though slow of sale.

RICE again met a sustained demand, and market proved firm to dealer. No. 2 cleaned Rangoon, October-December, sold, 18s. 6d.; January-March, 19s. 3d. Bran is now very dear, with few sellers. Beans, on spot, sold, £35 5s. Japanese peas also advanced in value.

FIBRES firm, and in the case of jute a marked advance took place. Native first marks, October-November and November-

December, Dundee, sold, £37 10s.; diamond grade, afloat, £46. Hemp sales include coarse, October-December, £51 10s. to £51 15s.

SHELLAC slightly unsettled, but firm on balance, with a good inquiry. T.N., December, sold, 140s. to 141s., and 138s. 6d. March, 143s. to 144s., and 141s. 6d.

QUININE dearer. Usual Continental brands, spot, sold, 2s. 11d.

RUBBER.—A moderate trade passed at easy rates. Crepe, spot, sold, 2s. 8d. to 2s. 7½d.; December, 2s. 8d. to 2s. 7½d. Ribbed standard smoked sheet, spot, done, 2s. 7½d. to 2s. 7½d. Fine hard Para, spot, done, 3s. 4½d. to 3s. 4d.; December, 3s. 2½d. to 3s. 2d.

COPRA.—With few offers, prices again advanced materially, which tended to curtail business.

CORN (Mark Lane).—The tendency at market continued firm

CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 17, 1916.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
Sugar —per cwt., duty 14½, 98% polarisation	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Wool —per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tate's Cubes No. 1	2 7 1½	2 7 1½	Australian	2 2-4 5	2 2-4 5
Ditto, H.T.S.	2 6 7½	2 6 7½	Scoured Merino	1 10-3 7	1 10-3 7
Fine granulated	nom.	nom.	Scoured Cr'ssbr'd	1 7-2 3	1 7-2 3
Lyle's granulated	41 7½-42 1½	41 7½-42 1½	Greasy Merino	1 3-1 10	1 3-1 10
Foreign granulated, first marks	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	3 6-3 10½	3 6-3 10½
f.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	New Zealand (scoured) Merino	1 2-2 0½	1 2-2 0½
German Cubes f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	2 4½-3 0	2 4½-3 0
French Cube	nom.	nom.	Cape snow white	2 4½-3 0	2 4½-3 0
prompt	nom.	nom.	Indiarubber, per lb.	0 2 6½	0 2 7½
Crystallised, West	nom.	nom.	Plantation, Spot		
India	nom.	nom.	Crepe		
Beet, 88%, f.o.b.	nom.	nom.			
Tea —per lb., duty 1½ lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Coal —per ton		
Indian Pekoe	0 9½-1 2½	0 10½-1 2½	Durham, best	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 10½-1 7½	11-1 4½	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Orange	0 10½-1 5½	11-1 3	East Hartlepool	nom.	nom.
Broken	11½-1 7½	11½-1 10½	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Pekoe Souchong	0 9½-1 1	10½-1 0	Steamers, best	25 0-30 0	30½
Ceylon Pekoe	0 10-1 1	10½-1 2	Seconds	25 0-26 0	25 0-26 0
Broken	0 10½-1 1½	10½-1 2½	Lead —per ton	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Orange	11½-1 2½	11½-1 2½	English Pig.	32 5 0	32 5 0
Broken	11-1 2½	11-1 5½	Foreign soft.	30 10 0	30 10 0
Pekoe Souchong	0 9½-0 11	10-1 0	Quicksilver —per bottle firsthand	£ 17½	£ 17½
Cocoa —per cwt., duty 6d. per lb.	s. s.	4. s.	Fin —per ton		
Trinidad—per cwt.	81 0-85 0	79 0-81 0	English Ingots	186½-187½	191-192
Grenada	73 0-82 6	70 0-78 6	Do. bars	187½-188½	192-193
West Africa	70 0-74 0	68 0-71 0	Standard cash	£ 185 0	£ 188 17 6
Ceylon Plantation	72 0-91 0	70 0-89 0	Fin Plates, per box	nom.	nom.
Guayaquil Arriba	96 0-98 0	94 0-96 0	Copper —per ton		
Coffee —per cwt., duty 42½ per cwt.			English, Tough	nom.	nom.
East India	67 0-95 0	67 0-95 0	Best Selected	£ 150½-£ 17	£ 160-£ 157
Jamaica	62 0-120 6	62 0-120 6	Sheets	£ 168	£ 172
Costa Rica	62 0-84 0	62 0-84 0	Standard	£ 124-£ 125	£ 139-139½
Provisions			Jute —per ton		
Butter, per cwt.	nom.	202½-206½	Native firsts for shipment Nov-Dec	£ 36 10 0	£ 38 5 6
Australian finest	202½-208½	204½-212½	Oil		
Irish Creameries	198½-204½	202½-204½	Linseed, per ton	£ 49½-£ 50½	£ 50½-£ 51½
Dutch ditto	nom.	nom.	Kape, ref. English, barrels	£ 52-£ 54	£ 54-£ 56
Russian finest	nom.	nom.	crowns English, naked	£ 49 10	£ 50 0 0
Normandy baskets	216½-220½	218½-220½	Cott's Seed, crude	nom.	£ 47-£ 48
Danish finest	18½-21½	18½-21½	Ditto, refined	£ 50-£ 56	£ 51-£ 56
Brittany rolls	18½-21½	18½-21½	Petroleum Oil, per 8 lbs.	1½½	1½½
Bacon —per cwt.			Water White	1½½	1½½
Irish	112 0-120 0	112 0-120 0	Oil Seeds, Linseed	—	—
Continental	104 0-120 0	103 0-120 0	Calcutta—per 410 lbs., Nov-Dec	4 18 0	5 0 0
Canadian	100 0-114 0	100 0-114 0	Kape, Toria	80½	83½
American	95 102-0	97 0-104 0	Iron —per ton		
Hams —per cwt.			Cleveland Cash	nom.	nom.
Irish	148½-160½	148½-162½	Tobacco —duty, unmanufactured	5/6 to 6/2½ per lb.	
Canadian	nom.	104 0-110 0	Maryland & Ohio	0 6-0 10	0 6-0 10
American	72 0-112	74 0-116 0	per lb. bond	0 8-1 6	0 8-1 6
Cheese —per cwt.			Virginia leaf	0 6½-3 10	0 6½-3 10
Dutch	80 0-108 0	84 0-120 0	Kentucky leaf	1 0-3 0	1 0-3 0
Canadian	118 0-122 0	120 0-124 0	Latakia	1 0-6 0	1 0-6 0
White Cheddar	120 0-130 0	120 0-130 0	Havana	0 6-2 0	0 6-2 0
Swiss loaf	nom.	nom.	Manilla	2½ upds.	2½ upds.
New Zealand	nom.	nom.	Cigars, duty 10/6 per lb.	2½ upds.	2½ upds.
Rice —per cwt.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Timber —Wood		
Garden Siam	18 4½	18 6	Pitch Pine	250½-270½	250½-270½
spot	18 0	18 6	Indian Teak	400½-600½	400½-600½
Rangoon 2 stars	18 0	18 6	Turpentine —American Spot	2 3 9	2 5 6
Eggs —per 120.			Copra —Malabar, London	nom.	nom.
English	34 0	35 0-36 0	Oct.-Dec.	nom.	nom.
Irish	32 0-34 0	33 0-35 0	Ceylon, London	38 12 6	£ 40
Danish	32 0-34 0	34 0-35 0	South Sea	37 15 0	£ 39
Spelter			F.M.S.	38 2 6	39 5 0
G.O.B. as to position	£ 55-£ 53	£ 57½-£ 55½			
Flour —per sack.					
Town Households	60½	59½			
Official	60½	59½			
American First	61½-64½	61½ upds			
Patents					

since last Monday, and a fair demand ensued, wheat and flour being generally unaltered, while prices of barley, maize, and oats were carried up to an even higher level through continued scarcity of supplies. Wheat, English: Both whites and reds delivered up range to 80s. per qr., 504 lbs. Imported grades, No. 1 Northern Manitoba, 84s. 6d., ex ship. Indian, 80s. to 81s., landed. Flour: American spring patents, 61s. 6d. upwards, landed. Grinding barley: Indian, 61s. upwards, landed. Oats: La Plata, 42s. 6d. upwards, landed. Maize: La Plata (sound), 61s., landed.

METALS.—Copper: Sellers were again showing reserve, and there has been rather more demand forward, business being on a limited scale. Values of standard cash by the middle of the week

reached £129 10s., three months £125. A smart advance was established at Thursday's session, when cash was finally fixed at £135, and three months £130 10s. Tin exhibited irregularity, and prices moved in a further upward direction, a good turnover being concluded. By Wednesday standard cash delivery fluctuated to £189 10s., and three months to £191. Cash and near dates were rather easier at Thursday's meeting, three months unchanged, final values of the above positions being £189 and £191 respectively. Spelter firmer. G.O.B., November, £56 15s.; January, £55 5s. Lead dull. Foreign, November, £30 10s.; January, £29 10s. Quicksilver remains without alteration.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—The strong tone in the market has been more pronounced than ever, and fresh high records in prices have been established. American cotton rates have advanced from day to day, and it is of interest to note that futures in the Liverpool market have touched 1s. a lb. There has been a tendency to reduce estimates of the American crop, and there are no indications of a break in prices. More uncertainty has prevailed with regard to Egyptian cotton, and it remains to be seen what will be the effect of the new regulations for trading in futures in Liverpool on Monday next. Further developments have transpired with regard to the cardroom wages question, and the trade union officials seem determined to press their demand. It is quite likely that a serious state of affairs will arise before the end of the month. There has been no lack of inquiry in piece goods, and for certain outlets quite a healthy business has again been done at advancing rates. In connection with trade for India a feature of interest has been the speculative buying by shippers in shirtings and other staple cloths owing to the belief that less favourable opportunities of operating will be available in the future. For China some special transactions have been put through in shirtings and sheetings and demand generally for the Far East has shown a tendency to broaden. It is not necessary to distinguish the activities for the several minor outlets East and West, but quite an encouraging demand has been experienced in some directions. Home trade buyers are rather afraid of purchasing freely at current rates, but it is realised that if goods are wanted there is no option but to pay the prices required. In most weaving districts the position of manufacturers has been strengthened during the week. American yarns for home use have hardened in quotation from day to day, and although business has ebbed and flowed, the total sales may be described as healthy. Now and again there is severe competition for supplies in medium and fine numbers. Not much activity has shown itself in shipping counts, and most offers for India are still poor. Bolton spinnings have not moved off freely, but prices show very little change, in spite of the easier tendency in Egyptian cotton rates.

Tea, Oil and Rubber.

Partly owing to the loss of about 350 tons of rubber on the s.s. *Arabia* dealers ran the price of the commodity up to 2s. 8d., and although it has not quite maintained that figure the market has been wonderfully steady round about 2s. 7½d. The statistical position shows some improvement. With the loss of the *Arabia* cargo landings last week were only 750 tons, while deliveries amounted to 1,250 tons, and stocks were reduced to 8,600 tons, as against 9,980 tons on October 21. Business in the share market, however, has been quiet. Buyers predominate, and the tone has been firm, but there is little floating stock about. Excess profits problems continue to exercise the minds of dealers and shareholders, and it is poor consolation to be told that when the tax is removed those companies which are most adversely affected will be able to pay correspondingly larger dividends. Reports, of which several important ones have recently been issued, are nearly all of a highly encouraging character, and that tends to keep the market buoyant in spite of restricted business.

We have received from Comte Pierre de Bondy a copy of his interesting pamphlet on "Para Rubber Planting in Malaya" giving minute estimates of the cost of opening 2,000 acres at the rate of 500 acres a year, the total expenditure up to the 17th year, with costs of production and profits based on rubber at 1s. 6d. per lb. According to the author's figures an estate developed on his lines would not begin to earn profits till the eighth year, and could make no legitimate return to the shareholders till the eleventh year, when the nett profits would amount to 57 per cent. of the capital expended. He estimates the capital expenditure at \$268 per acre and the total profits for 17 years at 577 per cent., which is, of course, a quite handsome return. We are not in a position to check many of M. de Bondy's figures, but we notice that he allows only £200 for London office expenses and £100 for directors' fees, which shows that however much he may

know about the plantation end of the business he is not quite *au fait* with London methods. We also notice that he allows only \$1 per acre for rent, and we doubt very much whether that is anywhere near the mark in these times. Another point that we should in our non-expert way be inclined to challenge is whether an average of 600 lbs. of rubber per acre is likely to be obtained from 2,000 acres in the 17th year. However, in other respects there is an ample margin for error, and probably the estimates are not so very wide of the mark for an estate that is thoroughly well-managed on sound business principles. The little book is intended more for the expert than the average shareholder, but the latter might get a lot of useful information from it. If it reaches a second edition we would suggest that it might, with great advantage, be considerably condensed, as there is no object in repeating the same figures page after page, and a brief introduction explaining some of the points and the basis of the calculations would also be useful. It is published by the *Times of Malaya Press*, Ipoh.

Remarkable results are shown by the Bukit Kajang Rubber Estates for the year ended June 30. The estimated production was 700,000 lbs., but the actual crop harvested was 740,000 lbs., or an increase of 159,453 lbs. on that of the previous twelve months. At the same time the nett price realised was 4.61d. better at 2s. 6.53d., and after providing for all charges, including £1,392 for assessment duty paid to the Straits Settlements Government, the nett profits were £32,225 larger at £62,446. Out of the balance brought forward £3,341 has been set aside as provisional assessment for excess profits duty, and the total now available is £30,721 up at £64,555. The dividend is further increased from 22½ per cent. to 35 per cent., but the excess profits duty is likely to press heavily upon the company, and instead of repeating the appropriation of £4,000 to reserve, the directors carry forward £29,555, or £22,221 more, subject to the excess profits duty and to their own extra remuneration. During the year five small detached blocks of about 64 acres planted with rubber were sold for £7,000, while an additional 222 acres adjoining the estate was acquired from the Government, and after allowing for these transactions the property account shows a decrease of £3,604 to £92,783. Altogether the company now has 2,821 acres under rubber, or an increase of 144 acres, and the new land just bought is to be opened and planted during the current year. The funds in hand are ample, cash balances being £22,888 larger at £36,098, in addition to which the company holds £4,000 in War Loan. The crop for the current year is estimated at 800,000 lbs., and the output in the first four months amounted to 324,850 lbs.

SUNGEI BAHRU RUBBER.—During the year ended June 30, the number of trees in tapping was increased by 28,461, but the crop fell considerably short of the estimate. The total, however, was 32,249 lbs. larger than that of the previous year at 206,636 lbs., and the gross price improved by 5.54d. to 2s. 6.85d., while the costs of production are stated to have again shown a satisfactory reduction. After charging to revenue two-thirds of management and general estate expenses, as against one-half last time, the nett profits were £2,689 up at £9,524. The preference dividend is paid for the full year, compared with about six months' a year ago, and the ordinary dividend is then increased from 7 per cent. to 9 per cent., giving the preference shares a further 2 per cent., both tax free. Out of the balance, £2,000 is transferred to development reserve, compared with £1,000 to that fund and £1,000 written off for depreciation, and £3,641 is carried forward, or £172 less than was brought in. Options on 5,672 shares were exercised during the year, and with further instalments on the preference shares, the paid-up capital was increased by £8,872 to £89,487. Property account is £5,039 up at £102,602, but the £6,562 received as premium on shares has now been written off buildings and machinery, and on balance this item has been reduced by £4,545 to £134. Cash balances are £2,005 smaller at £1,059, but £6,829 has been invested in Treasury bills. The crop for the current year is estimated at 256,000 lbs., but as the output for the first four months was 89,922 lbs., this figure will probably be exceeded.

GLEN RUBBER AND TEA.—A year ago this company cut out the last of its tea bushes, and is now devoting its whole attention to rubber. The crop for the twelve months ended June 30 showed a small increase of only 3,637 lbs. at 100,694 lbs., but the company was fortunate enough to secure an advance of no

less than 8.23d. to 28. 11.2d. in the gross price, while the all-in cost, including the Ceylon export tax of 1d. per lb., appears to have been low at 11.55d. Thanks to these favourable circumstances, the nett profits were £1,333 up at £7,370, in spite of the absence of any revenue from tea, which a year ago contributed £606. Adding £3,176 brought forward, the disposable total was £1,513 better at £10,555, and the dividend is increased from 17 per cent. to 22½, leaving £4,171, or £680 more, to be carried forward. No estimate is made of the crop for the current year, but there has been an outbreak of disease, which has affected the crop slightly, and the output up to October 7 is just below that of the corresponding period at 29,287 lbs.

CENTRAL PROVINCE CEYLON TEA.—Owing to the very dry weather of January, February, and March, the crop from this company's own estates for the year ended June 30 showed a shrinkage of 54,573 lbs. at 912,228 lbs. Most of the decrease was made good by the bought tea, so that the total sales were 5,747 lbs. larger at 1,329,215 lbs., but the nett price was .23d. down at 8.15d. Cocoa also showed a big shrinkage at 680 cwt., and the price was 2s. lower at 60s. 1d., but the rubber crop was 23,230 lbs. up at 109,039, while the price rose 7d. to 28. 6½d. nett. Nett profits were practically the same at £18,858, but income-tax and excess profits took £4,227 more at £5,018, and after setting aside £2,550, or £3,450 less, for income-tax and excess profits reserve, and making sundry other provisions, the nett balance, including £2,916 brought forward, was £1,042 down at £13,375. The dividend on the ordinary shares is reduced from 17 per cent. to 15 per cent., tax free, leaving £2,875 to be carried forward. For the current year a rubber crop of 124,500 lbs. is expected.

MORIB PLANTATIONS.—In the year ended June 30, 506,587 coconuts were harvested, or an increase of 93,599 nuts, and the average price of copra was practically unchanged at \$8.17 per picul. With an increase of some 10,000 in the number of trees tapped, the output of rubber rose by 10,009 lbs. to 68,283 lbs., and the average price in Malaya was 7½d. better at 28. 5½d., while the cost of production was about the same at 7½d. Nett profits show an improvement of £2,444 at £6,455, and with £3,742 brought forward, gives £10,197, or £3,455 more, available. Of this, an extra £500, at £3,500, is transferred to reserve, and the dividend is raised from 3 per cent. to 5 per cent., leaving £331 less at £1,440 to be carried forward. Expenditure on development amounted to £3,652, and with the purchase of a small native holding, the total cost of the property was brought up to £71,676.

A circular has been issued to the shareholders of the Batavia Plantation Investments, Ltd., stating that proposals have been submitted to the board for an amalgamation of the company with two others having similar objects. No particulars can be given at the present stage of negotiations, and we must await further details before making any comment, but it will probably be a step in the right direction.

What Balance Sheets Tell.

CUBAN CENTRAL RAILWAYS, LTD.

Gross receipts in the year to June 30 amounted to £791,745, an increase of £145,000, while expenses were only £82,000 higher at £425,300, the ratio to receipts being 53.72 against 53.09 per cent. Including miscellaneous revenue, the nett profit is £63,800 up at £370,547, and after meeting fixed charges the balance is £38,590 larger at £182,570. Appropriations for reserves, &c., are £35,000 higher at £95,000, and after again paying 4 per cent. on the ordinary shares the balance forward is £2,500 up at £17,028. Passenger receipts increased £26,600, or 23 per cent., while the number carried was 28¾ per cent. up, but parcels, &c., showed a reduction of 9.3 per cent. Goods traffic increased £100,000, or 26 per cent., about half the gain being in sugar. The report states that the weather was fine and dry throughout the harvest, but while this was good for milling operations it retarded the growth of cane which had been planted in the spring. There was only a slight falling off in tobacco traffic, which was affected by the prohibition of imports into Great Britain without special permits. A large increase in the haulage of machinery and building materials is reported owing to the prosperity and expansion of the sugar industry, but there was a decrease of 12 per cent. in the quantity of firewood carried. Maize is only a small item so far as this company is concerned, but it increased over 76 per cent., and coal showed an increase of nearly 10 per cent. Maintenance of way cost £14,700 more, and the condition of the lines generally was improved during the year. Locomotive maintenance increased £10,400, and that of wagons £3,000. Running expenses were £16,000 higher and traffic expenses £24,300. Prospects for the current year are good. Very little new cane has been planted, but the fields are in splendid condition, and promise much larger yields, so that an increase of 5 to 10 per cent. in tonnage of cane is confidently anticipated. It almost makes us wish that we could all emigrate to Cuba and try to forget the war.

WESTERN RAILWAY OF HAVANA, LTD.

For the year to June 30 the gross receipts were £18,800 up at £306,810, while the expenses were £15,900 higher, the ratio to receipts rising from 61.19 per cent. to 62.62 per cent. Nett revenue amounted to £114,690, an increase of £2,900, but to

this has to be added miscellaneous receipts, which bring the total up to £128,358, or £6,800 more than last year. After again setting aside £15,000 for reserves and contributing £2,228 to expenses of exchange of share capital for that of United Railways and Havana, the directors repeat the dividend of 7 per cent. and reduce the carry forward by £3,100 to £12,410. Apart from passenger traffic the business of the company did not show much improvement. The tobacco industry continued to suffer from poor crops and, it is stated, the lessened demand arising out of the European War. Probably the trade in first-class brands has diminished, but all the evidence goes to show that the consumption of tobacco among men serving with the colours has increased rather than diminished, as compared with peace times. Sugar, as might be expected, largely compensated for the loss of tobacco traffic, and it is believed that in time the territory served by the company's lines will become a fair sugar district. The electrification of the line between Havana and Rincon continues to give good results, and the provision of further facilities necessitated by the growth of this traffic is receiving consideration. Details of operating are not of much interest, but we may mention that maintenance of way cost £5,300 more, of carriages £4,200 more, and of wagons £4,400 more. Running expenses were £3,000 higher and electric working cost £2,500 more, but there was a saving of £2,000 in traffic expenses.

KHEDIVIAL MAIL STEAMSHIP AND GRADING DOCK CO., LTD.

For the year to June 30 the trading profit was £85,657, an increase of £32,270, and interest, depreciation, expenses, &c., were about the same at £33,700. Out of the balance it is proposed to pay a bonus of 10 per cent., in addition to the dividend of 15 per cent., making 25 per cent. for the year, and leaving £16,000 more at £28,600 to be carried forward. There is no reserve fund, which seems rather imprudent, although in other respects the company has been well enough managed. Several of the company's ships have been used in various capacities in the service of the country, and one was sunk while in the employment of the Admiralty. Advantage has been taken of the presence of such ships as have come to the United Kingdom to carry out many much-needed repairs. Property and plant have been written down £38,000, and a loan of £18,850 has been paid off, but sundry creditors, including provision for excess profits duty, are £65,000 up. Debtors have increased £54,000, and cash balances are £43,000 higher at £67,770.

WEARDALE STEEL, COAL AND COKE CO., LTD.

Magnificent results are shown for the year to September 30, the nett profits showing an increase of £103,000 at £200,050, after providing for all accrued liabilities, which, we presume, include excess profits duty. Consequently, after doubling the reserve for depreciation at £80,000, the preferred ordinary shares get an extra 6 per cent., making 12 per cent. for the year, and the deferred 13½ per cent., making 19½ per cent. for the year. This leaves £4,700 more at £41,820 to be carried forward. High prices have been obtained for the company's products, but wages also have increased, and it is stated that they are now 38½ per cent. higher than last year, and 10½ per cent. above the basis. The number of the company's workmen who have joined the Colours is now 1,814. Sundry creditors have increased £106,000 at £170,000, and sundry debtors £28,000 at £130,000, while cash balances have risen £215,000 to £258,000; but there is a decrease of £10,500 at £77,500 in stocks.

FRASER AND CHALMERS, LTD.

Although the Erith works have been largely employed on war work, this company appears to have also done well with its ordinary business during the year ended June 30. Even after making provision for excess and controlled profit taxation, the profits showed an increase of £17,233 at £43,333, while the nett balance, after meeting administration charges, interest, and depreciation, was £12,610 up at £24,669. Had the directors so chosen, the improvement would have enabled them to resume the payment of a dividend on the ordinary shares, which have received nothing since 1911-12, when 3 per cent. was paid. As, however, the stocks and work in progress have risen by no less than £82,596 to £221,013, and machinery in course of construction is £48,277 up at £107,662, the funds are required in the business, so the distribution is again restricted to the preference dividend. In addition to the increases just mentioned, the balance-sheet shows that £234,108, or £13,843 more, is due from sundry debtors, but cash and bills receivable are £17,796 down at £32,483. On the other hand, creditors and bills payable have risen by £84,269 to £242,050, and a loan of £15,000 has been obtained from the bankers.

EDISON SWAN ELECTRIC CO., LTD.

There must have been considerable temptation for the directors to declare a dividend, and, oh, the shareholders must be awared waiting for it! Trading profits amounted to £65,740, and after paying debenture interest and expenses the nett profit is £10,000 higher at £24,146. General expenses were £4,500 lower, but the directors this time take £1,800 for fees and £1,300 more is allowed for depreciation. With £4,880 brought forward, there is an available sum of £29,025, of which it is proposed to place £25,000 to reserve (making it £40,000) and to carry forward the balance. Trade has shown a considerable improvement, and all the available cash is required in the business; indeed, much more could be profitably employed. Naturally, profits have been affected by the high cost of materials, but the engineering department has been almost

wholly employed on Government work. Creditors have been reduced by £44,500, but loans are up £10,000, while stocks have increased £61,000 and debtors are £13,300 higher. The item of £390,000 for goodwill, patents, &c., is a terrible clog on the business, and the debenture debt of £375,000 is crushing, but it cannot be helped at present.

DENNIS BROS. (1913), LTD.

For the year to September 30 the trading profit increased £25,150 to £150,020, but amounts written off for depreciation, &c., were £23,000 higher, and the nett profit of £120,186 is only £3,000 up. The amount brought forward, however, was £7,200 larger, and after placing £70,000, or £5,000 more, to reserves (including provision for special taxation) and repeating the distribution of 3s. per share, the balance over is £5,200 higher at £16,535. A sum of £20,000 has been deposited with the tax authorities in respect of excess profits duty, and cash is £14,000 lower at £104,120. On the other hand, buildings, plant, &c., have increased £20,200, stocks £13,600, and sundry debtors £34,000. Evidently the additional capital put into the business three years ago has been used to good purpose.

ROVER CO., LTD.

A further shrinkage of £8,205 to £116,809 is shown in the revenue for the year ended August 31. On the other hand, maintenance and depreciation of plant, &c., took £4,598 more, and income-tax charges were £6,992 heavier, so that after providing for other charges, the nett balance was £19,403 smaller at £61,098. Adding £40,360 brought forward, the amount now to be dealt with is £13,270 down at £101,458, but the directors again pay a dividend of 10 per cent., less tax. The reserve, however, gets £10,000 less at £20,000, and nothing is put to plant reserve or to the war reserve for employees' dependents compared with £10,000 and £7,500 respectively, but £30,000, or double last year's amount, is put to the war contingencies fund, leaving £40,233, or £127 less, to be carried forward. The auditors point out that no provision has been made for the liability, if any, for excess profits duty or Munition Exchequer payment. Property account has been reduced by £3,098 to £68,031, and plant, machinery, &c., by £19,767 to £62,977. Sundry debtors owe £30,514 more at £97,925, but stocks are £3,450 smaller at £151,213, and cash is £24,408 down at £5,951. The company, however, has increased its investments by £5,640 to £13,405, and also holds £19,724 in Treasury bills, while its current liabilities are £8,301 down at £39,197.

SWIFT CYCLE CO., LTD.

This company has been engaged on munition works during its year ended July 31, and its trading profits show an increase of £12,295 at £50,088, to which is added £24,712, or £4,670 more, brought in. Of this an extra £11,610 at £21,408 is written off for depreciation, together with £4,416 or £1,499 more, for maintenance and repairs, and after repeating the dividend of 7 per cent. on the ordinary shares the balance carried forward is increased by £3,288 to £28,000. Property account is practically unaltered at £49,134, but plant, fixtures, &c., are £5,423 up at £63,326. Stocks have been reduced by £28,889 to £74,982, and debtors owe £8,943 less at £35,427, but cash and bills come to £13,295 more at £53,757, against a decrease of £21,369 to £23,638 in liabilities to sundry creditors.

KERR, STUART AND CO., LTD.

No reference is made in the report for the 12 months ended July 31 to the serious differences between the company and the War Office mentioned a year ago, but apparently they have made no difference to its earning power. The works have been fully employed on contracts for our own and the Allied Governments, and on January 31 they were declared a controlled establishment. Profits are only given after making special provision for depreciation and war taxation, in addition to the usual charges, so that it is impossible to say just how the company has done, but the nett surplus shown is £1,103 up at £27,223. With £9,358, or £5,121 more brought forward, the available total is £36,581, and the ordinary shares get a dividend of 12½ per cent., tax free, as against a dividend of 5 per cent., and a bonus of like amount in War Loan last time. The general reserve is then given £7,500, or £2,500 more, making that fund £42,500, and the balance carried forward is increased by £1,224 to £10,581. After writing off £7,706 for war depreciation and part cost of war tools, property and plant account is £1,702 down at £195,420. Stocks and work in progress are £26,673 larger at £83,102, but cash and bills have been reduced by £14,310 to £20,246, and investments by £22,076 to £2,993. On the other hand, £17,594 more at £75,632 is due to creditors, including the provision for war taxation, but the bank overdraft of £40,218 in the last balance-sheet has been paid off.

BRITISH AUTOMATIC CO., LTD.

For the second year in succession the receipts from this company's machines benefited considerably from the unusual conditions and the movements of troops, and the nett profits for the year ended September 30, after making provision for excess profits taxation, were £9,559 up at £52,606. Nothing is written off this time compared with £2,122 for cost of new machines, while a year ago £5,000 was also set aside out of the nett surplus for excess profits tax, but this time the directors double the appropriation to reserve at £10,000, and after increasing the dividend by 6d. to 2s. per share, they carry forward £10,117, as against £7,511 brought in. Machines and fittings, patents and goodwill stand in the books at £250,000, and investments in the Glasgow factory at £135,000, against which the reserve now amounts to £65,000, and is represented by £65,454 in investments. Stocks are £8,590 up at £32,842, and cash has risen by £29,135 to £58,303, but debtors owe

£8,500 less at £7,439, while current liabilities are £20,192 higher at £50,127.

ROBERT REID AND CO., LTD.

Thanks to the fine harvest and the high prices obtained for exports from Australia, this business of Australian merchants found the year ended July 19 a very satisfactory one, in spite of shipping difficulties and other drawbacks. Profits amounted to £68,225, or an increase of £14,604, and after providing for administrative charges and setting aside £11,423 for income-tax, the nett balance, including £6,476 more at £21,795 brought in, was £19,083 up at £76,748. A dividend of 10 per cent., tax free, has been paid on the ordinary shares, and out of the balance £35,213, as against £10,000, is transferred to special reserve, £10,000, or double last year's amount, is put to investments reserve, and £10,000 to the fund for repayment of mortgages, making the aggregate of the reserves £250,213, compared with a paid-up capital of £400,000 and a debenture debt of £150,000. Stocks are £138,689 up at £652,603, and payments on shipments in transit have risen by £72,925 to £216,408, increases which are largely due to the company having had to put two seasons' purchases into one, as manufacturers would not hold the goods over. Cash and bills receivable show a decrease of £36,000 at £25,717, but debtors owe £58,589 more at £342,709, while, on the other hand, current liabilities are £206,624 up at £653,360.

S. AND W. BERISFORD, LTD.

A recovery of £26,732 to £67,916 is shown in the trading profits of this wholesale grocery business for the year ended September 30, and as only £15,253, or £18,181 less is set aside for income-tax and excess profits duty, the nett balance, after paying £3,124 more at £5,600 as directors' salaries, is £41,789 up at £47,062. The balance brought forward was £8,662 smaller at £29,566, giving a total of £76,628 to be dealt with, and in addition to their usual dividend of 10 per cent. the ordinary shares receive a bonus of 2s. per share, or another 10 per cent., bringing the distribution back to the level of two years ago. Out of the surplus the directors take £3,116, or £1,180 more, being 5 per cent. on nett profits, before deducting excess profits duty, &c., so that altogether the five pocket an additional £4,304 between them, and the balance carried forward is increased by £24,447 to £54,023. Stocks have been reduced by £35,239 to £29,449, but debtors, bills receivable, and bank balances—an item which should be divided—come to £15,692 more at £173,138, and investments are £21,353 up at £65,536, while £29,593 less at £33,204 is due to creditors.

SENA SUGAR FACTORY, LTD.

"High prices were evidently realised by this company in 1915, as although the output was only slightly larger than that of the previous year, the gross profit, including £2,085 more from dividend on investment, was £67,081 up at £169,471. Expenses were only a trifle higher, and as there was a saving in interest charges the nett balance showed an improvement of £69,287 at £146,157. Of this, £55,000, or £51,500 more, is set aside for excess profits tax for two years, and income-tax, and £10,000 is again transferred to the partnership capital reserve, but nothing has to be written off this time, compared with £9,580 for expenses of preference share issue; the available total was therefore £27,366 better at £71,157. The reserve gets £19,405, or £6,005 more, and the dividend on the ordinary shares is increased from 7 per cent. to 16, leaving £3,142 to be carried forward, as against £2,500 brought in. Property account has only been increased by £1,060 to £324,227, while the cost of terminable concessions in East Africa is £2,659 down at £28,679, and invest-

INDUSTRIAL BANK OF JAPAN FIVE PER CENT. STERLING BONDS.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the COUPONS due the 1st December, 1916, will be PAID on and after that date (Saturdays excepted), between the hours of 11 and 3, at the Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd., where lists may be obtained.

Coupons must be left three clear days for examination prior to their payment.

For the Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd.,

K. TATSUMI, Manager.

7, Bishopsgate, London, E.C.,
16th November, 1916.

IMPERIAL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT 4 PER CENT. STERLING LOAN OF 1910.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the COUPONS due 1st December, 1916, will be paid on and after that date (Saturdays excepted), between the hours of 11 and 3, at the Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd., where lists may be obtained.

Coupons must be left three clear days for examination prior to their payment.

For the Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd.,

K. TATSUMI, Manager.

7, Bishopsgate, London, E.C.,
16th November, 1916.

ments have been reduced by £8,681 to £63,560, through the redemption of preference shares in Hornung and Co., Ltd. Stores are £13,439 lower at £100,175, but stocks of sugar have risen by £40,342 to £240,791, and debtors owe £6,124 more at £31,344, while advances under the agreement between the company and Hornung and Co. have been reduced on balance by £5,296 to £203,830. On the other hand, advances against sugar belonging to the company show a decrease of £133,649 at £151,106, but sundry creditors are £84,938 higher at £128,797, and bills payable come to £12,872 more at £34,009.

SAN PAULO COFFEE ESTATES CO., LTD.

A severe drought in the autumn prevented this company from realising its expected crop in 1915, and the total output was 6,525 cwt. below that of the previous year at 43,259 cwt., while the nett price realised was a trifle lower at 30s. Notwithstanding this, and a drop of £1,118 in the railway receipts, the total income was only £732 down at £28,085, and as there was a substantial reduction in charges, chiefly owing to smaller income-tax payments, the nett surplus was £1,300 better at £7,729. The balance brought forward also was £6,429 larger, giving a total of £17,923, or £7,729 more, available, and the directors resume the payment of the 7 per cent. dividend on the preferred shares, which leaves £671 less at £9,523 to be carried forward. Capital expenditure has been reduced by £10,600 to £315,472, through the redemption of a like amount of debentures. Stocks of coffee show a decrease of £5,560 at £83,558, debtors owe £2,771 less at £894, and cash is £8,820 down at £2,060, while, on the other hand, sundry creditors and bills payable come to £25,793 less at £61,531.

AFRICAN LAKES CORPORATION, LTD.

In the year ended December 31 the volume of the trading turnover was considerably increased through the influx of Europeans into the territories served by this corporation, and the nett profits, including £6,890, or £548 more, brought forward, were £16,224 larger at £34,832. Out of this the dividend is increased from 7½ per cent. to 10, and in addition a bonus is paid of 1s. 4d. per share on the fully-paid shares and of 1s. per share on the shares 15s. paid, both being tax free, leaving £8,790, or £1,900 more, to be carried forward, subject to excess profits duty. Stocks and property are lumped together in one item, which shows a decrease of £17,462 at £166,496, sundry debtors owe £28,990 more at £61,804, and cash is £25,070 up at £92,257, against which sundry creditors have risen by £19,324 to £102,535, and bills payable by £6,894 to £9,192.

LONDON EXPRESS NEWSPAPER, LTD.

This company is the successor of the Daily Express (1908), Ltd., which it took over as from July 1, 1915. If a report for the year to June 30, 1915, was issued it has not come into our hands, but the statement for the past year shows that a better start has been made than might have been expected under the circumstances. The new company was not incorporated till October 2, and the profits for the first three months, amounting to £3,210, have been written off the purchase price. For the remainder of the year nett profits amounted to £7,310, out of which the preference dividend is paid, and £1,770 carried forward. Considerable changes are shown in the balance-sheet, as compared with June 30, 1914. Issued share capital has been raised from £219,900 to £245,262, but debentures have been reduced from £320,000 to £42,550, and plant, goodwill, &c., from £497,570 to £272,750. Even now it is a fairly steep figure for the property, and we shall watch the company's career with some interest. But the paper has been a good deal saner recently than some of its rivals.

BRISTOL UNITED BREWERIES, LTD.

Profits for the year ended September 30, after providing for compensation fund charge and extra licence duties, were £1,831 smaller at £59,292, but the balance brought forward, less £3,627 for excess profits duty for 1914-15, was £8,293 up at £30,786. A dividend of 10 per cent. is again paid on the ordinary shares, and after transferring £3,625 to investment reserve, a balance of £37,260, or £2,847 more, is carried forward. Property account has been increased by £5,715 to £829,455, but investments are £13,397 down at £21,403, the company's holding of Bristol Water Works debenture stock having been sold. Cash balances are £8,517 larger at £18,666, and in addition the company holds £20,000 in Treasury bills due in November and December. The directors ask for the views of the shareholders as to the advisability, or otherwise, of their proceeding to take the necessary steps for converting the £10 shares of both classes into £1 shares, with the object of obtaining greater negotiability.

MONTVIDEO TELEPHONE CO., LTD.

With a further moderate addition to the number of subscribers, the income for the year ended July 31 improved by £3,947 to £75,215. Working expenses were rather lower, but provision for income-tax and for excess profits duty absorbed £4,251 more at £5,416, and the nett balance, including £5,394 brought in, was only £300 better at £31,379. Of this, £8,000 is again written off for depreciation and £9,000 transferred to reserve for renewals, after which the dividend of 6 per cent. on the ordinary shares is repeated, leaving £5,604, or £300 more, to be carried forward. The depreciation allowance exceeded the capital outlay for the 12 months by £5,233, reducing the cost of the property to £180,923, against which the reserves now stand at £123,450. Investments have been increased by £22,722 to £72,011.

OCEANA CONSOLIDATED CO., LTD.

At one time this company set up to be quite a swaggar concern, but it has fallen on evil times, and its 5s. shares stand at a discount of about 50 per cent. For the year to June 30 dividends and sundry receipts brought in £24,997, and after meeting office expenses, &c., there is a profit of £17,732, and with the amount brought in there is a balance of £24,075, which it is proposed to carry forward. About the best asset appears to be its interest in the Piccadilly Hotel, which made a profit of £22,235, and declared dividends amounting to 75 per cent. on the ordinary capital, so that the purchasers of the business after the first gigantic collapse have done very well out of it. Naturally nothing could be done with the land holdings in the Transvaal, but the Taquah Mining Co. and the Abosso Gold Mining Co. in West Africa both paid substantial dividends, while the New Egyptian company only made a trifling profit. Altogether shares and debentures stand in the books at £345,540 and land in the Transvaal at £234,200, the balance-sheet totalling at £656,330, against which there is an issued capital of £512,630 and a loan of £110,220. The lease of the present premises in Austin Friars having expired, new offices have been taken in Salisbury House, which will be the company's address after December 4. It is said that a material saving in rent, taxes and establishment charges will be secured by this change.

BACKUS AND JOHNSTONE'S BREWERY CO., LTD.—This Peruvian brewery again had an unfortunate experience in the fifteen months ended June 30, having been hit both ways. On the one hand, the demand for light beers fell off considerably owing to inclement weather in the summer season, and on the other, the cost of all materials were substantially higher. Gross profits consequently only amounted to £7,915, as compared with £17,562 for the previous year, and, after providing for debenture interest, income-tax, and other charges, there was a debit of £3,336, as against a profit of £4,863. Deducting from this the balance brought in, there is a debit of £709 to be carried forward. Changes in the balance-sheet are not of much importance, but it may be noted that property and goodwill account is £3,984 up at £211,825, and that cash and bills have been reduced by £9,313 to £1,895.

INDIAN PENINSULA RUBBER AND TEA ESTATES.—Owing to very unfavourable weather conditions the tea and coffee crops for the year ended June 30 fell short of the estimates, and the rubber yield was only some 2,000 lbs. more than had been expected. Compared with the previous year, the tea crop was 26,752 lbs. larger at 190,982 lbs., and the rubber crop 51,420 lbs. up at 103,268 lbs., while the coffee crop was 59 tons smaller at 103 tons. The nett price for the tea was about 1d. lower at 8.00d., and the cost of harvesting and manufacture was reduced by .41d. to 3.65d., while coffee yielded 63s. 11d. nett per cwt., or about 1s. 11d. more, and the nett price for the rubber was 3.62d. up at 2s. 4.42d. The final outcome was very poor, as after writing off £240 for underwriting commission and £1,000, or double last year's amount, for depreciation, there was a nett loss of £2,317 compared with a profit of £173. Deducting this from the balance brought in, £2,837 was left to be carried forward. Crops for 1916-17 are estimated at 140,000 lbs. rubber, 300,000 lbs. tea, and 186 tons coffee.

Answers to Correspondents.

* A Key to these Answers will be posted early each week for a subscription of ONE GUINEA per annum, 11s. for six months, or 5s. 9d. for three months.

Deposits against future queries may be lodged with the Publisher.

C. F.—No doubt the company has done much better last year, but the price asked seems much too high, and we think you should not touch them. The past history is not particularly brilliant, and one or two good years are not enough to justify so big a premium.

Thame.—We cannot say. In the meantime, why not take Exchequer bonds? They are convertible, and meantime give a better return than you are getting.

C. T. W.—Leave them severely alone. We do not think the notices have appeared in any trustworthy publication.

Bray.—Not unless you have something better in view. The issue is being redeemed by purchases in the open market, and all bonds fall due to be repaid within nine years. The security is quite a good one.

M. S. M.—The interest should be safe; but the shares are fully priced in these times at par.

Stockholder.—(1) There will be no war bonuses payable after the peace comes. They are only granted for the war, and for a time after wages are likely to come down rather than advance. (2) As near as we can estimate, £1,000,000 to £1,500,000.

Rags.—The ordinary seem to offer the best chance of a good rise one of these days; but both are quite tempting.

J. W. F.—The shares should be an excellent purchase, as at the price you mention the yield is over 10½ per cent., and prospects are good.

Adon.—Have nothing whatever to do with the offer.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

A. B. Fleming and Co.—Interim of 5 per cent., less tax, same as last year.

Alliance Assurance.—Interim at the rate of 5s. per share, less tax, payable Jan. 5, same as a year ago.

Bank of British West Africa.—Interim at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum (less tax) for half-year ended Sept. 30, against 6 per cent.

Bank of New Zealand.—Interim of 6 per cent. on the ordinary, payable Dec. 12, same as a year ago.

Broken Hill Proprietary Block 10.—1s. per share, less tax, payable Dec. 13.

Canadian Pacific Railway.—2½ per cent. on the common for quarter ended Sept. 30, being at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum from revenue and 3 per cent. per annum from special income account, payable Jan. 2.

Cape Electric Tramways.—3½ per cent., less tax, against 5 per cent.

Cargo Fleet Iron and Steel Works.—3 per cent., less pay, payable Dec. 30.

Castner-Kellner Alkali.—13 per cent. for six months ended Sept. 30, making 22 per cent. for the year, against 20 per cent.

Chargola Tea.—Interim on account of 1916 on the ordinary of 5 per cent., less tax, same as a year ago.

Commercial Bank of Scotland.—Half-year's at the rate of 16 per cent. per annum, less tax, making 16 per cent. for year, same as last year.

Connaught Trust.—5 per cent. on the preferred ordinary for year ended June, 1916, same as for the previous year.

Fine Cotton Spinners' and Doublers'.—Interim on the ordinary of 4 per cent. actual, less tax. This is an increase of 1 per cent. actual upon the interims of the preceding eight years.

Godfrey Phillips.—Interim at the rate of 10 per cent. for half-year ended June 30 last.

Golden Horse Shoe Estates.—Second interim for 1916 of 2s. 6d. per share, free tax, payable Dec. 15, same as a year ago.

Hyderabad (Deccan).—Interim of 1s. per share, less tax, payable Jan. 1, same as a year ago.

J. Lyons and Co.—Interim for half-year ended Sept. 30 at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum on the ordinary, payable Dec. 1, same as a year ago.

Jhanzie Tea.—Interim for 1916 of 4 per cent., less tax, payable Dec. 11, against 2½ per cent.

Jokai (Assam) Tea.—Interim for 1916 on the ordinary of 5 per cent., less tax, payable Dec. 18, against 3 per cent.

London Nitrate.—Final of 2s. per share, making 3s. per share for the year, placing £10,000 to reserve, £2,500 to reserve for depreciation of investments, £10,000 off works and properties, with £8,463 forward, against 2s. for 1914-15.

Malaysia Rubber.—Interim of 15 per cent. (less tax at 4s. 6d.), payable Dec. 1. No further interim will be paid for current year. The payment of the present dividend must not be taken as implying that the final dividend will be equal to or in excess of the present distribution.

Monerakelle Rubber.—Final of 11 per cent., less tax, at 3s. 6d. on the ordinary, making 18 per cent., less tax, for year ended June 30, against 10 per cent. for 1914-15.

Perak Rubber.—Interim of 2d. per share, free tax, payable Nov. 30, against 1½d.

Plymouth Consolidated Gold.—Interim at the rate of 1s. per share, less tax at 5s., payable Dec. 15.

Power-Gas Corporation.—6 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary.

Riverside (Selangor) Rubber.—Interim of 15 per cent., less tax, for year ending Dec. 31, against 10 per cent.

St. John del Rey Mining.—Interim of 9d. per share on the ordinary, less tax.

Sanitas Company.—Usual interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum in respect of half-year ended Sept. 30, payable Dec. 1.

Scottish Malay Rubber.—Second interim of 15 per cent., less tax, making 30 per cent. to date on account of year ending Dec. 31.

Sungei Riching Rubber.—Interim at the rate of 7½ per cent. actual (1s. 6d. per share) for year ending Dec. 31, payable forthwith.

Tangga Batu Rubber.—Interim for 1916 of 10 per cent., less tax, same as last year.

Third Mile (F.M.S.) Rubber.—Interim in respect of 1916 of 10 per cent., less tax, same as last year.

Transvaal and Delagoa Bay Investment.—At the rate of 17½ per cent., equals 3s. 6d. per share, same as a year ago.

Trustees, Executors and Securities Insurance.—On the preference at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum, less tax, for half-year to Nov. 30, payable Dec. 1.

Van den Berghs.—Further interim of 10 per cent. (actual) on the ordinary.

Cities Service Co.—Earnings for October, \$1,122,910, increase \$711,406; nett \$1,102,869, increase \$705,708. Earnings for twelve months ended October 31, \$8,233,953, increase \$4,001,028; nett \$8,001,568, increase \$3,932,157.

The Treasury announces that a new design for £1 currency notes has now been approved, and the new notes, which will be of the same size as the existing issue, are expected to be ready for issue early in the New Year.

Provincial Bank of Ireland.—Owing to failing health, Mr. Charles Chambers, who has been connected with the bank for over 60 years, and has been a member of the board since 1900, has found it necessary to retire. Mr. Robert Ashhurst Gradwell, J.P., of Drowth Hall, Drogheda, Co. Louth, has been elected to fill the vacancy.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1916, and Nov. 11, 1916:—

	Estimate for the Year 1916-1917. (See note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1916, to Nov. 11, 1916.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1915, to Nov. 13, 1915.
Balances in Exchequer on April 1—	£	£	£
Bank of England	—	25,118,065	81,898,728
Bank of Ireland	—	463,941	1,552,224
REVENUE.		25,575,006	83,450,952
Customs	71,000,000	40,610,000	29,040,000
Excise	65,000,000	31,925,000	34,950,000
Estate, &c., Duties	30,000,000	18,269,000	19,812,000
Stamps	7,000,000	4,519,000	4,041,000
Land Tax and House Duty	2,650,000	330,000	340,000
Property and Income Tax and Super Tax	195,000,000	41,316,000	20,224,000
Excess Profits Duty	86,000,000	52,146,000	—
Land Value Duties	475,000	131,000	61,000
Post Office	36,100,000	19,550,000	19,050,000
Crown Lands	550,000	320,000	290,000
Receipts from Suez Canal Shares and Sundry Loans	5,000,000	4,815,767	772,960
Miscellaneous	3,500,000	10,988,968	3,204,232
Revenue	502,275,000	224,920,735	131,791,192
Total, including Balance		250,495,741	215,242,144
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion		2,540,000	1,120,000
For Treasury Bills (for supply)		1,383,209,000	188,621,000
For Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		3,067,600	—
For War Loan, 1925-1928		—	35,798,408
For 3½ Exchequer Bonds, 1920		—	242,345
For War Loan, 1925-1945		424	585,850,000
For 5½ Exchequer Bonds, 1919		34,222,000	—
For 5½ Exchequer Bonds, 1920		84,140,469	—
For 5½ Exchequer Bonds, 1921		62,464,000	—
For 6½ Exchequer Bonds, 1920		89,342,000	—
For War Expenditure Certificates		27,909,500	—
For War Savings Certificates		34,550,000	—
For other Debt created under the War Loan Act, 1915, and Finance Act, 1916		86,106,208	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913		180,000	1,230,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913		160,000	160,000
Under Housing Act, 1914		45,200	650,000
East Africa Protectorate Loan Repayments on account of Principal and Interest		—	3,825
Temporary Advances—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £345,000,000 in 1916-1917 and £231,130,000 in 1915-1916)		457,896,500	261,746,500
Total		2,516,348,642	1,290,844,222

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Estimate for the Year 1916-17. (See note.)	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1916, to Nov. 11, 1916.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1915, to Nov. 13, 1915.
EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£
Permanent Charge of Debt ..	12,818,000	14,428,874	16,559,966
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	114,436,000	66,458,545	6,574,877
Road Improvement Fund	—	—	694,395
Payments to Local Taxation	—	—	—
Accounts, &c.	9,500,000	5,164,135	5,487,901
Other Consolidated Fund	—	—	—
Services	1,700,000	1,282,986	1,193,592
Supply Services	1,637,529,000	1,119,199,382	827,508,148
Expenditure	1,825,983,000	1,206,533,922	848,018,879
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion		2,680,000	1,825,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		91,370	91,370
For Treasury Bill, for Supply		899,929,000	86,000,000
For Exchequer Bonds under the War Loan (Re-empti)n Act, 1910		—	16,395,500
For Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	£4,060,900	—	—
Less: paid off by the National Debt Commissioners	973,300	3,087,600	—
For Exchequer Bonds under Section 61 of the Finance Act, 1916		79,150	—
For Issues under Section 1 (5) of the War Loan Act, 1915		—	270,143,313
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913		190,000	1,300,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913		160,000	160,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		8,000	—
Under Housing Act, 1914		44,500	650,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8, issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1903		69,000	60,000
Old Sinking Fund—1910-1911: Issued under the Finance Act, 1911—			
Section 16 (1) (b)		43,160	100,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1911-1912—Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Co. (Acquisition of Capital) Act, 1914		250,000	250,000
East Africa Protectorate Loan Repayments— Issued to reduce debt under the Finance Act, 1911		—	3,825
Temporary Advances repaid—Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £291,726,000 in 1916-17 and £146,512,000 in 1915-16)		367,622,500	146,512,000
Balances in Exchequer—			
Bank of England	34,276,619	18,727,359	1,271,509,887
Bank of Ireland	1,288,821	608,976	19,334,335
Total		2,516,348,642	1,290,844,222

MEMO.—Treasury Bills outstanding on Nov. 11, 1916 ... £1,101,829,000.

* Includes £307,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of this Account.

NOTE.—Estimate as in House of Commons Paper No. 50 of 1916, and Supplementary Grants.

Treasury, November 13, 1916.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

TANDJONG RUBBER.

CAPITAL PER ACRE—EXCESS PROFITS DUTY.

The ninth annual general meeting of the Tandjong Rubber Company, Limited, was held, on Wednesday, in the Council Room of the Rubber Growers' Association, 38, Eastcheap, E.C.4, Mr. George Groll (chairman of the company) presiding.

Mr. James M. Kemp, representing the secretaries (Messrs. Harrisons and Crosfield, Limited), having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—Before proceeding with the ordinary business of this meeting, I should like to express, on behalf of your directors, and I am sure also on your behalf, the deep regret with which we record the loss this company has sustained by the death of our late chairman Mr. Lampard. Mr. Lampard was responsible for the formation of this company, and I know that he always took a very great interest in its development, the success of which was a great satisfaction to him. The directors took the liberty of conveying your sympathy along with theirs to Mrs. Lampard and her family, and in this I am sure they have your approval. (Hear, hear.) Gentlemen, the report and accounts have been circulated for some time, and I feel sure I shall be meeting your wishes by taking them as read. In regard to the balance-sheet, our capital remains at £150,000, which is the same as in the previous year. There is also no change in the amount of premiums on shares received, which remains at £73,684. The reserve is £20,000, as against £10,000 last year, and if you agree to the board's recommendation to transfer a further £10,000 from the year's profits to this account, the total sum standing at the credit of premiums and reserve will amount to £103,684, which is equivalent to £19 6s. 5d. per planted acre. After allowing for depreciation, the nett capital expenditure for the year has been £7,632 16s. 8d., making a total capital expenditure to date of the balance-sheet of £235,368 13s. 8d. This is equal to £43 17s. 3d. per acre, which is the amount actually spent on the 5,366 acres planted. After deducting the premiums and reserve, actual and proposed (which includes the £10,000 which we propose to place to reserve this year), this leaves a nett book cost of £24 10s. 10d. per acre—no allowance being made for the 250 acres cleared and now in course of planting, and the 1,487 acres of good plantable reserve land, which now is of very considerable value, as land situated where Tandjong is in practically impossible to obtain. After taking credit for the £10,000 which we propose to place to reserve account, the capital of the company unspent at June 30 last was £18,316. Against this we have to meet an estimated capital expenditure for the current year of £3,669, resulting in an estimated surplus on capital account at the end of the current year of £8,647.

NEW PLANTINGS.

A detailed acreage statement is given in the directors' report, and shows an increase in the total area planted with rubber as compared with the previous year of 250 acres. This area was planted up on Tandjong Merah estate in November of last year, the planting distance being 21 ft. by 21 ft. The seed used for this opening was specially selected from the older rubber trees on the same estate, and the work in connection with the extension has been carried out in a thoroughly satisfactory manner. As mentioned in the report, the directors have sanctioned the opening of a further 250 acres in rubber, and it is anticipated that this area will be planted up before the end of the current year. The crop of rubber harvested during the period under review amounted to 1,206,950 lbs., against an estimate of 1,042,000 lbs., and a previous year's total of 817,491 lbs., an increase on the year of 389,459 lbs. The crop was harvested from an average bearing area of 3,650 acres, or about 68 per cent. of the total planted area, as against 2,622 acres in the previous year. The yield was at the rate of 330 lbs. per acre, as against 312 lbs. in the previous period. The all-in cost of the crop was 1s. 0.59d. per lb., as against 1s. 2.28d. for the previous year; and the rubber realised a gross average of 2s. 5.63d. per lb. (London equivalent), against 2s. 1.84d. The increase in the profit per lb. is therefore 5.48d. I think that, taking into consideration the large acreage which we brought into bearing for the first time, and the higher costs due to the war, those figures are eminently satisfactory. (Hear, hear.) The estates have been maintained in a thoroughly clean-weeded condition throughout the year at the very moderate cost of 8.6d. per acre per month, which compares with 10.9d. for the previous year. The labour force on the estates at the end of the financial year numbered 2,062, and, owing to the additional areas coming into tapping, steps are being taken to supplement this number during the current year. As regards the health of the European staff and the coolies during the year, this has been maintained at a high standard, the death rate among the coolies being the very low one of 0 per 1,000. We have always paid particular attention to the question of health on the properties, and the present satisfactory state of affairs is due to a great extent to the attention given to sanitation, the provision of substantial coolie lines, and the excellent medical arrangements provided at the company's central hospital at Tandjong Kassau.

CONDITION OF THE ESTATES.

The general appearance and condition of the company's estates are very good, the trees showing everywhere a healthy and even growth. In the older areas a commencement will soon require to be made with a gradual thinning out of the trees, which has been rendered necessary in cases where the shade is becom-

ing too dense. Further draining has been carried out, and the estates are reported to be in a perfectly drained condition. The estate roads have been properly upkept and are in good condition, and are sufficient for requirements. As regards pests and diseases, cases of these were seldom met with, and were promptly and effectively dealt with wherever they occurred. The railway extension through the company's properties, with a station on one of the estates, has been completed, and an adequate service for the transport of the company's goods is now available. These facilities will have the effect of reducing the cost of transport from the estates to the port of shipment. I should like to read the following telegram which we have just received from our Eastern agents regarding the condition of the company's properties:—"Tandjong estates in best condition throughout; 250 acres now clearing, ready to be planted middle December." As regards the current year, I have already mentioned that we were estimating for a capital expenditure of £9,669. The estimate of rubber crop is for 1,455,000 lbs., to be harvested from an estimated average bearing area of 4,190 acres, or 78 per cent. of the total planted area. Of that quantity, 472,074 lbs. were obtained in the first four months of the year, so that the estimate would appear to be a safe one. We have made forward contracts to be delivered out of this crop amounting to 770,560 lbs., at an average gross price of 2s. 6.38d. per lb., London equivalent. The company's nett profit on last year's working amounted to £87,065 7s. 6d., against £39,716 15s 11d. for the previous year. With our carry forward from last year of £7,004 9s. 1d., this amounts to a total of £94,159 16s. 7d. An interim dividend of 15 per cent. was paid in April last, absorbing £22,500, leaving a balance of £71,659 16s. 7d. for disposal to-day. We recommend that a final dividend of 15 per cent. be now paid and that the sum of £10,000 be placed to reserve account. This will leave us with a carry forward of £39,159 16s. 7d., which amount is subject to excess profits duty. This large carry forward is necessary in order to provide for the excess profits duty for which we are liable. The exact amount is not yet ascertainable, but as matters stand at present it will not be less than £30,000, and may amount to something over. This is a very heavy burden to place on a company like ours, which, formed in 1907, paid its first dividend at the end of 1913, but under the Act as it at present stands it is such companies which have got to bear a very large proportion of the burden.

EXCESS PROFITS DUTY.

Now, I do not propose to go over the ground which has already been covered so fully in the Press and by different chairmen at meetings which have already been held, as I am sure you are all familiar with it, but I should like to make the following observations. Under the Act there is no appeal from the decision of the Board of Referees, and so long as the present Act is in existence it seems to me that their decision must stand, but I am of opinion that the Chancellor never intended that the incidence of the tax should fall so heavily on one class of company, and if this is so it seems to me that the wisest course for the directors of such companies as ours to adopt now that they see exactly how they are affected is calmly to consider the matter and see if they cannot put forward some alternative proposals for its amelioration which would come within the scope of the present Act or some modification of it which the Chancellor might be prepared to introduce when preparing his next Budget. I am, however, strongly opposed to the suggestion made by the chairman of one company, that every shareholder in every rubber company should publicly agitate, using the Press, the public platform and Parliament to voice their outraged feelings, and I sincerely and confidently hope that shareholders will not lend themselves to any such undignified procedure. That, gentlemen, is all I have got to say in regard to the report, but before sitting down I should like to say that we are very much indebted to our general manager and our staff in the East, who have had by no means an easy state of things to contend with during the past year, and I think very great credit is due to them for the excellent report which we are able to put before you to-day. (Applause.) There is just one other point that I should like to mention. Last year you were good enough to vote a sum of £200 to the British Red Cross Society. I call your attention to that matter in case some shareholder would like again to propose that some such sum be given to the Red Cross. I now beg to move: "That the directors' report and statement of accounts in respect of the financial year ended June 30, 1916, be and the same are hereby adopted." I will ask Mr. Morrison to second that.

Mr. C. E. Morrison seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman then moved the payment of a final dividend of 15 per cent. and the placing of £10,000 to reserve account. In doing so he said that in the past they had been in the habit of posting the dividend warrants immediately after the general meeting had been held. Owing to the shortage of staff and the present necessity for economy in the way of postage and printing, the directors had decided to dispatch dividend warrants the day following the general meeting, and to enclose such warrants in the envelopes containing a report of the general meeting. This would save addressing two sets of envelopes, and would be a considerable saving in postage.

The motion was seconded by Mr. J. R. Gray, and carried unanimously.

Mr. John Robert Gray and Mr. Charles Ernest Morrison, the retiring directors, were re-elected, on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Angus.

Mr. Atkinson moved the reappointment of Messrs. McAuliffe, Davis and Hope as auditors. This was seconded by Mr. Battersby, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Wolfenden moved a vote of thanks to the directors, agents and staff in the East, which was seconded by Mr. Wragge, and carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. Betty, seconded by Mr. Morrison, it was decided to grant a donation of £200 to the funds of the British Red Cross Society.

The proceedings then terminated.

NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE.

PROSPERITY IN ABNORMAL CONDITIONS.

A meeting of members of the Norwich Union Life Insurance Society was held on Saturday to receive the report of the directors on the quinquennial valuation just completed.

The report referred to the very exceptional conditions under which the valuation had had to be made at a time when it was impossible to form any reliable opinion as to the further duration of the war and its ultimate bearing on the finances of the world or as to the question of future war mortality. During two years of war depreciation of capital values had been inevitable; there had been a marked increase in the burden of income-tax, and war mortality had had to be reckoned with. Under such conditions there might perhaps legitimately have been a disposition to submit assets and liabilities to a less severe test than in normal times, but the directors had resisted any such inclination, Stock Exchange securities, including those repayable at fixed dates, being valued at market prices, and other securities on a correspondingly stringent basis. As the result of this revision of values under war conditions, it was found necessary to write off £617,707.

The report by the actuaries showed that the excess strain of war mortality had absorbed £188,325, but that in spite of this, and of the amount written off on revision of investments, their valuation on the same strong basis as in 1911 disclosed a clear surplus of £612,552, of which £90,830 had been already dealt with as interim bonus during the quinquennium. The amount distributed in 1911 (including interim bonus) was £627,504. Had the actuaries considered it proper to suggest the expediency, at such a time, of valuation on a less stringent basis than that of 2½ per cent., the available balance now would have been correspondingly larger. They, however, felt there was no possible ground on which weaker reserves should be set aside than those considered desirable in normal times, and suggested to the directors the prudence at this juncture of the war of making no immediate distribution of the amount ascertained to be available and of applying that amount partly to increase the already strong basis of reserve and partly as a floating war contingency fund. The directors accepted the recommendations of the actuaries in their entirety, making a provision in the case of claims under participating policies arising through death or survival for the payment of intermediate bonus retrospectively as from June 30, 1911, to the extent of 80 per cent. of the yearly bonus last added.

PROFIT EARNING CAPACITY.

The Chairman said: There is really no necessity for me to add one word to what the general manager has just read, and I make no apology for the somewhat lengthy nature of the two documents, as it was considered only right that at such an important juncture we should take our policy-holders into our confidence and put them in possession not merely of the good figures of our valuation results, but also of our reasons for coming to the decisions just intimated to you. I venture, however, to trespass on your patience for a few minutes longer in order that I may refer to one or two features in the reports, which seem to me to stand out in bold relief. First, I touch on the balance, which you will readily gather from our actuaries' report would have been available had conditions been strictly normal. This gives you some idea of the profit-earning capacity of the society, and is, I think, full of significance as against the day when normal conditions once more prevail. Secondly, the actual working balance of £612,552, arrived at after writing off the large sum of £806,000, due almost entirely to war conditions, really would have enabled us to distribute a quite substantial bonus without altering in the least degree our existing strong basis of reserve calculation.

Possibly some of the policy-holders may think the directors ought to have followed the example of some other offices and raised the basis of calculation to 3 per cent. To these I would reply that we, who are in the position of trustees of a great mutual society, see no very clear distinction just now between that class of financial operation and the distribution of dividends out of capital, which in these times of uncertainty could hardly be looked upon as good finance. Again, others may say, "Why not deal with the whole of the £612,552, which is within £15,000 of the amount distributed in 1911, and which your actuaries have ascertained to be a clear balance, on the same strong valuation basis as was then involved, and, having done so, leave the future to take care of itself?" To these I would say, "We are arranging that, should your policy fall in before normal conditions prevail once more, very handsome additions by way of interim bonus are assured to you or your representatives right back to 1911."

I have ventured to bring to your notice these important features of the reports, and in addition I should like to draw attention to the large increase in our total funds since the last

quinquennium, and to express to you the strong feeling of the directors against the following of any venturesome war policy at such a time, and their determination to strengthen in every way they can the reserves of this great office for the mutual benefit of all its members.

I have only one word more, and that is to express my personal gratitude to the staff who for so many months past have been toiling at the mass of figures and careful calculations necessary to prepare such a report as has been placed before you. This, in addition to their ordinary duties and without the help of the trained minds of the many who have left us for the front, has entailed much extra work, and I heartily congratulate them on the excellent results of their labours.

Other speakers followed, including the Lord Mayor of Norwich, Alderman G. M. Chamberlin, D.L., a vice-president of the society.

AERATED BREAD CO.

The 63rd ordinary general meeting of the Aerated Bread Co., Ltd., was held on Tuesday at the Cannon Street Hotel, Mr. George Edwards, J.P. (the chairman), presiding.

The General Manager and Secretary (Mr. C. E. Davies) read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, and the confirmation of the interim dividend paid in May last, said that the balance-sheet showed something serious must have happened to account for the altered state of affairs, and the poor results for the past year. The prices of foodstuffs and of everything which had to be purchased had been continually increasing, taxation was higher, labour was scarce, dear, and less efficient, until in a business like theirs it was difficult to carry on at a profit. Two years ago they found that the war, which was at that time in its early stage, had made but a slight difference to their trade. The annual profit then was £75,000; in the following year it diminished to £36,000; while in the past year it had declined to £17,000, or less than one-fourth what it was in pre-war times. This reduction in profit was almost entirely due to increased costs and working expenses, as so far it had been found impracticable to pass on anything like the whole of the extra cost to the consumer. Dealing with the balance-sheet, he emphasised the fact that their 143 depots, and their bakery and factory, stores, and offices were worth a considerably higher sum than the figures at which they stood in the balance-sheet. The gross profit on trading was £297,920, or £11,062 more than last year. At first sight this looked as though they had done very well, but as the turnover had been considerably greater the percentage of profit was smaller. The interest on transfer fees was £716 less, and working expenses £29,209 more, the most serious increased costs being wages, £12,521; fuel and light, £3,027; china and glass, £3,273; forage, £925; repairs, £4,635; and income-tax, £4,006. The total amount of income-tax, which was calculated on the average of the preceding three years, was £8,610, or sufficient to provide a dividend of 4½ per cent. on the whole of the capital. They had already paid an interim dividend, and after writing off £8,000 for depreciation and £3,763 for loss on investments, there remained £23,954 to carry forward. He gave details of the increases which had taken place in the market price of the principal foodstuffs which the company dealt in, and said that they had raised the selling price of many of their articles, but as they increased the prices it invariably followed that the sales decreased. Prices, however, had to be put up, otherwise there would have been a serious loss. Many critics had declared that prices had been raised unfairly by traders, but he could most emphatically say that such a charge did not apply to this company, as was fully borne out by the fact that, notwithstanding their large turnover, which was nearly £100,000 more than last year, the profits were so much less. The reputation and goodwill of their business was built up by supplying the public with the very best food and refreshments that money could buy; they were the pioneers and educators of the people of London in their particular business of temperance refreshments. They had 143 depots well placed in the principal thoroughfares of London, and their manufactory, stores, and offices were now altogether, in a good central position. They were, he said, living in anxious times, and there seemed no prospect of improvement, but he thought, with careful and efficient management, and by keeping to the lines on which their reputation was established and their profits made in the past, they might have confidence that, when the present dark clouds overhanging the country had passed away, the old "A.B.C." would resume its prosperity.

The Deputy-Chairman (Sir Ernest Spencer, D.L., J.P.) seconded the resolution.

A long discussion followed, and after the Chairman had replied to various questions and promised that the suggestions made by several shareholders should have consideration, the resolution was carried with practical unanimity.

BUENOS AYRES AND PACIFIC RAILWAY CO.

The ordinary general meeting of the Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway Company, Limited, was held on Tuesday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, the Right Hon. Lord St. Davids, the chairman of the company, presiding.

The Acting Secretary (Mr. F. H. McNally) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' certificate,

The Chairman said: When we met a year ago we had a traffic increase up to date of £310,000. I told you that I thought we could not hope to hold all of this to the end of

the financial year, but we did keep £116,000 of it. Then I told you that, as near as I could reckon, fuel was likely to cost us £100,000, and, possibly, even £150,000 more than it had in the year before. In that I was happily mistaken, for the increased cost of coal was only £90,000. Primarily for those two reasons we have had a considerably better year than I ventured a year ago to expect. Now, to turn to the prospects for the current year, up to now our gross receipts are £65,000 up, but I cannot hold out any hope that we are likely to hold that increase to the end of the year. We have certain bad features that are common to Argentine railways—the war and the high rate of freight—that continue to make all trade with that country increasingly difficult. I am advised that we shall be lucky if our fuel bill is not this year £100,000 more than it was last year. The more serious thing we have to face, however, in the current year is that at the present moment the country is undoubtedly suffering—in parts, at any rate—from drought. As regards the wheat crop at the far end of the Pacific line, some of it has undoubtedly been lost, and it is only on the Bahia Blanca line where we can still hold out any very high expectations as regards our wheat. As to maize, if rain comes it can still be planted, so there is ample time for a good maize crop, but it is quite hopeless to forecast at present. Well, you may ask, If you do not hold out any very rosy expectations about the current year, how is it you pay a dividend? Well, we pay a dividend because we have earned it, because we are able to pay it, even increasing slightly the balance forward; and because our financial position, for a company of this size, is, I think I may venture to say, unusually strong. Since the beginning of the war we have not had to borrow money on onerous terms. If you turn to our balance-sheet you will find that on June 30 we held in cash, Exchequer bonds, War Loans, and Treasury bills £1,235,000. On the other side, there were current liabilities for debenture interest and preference dividend, amounting to £335,000, so that you had readily available resources of £900,000 on balance, and that being so, I felt that we were amply justified in paying our shareholders a dividend when we had earned it. Whatever happens, we may fairly hope to be provided as regards our capital requirements up to the end of the war, however long it lasts, and possibly, I hope, for some considerable period beyond the end of the war. I should now like to call attention to a few figures in the report that deal with the past year. If you will look at our receipts from cereals you will see that they show a heavy falling off; they fell from £847,000 to £704,000, a decrease of £142,000. If there had been the usual cereal crop last year we should not have had at all a bad year. Then, I will ask you to turn to two other items in the report, both of which, to people who understand railway management, are of a very cheerful nature as regards the future. One is the total tonnage. The total tonnage we carried decreased by 208,000 tons; it fell from 4,814,000 tons to 4,606,000 tons. Why is that cheerful? I will tell you. It is cheerful because the receipts from that tonnage increased from £3,246,000 to £3,325,000—an advance of £79,000 in receipts on a diminished traffic of 200,000 tons. That, I think, speaks for itself. The second point I would ask you to note is that during the year—and it is a curious fact to point to as a cheerful factor—we carried 317,000 fewer passengers, the numbers falling from 8,935,000 to 8,618,000. We thus carried over 300,000 fewer passengers, but our receipts from passenger traffic went up £21,000. Those are very cheering facts when you consider the future of the property.

Mr. J. A. Goudge (managing director) seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

BAHIA BLANCA AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

The 27th ordinary general meeting of the Bahia Blanca and North-Western Railway Co., Ltd., was held on Tuesday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., the Right Hon. Lord St. Davids (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Acting Secretary (Mr. F. H. McNally) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—I presume you will take the report and accounts as read. As you are aware, your dividend is guaranteed by the Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway, and under the terms of the working agreement the rental has been duly received. Although we are not directly interested in the results of the year's working, be they good or bad, yet it may be of interest to you to hear something about your property, which is being kept in good order and repair by the working company. This year, unfortunately, we show on page 2 of the report a decrease of £68,321 in the receipts. For the first six months of the year we had expectations of an excellent harvest, but later on the yield was reduced by hail storms and general climatic conditions. The war has also played its part in adversely affecting the receipts, as owing to the deficiency of ships and to the high freights ruling the price of grain was reduced to the farmer and the produce was not shipped during the last financial year. The present year's traffic receipts should, however, reap some benefit from the deferred shipments. We have received a telegram to-day from the Argentine about prospects, in which they say—you must read this telegram along with others:—"Sudden hot winds have further affected Toay and Patagones lines, where prospects now are small, and reduced prospects Bahia Blanca to Watt and branches, where rain urgently required." Now, gentlemen, the position at this moment as regards the crop is, I am sorry to say, that the outlook for wheat in the Argentine Republic—the greater part

of the Republic—is not at all favourable for the present year. The one part of the country—after all the Argentine is a very large country—where our outlook has hitherto been distinctly very good indeed is in the south, including the greater part of the Bahia Blanca system. I still hope we shall have a good harvest on our system, though, as you see from this cable, rain is now even in the south and on the Bahia Blanca line urgently required. The utility of the Port of Bahia Blanca is best shown from the figures given of the total exports of wheat and oats from January 1 last up to September 25. Out of the total Argentine exportation of 2,353,601 tons of these two cereals, no less than 1,323,147 tons, or more than one-half, were exported from the Port of Bahia Blanca. Another important item in the report is the statement given in paragraph 8 that the dividend on our guaranteed stock will, under the terms of our agreement with the Pacific Co., be increased as from July 1 next from 4 per cent. to 4½ per cent., at which percentage it is fixed permanently. The board regret the loss of two of their colleagues during the last financial year. The vacancies on the board have been filled by the appointment of Mr. J. S. Austen and Mr. Percy Cross. I beg to move: "That the report of the directors and the statement of accounts now presented be and they are hereby received and adopted." I will ask Mr. Edward Norman to second the resolution, and after that has been done I shall be pleased to hear any remarks or to answer any questions.

Mr. Edward Norman seconded the resolution.

Mr. John Hedges said he would like to ask the directors to see if they could not only restrict the expenditure, which he had no doubt they were doing, but to display as much economy as they could in these drastic and serious times.

The Chairman assured Mr. Hedges that the directors had been doing all they could to keep down expenses and to economise in every possible way.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The retiring directors, Mr. John Soame Austen and Mr. Edward Norman, were re-elected, and Messrs. Turquand Youngs and Co. were reappointed auditors.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman, proposed by Mr. Hedges.

UNITED RAILWAYS OF THE HAVANA.

The nineteenth ordinary general meeting of the United Railways of the Havana and Regla Warehouses, Ltd., was held on Thursday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. C. J. Cater Scott (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. W. J. Maslen) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman said that for three years Nature had favoured the Island of Cuba with most favourable seasons for the growing of sugar cane, with the result that each of those three years had produced a record crop. This, coupled with the high prices which had ruled for sugar, in consequence of the elimination of much of the beetroot-sugar, had made all classes in Cuba prosperous. An enormous amount of money had flowed into the island, and, with the exception of tobacco, which had suffered severely, there had been general prosperity. This prosperity was reflected in the accounts of the United Railways Co. and the allied companies. It was only natural that the proprietors should ask why, in these circumstances, the directors had not increased the dividend. That was a perfectly fair question, which he would endeavour to answer. With the greatly increased wealth of the island, and at the same time with a far larger grinding capacity of the mills, and with new industries springing up all over the island, there was always a demand for further railway facilities. That demand had come upon them at a time when through the action of our Government—he was not quarrelling with it—they were denied permission to raise fresh capital. The consequence was that they were thrown back upon their own resources, and, therefore, they found it absolutely necessary to husband their cash in every possible way, so that they might be able to meet the demands for improved accommodation called for on all sides. The directors believed that the more they did to provide this increased accommodation the more protection were they affording to the company's interests, and it was their first duty to see to that. In normal times the directors would not have hesitated to have recommended an increased dividend, but it must be remembered that it was upon the directors that rested the responsibility of carrying on the business of this big company, and therefore they must take every step they could not only to protect the property, but to make provision for those increased railway facilities which were asked for. It was for those reasons that they had put large amounts to reserve. It had been their policy for several years past to build up their reserves, and in that way they had placed the company in a very strong position—so strong a position that he hoped in future it would not be necessary to make such large appropriations to reserve. If the prosperity of the island continued, when they met a year hence the directors hoped to be able to make some recommendation for a bigger dividend. Having referred to the great loss which the company had sustained by the death of Mr. Orr, their able and esteemed general manager, the Chairman drew attention to the fact that the total receipts for the year had amounted to £2,000,000, being £398,000 more than in the previous year, which was the company's record year. The expenses amounted to £1,125,000, or an increase of £235,000, which, in all the circumstances, he did not think that they could have very much to complain of—he (the speaker) certainly did not—when he told them that the ratio of working

expenses to gross receipts was 54 per cent., which was most satisfactory. One or two points would demonstrate how carefully the management were looking after their business. If they took the percentage of load to capacity for passengers, in 1915-16 it was 36.83, as against 31.90 in 1914-15, and 27.62 in the year previous to that. In goods, the corresponding figures were 42.74 per cent., 40.14 per cent., and 35.42 per cent. The coal consumption per ton mile of traffic last year was 1.12 lbs., against 1.27 lbs. in the previous year. The difference—about two ounces—seemed a mere bagatelle, but it meant a total saving of close upon 20,000 tons of coal during the year. During the year they had transferred the Caracas property to the American Cuban Estates Corporation. The Corporation had done very well indeed in the year 1915-16, and there was every reason to believe that it would do better in the coming year. The steam ferry between Key West and Cuba continued to be a great success. The Western Railway, with which they were closely connected, had maintained its position, and its prospects for the current year were quite satisfactory. The position of the Cuban Central Railway, in which this company was also largely interested, was quite satisfactory, and its prospects were very good indeed. The Havana Central Railway had also had an excellent year, paying all its interest charges and leaving a margin. So far as the prospects of the current year were concerned, the traffics of the Havana Central to date amounted to £110,000, or £13,000 more than in the corresponding period of last year. Reverting to the accounts of the Uniteds Co., he pointed out that the directors had £625,469 to deal with. They were transferring to the reserve account £300,000, bringing it up to £1,000,000; they were placing £100,000 to general renewals account, which would then stand at £322,000; they were transferring to insurance account £5,000, raising it to £35,000; and they were adding £10,000 to the pension fund, bringing it up to £45,000. Early in the year they paid an interim dividend of 2 per cent., and they now recommended the payment of a further 3 per cent., making 5 per cent. for the year, which would absorb £196,000, and they were carrying forward £14,392. The prospects for the coming year were distinctly good. Their traffics up to the present time amounted to £584,000, being an increase of £105,000 over the corresponding period of last year. The manager reported by cable that he had made an inspection of the cane zones; that as a whole he found the cane in good condition, and confirmed his estimate of 1,036,000 tons of sugar. If they got that tonnage, the chairman said he did not think they would have much to complain of, for it would take them all their time to carry it. Having referred to the great services which had been rendered by the staff at home and in Cuba, the Chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

Sir Henry M. Jackson, Bt., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The retiring directors and auditors were re-elected, and a sum of 1,250 guineas was voted to the Red Cross Funds of the British and Allied Armies.

A vote of thanks to the chairman, the directors, and the staff terminated the proceedings.

KYSHTIM CORPORATION.

The seventh ordinary annual general meeting of the Kyshtim Corporation, Limited, was held, on Thursday, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, Mr. C. F. H. Leslie (the chairman of the company) presiding.

The Acting Secretary (Mr. G. K. Wicks, A.C.I.S.) read the notice calling the meeting and the auditors' certificate.

The Chairman first apologised for and explained the delay in issuing the report and accounts for the year 1915. In the course of his subsequent remarks he said: If you will refer to the report you will gather that our main difficulty has been due to the prohibition by the Russian Government on the exports of the gold and silver residues produced by the Russian company. This prohibition tied up our most liquid asset, and was accompanied by a further general prohibition against remitting sterling from Russia to this country. The former difficulty we have met—it has taken us nearly 12 months to do so—by erecting and equipping a bullion refinery at Kyshtim. The latter difficulty is still with us, and to-day there is no free and reliable market for sterling exchange between the two countries. The board therefore decided that the payment of dividends must be made in Russian currency, payable in Petrograd. In taking this course we followed the precedent of other British companies trading in Russia. If you will refer to the balance-sheet of the Kyshtim Mining Works Company, you will see that the stocks of gold and silver residues are valued at 1,200,000 roubles. In previous balance-sheets this asset was practically always in transit between Russia and this country; it has for some time been an asset awaiting realisation. The valuation of this asset has been taken on a conservative basis, and at present prices in Russia for precious metals there is probably a margin of some 300,000 or 400,000 roubles as compared with the book value stated. The gross profit earned in Russia, after writing off loss in exchange, is something like 1,000,000 roubles in excess of that of the previous year, and if you add to that profit the item written off for loss in exchange, which item has also been earned, you will realise that our gross trading profit in Russia is 5,464,000 roubles, and exceeds that of the previous year by 2,000,000 roubles. That, I think you will agree, is a satisfactory figure. Increased taxation and the unfavourable rate of exchange have largely affected the nett results attained, but all valuations have been made on a conservative basis, and the

sterling figure due to the corporation by the Russian company now stands at 156 roubles for £10, or somewhere near the quoted rate of exchange of the day. The disposable balance of the corporation amounts to £220,034. Out of this sum we recommend a dividend of one rouble per share, payable in Petrograd, which at the exchange of 15 roubles to the £ will absorb £83,616, and propose to carry forward £136,418. We have been quite recently in communication with Petrograd as to the realisation of the gold and silver residues, on which the payment of further dividends mainly depends, and this realisation is proceeding satisfactorily. From information which we have received from Petrograd, we fully believe that the corporation will be in a position to pay an interim dividend in April next year of one rouble per share and a final dividend in the autumn. The capital expenditure for the year 1915 amounted to something over 1,000,000 roubles. About 240,000 roubles was spent on the acquisition and development of the Cheliabinsk coal mine; 300,000 roubles on shaft sinking and other permanent works in connection with our copper mines; and about 170,000 roubles on new construction in connection with war work. Mr. Gilman Brown's report on our copper production has left me little to say. The cost of production for the year under review was 7 roubles 21 kopeks per pool, and the nett sale price 18 roubles per pool. If I say that both in this as well as all the other profit-producing departments at Kyshtim the outstanding feature is one of increased costs, which are more than counterbalanced by increased selling prices, I think I shall have covered the whole ground. I now turn to certain matters contained in this report which refer to the current year. The Geological Department at Kyshtim is now much larger than it was formerly owing to the wide territory under investigation. We have much encouragement in various parts of the estate where prospecting for copper is being carried on, particularly at Kusnechibensky, some few miles north-west of Kyshtim, and distant about 40 miles from Soymonovsk, where we may feel reasonably certain that a mine of first importance will be opened up. The value of this strike does not lie so much in the probability of having found a mine of the first importance as in the fact that we have located another district on the estate far removed from our present copper mines, where the geological conditions, as well as actual results of our investigations, give us great hopes of being able to open out additional copper reserves on a large scale. We have, further, quite a reasonable probability of being able to locate payable deposits of nickel. The copper ore reserves continue to show an improvement. Between April, 1915, and June 1, 1916, we have developed an additional quantity of ore to the extent of 845,000 tons—an entirely satisfactory position. In Mr. Gilman Brown's report the increase is stated as 745,000 tons, owing to a misprint, but the larger figure is the correct one. I fully expect that the trading profit in Russia for the current year will show a large increase, and our latest cable from Petrograd fully confirms this view. Our ability to pay increased dividends in relation to increased earnings is largely affected by three factors—namely, the rate of exchange, the requirement of working capital, and the increased taxation both in Russia and in this country. In the course of my remarks I have of necessity refrained from giving you any data in sterling figures. In previous years we were content to look upon 95 roubles as being equal to £10. To-day we do not know for certain what is the sterling value of the rouble.

Mr. T. Blair Reynolds seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

MIDDLEBURG STEAM COAL AND COKE.

The eleventh ordinary general meeting of the Middleburg Steam Coal and Coke Co., Ltd., was held on Thursday, at the London Chamber of Commerce, Oxford Court, E.C., Mr. Alan Cadell, C.S.I. (chairman of the company), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. Edward J. Townsend) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditor.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the company was to be congratulated on having come through the second year of the war with no greater disadvantages. It has been able to maintain its dividend at $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and the balance at credit of profit and loss was £17,333, comparing with £16,421 for last year, but this was before deducting South African duty. Comparing like figures with like, the company, on a slightly increased output, had made about £1,000 less profit. This was attributable entirely to the much higher cost of materials, some of which had increased about 50 per cent. With regard to the future, while they might have to face some increases in costs, they might look forward to widely extended markets, especially in Africa itself, where the enterprise of our enemies in German South-West and East Africa had added some 5,000 miles to the railway system, which would have to be supplied with South African coal.

Mr. Alfred T. Macer (managing director), in seconding the motion, said: With regard to the position of the coal industry generally in South Africa, the accounts of this company for the last two years impress me with a fact that must have occurred to many people outside this company—namely, that the resources of South Africa have not been utilised as they might have been in waging this great war which the Empire is fighting to-day. The gold production of South Africa is the foundation on which our financial credit is based to-day. Then, in South Africa maize cultivation could be very greatly increased, which would

largely relieve the strain upon our food supplies in this country. The coal production of the Transvaal is roughly 500,000 tons per month, and I suppose the total coal production of South Africa—that is, the Transvaal and Natal—is in the neighbourhood of 10,000,000 tons a year. The native labour force upon the Transvaal collieries is something over 10,000. I see that a proposal is made to bring 10,000 natives of South Africa to France to work in the French docks. To my mind those men would be very much better employed in South Africa in developing—as they could very speedily do—the resources of South Africa on the spot. For instance, with regard to coal, our company is in a position to increase its output by 40 per cent. with very little additional labour; we have the whole of the machinery required. The collieries of the Transvaal and Natal, if within a few months they increased their output by 40 per cent., would add something like 3,000,000 tons to 4,000,000 tons per annum to the coal resources of the Empire, which I think is a very important matter indeed. Those coal supplies could be put down (with the co-operation of the Government of South Africa and the Board of Trade here), and utilised at the ports of the Cape—Port Elizabeth and Cape Town—the Port of Natal, Durban, and the Port of Mozambique, Delagoa Bay. The coal has not increased in price since the war. In fact it is now being sold at the pit head at a shade under the price prevailing before the war. Good round coal is being sold at 6s. 6d. per ton, and I have no doubt that, by arrangement between the Governments and the various coalowners' associations, contracts could be made for the next three years to deliver, say, 3,000,000 tons extra per annum at the price of 6s. 6d. per ton at the pit head for best round coal. I think that is a most important point. I have myself brought it to the notice of the President of the Board of Trade, and I have no doubt the Government will give very serious attention to this matter.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

SENGAT RUBBER ESTATE.

The sixth annual general meeting of the Sengat Rubber Estate, Ltd., was held on Friday at the Rubber Growers' Association, 38, Eastcheap, E.C., Mr. Eric Maxwell (chairman of the company) presiding.

The representative of the Secretaries (Messrs. Shand, Haldane and Co.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said: I think you will agree with me that the report is a satisfactory one. The crop secured was 365,086 lbs., against 273,100 lbs. harvested in the previous year, and our all-in costs have been 11.9d. against 1s. 3rd. last year, which, considering the large increase which has taken place in the price of all materials and rubber requisites, and the increased charges for freight, is as low as we could expect. You will have noticed from the report that our average yield per acre works out at 422 lbs., which, I feel sure you will agree, is good when you take into consideration the facts that our producing area has been recently thinned out, and about 22,000 new trees brought into the tapping rounds during the year. Whilst on this subject, I might further mention that one of our fields of 60 acres has produced 609 lbs. per acre, whilst two other fields totalling 88 acres have each produced 592 lbs. per acre during the year, and the average yield per acre for our old rubber—666 acres in extent—works out at 500 lbs., which is excellent. The price secured for the crop was 2s. 8.60d., against 2s. 3.83d. last year, and the combined circumstances of increased crop and price and reduced charges have enabled us to recommend to you the payment of a final dividend of 2d. per share, being, with the interim dividend of 1½d. previously paid, at the rate of 14 7-12 per cent. for the year. We cannot say exactly how much we may have to pay for excess profits tax, but we have made what we consider ample provision, and have written £3,000 off development account. The latest reports on the estate which we have received from our visiting agent, Mr. Quartley, are very encouraging, both as to the order and condition of the estate and the thoroughly effective management. The prospects for next year are good, and the estimated crop is 460,000 lbs., of which we have secured during the first four months of the year 144,500 lbs., but the prices of materials are steadily increasing, and we are likely to see a further rise in the rate of freight, so we cannot hope for a further decline in the cost of production during the current year. Prices at present are satisfactory.

Mr. J. L. Loudoun-Shand, in seconding the resolution, said he thought the shareholders would consider it a satisfactory report. On the price of rubber depended the dividends which they would have to pay, and there was no prospect at present of the rubber market being in any way overdone. They could rest comfortable, at any rate, as regarded the coming year, and he could endorse all the chairman had said with regard to the position of the company. An important point was that labour seemed to be very satisfied; they had heard that morning from one of their superintendents that labour relations were very harmonious. Freight was becoming a serious matter; they were now paying 146s. for rubber from Singapore, but they were in the hands of the shipping people. With regard to excess profits, these bore very hardly on companies like this. If the original shareholders had only received an average of 8 per cent., there were many who had bought their shares at a high premium, and he thought the Chancellor of the Exchequer had overlooked that fact. It was all very well to talk

about a rubber company being a wealthy company, but it was the shareholders who paid the income-tax, and many of them were not getting as good a return as if they had put their money in Government securities. It was very hard that this enormous call should be made upon them, as the extra profits had not been brought about by the war.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Kaministiquia Power Co.—Nett earnings for September, \$25,573.01, increase \$415.38; aggregate nett earnings from November 1, 1915, \$292,342.55, increase \$22,296.03.

THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office: Yokohama.

London Office: 7, Bishopsgate, E.C.

Capital Subscribed - - Yen 48,000,000
Capital Paid Up - - - Yen 30,000,000
Reserve Fund - - - Yen 20,800,000

The Seventy-Third Half-Yearly General Meeting of Shareholders was held at the Head Office, Yokohama, on the 10th September, 1916, when the Directors submitted the following Statement of the Liabilities and Assets of the Bank, and the Profit and Loss Account for the Half-Year ended 30th June, 1916, which was duly approved.

BALANCE SHEET.

June 30, 1916.

LIABILITIES.		Y.
Capital (paid up) ... ..	...	30,000,000.00
Reserve Fund .. .. .	...	20,400,000.00
Reserve for Doubtful Debts ... ..	...	1,706,651.84
Notes in Circulation ... ..	...	10,114,390.64
Deposits (Current, Fixed, &c.) ... ..	...	249,949,816.89
Bills Payable, Bills Re-discounted, Acceptances, and other sums due by the Bank ... ..	...	109,342,702.05
Dividends Unclaimed ... ..	...	9,713.77
Balance of Profit and Loss brought forward from last Account ... ..	...	1,336,716.90
Net Profit for the past Half-year ... ..	...	2,300,738.84
		Yen 425,160,694.93

ASSETS.		Y.	Y.
Cash Account—			
In Hand ... ..	...	24,383,108.07	
At Bankers ... ..	...	53,987,914.17	78,371,022.24
Investments in Public Securities ... ..	...		20,242,738.47
Bills discounted, Loans, Advances, &c. ... ..	...		110,563,424.57
Bills receivable and other sums due to the Bank ... ..	...		210,374,207.65
Bullion and Foreign Money ... ..	...		1,682,760.08
Bank's Premises, Properties, Furniture, &c. ... ..	...		3,926,541.92
			Yen 425,160,694.93

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

To Interest, Taxes, Current Expenses, Rebate on Bills Current, Bad and Doubtful Debts, Bonus for Officers and Clerks, &c. ... ..	...	21,124,009.35
To Reserve Fund ... ..	...	400,000.00
To Dividend—		
{yen 6.00 per Old Share for 240,000 Shares}	...	1,800,000.00
{yen 1.50 per New Share „ „ „}	...	
To Balance carried forward to next Account ... ..	...	1,437,455.74
		Yen 24,761,465.09

By Balance brought forward, 31st December, 1915	...	1,336,716.90
By Amount of Gross Profits for the Half-year ending 30th June, 1916 ... ..	...	23,424,748.19
		Yen 24,761,465.09

Abosso.—10,090 tons value, £15,526 (Sept., £15,407).
 Ashanti.—10,129 tons; value, £40,158 (Sept., £37,380).
 Aurora West.—15,300 tons; profit, £4,423 (Sept., £4,064).
 Balaghat.—2,300 tons, 1,478 ozs. fine gold (Sept., 1,426 ozs.).
 Bantjes.—24,160 tons; loss, £420 (Sept., profit, £2).
 Brakpan.—58,800 tons; profit, £35,379 (Sept., £35,010).
 Bullfinch Prop.—6,098 tons; profit, £1,393 (Sept., £1,452).
 Cape Copper.—Output, 257 tons (Sept., 193 tons).
 Champion Reef.—13,065 tons; 9,309 ozs. fine (Sept., 9,460 ozs.).
 Chenderiang Tin.—24 tons; profit, £1,691 (Sept., £1,870).
 City and Sub.—28,000 tons; profit, £19,142 (Sept., £19,108).
 City Deep.—60,000 tons; profit, £55,084 (Sept., £58,498).
 Cons. Langlaagte.—53,000 tons; profit, £22,412 (Sept., £22,446).
 Cons. Main Reef.—29,200 tons; profit, £14,107 (Sept., £14,079).
 Crown.—208,000 tons; profit, £78,316 (Sept., £68,630).
 Durban Road Deep.—26,400 tons; profit, £3,035 (Sept., £2,816).
 East Rand Prop.—157,500 tons; profit, £45,263 (Sept., £44,729).
 Ferreira Deep.—56,080 tons; profit, £43,663 (Sept., £37,600).
 Geduld.—28,300 tons, £41,522; profit, £12,804 (Sept., £12,619).
 Geldenhuis Deep.—60,500 tons; profit, £15,027 (Sept., £14,083).
 Ginsberg.—15,800 tons, £14,982; profit, £1,727 (Sept., £2,108).
 Glenclair.—21 231 tons; profit, £1,036 (Sept., £1,176).
 Glenn's Lydenburg.—4,413 tons; profit, £5,354 (Sept., £4,049).
 Gov. Areas Mod.—77,500 tons; profit, £28,079 (Sept., £25,504).
 Jibutit (Anantapur).—2,700 tons, 706 ozs. (Sept., 701 ozs.).
 Jupiter.—22,800 tons, £26,615; profit, £5,015 (Sept., £5,028).
 Kamunting Tin.—29 tons; profit, £1,805 (Sept., £1,050).
 Knight Central.—25,700 tons; profit, £274 (Sept., £374).
 Knight's Deep.—111,100 tons; profit, £12,480 (Sept., £14,208).
 Langlaate Est.—52,783 tons; profit, £13,954 (Sept., £13,199).
 Luipaard's Vlei.—21,470 tons; profit, £1,982 (Sept., £3,884).
 Main Reef West.—25,350 tons; profit, £1,342 (Sept., £2,766).
 May Consolidated.—13,920 tons; profit, £659 (Sept., £686).
 Meyer and Charl.—15,000 tons; profit, £30,181 (Sept., £22,155).
 Modder "B."—45,700 tons; profit, £62,436 (Sept., £55,785).
 Modder Deep.—40,500 tons; profit, £45,213 (Sept., £43,768).
 Mysore.—26,929 tons, 16,484 ozs. (Sept., 16,524 ozs.).
 New Goch.—31,130 tons; profit, £7,816 (Sept., £8,197).
 New Heriot.—13,200 tons; profit, £8,403 (Sept., £8,623).
 New Modder.—54,500 tons; £61,723 (Sept., £60,866).
 New Primrose.—22,000 tons; profit, £3,009 (Sept., £3,006).
 New Unified.—14,200 tons; profit, £4,175 (Sept., £4,027).
 North Anantapur.—2,300 tons, 1,134 ozs. fine (Sept., 1,139 ozs.).
 Nigel.—10,800 tons; loss, £856 (Sept., loss, £2,836).
 Nourse.—43,400 tons; £59,590; profit, £10,033 (Sept., £10,679).
 Nundydroog.—8,500 tons, 6,819 ozs. (Sept., 6,765 ozs.).
 Ooregum.—13,320 tons, 7,705 ozs. fine gold (Sept., 7,690 ozs.).
 Pahang Cons.—Black tin produced, 223 tons (Sept., 229 tons).
 Princess Estate.—23,000 tons; profit, £3,117 (Sept., £1,224).
 Randfontein Cent.—186,474 tons; profit, £78,009 (Sept., £80,036).
 Rayfield Tin.—60 tons (Sept., 70 tons).
 Renong Tin.—Output, 87 tons (Sept., 84 tons).
 Robinson Deep.—56,100 tons; profit, £26,242 (Sept., £24,706).
 Robinson.—57,800 tons; profit, £30,491 (Sept., £30,071).
 Roodepoort United.—34,417 tons; profit, £2,014 (Sept., £2,041).
 Rose Deep.—65,000 tons; profit, £16,305 (Sept., £16,042).
 Sheba.—6,451 tons; 2,090 ozs.; loss, £548 (Sept., loss, £1,122).
 Simmer and Jack.—69,300 tons; profit, £21,102 (Sept., £21,723).
 Simmer Deep.—67,900 tons; profit, £7,740 (Sept., £5,527).
 Sub Nigel.—9,220 tons, £19,717; profit, £5,014 (Sept., £5,522).
 Sudan.—2,386 tons, £4,900 (Sept., £4,850).
 Transvaal Estates.—16,400 tons; profit, £11,753 (Sept., £11,521).
 Van Ryn Deep.—45,500 tons; profit, £50,044 (Sept., £50,101).
 Van Ryn.—38,800 tons; profit, £7,617 (Sept., £18,367).
 Village Deep.—52,800 tons; profit, £20,041 (Sept., £21,951).
 Village Main Reef.—30,500 tons; profit, £17,118 (Sept., £16,009).
 Vogelstruis Estates.—12,408 tons, 3,298 ozs. (Sept., 3,042 ozs.).
 Wanderer.—13,680 tons; profit, £2,139 (Sept., £1,666).
 West Rand Cons.—34,900 tons; profit, £6,396 (Sept., £5,505).
 Witwatersrand.—43,150 tons; profit, £22,201 (Sept., £23,084).
 Wit. Deep.—40,500 tons; profit, £11,500 (Sept., £13,050).
 Wolhuter.—36,150 tons; profit, £13,902 (Sept., £13,694).

BONDS CANCELLED.

IMPERIAL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT 4½
PER CENT. STERLING LOAN OF 1905.

The Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited, London, announces that £250,000 4½ per CENT. STERLING BONDS of the 1st SERIES, and £250,000 4½ per CENT. STERLING BONDS of the 2nd SERIES have been purchased on behalf of the Imperial Japanese Government for the purpose of cancellation, and the said Bonds are now CANCELLED.

The NUMBERS of the BONDS so CANCELLED are the following:—

IMPERIAL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT 4½
PER CENT. LOAN.
(FIRST SERIES.)
15 BONDS OF £500.

210003 210017 210090 210133 210276 210512/5 210668 210995
211114 211116 211308 211655.

475 BONDS OF £200.

130139 130344/5 130590 131034 131323 131493 131759 132572
132766/7 132996/133005 133202/3 133357 133400 134080/1 134235
134345 135085 135129/37 135390 136096/104 137260/1 137378
137809 137816/9 138238 138409 138786/90 139014 139349 139369
139463/4 139548 140178/84 140523 140564/5 140718/22 140852
141138/41 141143/7 141281/2 141463 142144 142324/5 142692
142924/5 142936/40 143304/13 143337 143464 144288 144383/4
144386 144508 144643 144955 145259/60 146106 146301/2 146326
146604/6 146839 146841 147725 147990 148706 148884 148982
149394 149615/6 149862 149910 149912/3 150665 151875 151987
152240/1 152268 152355 153828 153899 154085 154134 156528/31
157234 157284 157413 157605 157649/50 157840/7 157857
157912 158424 159115 159259 159866 160097 160666/7 161016
161811/5 162004 162542 162731 162772/4 162806 162850 163036/8
163085 163367/78 163413/4 163449/50 163562 163674 163971
164259/63 164278 164351 165006/8 165029 165215 165753 165990/1
166223 166245 166341 166401/3 166692 166959 167025/6 167036/7
167361/2 167364 168038/9 168558 169047/8 169234 169522 169712
170096 170430 170578 170658 171096/7 172607 173514 173563
173751 174084 174176 174518/9 174960 175140/5 175168/9
175239/40 175282 175292 175518 175964/7 176071 176567
178460/2 179068/9 179329 179591/3 179629 179886 179983/7 180033
180035 180312 180386 180621 181345 181384 181508 182025
182066/7 182284/7 182776 183108/12 183134/5 183307/9 183388/9
184218 184267/8 184421/3 184438 184632 185152 185159 185170
185650/1 185306 186056 186189 186473/4 186859/860 187585
187588/9 187927 187976/7 188829 188871 188879 188919
189289/91 189297 190269 190713/4 191073 192101 192242 192353
192574 192677 192682 192697 192713 193152 193519 193564
193828/30 193999 194138 194155 194562 194930 195192 195480
195804 196869 197168 197615 197653/4 198551/3 198633 198643
198899 199207 199217 199405/7 199621 200271/2 200617/20
200699/701 200714 200781 200784 201206/7 201427 201476/7
201863 202165/6 203091 203962 204240 204297 204931 205280
205291/3 205299 205743 205804/7 206009 206022 206225 206708
206777 208230/1 208314/6 208373 208473 208490/2 208771
209124 209129 209190 209194.

1,475 BONDS OF £100.

102/3 119 205 221 461 756 760 1106 1156/61 1173 1268 1311/14
1389/93 1817 2298 2348 2351 2382 2501 2579/83 2596/7 2743/50
3122 3144/7 3163 3242/3 3400 3596 3697 3843 3968/77 4186 4595/6
4742 4844 4914/23 5230 5275/7 5326/37 6018 6186/7 6286 6305
6397 6496 6561 7579/81 7801/2 7805/11 8774 9432/49 9580/601
10219/20 10671 10892 11242/3 11254 11422/47 12402/5 12821 13047
13060 13585 13829/36 13910 14031 14662 14867/72 15053/4 15341
15345 15437/9 15744 16039/40 16046/7 16089 16590 16795 16866
17147 17478 17486 17495/6 17561 17803 17910 18215 18243 18295
18453/5 18521 18992 19846 19959 20358/60 20369/70 21189 21290/3
21925/6 21964/7 22258 22488 22697 22866 22898 22923 22944
23060/2 23074 23125 23227 24230 24255/6 25706 25905/1 26159
26280 26392 27004 27030 27265/6 27479 28320 28376/80 28424
28482 28545/9 28566 28592/5 29628/9 29637/8 29668/9 30221/5
30263 30375 30414 30425/6 30536 30668 30707 30736/7 31013/14
31164 31239 31294 31447/9 31610/11 31805 32212 32338/44 32369
32390 32457 32598/9 32849 34161 34199 34274 34510 34559/64
34799 35125 35750 36067 36517 36754 36842 36930/3 37551 37708
38234/5 38530 38551/2 38657/8 38759 39033 39301/2 39590/1
39612/19 40558 40872 40898/909 41033/5 41042/3 41426/7 41764/8
41931 42287/8 42431 42547 42774/85 42851 42870/1
43034 43062 43297 43315/16 43565 43641 43831 44003
44005/6 44130 44492 44533 44673 45189 45306 45309
45808 45921/2 45970 45995 46507/26 47005 47007 47057/8
47095/8 47735/7 48029 48529/30 48680/1 49089/92 49365/6
49463/8 49477 49501 49562/78 49872 50047 50050 50537/8
51153 51204 51926 52124 52302 52536 52755/6 52909/10 53139
53285 53423/7 53530 53651 53693 53700/10 53824 53947 54069/70
54159 54370/1 54760 54978/80 55204/6 55575 55618/2 56858/61
56995 57200 57803 57822 57946/8 58118 58287 58425 58464 58759
59200 59756 59884/5 59980 60066/7 60576 60662 60900 61266 61273
61780/91 62100 62461/3 62680 63108 63194 63413/4 63652 63889/98
63937 64156/8 64565 64643/4 64849/50 65288/9 65954 66173/7
66185/8 66212/21 66298 66585 66681/2 66687/91 66952 66966/9

671178/9 67280 67785 67802/3 67871/80 68212 68324 68358/9 68497
68499 68659 68662/3 68917/26 69263 69276/7 69384/5 70056 70078
70442 70775 70844 70849/50 70922 70938 71039 71501 71816/20
71828 71891 72081 72099/102 72407 72479 72726 72850 72903
72928 72997 73001 73197/8 73255 73257 73497/301 73378 73482
74127 74127/9 74347 74838 74990/1 75003 75042 75084 75200/1
75246 75364 75465/74 75702 75808/76007 76383 76386/8 76527
76972 77100/1 77366 77662 78593 78746 78812 78875
78922 79098/9 79112/3 79682 79897/8 79913/4 80128/30 80334/5
80535 80737 80907 81509/34 82131 82189 83077/9 83123 83653/4
83656 83983 84144 84287/96 84364 84934 85033 85293
85374/94 85667 85897/901 86887 87339 87356/9 87365/73 87554
87599 87711 87828 87916/29 87934/5 88051/3 88091 88706/7 89226/7
89808 90603/4 91143 91181 91286 91292/3 92211 93055 93228
93247/8 94210 95216 95251/60 95339 96237 96351/65 96535/6
96635/7 96783 96833 96890/2 97323 97598/601 97757 97760 98114
98346 98430 98483 98752 99122 99288/92 99420 99429 99464/73
99513/9 99832/3 99894 100009 100394 100440 100486 100937
100953/5 101072/4 101340 101355 101444 101786/8 101925 101988
102953 103588/93 103747 103811 104070/2 104331/3 104926/7
104980 105004/5 105070 105106 105120 105145 105210 105216
105348 105496/7 105947/8 106125/31 106404/6 106500/3
106695/6 107038 107068 107243/4 107378 107393/4 107891 107958/9
108005 108227 108348 108358 108896 109000 109002 109332 109403
109567 109781 110749 111107 111110 111212/2 111313/3 111569
111607/8 111757 111856 112286/7 112534 112560/6 112614 112851
112884 112894 113006 113075 114082 114225 114426 114451 114453
114666 and 115341 115364 115840 115918 115943 115989/93 116062
116169 116369 116403/5 116549 116626 117204/5 118089/90 118395
118430 118536 119358 119403/6 119423 119605/7 119676 119837
119883/4 119910 119956 120135 120299 120348 120573 120595/9
120644 120804 120811/830 121028 121460 121504 121665 122049
122696 and 122701 122704 122852/3 122873 124029/30 124100
124219/20 124369 124467 124830 124885 125047 125092/3 125193
125491/3 125883 126105 127327 127503 127740 128010/11 128304
128767 128966 129202 129311/12 129571 129601.

IMPERIAL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT 4½
PER CENT. LOAN.
(SECOND SERIES.)
631 BONDS OF £200.

325208 325408/11 325687/92 326194 326212 326715/17 327506
327737/70 327846/98 328030 328214 328539/42 328785/6 328813
329293/4 329546 329940/5 330113 330173/6 330412 330454 330483
330645/6 330687/96 330810/4 330985/6 331201/2 331204 332268
332390/5 332352/3 333009/11 333160 333314 333693 334099/100
334229 334292 334476 334702/4 334888 335579 335995/5
336350/2 336624 337483 337709 337787 338597 338649/50
339699/90 339937 339141 339393/5 339426/32 340140 340724
341009/15 341204/5 341421 341514/5 341667 341720 341740 341936
341990/1 342456/7 342867/9 342958 343186/8 343207/8 343540/1
343607 344143 344178 344225/6 344248/50 344286 344389/93
344437/8 344845/8 344949 345309/13 345853 346383/4 346670/1
346869/70 346955 346959/62 347061 347064 347201 347318/27
347540 347664 347823 348100 348316/20 348323/5 348513/4
348645/9 348679 348751/3 348811/12 349021/16 349280 349691
349809/11 349862/5 349870/1 350004 350065/6 350479/80 350960
351070 351337/8 351387 351586/92 351949 352172 352198 352217
352720 352757 352891/2 353470 353553 353644/60 353663
353757/9 353833/4 354049 355010 355081 355240 355704 355718
355751/2 356565 356863/6 358303 358532 358537 358681 358701/2
358726/37 358749/50 359476/8 359709 359833/5 359856 361172
362234 362535 362662 362991 363555 363573/4 363587 364198/212
364335 364788 364791/2 364836 365058 365087/8 365770/1 365807
365884 365925 366493/4 366809/10 366917/9 366936 367075
367581 367702/3 368302 368317 369188/90 369377 369391 369910
370122 370151 370273 370554 370730/6 370949 371104
372166 372221 372277 372317 372500 372885 372949
373120 373466 373632 374077/8 374080 374397 374476 374909
375573 376026 376681/2 376691/2 377806/9 377831 378283/4
379196 379218 379504 379886 379891 380235/6 380452
380658 380840 381014 381115 381212/3 381240 381434 381603
381789 381817/23 381954/5 381966 381986 382475 382590/1
382820 382836 382962 382995/7 383060 383063 383213 383315/9
383327/9 383540 384112 384713 384803/4 384869 384873
385433/4 385560 385650 385817 385834 386013 386343 386531
386548 386734/8 387000 387284 387384 387580/1 387584 387790
389703 389968 390749 391102 391884 392272 392798 393392 393661
393761 395597 395524 396830 397383 397664 397784 397868
398236 398328 398477 399570 399578 399593 399664/6 399847
400745 400837 401044 401563/4 401566 402424 402499.

955 BONDS OF £100.

225187 225216/7 225264 225344 225386 225392 225571 225662/6
226073/4 226132/3 226138/40 226247 226644 226691 226695 227507
227766/7 228324 228371/4 228433 228547 228595/6 228684 228749
228830 229087 229521 229568/619 229832 229852 229890 229892/4
230100 230405 230430 230551 231002 231037 231178 231535
231639/86 231784/5 231809 232134 232357 232383 232388 232727/8
233117 233250 233362 233567/9 233929/31 233966/9 234056/69
234387 234563 234759 234880 235035 235050 235077 235186 235272
236123 236367 236384 236600 236666/8 236698 237212 238213
238572/5 238769 238799 238832 238877/8 238948 238977 239033/5
239088 239309/11 239419 239458 239497 239554 239763/4 239811
240034/5 240042/3 240157 240475 240602 240636 241077/8 241080
241400 241405 241460/70 241543 241551 241580/97 241617 241674
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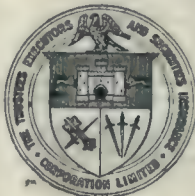
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ESTABLISHED 1837.

LIMITED.

INCORPORATED 1880.

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Reserve Liability of Proprietors 4,000,000

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Passing Events.

Revenue came in satisfactorily last week to a total of £10,432,000, which compares with £7,427,000 received the week before. The requirements of the Exchequer, however, totalled £35,890,000, so that nearly £25,500,000 had to be found by recourse to credit, and credit did not respond with its customary freedom last week; in fact, the Government had to draw on the Exchequer balances to the extent of £3,088,000 in order to make up the total of £64,164,000, to which the outgoings attained. Of that big figure, however, no less than £28,245,000 represented renewals of credit, £21,418,000 of Treasury bills having fallen due for repayments, besides £6,827,000 of temporary advances. It follows that the total addition to the floating debt in Treasury bills was only £10,277,000, bringing up the credit outstanding to £1,113,106,000. The sales of Exchequer bonds last week amounted to only £12,508,000, but War Savings Certificates gave £1,250,000; on the other hand, Expenditure Certificates provided only £247,000. These figures seem to us to emphasise the folly of neglecting other and more prolific means of capturing the surplus money of the community. If a greater proportion of the credit being dispersed every week in wages, and in great part now spent, wasted, could be drawn back again into the Treasury, it would certainly help to quiet public apprehensions regarding the ultimate economic consequences of this long-drawn-out and exceedingly expensive conflict. With last week's addition, the total amount of 6 per cent. Exchequer bonds now sold is £101,850,000. Up to date the total expenditure this year has been £1,242,423,000, an increase of £370,251,000 on last year's outgoings—not an excessive amount in view of the help we have now to give Portugal, as well as Serbia, free Greece, Belgium, and Rumania. Revenue has yielded £235,353,000 out of a total estimated £502,275,000 for the entire year.

Because we are novices at the art of regulating every detail of the people's lives, we are afraid there has been terrible bungling in the attempts now being made to alter our *laissez faire* policy in this direction and that. It is no doubt inevitable in the circumstances, but we are sorry that the Government has allowed itself to be

hustled into making "standard" bread compulsory without full consideration of all the issues involved, and it is very far from certain if the lowering of the quality of flour will lead to any of the benefits anticipated. There is no proof that "standard" bread is more nutritious, and we think only a very small minority would claim that it is more palatable. We have tried it personally, and found it not only unpalatable, but unsatisfactory in various ways, and a great many people have expressed similar opinions. That, perhaps, is a small matter, and no doubt we should get reconciled to it in time, especially if we were convinced that any useful object was being attained. But are the Government sure that the drawbacks will not outweigh the advantages? We think not. The grain trade will be considerably disorganised, and there will be an important shortage in offals used for cattle-feeding purposes. Moreover, the biscuit industry will be very seriously threatened. Biscuits are not indispensable, but the industry employs about 100,000 workers, mostly women, the capital involved is about £20,000,000, and there is an export trade representing some £5,000,000 a year, and steadily growing. The bulk of this profitable business is likely to be destroyed merely to please a few faddists, but we are afraid it is too late to turn back until the experiment has been tried.

A question of no little importance to trustees who deposit securities with the Treasury under Scheme "B" is to be decided in the Courts very shortly. For several reasons trustees have been unable to determine, even with the advice of counsel, whether the payment of the $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. extra interest may legally be treated as income to go to the immediate beneficiary, or as an addition to the capital of the trust funds. Similarly if the deposited securities are sold, the question will arise as to whether the extra 5 per cent. to be added to the deposit value is income or capital. Most people incline to the belief that the former is income and the latter capital, but there is something to be said for the contention that the $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum is to be regarded as a consideration for a possible loss of capital in depositing the securities. The Treasury were asked, but declined to give a definite ruling on the point, and it has now been arranged that the matter shall be thrashed out in the

Courts at the Treasury's expense. In connection with the marketability of certificates issued in respect of securities lent to the Treasury, a very interesting movement is on foot to arrange that banks shall treat loans secured by these certificates on more favourable terms than loans secured by the securities themselves. If the scheme comes to fruition, it will greatly conduce to the success of mobilisation and the easy negotiability of the certificates.

Various reports are afloat regarding the projects now under discussion for raising further credits in the United States. We cannot particularise upon these rumours, because the proposals may lead to nothing; but surely the fact that discussion should prevail in financial circles regarding the best methods of pledging municipal rates as security for further loans in the United States ought to act as a goad in stimulating the Treasury out of its routine habitudes. Officials there do not seem to realise fully what this enormous creation of foreign debt means, and we devote some attention to the subject on another page; but they should at least realise that it would be better to find credit at home than to go hat in hand with a humble mien and bundles of securities to lenders outside the Empire.

One finds it difficult to avoid levity in considering the position of the derelict Teutonic Empires in the matter of raising credit to uphold their share of the war costs. Were it not, for instance, that there is so much of harrowing tragedy in the enslavement of the Belgian population, it would be impossible to restrain laughter at the naive confession of the hollowness of Germany's last loan-raising feat contained in the attempt to extort real money from wealthy Belgians. "Subscribe to our loan and we will let you off deportation," seems to have been the proposition made, and yet we were told when the last loan subscriptions nominally closed that the inflow of money had been stupendous, quite enough to meet all war requirements for goodness knows how long. We knew that that was the usual German lie, but hardly expected a confirmation of that view so soon or so pat. They are draining Belgium as it is, moreover, as fast as they can by monthly levies. And now Austria and Hungary are endeavouring to raise their loans, much talked of, much overdue we should say. The Austrian one is to be in two shapes—a 5½ per cent. State loan, redeemable in 40 years, and to be offered at 92.50, and State Treasury notes bearing the same rate of interest and repayable June 1, 1922, to be offered at 96.50, both loans free of taxes, which seems supererogatory, since soon nobody will be left in Austria to pay taxes except those who never pay any. Subscription lists are now open and will continue open to December 16. Hungary is also coming with its War loan, also the fifth levy, but it is offering 6 per cent. on bonds to be sold at 97.13. It will also offer 5½ per cent. bonds at 95, redeemable as from 1922 in 20 years. Nothing is said with regard to taxes in this instance—which is commendable seeing that there will presently be only landowners left to tax, men, i.e., who scorn in Hungary ever to pay anything. We are really curious to guess who are left even as it is to subscribe for these loans, and how the battered fabric of the Habsburg Empire is going to find the means with which to pay back the lenders. Probably when the earliest date of refunding the money comes there will be no credit at all available in either half of the lost empire with which to make so much as a show of paying. But the people must lend whether or not.

As we have said before, neither the Austrian nor the Hungarian Jews can now be keen supporters of royal-imperial credit. The Jews are too astute, they know the game is up, and that there is no substance at all behind the promise to pay, so they will only find money if coerced. We also puzzle over the problem which must tax the ingenuity even of the Prussian illusionist, how to make it appear that these loans are a success. There can be no money of a substantial kind in any of the Austrian banks, and Hungary has been stripped of

means, except what the Jews hoard and will take good care not to part with, long ago. Teuton cruelty and ruthless short-sightedness would be quite equal to treating the Jews as Isaac of York was threatened to be treated by the King of England in Scott's novel, "Ivanhoe,"—but the difficulty to-day will be to catch the rich Jew, and the facilities for concealing and conveying away riches are so great now that, when caught, it may be found that, metaphorically speaking, the Jew's teeth are all false. So how the money is to be made to appear to exist is an interesting problem in Teuton war finance, whose solution promises much diversion. To be sure, bonds can be printed and notes issued with which to buy them *ad lib.*, but there must come a limit even to that method of creating wealth, for the more the paper money is debased or multiplied, the less possible is it for the people to provide themselves with food. This mode of raising the needful soon becomes a profession that ruins itself and paralyses, it may be for good, the nation that falls back upon it.

It is surely a mistake altogether to denounce the crime of sinking the *Britannic* on humanitarian grounds. Undoubtedly Germany has violated every rule of conduct towards the enemy in time of war, but so far as German aims and ideals are concerned what has that to do with it? Here was the newest, most capacious, and altogether finest ship in the British mercantile navy offering a chance to German torpedoes, whose bases—doubtless with the connivance of King Constantine—seem to be plentiful and well-supplied in and around the *Ægean*. Was this chance to be missed on mere considerations of humanity, even if the ship had been full of helpless wounded? Certainly not; the German God had delivered a valuable enemy ship into German hands, and the alert, cowardly pirate was delighted with his chance. Happily there were no wounded on board, but that may have been a mere accident. What do the German shipping people dream and talk of? They picture to themselves, these distorted creatures, that when the war ends they will resume their former place in the ocean-carrying trade of the world. What more helpful, then, to the retention of that place than as large a destruction as possible of British shipping meantime? By destroying at one stroke the *Britannic* another ship greater and more perfect than the *Lusitania* was cleared out of the way, and to that extent made room for their own vessels when peace opens the door once more. That is the kind of cold-blooded, sordid reasoning which lies behind German abominations of this description, and it should be met, not by homilies on breach of the law of nations, but by a clear intimation on the part of the Allies that until full and complete reparation has been made for the numberless brutalities perpetrated on the defenceless ships of all nations no German ship will be allowed to enter any port of the British, French, Italian, or Russian Empires. The seas, in short, must be closed to German shipping for a time lengthy according as the sum of their submarine and other crimes is massive. And all the existing merchant shipping of Germany must be confiscated. "You cannot do it." Oh, yes, we can. The Germans themselves are taking effective care that we shall be able to do it by destroying themselves in prolonging the war for motives of spite, fear, baffled rage and a savage thirst for vengeance long after they have been beaten.

Much space has been given by the newspapers to memorial notices of the deceased Emperor of Austria and King of Hungary, Francis Joseph of Habsburg. We have not taken the trouble to read any one of them, being as little interested as the French are in the character and life-story of this political figure-head. Whether he was a despot responsible for his actions, or merely the thaumaturgic puppet of the real despots, who utilised him to cloak their infamies, is of little consequence now. And whatever his actual position, he has to bear the blame for the betrayal of the people over whom he had been placed once and many times

during his long occupancy of the most blood-stained and inhuman throne in Europe, not even excepting the Hohenzollern. In no relation of life was the dead Emperor an example to his people, but he was reared in the faith that he was a "holy" being, sacred to the duty of upholding that ecclesiastical form of tyranny conserved as "the Holy Roman Empire," and therefore in all things a law unto himself. Although the first Napoleon shattered to pieces that pious fraud in its original form, the family of the Habsburgs shaped all the ceremonial and cultivated all the ceremonial of their Imperial Court in harmony with the old legend. So it is probable that it was the circumstances of his birth and upbringing that must be blamed most for the dead man's crookedness in public and private life, for his treachery, tyranny and cruelty. One almost regrets that he has slipped away without staying to pay the forfeit of his crimes. But he was really too insignificant and too old to be worth calling to the bar of earthly justice, and his punishment must now fall on the heads of those who come after him. His heir seems to be of about the mental calibre of the Hohenzollern Crown Prince. That will make him the easier to lure to his destruction. It is time the world had done with "big medicine men" of this description, and they would have gone long ago had they not enlisted so many material interests and so many human vanities on their side.

A splendid recovery is shown in the results of the Entre Rios Railways Co., Ltd. Gross receipts to June 30 have quite reached the 1914 level, and at £612,430 are £171,380 more than last year, the increase being no less than 38.8 per cent. Working expenses were £37,000, or 11 per cent., higher at £373,010, and nett receipts have consequently improved £134,340 to £239,420. After paying fixed charges and setting aside £10,000 for renewals and other reserves there is a balance of £57,470, of which £49,300 has been applied to writing off last year's debit balance, and the remaining £8,170 is carried forward. In the circumstances these figures represent a great achievement, because both import and export trade was carried on under great difficulties, and notwithstanding the increased cost of fuel the expense ratio has been reduced from 76.2 to 60.9 per cent. The physical condition of the line has recovered from the damage caused by the floods of the past two years, thanks largely to the progress made in stone ballasting the track, and to the fact that the average weight of the rails has been raised from 47½ to 64.3 lbs. per yard. Unfortunately, the prospects for the approaching wheat and linseed crops are not very satisfactory owing to the drought, but the development of other traffic is expected to make some amends for the loss that must occur in cereal tonnage during the current year. Indeed, gross receipts to date show an increase of 21½ per cent., and the general outlook is fairly promising.

The Castner-Kellner Alkali Co. is finding considerable difficulty in arriving at the extent of its liability for excess profits duty, and the amount due for 1914-15 has even yet not been settled. Until this has been fixed and the further amount payable for the year ended September 30 has also been arranged, the directors do not feel justified in submitting the accounts. They state, however, that the profits exceeded those of the previous 12 months, and that in the auditors' opinion they are sufficient to justify the payment of a final dividend of 13 per cent., making 22 per cent. for the year as against 20 per cent. last time. During the year the capital was increased to £1,000,000 by the creation of 250,000 shares of £1 each issued as fully paid to Brunner, Mond and Co. in exchange for 200,000 £1 shares in that company. As these new shares participate in the present distribution, the payment requires an extra £32,500, or some £7,500 more than the company received as interim dividend on its holding of Brunner Mond shares.

Splendid results are shown by Venesta, Ltd., for the year to June 30. Gross profits amounted to £220,340, an increase of £106,000, but salaries, &c., took £17,000 more, and there was a loss of £18,300 on exchange, so that the nett profit is only £64,300 higher at £134,180, and £13,000 less was brought in. Nevertheless, the advance in the dividend from 8 to 10 per cent. (of which 4 per cent. was paid as interim) is well justified, and after placing £50,000 to reserve against a similar amount carried to suspense last year the balance forward is £49,000 higher at £62,440. It is explained, however, that this is subject to excess profits duty for 1915 and 1916, which has not yet been settled with the revenue authorities. Reserves now amount to £350,000, apart from £167,800 share premiums, which do not figure in the accounts, against an issued capital of £500,000, so the position is a very strong one. Mortgages and bankers' advances have been reduced by £11,000, but the total liability to creditors is £172,000 higher at £460,000. On the other hand, stocks are up £68,000, goods on consignment £88,000, and advances against forward contracts £146,000, while cash is £30,000 lower at £16,000. It is explained that the high prices of materials and delays in transit involve the company in a great lock-up of capital and increase the risk of depreciation in the value of stocks held, but at the same time it is more necessary than ever to keep ample stocks owing to the uncertainty of obtaining further supplies. The factories have been largely employed on Government work, but the general trade of the company has been well maintained, and in some departments substantially increased. It is a very sound and prosperous business.

Including a full year's working of the Regent Palace Hotel, as against about four months a year ago, the results of the Strand Hotel, Ltd., naturally show a considerable expansion. Trading profits to September 30 were £88,200 higher at £187,930, while expenses absorbed £48,700 more at £91,700. With £1,800 more brought forward the disposable balance is £41,320 up at £107,790. Debenture interest requires £4,400 more, preference dividend £14,000 more, and 9 per cent. (the same as last year) on the preferred ordinary shares £9,000 more. Depreciation has not been entirely neglected, the sum set aside for this purpose being £9,000 higher at £16,000, but nothing (against £3,000) is placed to reserve and £5,000 of deferred shares gobble £20,700 against £14,850, leaving £15,950, or £4,400 more, to be carried forward. These are really wonderful results, bearing in mind the high cost of provisions and the inevitable increase in wages and other expenses. They show what can be done by skilful management in catering for popular requirements at moderate prices with the attraction of "no tips allowed" thrown in. But we regret we cannot carry our admiration beyond that point. The deferred dividend of £20,700 is equal to 414 per cent. of the nominal value of the shares, and is an outrageous price to pay for the management of a business in which public money to the extent of £770,000 has been subscribed. Sir Joseph Lyons and his associates have been so pre-eminently successful in their conduct of this class of business that we feel great reluctance in criticising their policy, but a study of the balance-sheet gives rise to very serious misgiving. The company has been in existence nine years, and the capital expenditure amounts to £854,800, of which £258,500 is for the Strand Palace Hotel and £596,300 for the Regent Palace Hotel. But the provision for depreciation is a beggarly £28,800, of which £8,000 has been taken from a special reserve consisting largely of share premiums. That is to say, less than 2½ per cent. has been provided out of profits after nine years, although twice that amount per annum would be none too generous an allowance in a business of this kind, whatever provision may be made for current maintenance. We have some recollection of the swift disaster that overtook the Gordon Hotels after they had pursued a similar policy for a number of years. Then the reserve

fund is only a miserable £25,500, which is just about 1 per cent. per annum on the expenditure on the Strand Palace alone. It is not nearly enough, and points with certainty to trouble in the more or less distant future. But the deferred or management shares must get their "whack" and prudence may go hang. How the two establishments can be run on a stock-in-trade of £7,700 is something of a mystery, but perhaps they draw their daily supplies even of wines and spirits from J. Lyons and Co., Ltd., and keep only the smallest possible margin in hand. No doubt the business is a wonderful one, conducted with the minutest care, but one or two of the points mentioned create an uncomfortable feeling.

We are glad that it has been found possible to place the affairs of the Welsbach Light Company on a more satisfactory footing. As is well known, the company had a large interest in the Austrian concern, and, indeed, it used to draw the bulk of its profits from that source. On the other hand, the German company held large blocks of shares and debentures, although it could exercise no control over the Welsbach undertaking. However, the position was thoroughly unsatisfactory, and with the sanction of the authorities a scheme has been arrived at which will, if the proprietors agree, eliminate the enemy elements. Under this plan the German company will surrender 173,000 shares and £62,600 debentures, cancel debts amounting to £3,150, and pay over £5,000 cash out of funds in the hands of the Public Trustee. In return the Welsbach will hand over 1,478 shares in the Austrian company, which stand in the books at £179,600, and will release the company from its guarantee of the debenture stock. The arrangement appears to be an equitable one, which the share and debenture holders should have no hesitation in sanctioning, and the company will have sufficient scope for its energies by confining itself to the home trade.

The changed conditions in the nitrate industry proved of substantial benefit to the London Nitrate Co. in the year ended June 30. Its oficinas were at work throughout the period, and the whole output was sold, with the result that the heavy drop in profits of a year ago was more than wiped out, and the total of £53,105 was even some £2,000 above that of the last pre-war year. This time, however, there were no special receipts corresponding to the £9,625 paid by neutrals for cancelling contracts a year ago, and as £6,563 less at £8,369 was brought forward, the available total was £22,884 up at £63,979. An extra £2,500 at £10,000 is written off as additional depreciation, and £500 less at £2,500 is provided for depreciation of investments, while £10,000 as against nothing is transferred to reserve. The dividend is then increased from 2s. to 3s. per share, restoring it to the level of two years ago, and a slightly larger balance of £8,463 is carried forward. Property account has been reduced by £8,479 to £165,256, against which the company has various reserves aggregating £112,000. Stocks of nitrate and iodine have risen by £5,460 to £33,412, debtors are £31,255 up at £49,897, and the company has £15,000 in bills receivable against an increase of £45,532 to £69,136 in creditors and bills payable. Investments have been reduced by £5,842 to £36,166, and loans against security for £6,000 have been paid off, but £37,000 has been put into Treasury bills, and cash balances are a little higher at £11,282.

Unlike most of its competitors, the Amelia Nitrate Co. was able to keep two of its oficinas at work throughout the whole of 1914-15, and was also able to dispose of its output at satisfactory prices, with the result that its trading profits only fell off by £4,781. Good fortune again attended the operations in the year ended June 30, and with all three oficinas in full work the gross profits, notwithstanding heavier working charges, showed an improvement of £21,340 at £79,135. Owing to a much larger amount having been applied to debenture redemption the balance

brought in was £12,874 down at £426, and as interest charges and income-tax both absorbed more, the increase in the nett surplus now available is only £3,686 at £49,838. Of this, £31,531, or a few hundreds more, is set aside for debenture redemption, and after repeating the dividend of 7 per cent. on the ordinary shares £3,721 is left to be carried forward. During the year a further £11,000 of the 10-year mortgage debentures was paid off, and this amount has been written off property account, together with £3,562 for balance of price of the Oficina Josefine sold, reducing the book value to £366,778, against which there are a reserve of £37,500 and a debenture redemption account of £75,091, the latter being £33,800 up on the year. Debtors owe £45,487 less at £8,084, but stocks are £60,114 larger at £205,941, and cash and bills receivable have risen by £72,939 to £105,897, while, on the other hand, £170,345, or £45,730 more, is due to creditors.

At the meeting of the Edison Swan Electric Company, Limited, it was frankly admitted that the concern is urgently in need of further working capital, but it cannot call up the £2 per share on 99,000 shares, as this forms part of the security of the debenture-holders. Although no definite scheme has yet been settled on, there is a proposal to issue 7 per cent. participating preference shares, and some such arrangement would probably be the best in the circumstances. By the way, a slip crept into our analysis of the report, as we stated that creditors had been reduced £44,500, whereas they have increased by that sum to £125,000. We also made it appear as though directors' fees were a new item, whereas all that has happened is that they are now given separately, instead of being included among general charges, &c.

It is pleasant to see a decided improvement in the affairs of the Pekin Syndicate, Ltd. A year ago we noted indications that the company appeared to have turned the corner, and this is amply confirmed by the report now issued. The most striking change is that instead of a loss of £63,200 on working the properties in the 12 months to June 30, 1915, there is now a profit of £5,000, which represents a very substantial advance on anything previously recorded, and by another year we shall hope to see the company in a position to present a proper profit and loss account in place of the higger-mugger item that has done duty hitherto. As it is, the revenue account merely represents interest, dividends, &c., and does not include the results of actual operations. Receipts amounted to £76,280, an increase of £29,000, while administrative expenses in China were reduced by £4,300, and the nett revenue is £33,000 higher at £54,840. Depreciation of investments requires £29,760, an increase of £2,000, and the credit balance is £25,000 higher at £434,150. It is about time the shareholders touched a bit of this, but no doubt adjustments are necessary before this is possible. Apparently the formation of the Fu Chung Corporation to act as selling agents is proving successful, and the output of coal has increased from 260,000 to 481,000 tons, and it is stated that the equipment of the mines can now meet all requirements. As to the balance-sheet, we note that liability for calls has been reduced £27,000 to £268,000. Cash has increased £100,000 to £160,680, but investments are £70,000 lower (apparently due largely to revaluation) at £623,000. Sundry debtors are up £25,000, and stocks, stores, &c., are £11,000 higher. We hope it will be possible for the chairman at the meeting on the 4th prox. to elucidate some of the points that are still obscure, but the essential fact is that substantial progress appears to have been made.

The De Beers Co., which in common with other diamond producers, suspended operations immediately war broke out, has made a substantial recovery from the effects of the first year of hostilities. In the year ended June 30 the actual sale of diamonds amounted to

£2,652,562, and the nett revenue from stones was £2,142,092, an increase of no less than £1,567,693. This result is to be attributed to the increased demand for stones in neutral countries as an investment of war profits, particularly in America, which enabled washing to be resumed on January 1 last, and mining operations in May and June. The total revenue was £1,512,331 larger at £2,297,781, and as expenditure increased by only £266,661 to £1,260,461, a profit of £1,037,320 was made. This compares with a loss of £258,350 last year, which was increased to £508,597 by allowing £250,247 for depreciation of reserves and special investments. This result has enabled the preference shareholders to receive their dividends for the period from July 1, 1914, to December 31, 1915, representing a payment of £1,200,000. The sum carried forward is raised from £289,264 to £628,840, which would be sufficient to pay a further half-year's dividend on the preference shares, and leave about £228,840 to be carried forward. The market, in fact, is anticipating such a distribution very shortly. Only one important alteration is shown in the balance-sheet, and that is in special investments, which have risen from £113,083 to £1,026,618. This item apparently represents chiefly British Treasury bills, of which the company held £1,160,900 on June 30. Holdings of the 4½ per cent. War Loan have declined from £998,000 to £869,159. No doubt the directors have thought it wise to increase the liquid resources of the company as much as possible during the war. Last year's sales of diamonds were less than one-half of what they were before the war, and it is not expected that the demand will reach the pre-war level until hostilities cease, but the prospects of the company for the current year are fairly satisfactory owing to the increasing demand in the United States for articles of luxury.

The Peace to be Fought For.

II.—AFTER DISARMAMENT—THE INDEMNITIES.

As the horizon widens, the extent and variety of the subjects and problems involved in the settlement of the peace we must have bewilder and appal. No rough-and-ready, rule-of-thumb style of rearranging mid-Europe can be permitted. Every interest, every right, nay, every aspiration even, must be examined, weighed, listened to with sympathetic ear. And underlying all action must be an unalterable determination "to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly" with the God of Righteousness we serve. And there must be no attempt at tyranny of the Habsburg-Hohenzollern type, even when, for the sake of compelling the aggressors to pay damages, it may be necessary to put districts, whole provinces, of the obliterated Empires under tutelage, the entire industrial activity of the two Empires under control.

How big the war bill that the Allies will have to tender to the Prussian and Austro-Hungarian despoilers is to be will depend on the duration of the war. Whatever its total—and it may be twelve, it may be fifteen thousand million pounds—payment of it must be exacted to the last penny, in the interests of the world's peace and security as much as in those of the victims. To cry quits and swear eternal or other friendship after the fighting is over would be a betrayal of mankind too appalling to be tolerated, and would lead probably to disorder, possibly to revolts and revolutions in every one of the nations now engaged on the side of the *Entente*. Is it possible that our own privileged classes do not understand the risks of this betrayal? Were they in fellow-feeling with the Prussian and Austro-Magyar masters of nations held in bondage, body and soul, to connive at or arrange for a peace which would leave us, France, and our other Allies to carry the load of debt the war is piling upon their shoulders, they would probably be swept out of existence by a revolution to which that of 1789 in France would seem a burlesque of vengeance. The aggressors must, therefore, be made to pay for our

safety's sake. Would it not, then, be advisable to let the blindfolded Teutons know what their doom is? The intimation that, burrow and poison and spit death as they may, dash against our lead and steel as they may, increase the number of their enemies as they continually do, they cannot weaken the grasp we have on their throats, and that every day the war is prolonged by them at least £1,000,000, probably £1,500,000 is being added to the amount of the annuity they will be compelled to furnish to us, under penalty of losing all their industries and all right to trade unshackled with any part of the world. Teuton intellects understand statistics of that practical kind, and we see no reason why an effort should not be made to let them know the truth. The requisite literature might be disseminated by aircraft, like a message from Heaven to a benighted people.

That useful man of the *Daily Mail*, Mr. F. W. Wile, has been telling us that leaders of the German iron trade are happy—nay, jubilant—in their confidence of power to recapture supremacy in the world's steel trade when the war is over. Vaunts of the customary fatuity in conceit are being indulged in, and predictions disseminated that business may be resumed on the old lines under the former over-mastering conditions sooner than may to-day seem probable. New strategic railways are to be built, the ships of traders who have been rivals on the ocean are being terpedood out of existence to leave the course free for great Germany's merchant marine to fill the vacant places, and all the world will soon again be at the barbarians' mercy and at the Teuton bagman's beck and call as customers.

It is all beautiful bunkum of the invariable sort, and probably still finds acceptance with the masses, although the disseminators know well enough it is not so. But if these masses were informed in unmistakeable language that no German merchant ship will again be allowed to sail the sea until the depredations inflicted on neutral vessels, and the indiscriminate sinking of unarmed shipping of all nations had been made good, they might begin, at least, to fear that the German iron-masters are merely lying to try and deceive the people as well as to give themselves an appearance of courage. Our inertia towards the decisions taken at the Paris Conference inspires them with delight, it appears. "The enemy is inert, as usual; we'll out-wit and out-trade him," is the line of reasoning. But suppose the Allies, in formulating their indemnity claims, their bills of costs, including the losses involved in the wanton devastation committed in Belgium, Northern France, Russian Poland, Rumania, Serbia, Greece, Egypt, and Italy, intimate with unmistakeable plainness that the serf populations of the two Empires must work under Allied control until these bills are all paid, where, then, will be the conquering Krupp, the "Napoleonic" Ballin, the overweening Thyssen, and their mates in lust after other people's goods?

As we never cease repeating, the domination and apportioning of German industries and German foreign commerce ought not to involve a question of customs tariffs at all. Between the members of the *Entente* fellowship of the free there ought to be no tariffs except for strictly hygienic or revenue purposes, and between the *Entente* and the robber Empires there ought to stand an international control commission made up of *Entente* delegates, whose business it should be to apportion the share of the world's requirements in every commodity allotted to each member of the Federation and to see to it that the Germans and Austro-Magyars got no more than their share, that is, whatever quantities of German, &c., manufactures the Allies required. These quantities should be paid for at prices which only left the workmen with sufficient wages, all legitimate margin of profit going towards paying off the enemy's debts to us. Moreover, no German goods of whatever quality or nature should be permitted to go to foreign countries or anywhere outside Federated Europe except on payment of export duties collected by the Control Board and assigned in

proportionate sums to each country in payment of the Allied demands on war costs account.

"Then that would mean the occupation of all German exits?" Yes, it would, and where would the harm be in that, or the difficulties? In this writer's too premature sketch of the conditions necessary to peace, written early in the war and published in "No Deluding Peace," it was contended that by that plan, and that alone, could we make sure of getting *some*, if not all, of our material losses made good, and doubtless its execution means the occupation of all German sea ports, the neutralisation of the Kiel Canal under joint Allied and neutral control, the blocking of all landward outlets by river or rail, East, South, and West; but with the emancipation of the persecuted races now kept in bondage within the boundaries of the two Empires now, for our deliverance, bent on committing suicide, the duty would be neither so difficult nor so costly as at first sight appears. We, however, can deal with this point more appositely when the question of boundaries and the rival claims to autonomy of races now oppressed comes to be discussed.

The design at present is to draw the outlines of the essentials to peace. First we have the disarmament of the marauders and next their subjection to such economic control as will compel them to pay damages in full. No oppression of the humbler, the duped, masses ought to be permitted, none can be contemplated, but if payment of the war costs, restitution of stolen property, and repair of war's and wanton's dilapidations should involve the extinction of the land and political power monopoly of certain classes of human beings in the two Empires it will be cause for joy rather than for grieving. At the worst the Allies may be trusted not to descend to the brutal level of heartless cruelty these same privileged classes in Prussia, Austria, and Magyar-Hungary have displayed towards Poles, Tzecks, Slavs, Croats, Ruthenes, Italians, and Roumans for generations and centuries.

"Your proposals are altogether too drastic, or if you prefer it, too Utopian." Yes, that kind of remark is common enough, and as foolish as common. To what does it amount? Either to nothing in particular or to a confession that a peace at any price would be not unwelcome to the public. We are sick to nausea of the philandering citizen, of the sentimental dispenser of cheap humanitarianism, which, if it has any meaning in particular, surely proclaims the willingness of the utterer to betray posterity. Among the questions to be put to such are:—Do you wish the peace to be a real one? If you do, will you specify how it can be made real, solid, lasting by any other policy than one of severe and rigid justice? If a burglar breaks into your house and plunders it, are you disposed to forgive him, to let him keep the stolen property, to enter into a "treaty of peace" with him? "No?" Then please define the point at which the crime of an individual becomes a forgivable act of mere matter of course spoliation on the part of a nation, a monarch. We can see no moral distinction except in magnitude between the premeditated crimes of the two German Emperors, with their swarms of high priests in robbery and murder, and those of the "crib-cracker," who breaks into a private house in the night and, when opposed, robs and murders its inmates. Both were "out to steal." Both slew their fellow-men on meeting resistance, and the guilt of the criminal should be held by us, is held, great in proportion to the magnitude of the damage done, of the murder perpetrated. Is there any valid objection to that view? If not, why should nations that live by robbery and murder, that dream and scheme continually to commit murder and robbery, be softer treated than individual criminals of the same type and ambitions? There is a great deal too much sickly cant in the current speech of politicians about this war. The revolting cold-bloodedness of its origin, the hypocrisy with which the intention to slay and annex was hidden, the loathsome inhumanity with which it has been waged by the aggressors, Prussian, Austrian and Magyar, Turk and Bulgar, and the de-

monic malignity with which the crimes are persisted in, all are explained away, excused, blubbered over or whined about in a sentimental fashion by the mob of those who want peace on the cheap, even as the Bavarian wants it. How is it possible for any man with a soul in him to forget that the free and freedom-seeking peoples of Europe have been fallen upon with deliberate, cold-blooded savagery by two brigand Empires, the curse of Europe ever since they came into existence, and forced to fight for their lives? Can they quit this fight before the fell foe has been crushed? Dare they quit it before? Surely no, and if the duty is laid upon us to bear our part like men until victory is complete, is it any less our duty to see that the fruits of victory are not filched from us by the feeble, the time-serving, the sycophantic, and the selfishly short-sighted of all classes and degrees? Take up a notch or two in your moral girdle, easy-going citizen, and decide to sustain in all loyalty those who insist that the criminals must pay—must bear to the uttermost the penalty of their abominable crimes.

Half-Measures in Food Regulations.

Unquestionably one of the pre-occupations of our discontented classes, and not of them alone, concerns the ways and means which the country will be able to command after the war. It is seen that the National Debt is increasing with wholly unexampled rapidity, and that not alone in the matter of public debts are the burdens to fall upon the nation growing bigger. In the debate in the House of Commons on Wednesday, which arose on the introduction of the Pensions Bill by Mr. Hayes Fisher, it was revealed that the latest scheme for protecting the returned or disabled soldier, or the dependents of the dead soldier, from want, would involve an addition of £20,000,000 per annum to the annual Budget. To-day, said Mr. Hogge, there are fifty thousand men in this country looking to the Government to do something for them, and Mr. Henderson declared that the Government was fully alive to its responsibilities. Doubtless other claims equally cogent, equally peremptory in their demands for satisfaction, will spring up, and, naturally enough, observing the trend of things, the average citizen is disposed to be pessimistic and to long for a speedy return to peace, lest a prolongation of the strife for another year or two should involve the entire nation in the impending ruin.

We hope this nervousness and anxiety will continue and take another and more practical turn, for undoubtedly we shall be in Queer Street if we moon and muddle along in the fashion we are now doing. Mr. Jesse Collings has once more complained in a cogent letter to the *Times* that no provision has been made in the Government Food Regulation Bill to increase home food production, and that is unquestionably the stultifying defect of the new legislation. It betokens a lack of courage and frankness in facing a most critical position. The great families and their ramifications who possess the mastery over the soil of this country, to the country's hurt, are still apparently foolish enough to resist passively all attempts to increase the fertility and the cultivated extent of the country's sterilised soil, and the Government is apparently much too timid still to take them, metaphorically, by the scruff of the neck, shake them up, and say, "Open your land on reasonable terms to the production of food for the people, or it will be taken out of your control altogether, even as the railways have been." The hour is near when that attitude will have to be assumed by the Government, however reluctant, because when peace comes, if the essential reform demanded has not been effected, the country will find itself in a position of the greatest possible danger.

Thanks to the war England has, temporarily, let us hope, become a debtor country just as France has. We not only owe large sums to United States moneylenders, but we have pledged many millions of our interest-bearing securities to protect the lenders of that money from loss; therefore an imperative obligation rests upon the people of this now debtor country to find many mil-

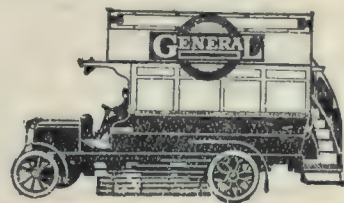
lions of money to liquidate these foreign obligations and release the securities pledged. How is this to be done? The only feasible and sure way to pay the debts is to restrict our imports and expand our exports so as to provide a margin large enough to bear the levies necessary to liquidate the drafts drawn on our resources and forwarded in payment. But if we resume business on the lines hitherto followed, as our Ministers and financiers seem to expect—in imitation of the Germans—we shall not have this or any margin to draw upon. We shall still have to buy 40, 50, perhaps 60 to 70 per cent. of our food abroad, and in proportion as the maintenance bill, as it might be called, mounts up, the difference between the value of our imports and our exports will be narrowed. It is consequently of the utmost importance that we should strain every nerve to place ourselves in an independent position so far as food is concerned. If the country can feed itself—and we are persuaded that it can do so without difficulty if the land is set free and its cultivation tackled with modern intelligence, forethought, and co-operation—then we shall soon work clear of the burden of foreign debt. But if not? Well, social revolts amounting to revolution are at hand, and with them will arrive the danger of national default.

Look at this pension business in the same light—the light of a tied-up soil and a dispossessed population. Why is it that the men who are fighting our battles, and the dependents of these men, come immediately upon the community for charity when wounded, or leave their families to the same fountain of public bounty if slain? It is because the vast majority of the population of this country is completely without resources beyond the daily wage. They have no connection with the land, no hold upon it, do not even possess the space of a grave in it, but are huddled into town slums, and therefore, in a calamity such as this, they and their dependents have instantly to fall back upon those still left who can find work to do, but whom, by reason of the burden their maintenance imposes, they thenceforth help to pull down into the hopeless misery of the barren city pavement. Thus those who have still contrived to hold up their heads and pay their way are made to bear the burden. That cannot in common prudence, let alone common humanity, be allowed to continue, and because it cannot the Government must bestir itself, pluck up courage ere it be too late, and have the manly honesty to say to the feudally entrenched, heedless or careless owners of the soil of this country, "You must let go, release the land, permit it to be settled upon by these sufferers through the war and by others out of work, so that those of us who remain capable of paying taxes and rates may be delivered from a crushing burden." This must be done soon, else however triumphantly we may have destroyed the hosts of the Prussian wild beast, we shall not have won half the victory. On national grounds, then, from motives of self-preservation, to relieve the rates and taxes of a crushing burden, and also and above all to enable the nation to live independently of foreign food supplies, we must bestir ourselves to revolutionise our treatment of the fertile soil of the three kingdoms. All that has been done, well-meant and thoughtful as it is, amounts to nothing compared with perils and necessities. If we can take the railways in hand, why not the landlords? Are they a sacred breed of men whose legal privileges, no matter how essentially unjust, no man dare put hands on? If not, get to work while there is time.

Four Motor Companies.

Although the motor-car industry has been subject to many restrictions and limitations owing to the scarcity of petrol and other war conditions, it has evidently found compensation in other directions, and the recent activity in the shares of the group appears to have been well justified by the results now being obtained. We have the reports of four companies before us, and although in two cases complete accounts are not submitted (for somewhat insufficient reasons, we think),

they show a very healthy state of affairs. Let us look first at A. Darracq and Co. (1905), Limited. It was decided last year to transfer the French assets to a French company, and this arrangement has now been completed. As a logical sequence to this transaction, a similar transfer of the Fulham and Bond Street assets has been made to the Darracq Motor Engineering Company, Limited, formed to acquire them, so that the original concern has become a holding company, its interests being represented by shares valued at £516,320. Under these circumstances, exact comparison with previous years is not possible, as its main revenue is derived from dividends and rents in place of trading profits; but we shall not be far wrong in assuming that the decreased earnings are more apparent than real, seeing that the French company has paid an interim dividend of 20 per cent. and a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. (period not stated) has been received from the new English company. Anyhow, the revenue to September 30 was £125,410, a decrease of £52,000, and the nett profit comes out £26,000 less at £99,540. But the ordinary shareholders do not suffer, as they again receive 9½ per cent. (an awkwardly odd amount, by the way), and the balance forward, after transferring £20,000 to reserve, is £3,000 higher at £15,630. That, however, is only part of the story. Goodwill, which originally stood at £416,000, has been completely eliminated, the balance of £126,400 having been disposed of by various adjustments this year, over £6,000 being charged against revenue to round off the amount. Moreover, the last of the £150,000 debentures, amounting to £49,800, have been paid off since the close of the financial year, and patents account (£6,140) has also disappeared. Seeing that in the meantime a reserve fund of £170,000 has been accumulated against the issued capital of £650,000, and that £20,000 has been set aside for depreciation of investments standing at £133,000, the record must be regarded as a very fine feather in the cap of the management. Owing to



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CHANGE IN THE DARK

With the increased lighting restrictions now in operation the task of collecting fares and giving change is doubly difficult. Passengers will avoid misunderstandings and help us if the following simple rules are carried out:—

Having the exact fare ready whenever possible.

When unable to give the exact fare, telling the conductor the value of the coin tendered.

Giving a definite and well-known point when asking for a ticket.

Using every care not to get on the wrong bus.

The London General Omnibus Co., Ltd.,
Electric Railway House,
Broadway, Westminster, S.W.

the transfer of the business, £30,000 less at £4,100 had to be allowed for depreciation, but general charges were £12,000 higher at £18,550, owing mainly to increased income-tax and loss on exchange. Creditors have been reduced by £57,000 and debtors by £48,000, but cash is £14,000 up at £91,720. The balance-sheet has a very clean appearance, and with all intangible assets wiped out, the prospects of the company are brighter than ever.

At first sight the report of Humber, Ltd., looks disappointing, as the nett profits are £12,850 down at £51,290. But the gross profits were £11,200 higher at £93,000, and on comparing the items we find that £2,400 has been written off buildings, &c., and £34,150, or £25,000 more, off plant, &c., while other charges were reduced by £3,200 to £5,170. Anyhow, for the second time running two years' arrears of preference dividend can be paid, leaving only 6 per cent. unsettled, £10,000 is again placed to building reserve, and the balance forward is increased £1,500 to the substantial sum of £50,175. This, however, is subject to claims for income-tax, excess profits duty and munitions levy, the accounts for which have not yet been settled, but it is apparent that the position of the company has been considerably strengthened, although creditors are up £17,260 and debtors are £13,100 lower. On the other hand, stocks are £72,500 higher at £315,000, and we think this amount is unnecessarily large; some of it, we are afraid, must be rather obsolete. The company is strong in cash with £75,600 in hand. As the works are a controlled establishment they have been principally occupied in meeting Government requirements, and the output of the company's ordinary productions has consequently been small, but no doubt the business will revive when normal conditions are restored.

Belsize Motors, Ltd., and the Sunbeam Motor Car Co., Ltd., both say that they cannot present reliable accounts, the excuse in each case being that, as controlled establishments, they are unable to ascertain the amount of the munitions levy and the excess profits duty. It is rather feeble, but quite fashionable, and the shareholders can afford to wait, as they get the solatium of nice fat dividends. The directors of the Belsize "are convinced that the volume of business transacted exceeds that of any previous year," and they accordingly recommend a final dividend of 6 per cent., together with a bonus of 5 per cent., making 15 per cent. for the year to September 30, as compared with 10 per cent. for the previous 12 months. In the case of the Sunbeam Motor Car Co. the directors "have pleasure in stating that the volume of business has been greater than in any previous year," and they recommend a final dividend of 10 per cent. and a bonus of 15 per cent., making 30 per cent. for the 12 months, against 25 per cent. last time. This absorbs £72,000, and the preference dividend takes £1,800, while £5,000 is placed to staff bonus fund, so that altogether £78,800 is disposed of. It is a very pretty record, and although the profits are almost entirely made out of war work, the benefit of improved organisation and methods of production will doubtless remain when the works are restored to a peace footing.

By-the-Way War Notes.

In commiserating, as we all do, the enslaved civil population of Belgium and the occupied portions of Northern France, may we not sometimes allow our feelings to obscure one hopeful consideration? Probably the brutal Prussian race murderers have done their best to starve the people, the able-bodied men and women among whom they are now dragging away into slavery, and in doing that, so far as Belgium is concerned, may they not be contributing powerfully to draw Fleming and Walloon together? Before the war the cleavage between the two nationalities in Belgium was great, and growing greater. Germany had insinuated her influence all through Belgium, but especially in Flanders. Antwerp was almost a German-owned port, and the Flemings there and everywhere in the kingdom

were assiduously tutored to look upon the German Empire as their great protector, the mightiest embodiment of Teutonic invincibility. If these dupes of the Hun are now being haled away like the French-speaking Belgians of the South, we may surely hope for far greater harmony of races within the larger Belgium to come into existence when the war is over.

And the fact that abominations so revolting have had to be resorted to, regardless of the future consequences, is eloquent in proof of Prussian man-exhaustion. The strategy of the Allies has triumphed, German manhood has been destroyed, as General Joffre and all who grasped with any firmness the problem of Prussia's persistence in war-making had determined that it should be. The Wolff Bureau and the Prussian soldier and politician bluffers may fill the world still with their boasts, and with a demented, but grotesque, astuteness, may magnify every petty scuffle, every trench foray, into a "great victory," but they cannot bring back the millions of their dead and disabled. Like the cowards bullies always are, they go on sinking *unarmed* merchant ships indiscriminately in the despairing hope of starving us into a false peace; but that is not the way to success in this war; that does not fill hungry bellies in the Fatherland nor increase the numbers of the workers there, and submarine crews must need often renewing. Perhaps the most significant indication of the real state of things in Germany among all this week's scraps of news is General Lindendorff's message to the German iron and steel manufacturers, that "young female persons must also be recruited and put to work according to their ability." Does not that suggest manhood exhaustion?

The same instruction is conveyed in the dealings of the loutish but foxy and persistent *Boches* with Russian Poland. Never in the whole course of history can the student have lighted upon such another example of a nation seemingly deluding itself with its own pretences and lies. Prussians are not quite such fools as they seem, perhaps, but they do most perseveringly and in all gravity enact shams and parade falsehoods as if fully convinced that they could thus cheat the astonished world. "A new *independent* kingdom of Poland"—with a Hohenzollern under-King and Prussian lictors to beat the liberated people into obedience. Yes, and the first practical result of the derisive proceedings is the creation of a Polish army to take the place of the Germans dead everywhere along the siege lines established impregably by the Allies. That surely is another remarkable disclosure of German man-exhaustion? There are not many people in the public eye, either here or in France, who steadily think about this aspect of the war, about the proof thus afforded by the enemy's words and deeds that the hour of our victory is not far off. Provided we hold fast and refuse to be either bamboozled or scared all will end well, even as the great leaders on our side on land and sea have planned and expect. They have already eaten up Germany's manhood and forced her tyrants to steal the population of other countries, to create sham kingdoms in order to get men. Does that look like triumph?

Why, then, is there so much pessimism about? We really cannot say with assurance. Endless, however, are the stories in circulation all tending to depress the spirits. Many of them appear to be Teuton-inspired, and there can be no question that German leanings and influences are still powerful in what is called "Society" and the Court, to the great hurt, we believe, of poor King George, who we are persuaded is "playing the game" loyally to the utmost of his strength. The democracy, however, does not quite think so, and is not being taught to think so either with reference to King and Court or to Cabinet and Parliament. And yet that type of citizen-patriot and drawing-room soldier which thinks it seemly to dine in gorgeous hotels at 45s. a head is probably as much a source of war scandal as all the pro-Germans in the Press, among the morally diseased pacifists and the snobs that swirl around politicians. The chief rôle, however, in

creating skunks who would accept a peace traitorous to all human freedom, certain precursor of the disappearance of our civilisation, is the most ignorant, spite-ridden and bumpstiously cocksure of our newspapers. As we have before explained, their method is quite Prussian in its feline ingenuity and avoidance of contact with scruples, with gentlemanly fair-play, or with the truth. Now one prominent political personage is attacked as by a pack of hungry wolves, now another. This week it seems to be Mr. Balfour and the Navy the pack is directed to "go for." A clamour is got up about the Admiralty's alleged neglect to arm British merchantmen against German submarines, as if that precaution had never been thought of. As a matter of fact, the Admiralty has already put guns on our merchantmen for self-defence as fast as it could get them, and that is why the *Boche* submarines now prefer to sink ships sailing under neutral flags. But the Admiralty does not send the town crier out with a proclamation each time an ocean liner takes a few guns on board. Its silence, therefore, offers a chance for the "enterprising journalist"—who seemingly cares nothing at all about his country's interests so long as he can hatch a sensation, and less than nothing for the character and reputation of the men now wearing their lives out in guiding the ship of State towards the haven of a true peace—to discover defence guns on some vessel just about to put to sea, and to shout, "Look how influential we are! We did that." The sport may be amusing when you come to understand the game, otherwise it disgusts.

Could any greater evidence be given of the fatuity of our would-be press guides than their handling of the Rumanian campaign? The City—ever prone to follow the lead of the Charlatan—apparently does not read *Land and Water* very diligently—it is by far the best interpreter of the war we have—and hardly anybody east of Temple Bar would seem to have mastered those vivid and admirably written and reasoned expositions of strategy published from time to time by Count Charles de Sousa. So the Wolff lie factory—and quite smart it is—is able, through our ignorant, sensation-concocting press, to sway our mobs almost as it pleases. Said mobs do not seem to possess even the rudiments of a memory, and are consequently ready for the next lie as soon as the last has been absorbed and forgotten. Only a few weeks ago efforts more or less successful were made to fill us with horror and apprehension over the inevitable doom of Rumania. Falkenhayn was pushing through the passes of the Transylvanian Alps; Mackensen, the great Mackensen, was on his way north through the Dobrudja to seize Moldavia and join hands with Falkenhayn, so as to cut Rumania in two and then overrun the entire kingdom, gutting it of supplies. Rumanian oil, above all Rumanian corn, would be rushed into the two starving empires, especially into Germany, and we would have to go on warring in the West, in the Balkans, on the Italian frontier, for perhaps another two or three years. As for Russia, her pressure westward would be stopped as a matter of course, for her own southern provinces might be invaded by the ever-triumphing foe. That rubbish of this kind could be believed by anyone outside Colney Hatch is indeed amazing testimony to the ease with which the public can be led by the nose, and to the skill of the Germans and pro-Germans in compounding the hoaxes we so eagerly gulp at the bidding of our ever-misleading Press.

None of the awful calamities then held by "society" and by some outsiders—and the great majority of our Press illuminators—to be just about to crush us have happened yet. But the heralds of doom go on just as if *all* had already fallen on suffering mankind. Falkenhayn has been driven out of Moldavia; Mackensen the Great—and he is apparently one of the ablest commanders the Kaiser has—as we thought he would, came to nothing by his invasion of the Dobrudja, and after the Kaiser had told him that some Prussian regiment or other would henceforth bear his glorious, &c., &c., name, he would appear to have thought it best to desist. But his supersession by a Bulgarian general

was not going to be permitted to deprive the scare-raisers of their bogey. Mackensen the mysterious is now alleged to be gathering another great army together in Bulgaria with the design of crossing the Danube and joining hands with Falkenhayn the triumphant, in order to devour together Rumania from west to east, instead of, as first planned, from north to south. Appalling, is it not? Let us all fall a-weeping and a-wailing, "We have lost the war!"

Does it never occur to these funeral mourners to ask themselves where they suppose Mackensen's formidable new army can come from, or whence it can be supplied? Do they never take the trouble to try to guess what Falkenhayn's hosts are made up of? The Rumanians know, Russia knows, probably General Sarraill and his commanders know, it is even possible that Mr. Lloyd George may know, and Sir William Robertson almost certainly does, and yet retains his equanimity, but our croakers do not require knowledge, it would embarrass them, they plunge forward, guided by the light within. On their authority, then, the war in the East is lost, and German troops may be at Busra, if not exactly next week, certainly next spring. Common sense tells us that this must be foolishness. Turkey is exhausted and sick of the war, Bulgaria is also exhausted, and probably meditating a desertion. Her defeat in Macedonia must push her away from Germany, and she can supply no strength to Mackensen in troops or supplies, even if German intrigue and lying keeps her from "making a bolt of it." Probably enough both Turk and Bulgar proved nearly useless to Mackensen in the Dobrudja. From whence, then, is he to draw his new "great army"? What is the composition of Falkenhayn's forces? Are the troops all German, German-Austrian, and Magyar? It is hardly possible they can be, and the more the heel-ground races in the Austro-Hungarian Empire are forced into the field the less is the efficiency of the whole mass. Neither of the two rotten and doomed empires can now muster enough first-class troops at any portion of the Allies' long siege line to force their way towards a substantial victory.

We should say, then, that presently the chief pre-occupation of the two German commanders now supposed to be getting ready to wipe out Rumania as Serbia was wiped out last year, will be hard to get safely back home again. "They can go by the Danube." Ah, yes, of course. "Neither Rumania nor Russia have any war vessels with which to take and retain command of that stream." The pro-Germans, our hypnotised guides, would have us believe that. Not yet, friends. We shall wait a little and see.

But we are once more constrained to admire the skill with which these Germans manage to hoax us and to send us off on the wrong path, to make us play their game in deluding neutrals, in helping to cheat their victims at home, and, above all, in making ourselves the derision of all cool-headed, instructed observers. To show the frothy ignorance paraded in our "guide the nation" newspapers, one might suppose that the Somme offensive was an episode of no account compared with this food and oil foray into Rumania. There, it seems, and not in Picardy, is now the true crisis of the war to occur; there and not in the Ancre or the Somme is the fate of the Allies to be determined. "Rumania will be treated as Serbia was last year. We are lost; Russia will be driven to make a separate peace, all our losses will have to be borne in vain; listen, therefore, to peace proposals now." So it goes on, ever peace, peace, let the Germans off easy, disturb not their faith in their brute invincibility, so that they may the sooner pluck up courage to renew their savage inroads.

It is ever thus, and thus it is ever disgusting to behold, makes us almost wish at times that these croakers and ignorant, cowardly misleaders had six months' discipline in Belgium and a spell of Hun slavery in a German shell factory. The dash of Falkenhayn's troops into Western Rumania resembles in strategy nothing so much as one of those hunt-the-food forays that used to be customary on the Scottish border.

Military purpose it can have none, in view of the plight, the chained-to-the-stake plight, of the two robber empires elsewhere, in view likewise of the Franco-Serbian success in Macedonia. "Ah, but the Rumanian troops east of Craiova and the control of the Danube by their garrison at Orsova will be threatened, caught in a trap, perhaps." Perhaps, but is it not at least an equal probability that the Rumanians and their Russian helpers may catch the ever-overbearing Prussians in a trap? They have dashed headlong through the passes, regardless of the toil and suffering of man and beast, heedless also of the lengthening line of their communications, of the imminence of winter, eager as wolves only to get at Rumania's stores of food, and despising their foe in the customary insolent style. Is it not probable that this fashion in warfare will meet with its deserved, its invited reward? It has nearly always done so hitherto in this war, why should Rumania be an exception? Only because we are "German Prowess," obsessed and as ready to swallow their lies and to be bamboozled by their hocuses as any Hans or Gretchen of them all.

The Week in Mines.

Business in the Mining markets this week has been less active, and the tendency in the absence of support has been generally adverse to holders. The principal feature has been the strength of copper shares, due to a big rise in the price of the metal, which has enabled interested parties in a number of the lesser-known and obscure descriptions to galvanise them into life. Diamond shares have also met with support, on the De Beers report, which exceeded anticipations, and served to confirm the hope of a further distribution on the preference shares in the near future.

SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

The South African market has lacked fresh support from the Cape, and as a result the tone has been dull as regards gold shares. Gold Fields declined 1s. 6d. to 33s. 6d. on the meeting, Central Mining have relapsed $\frac{7}{8}$ to 7, Geduld 1s. to 45s., Main Reef Wests 1s. to 5s., Rand Mines $\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 $\frac{1}{2}$, Springs 3-32 to 3 $\frac{1}{8}$, Rand Selections $\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 $\frac{1}{2}$, and New Kleinfonteins 1s. to 28s. 6d. Oceana Devels fell 9d. to 6s. 9d. on the report, and Brakpans have fallen back to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$. A rumour has been in circulation that the Brakpan Government area will be divided between the Brakpan and Modder Leases companies. Colliery shares have been bought, notably Apex, which have risen 9d. to 9s. 3d. Among Rhodesian shares Falcons have recovered 9d. to 15s. 9d., and Tanganyikas at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ and Zambesia Explorings at 19s. 3d. are both higher. Globes have met with support at 1 10-32. London and Rhodesians at 5s. are lower. Diamond shares have met with a good demand, De Beers deferreds rising $\frac{1}{2}$ to 13 $\frac{1}{2}$, and the prefs. $\frac{1}{2}$ to 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ on the report, while Premier deferreds have advanced $\frac{1}{2}$ to 7, and the prefs. $\frac{1}{2}$ to 8, on a statement that the company has joined the selling syndicate. Jagersfonteins have risen $\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ex dividend. Of the West Africans, Abossoes at 9s. and Taquahs at 19s. 6d. have weakened further on the reports, but Ashanti Goldfields have improved to 18s. 6d.

COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS

A rise of no less than £14 $\frac{1}{4}$ in the price of copper has given the bulls of copper shares a rare opportunity, of which they have made full use. Rio Tintos have risen 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ to 62 $\frac{3}{4}$, Anacondas $\frac{1}{2}$ to 21 $\frac{1}{2}$, and Utahs 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 26 $\frac{1}{4}$. Capes are 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ higher at 5, and Mount Elliotts $\frac{3}{4}$ higher at 6. But activity has been mainly confined to smaller-priced shares, such as Mons Cupris at 7s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., Namaquas at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$, Arizonas at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$, Mount Oxides at 11s. 6d., Central Chilis at 7 $\frac{1}{2}$, Roebournes at 7s. 3d., Bwana M'Kubwas at 3s. 9d., and Arizona Consols at 5s., all of which are appreciably higher on the week. Following the issue of the report, Messinas were dealt in at 10s., and the debentures at 72 $\frac{1}{2}$. Tin shares have moved irregularly, in spite of a further rise in the metal. Renongs have been prominently firm, closing at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$, but Bisichis at 11s. 6d., Dolcoaths at 10s. 3d., and East Pools at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ are lower. Malaysians improved to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ on the interim dividend. The Broken Hill group has been steadier on news forecasting an early termination of the coal strike. Block Tens have risen 9d. to 20s., but Broken Hill Props are 1s. lower at 53s., and the debentures have fallen $\frac{1}{4}$ to 99 $\frac{1}{4}$. Russian shares have weakened on the Rumanian news; Russo-Asiaties are $\frac{1}{2}$ lower at 5 $\frac{1}{2}$, and Tanalyks 3-32 lower at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Sisserts have been exceptionally firm at 1 5-32. Canadian silver shares have drooped, and El Oros have declined 9d. to 7s. 6d. Burmas at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ and Baldwins at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ are distinctly easier.

MINING NEWS.

SIMMER AND JACK PROPRIETARY.—In the twelve months ended June 30, 797,900 tons yielded £880,279, as compared with 808,300 tons for £866,619. The yield per ton rose from 21s. 5d. to 22s., and working costs advanced by 1s. 6d. per ton, the working profit being £47,373 less at £287,183. The actual decrease in working profit was £111,370, as during the year 7,210 ozs. of reserve gold, valued at £30,255, were declared, whereas in the preceding year the reserve gold was added to

to the extent of £33,742. The nett profit was £270,939; the dividend is reduced from 10 per cent. to 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and £92,234 against £78,876 is carried forward. Reserves of ore show a decrease of 220,000 tons at 1,935,000 tons, but the value remains at 5.2 dwts. It is not anticipated that the rate of profit earned in the first half of the year will be reached this year, but an improvement on the last six months is expected.

SUB-NIGEL.—Revenue from gold in the year ended June 30 amounted to £180,927, or 39s. 8d. per ton, against £116,680, equal to 39s. 11d. per ton. Costs declined by 3s. per ton to 32s. 6d. per ton, and the total profit was £35,397, or 7s. 9d. per ton, as against £13,143, equal to 4s. 6d. per ton. The tonnage milled was increased by 32,660 to 91,130. As a result of this marked improvement in working, the nett profit comes out at £32,715, the dividend is raised from 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and the carry forward from £2,429 to £2,776. A re-estimation of the ore reserves shows 214,000 mine tons of fully developed ore, valued at 9.1 dwts., and 24,000 mine tons of partially developed ore of an indicated grade of 9.6 dwts. Compared with the previous year the ore reserves are some 20,000 tons larger, and the value is higher by 5s. 5d. per ton. It is hoped that this year there will be a substantial increase in the ore reserve accompanied by a further improvement in average value.

JUMBO GOLD.—During the year to June 30, 22,100 tons were crushed, yielding £26,139, but working costs amounted to £26,308. The company cannot expect to continue milling for more than another month or two unless something unexpected happens. The cash position is being improved by sales of machinery and plant as opportunities occur. For some unexplained reason it is proposed to consolidate the £30,000 unissued shares of £1 each into shares of £3 each.

MOUNT LYELL.—A fuller report regarding operations in the half-year ended September 30 has now been issued. It shows that the production of blister copper declined from 3,403 tons to 3,173 tons, the tonnage treated being 8,711 tons less at 149,673. The blister contained 3,139 tons of copper, 170,399 ozs. of silver and 4,183 ozs. of gold. After providing £21,557 for depreciation, against £20,690, £18,261 against £18,633 for prospecting and developing expenditure, and £102,712 against £65,054 for taxation of various kinds, the nett profit amounts to £128,443 against £110,559 as compared with the preceding six months. Owing to excess profits tax uncertainties a dividend of only 1s. 3d. per share is declared, as against a dividend of the same amount and a bonus of 9d. per share in the preceding six months. The report concludes with some interesting particulars of fresh activities on the part of the company. The Lake Margaret hydro-electric installation, generating 5,000 h.p., is being extended by one-third at a cost of £30,000, and a further extension to the full capacity of the lake is contemplated later. The company has exercised its options over the zinc-lead sulphide mines on the West Coast formerly owned by the Tasmanian Copper and two other companies, and a new concern has been formed with a capital of £1,000,000 to deal with the properties. Later on £240,000 is to be raised by a debenture issue, but meanwhile the Mount Lyell is providing the funds required. The Mount Lyell has acquired £20,000 out of £80,000 capital issued by the Metal Manufactures, formed by the leading copper companies of Australia. The company has, with other Australian producers, sold its output for next year to the British Munitions Department at £120 per ton c.i.f. London. Ore reserves estimated as follows:—Mount Lyell, 1,726,485 tons; North Mount Lyell, 1,083,211 tons; and South, 450,561 tons.

Mr. Percy Woodhouse, joint manager of the Union Bank of Manchester, Ltd., head office, has been appointed general manager of the Palatine Bank, Ltd.

Victoria Falls and Transvaal Power.—Nett earnings, including those of the Rand Mines Power Supply for quarter ended Sept. 30, £215,264.

The Rev. Walter Wynn, editor of the *Young Man and Woman*, is organising a supply of this and other magazines to our soldiers at the front, especially during the Christmas season. That is a period when it is particularly essential to do everything possible to keep up the apparently inexhaustible cheerfulness of the brave lads who are fighting the battle of civilisation and the world's liberty, and every bit that helps in this direction is valuable. Full particulars will be found on another page.

PROVINCIAL TRAMWAYS CO., LTD.—The local undertakings in which this company is interested seem to have done pretty well in the year ended September 30, earning a nett revenue of £52,289, as against £48,789 in the previous year, and £40,297 in 1913-14. Adding £11,800, or £6,865 more, brought forward, receipts from interest, &c., the nett revenue was £13,348 larger at £69,489. After providing for administration and other charges, the directors repeat the appropriations of £12,000 to reserve and depreciation account and £4,000 to reserve for third party insurance, and in addition to the dividend of 1s. 6d. per share, they pay a bonus of 6d., making 2s., or 10 per cent., compared with 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. This payment leaves £10,972, or £7,271 more, to be carried forward, subject to excess profit duty for 1915 and 1916. Except that the company has increased its holding in Treasury bills by £20,346 to £28,200, the changes in the balance-sheet are not worth mentioning in detail.

IRISH RAILWAYS.

	Nov. 17	£	+	£	171,260	+ 7,200
Belfast and County Down ..	17	3,099	+	124	171,260	+ 7,200
Grand Canal ..	17	1,030	—	17	21,167	— 2,231
Great Northern ..	17	24,535	+	3,786	1,111,388	+ 41,088
Gt. Southern and Western ..	17	34,419	+	3,356	1,543,580	— 5,143
Midland Great Western ..	17	14,037	+	131	608,888	+ 12,671

* From Jan. 1. † From July 1.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

		Rs.	+	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam Bengal ..	Oct. 14	1,30,000	+	7,357	2,66,000	+ 15,951
Bengal & N. W. ..	14	3,11,200	+	26,562	5,96,000	+ 42,368
Bengal Nagpur ..	21	9,21,000	+	98,000	2,70,29,638	+ 44,70,080
Bombay, Baroda ..	Nov. 11	12,99,000	—	11,000	67,44,000	+ 4,20,000
Burma ..	Sep. 30	4,68,401	+	2,13,336	1,01,55,852	+ 6,41,062
Delhi Umballa ..	Nov. 11	97,000	+	34,371	4,86,900	+ 75,178
East Indian ..	18	21,86,000	+	4,000	1,49,13,000	+ 8,22,000
Gt. Indian Penin. ..	11	18,60,700	+	2,08,300	1,00,10,400	+ 5,95,178
Lucknow-Bareilly ..	Oct. 14	30,934	—	395	59,132	— 496
Madras and S. ..						
Mabratra ..	21	8,76,000	+	58,318	26,16,000	+ 1,71,721
Nizam's Gd. (Broad) ..	7	97,085	—	30,650	97,085	— 30,650
(Metre) ..	7	50,871	—	23,855	50,871	— 23,855
Rohilkund and ..						
Kumaon ..	14	31,497	—	2,418	63,056	— 110
South Indian ..	7	5,67,709	+	36,968	5,67,709	+ 36,968

a 13 days. † April 1. ‡ October 1.

COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

		£	+	£	£	£
Beira ..	Sep. *	27,898	—	10,848	100,689	— 7,577
Canadian Northern ..	Nov. 14	\$825,100	+	\$4,300	\$16,133,900	+ \$4125,800
Canadian Pacific ..	14	\$3,051,000	+	\$16,000	\$56,841,000	+ \$10378,000
Gt. Trk. Main Line ..	14	212,486	+	67,318	8,453,167	+ 1,373,886
Gt. Trk. Western ..	14	37,233	—	2,034	1,672,139	+ 311,012
Detroit G. H. & M. ..	14	14,096	—	1,136	593,650	+ 98,000
Gt. Trk. Pac. Prairie Sc ..	14	28,915	—	9,187	388,122	— 72,856
Mashonaland ..	Sep. *	54,414	+	1,430	4	—
Mid. of Westn. Aus. ..	21	6,464	+	811	17,169	+ 444
New Cape Central ..	21	1,614	—	222	65,474	+ 7,978
Rhodesia ..	Sep. *	87,187	+	8,740	359,971	+ 27,197

a 9 days. * Months. † July 1. ‡ Jan. 1. c From Oct. 1.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

		£	+	£	£	£
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	Nov. 7	805,000	+	25,000	17,393,000	+ 974,000
Chicago G. W. ..	7	313,000	+	17,000	6,007,000	+ 787,000
Colorado & South ..	7	—	+	14,000	—	+ 547,000
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	7	570,000	+	49,000	10,032,000	+ 280,000
Louisv. & Nashv. ..	7	1,342,000	+	159,000	23,224,000	+ 3,041,000
Minn. S.P. (Soo) ..	Oct. 21	726,000	—	22,000	11,174,000	+ 1,135,000
Missouri Kansas ..	Nov. 7	833,000	+	166,000	14,370,000	+ 2,979,000
Southern ..	7	1,658,000	+	201,000	27,311,000	+ 3,217,000

§ Includes Wisconsin Central. † From July 1.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—HOME.

		£	+	£	£	£
Bristol ..	Nov. 17	9,762	+	166	465,644	+ 24,109
Dublin United ..	17	6,171	+	658	280,754	+ 240
Hastings and Dist. ..	17	771	+	65	48,530	+ 3,121
Isle of Thanet ..	18	245	+	27	2,034	— 1
Lancashire United ..	18	1,803	+	266	84,178	+ 4,722
Provincial ..	18	1,927	—	18	14, 99	+ 336
Yorks. (Wst. Rdng.) ..	19	1,569	+	148	84,838	+ 8,496

* From Oct. 1. † From Jan. 1.

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
	Week ending	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	Wks.	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.
Alcoy and Gandia ..	Nov. 18	Ps. 13,000	—	Ps. 5,000	Ps. 580,800	+ Ps. 67,600
Antofagasta (Chili) ..	19	37,070	+	3,080	1,592,815	+ 458,275
Arauco ..	19	10,400	+	3,300	173,238	+ 27,716
Argentine N.E. ..	Nov. 18	5,800	—	1,280	134,302	+ 5,364
Bilbao R. and Canta ..	Oct. *	5,337	—	558	46,807	+ 3,541
Bolivar ..	18	6,750	—	1,574	30,250	+ 458
Brazil ..	Sep. *	M3,863,000	+	M365,734	M 3202,900	+ M2689442
Brazil Gt. Southern ..	Aug. *	Mis. 30,750	+	M2,500	M282,070	+ M9,470
B. Ayres & Pacific ..	Nov. 18	82,000	+	10,000	1,684,000	+ 75,000
Do. Central ..	Oct. *	77,415	—	202	102,558	+ 3,631
Do. Gt. South ..	Nov. 19	125,000	+	6,000	2,042,254	+ 229,346
Do. Western ..	19	55,000	+	2,000	1,053,000	+ 125,000
Central Argentine ..	18	112,800	+	1,300	2,250,700	+ 18,300
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte V. ..	18	14,856	+	1,466	237,891	+ 7,103
Do. East'n Ex. ..	18	4,919	—	552	79,701	+ 6,012
Do. North'n Ex. ..	18	2,358	—	257	37,947	+ 615
Do. West'n Ex. ..	18	2,159	—	162	35,542	+ 121
Colombian National ..	Oct. *	12,400	—	2,200	115,850	+ 11,608
Cordoba Central ..	Nov. 18	28,500	+	4,100	628,475	+ 2,935
Costa Rica ..	Oct. 7	4,517	—	357	73,536	+ 4,297
Cuban Central ..	Nov. 18	7,641	—	291	185,580	+ 24,096
Dorada Extension ..	Oct. *	9,800	—	2,700	84,300	+ 4,500
Egyptian Delta ..	31a	10,086	+	3,362	116,240	+ 22,357
Entre Rios ..	Nov. 13	10,200	—	400	214,400	+ 39,200
French Sante Fé ..	Sep. *	99,264	+	21,521	818,311	+ 133,999
Gt. South. of Spain ..	Nov. 11	Ps. 73,418	—	Ps. 3,112	Ps. 401,511	+ Ps. 707,118
Gt. West. of Brazil ..	18	17,800	+	3,800	470,000	+ 24,200
Havana Central ..	18	6,622	—	1,010	125,575	+ 14,340
Inter. of C. Amer. ..	Oct. *	33,082	—	5,424	479,670	+ 78,953
La Guaira and Car. ..	18	6,500	—	250	78,250	+ 1,500
Leopoldina ..	Nov. 18	27,578	—	3,966	1,149,958	+ 222,848
Manila (N. & Sth.) ..	18	9,355	—	1,937	426,568	+ 24,573
Midland Uruguay ..	Oct. *	14,043	+	4,557	44,649	+ 2,133
Mogiana ..	Sep. *	M2,300,000	—	M131,416	M1668,000	+ M174,162
N.W. of Uruguay ..	Oct. *	26,000	—	4,616	92,536	+ 81,345
Nitrate ..	Nov. 15b	30,207	—	9,779	589,425	+ 287,722
Paraguay Central ..	15	3,240	—	560	51,820	+ 4,470
Paulista ..	Sep. *	M3,500,000	—	M394,004	M22750,000	+ M1757442
Peruvian Corp'n ..	Oct. *	\$945,596	—	\$138,690	\$3,588,830	+ \$48,773
Salvador ..	Nov. 18	\$21,900	—	\$1,150	\$401,005	+ \$30,350
S. Paulo (Brazilian) ..	12	39,457	—	1,999	1,269,786	+ 91,877
Sorocabana ..	Sep. *	M1,856,000	—	M137,383	M1336,000	+ M918,634
Taital ..	Oct. *	22,395	—	4,687	78,660	+ 13,206
United of Havana ..	Nov. 18	31,885	—	4,898	615,495	+ 110,290
West'n of Havana ..	18	5,353	—	767	115,866	+ 17,122
Zafra and Huelva ..	Oct. *	12,003	—	657	116,211	+ 31,892

* Months. † From Jan. 1. ‡ From July 1. c Net. b 15 days. a 10 days

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.

		£	+	£	Ms.	£	+	£
Anglo-Argentine ..	Nov. 18	53,617	+	2,323	5	2,349,740	+	5,062
Auckland Electric ..	20b	21,428	—	597	a	84,286	+	1,160
Brazilian Traction ..	Sep. §	M6,929,000	—	M426	10	M 61,429,000	+ M379,190	
Brisbane Elec. Inv. ..	Oct. *	32,760	+	850	10	330,420	+	23,466
British Columbia ..	Sep. §	\$540,440	+	\$23,418	3	\$1,629,026	+ \$94,155	
B. A. Lacroze ..	Oct. *	39,760	—	2,846	4	151,613	—	13,184
Burmah Electric ..	Sept. 16b	Rs. 23,749	—	Rs. 1,586	—	—	+	Rs. 839
Calcutta ..	Nov. 18	Rs. 73,292	+	Rs. 13,709	*	Rs. 29,63,154	+	170,042
Cordoba Light ..								
P. & T. ..	Sep. *	13,389	+	179	5	84,554	+	648
Hongkong ..	Oct. 14	\$14,210	—	\$2,993	5	\$598,132	+ \$145,583	
La Plata ..	15	4,435	—	30	10	42,057	—	226
Lima ..	Sep. *	33,348	—	2,818	9	304,058	+ 288,281	
Madras Electric ..	Nov. 15c	Rs. 31,596	—	Rs. 2,155	5	Rs. 6,65,506	+ Rs. 47,182	
Mexico ..	Oct. *	\$215,256	—	\$108,669	5	\$3,193,106	+ \$197,227	
Rangoon ..	Oct. *	5,043	—	157	5	41,522	—	1,844
Singapore Electric ..	Sep. 23	\$12,404	—	\$841	5	\$477,512	+ \$49,858	
Toronto ..	Oct. *	\$460,556	—	\$10,649	5	\$3,918,111	+ \$402,548	
United of Monte V. ..	Oct. *	28,729	—	1,545	12	347,772	+ 17,171	
Vera Cruz ..	May	\$85,200	—	\$35,400	6	\$372,600	+ \$178,200	
Winnipeg ..	Sep. §	\$7,853	—	\$11,127	5	\$78,883	+ \$24,283	

b 28 days. * From Jan. 1. † Net. a From July 1. c Two weeks.

MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

NAME.	NETT EARNINGS FOR MONTH.			NETT EARNINGS TO DATE.		
	Month.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year	No. of Mths.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year.
Atchison T. & S. Fé	Sept.	4,784,000	+ 1,145,000	3	13,993,000	+ 3,403,000
Atlantic Coast Line	"	626,000	+ 184,000	3	1,602,000	+ 833,000
Baltimore & Ohio ..	"	3,313,000	+ 119,000	3	9,668,000	+ 3,000
Canadian Northern	"	732,000	+ 177,300	3	3,002,000	+ 1,148,000
Canadian Pacific ..	"	5,130,000	+ 385,000	3	14,615,000	+ 3,627,000
Chesapeake & Ohio	"	1,509,000	+ 12,000	3	4,672,000	+ 418,000
Chicago & N.W. ..	"	3,059,000	+ 298,000	3	8,301,000	+ 2,270,000
Chicago Burl. & Q.	"	4,341,000	+ 921,000	3	10,979,000	+ 2,923,000
Chicago G.W.	"	459,000	+ 79,000	3	1,298,000	+ 345,000
Chicago Mil. & S. P.	"	3,121,000	+ 244,000	3	9,616,000	+ 930,000
Chicago, Rock I. & P.	"	2,299,000	+ 898,000	3	6,304,000	+ 2,983,000
Colorado & Southern	"	585,000	+ 104,000	3	1,532,000	+ 446,000
Cuba ..	"	183,000	+ 14,000	3	706,000	+ 129,000
Delaware & Hud. ..	"	671,000	+ 156,000	3	5,886,000	+ 160,000
Denver & Rio Gran.	"	923,000	+ 85,000	3	2,554,000	+ 272,000
Erie ..	"	1,557,000	+ 804,000	3	13,971,000	+ 991,000
Gr. Tr. Main Line.	"	\$311,900	+ \$70,200	9	\$2,043,400	+ \$294,150
Grand Trunk Westn	"	\$26,500	+ \$19,650	9	\$360,100	+ \$29,150
Detroit G. H. & Mil.	"	\$4,301	+ \$17,700	9	\$35,350	+ \$15,250
Gt. Northern ..	"	3,486,000	+ 554,000	3	9,977,000	+ 948,000
Illinois Central ..	"	1,614,000	+ 287,000	3	4,108,000	+ 1,126,000
Kansas City Southn.	"	330,000	+ 12,000	3	1,022,000	+ 96,000
Lehigh Valley ..	"	1,085,000	+ 65,000	3	3,514,000	+ 245,000
Louisville & Nashv.	"	1,562,000	+ 688,000	3	4,803,000	+ 806,000
Minn. S.P. (Soo) ..	"	1,121,000	+ 147,000	3	3,867,000	+ 1,017,000
Miss. K. & Texas ..	"	758,000	+ 173,000	3	2,081,000	+ 307,000
Missouri Pacific ..	Aug.	1,053,000	+ 508,000	3	2,774,000	+ 1,077,000
New York Cent. & H.	Sept.	6,176,000	+ 597,000	3	48,025,000	+ 1492,000
N. Y. N. Haven & H.	"	2,176,000	+ 26,000	3	6,931,000	+ 460,000
New York Ont. & H.	"	1,188,000	+ 1,000	3	970,000	+ 54,000
Norfolk & Western.	"	1,986,000	+ 90,000	3	5,949,000	+ 551,000
Northern Pacific ..	"	3,344,000	+ 293,000	3	8,505,000	+ 1,629,000
Pennsylvania East	"					
and West Lines ..	"	10,766,000	+ 435,000	9	94,995,000	+ 24,080,000
St. Louis & San F.	"	1,689,000	+ 495,000	3	4,416,000	+ 896,000
Seaboard Air Line.	"	496,000	+ 00,000	3	1,231,000	+ 74,000
Southern ..	"	1,855,000	+ 176,000	3	5,082,000	+ 607,000
Southern Pacific ..	"	5,733,000	+ 955,000	3	16,461,000	+ 2,534,000
Union Pacific ..	"	5,079,000	+ 1,150,000	3	12,906,000	+ 2,726,000
Wabash ..	"	1,147,000	+ 293,000	9	8,257,000	+ 4,572,000

NORWICH UNION

MUTUAL LIFE OFFICE

because of its

AGE — MAGNITUDE — RESERVE STRENGTH
— PROFIT YIELD — ALERTNESS, & ECONOMY

**The Outstanding
British
Life Office**

Write or Prospectus to the Secretary,

NORWICH UNION LIFE OFFICE, NORWICH,
or to any Branch Office of the Society.

The Investors' Review.

Money and Credit Notes.

BANK RATE 6 PER CENT. (Increased from 5 per cent. on Thursday, July 13.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

Short loan rates may fluctuate a little, and there may be a $\frac{1}{8}$ difference in discount rates, but, taken altogether, the money market moves on with a smooth uniformity and no distinctive change comes to the surface week after week. There has been a slackening in the demand for short-dated Treasuries, but that is merely a question of date of renewal, and arises from the fact that we are near the end of the year. There is a larger overturn of credit on the whole, but on the whole, also, means are plentiful. Clearing House returns last week, for instance, show an increase of £62,086,000 on the corresponding week last year, and for the year to date the total of £13,548,219,000 shows an expansion of £1,510,000,000 on the figure of a year ago, but this increase is probably due altogether to the financing of the war requirements of our own and Allied Governments, or it is in part the result of high prices.

Each morning this week the money market has been pinched a little, and the full 5 per cent. was paid on current loans. Seemingly the cause of this pinch is revealed in the Bank return, which shows a decrease of £9,507,000 in the volume of other deposits, accompanied by a decline of £7,599,000 in the other securities and an increase of £1,842,000 in the public deposits, but we cannot tell how far these changes really reflect the supplies of credit available for the open market. Still, the apparent scarcity of credit amounted to nothing, and was very partial in its influence. Some lenders had plenty of money, some were short, but the scarcity did not last during the whole day; and rates were quite easy at the close.

It is announced from New York that the Corn Exchange Bank has advanced \$25,000,000 to the Wheat Export Company of Canada under the guarantee of the British Government. The money is to be used to facilitate the export of Canadian grain, and an issue of 5 per cent. notes is involved in the transaction, these notes to be renewable as circumstances dictate. Another loan of equal amount is being arranged for the same purpose by some of the native Canadian banks.

The Dutch loan of 125,000,000 guilders (£10,417,000) is to be issued at 97, and will bear 4 per cent. interest, which is very cheap borrowing in the circumstances. No doubt the loan will be readily provided, because Holland has stood to make large profits out of the war. On the other hand, the Government of the country has been put to great expense in protecting its neutrality and in feeding the numerous people who have taken refuge in it.

Great success appears to have attended the issue of the French Joint Municipal Loan in New York. It is for \$60,000,000 or £12,000,000, in 6 per cent. bonds of three years' currency, guaranteed by the cities of

Bordeaux, Lyons, and Marseilles. The underwriting price is 96½, and so keen was the rush to participate that applicants will only get a 40 per cent. allotment, says the New York correspondent of the *Times*. The public gets the bonds at 98, which is computed to yield 6½ per cent., allowance presumably being made for the exchange. Holders are to have the option of redemption in gold at New York or in France at the fixed rate of 5.60 frs. to the \$.

It is stated by the *Times* Amsterdam correspondent that by order of General von Bissing, the Prussian tyrant of Belgium, the sum extorted from that unhappy country has been raised from £1,600,000 per month to £2,000,000. This is in addition to the irregular plundering which proceeds all the time throughout the country wherever the Prussian invaders go, and to the deportations.

It is reported by the well-informed Washington correspondent of the *Morning Post* that another British loan is in contemplation in America, and that this time it will be issued on the credit of the nation—that is to say, without depositing collateral security. It may not be altogether because the Americans doubt our capacity to pay that they have demanded collateral security on recent loans to us, because the Federal Banking Law is claimed to have put a barrier against lending on a promise to pay alone, but the Federal Reserve Board has now ruled that it is not a violation of the law for banks composing the system to accept or purchase bills arising out of the sale of munitions to foreign Governments, and apparently that opens the way to an issue of a loan for us without depositing securities. Moreover, the public attitude towards foreign loans has entirely changed during the past year, this same correspondent reports. It is also true that the United States is becoming embarrassed by the masses of useless gold we and other debtors are throwing into it, and altogether the time would seem to be propitious for a large credit operation enabling us to finance our purchases of munitions and other necessary commodities, made in the Republic, for some time to come.

Up to date we have not borrowed so much from the United States as might be supposed. The total indebtedness, according to a calculation made by the National City Bank of New York, is about £365,000,000 to £367,000,000. Since the outbreak of the war Great Britain has borrowed in America £172,000,000, and the Dominion of Canada, both on national and provincial or municipal account, £61,000,000. France has contracted debt to the amount of £131,300,000, and Russia has borrowed £23,450,000. Italy, however, has drawn upon New York credit to the extent of only £5,000,000, and Germany has raised £4,000,000 through her hyphenated and other sympathisers there. Of the gross indebtedness of £396,000,000 odd, £31,300,000 has been paid

THE MANCHESTER AND LIVERPOOL DISTRICT BANKING COMPANY

LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1829.

Head Office: Spring Gardens, Manchester.
London Office: 75, Cornhill.

Deposits	-	-	-	£30,630,010
Cash, etc., Bills, Investments				20,487,555
Advances	-	-	-	13,454,332

30th June, 1916.

*Foreign Banking Business transacted.
Bank acts as Trustee or Executor.*

off, so that at the date of the compilation the Allied Powers in Europe owed a little over £360,000,000, without counting the £5,000,000 borrowed on behalf of the German Empire, a sum we are inclined to wish larger, because as the war is prolonged the chances of repayment dwindle. It will be seen that our indebtedness is by no means so formidable as the talk about it would lead people to imagine. So we can safely borrow a good deal more without running any risk of putting the country in an embarrassing position when peace returns.

SILVER.

In addition to the regular purchases of silver for coinage, there has been a good demand from the Far East, while the Indian bazaars have also been buyers to a moderate extent. Supplies from the United States were reduced, Messrs. Mocatta and Goldsmid say, owing to purchases made by China in San Francisco, and with competition keen, the price has risen steadily from 34d. per oz. to 34½d. per oz.

Applications for the Rs. 50,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 5,48,00,000. Of these, Rs. 79,000 were allotted in bills, Rs. 12,03,000 in deferred transfers, and Rs. 37,18,000 in immediate transfers. Tenders for bills and deferred transfer at rs. 4 3-32d. and for immediate transfers at rs. 4½d., will receive about 8 per cent. Special sales have also been made of Rs. 68,00,000 in immediate transfers at rs. 4 5-32d. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is again Rs. 50,00,000. Since April 1 the total sales have been Rs. 20,79,03,944, realising £13,963,399.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, November 22, 1916.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£	Government Debt ..	£
Notes Issued	73,022,190	Other Securities ..	11,015,100
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	7,434,900
		Silver Bullion	54,572,190
	£73,022,190		£73,022,190

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£	Government Securities ..	£
Proprietors' Capital ..	14,553,000	Other Securities	42,187,582
Res	3,188,932	Notes	98,634,422
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts) ..	55,580,473	Gold and Silver Coin ..	36,102,600
Other Deposits	105,417,900		1,835,843
Seven Day and other Bills	20,142		
	£178,760,447		£178,760,447

(Dated Nov. 23, 1916.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year.

Last year, Nov. 24.		Nov. 15, 1916.	Nov. 22, 1916.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,251,886	Rest	3,217,091	3,188,932	—	28,159
32,148,900	Pub. Deposits ..	53,738,394	55,580,473	1,842,079	—
84,649,258	Other do. ..	114,924,843	105,417,901	—	9,506,943
13,356	7 Day Bills ..	20,431	20,142	—	289
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
18,895,068	Gov. Securities.	42,188,405	42,187,582	823	—
98,116,125	Other do. ..	106,233,903	98,634,422	7,599,481	—
37,605,297	Total Reserve ..	38,031,451	37,938,443	93,008	—
				9,535,391	9,535,391
				Increase.	Decrease.
£		£	£	£	£
33,301,750	Note Circulation	36,894,970	36,919,590	24,620	—
52,457,047	Coin and Bullion	56,476,421	56,408,333	—	68,388
27.5 p.c.	Proportion ..	22.2 p.c.	23.6 p.c.	1.4 p.c.	—
5 "	Bank Rate ..	6 "	6 "	—	—

CURRENCY NOTES.

Return of Currency Notes for the week ended November 22, 1916.

	Issued.	Cancelled.	Outstanding.
	£	£	£
£1 notes	2,923,896	5,119,144	92,943,930
10s. notes	990,081	2,066,529	28,304,344
Note certificates ..	350,000	150,000	14,560,000
Previous total	4,213,977	332,476,703	—
	475,620,050	339,812,376	135,808,274

Ratio of gold held against notes: this week, 23.59 p.c.; last week, 22.89 p.c.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.
(For 7 days ended Nov. 18.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
Customs	£
Excise	£
Estate, &c., Duties ..	£
Stamps	£
Land Tax and House Duty ..	£
Property and Income Tax ..	£
Excess Profits Tax	£
Land Values	£
Post Office	£
Crown Lands	£
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares ..	£
Miscellaneous	£
Bullion advances repaid ..	£
For Treasury Bills	£
War Loan, 1925-8	£
War Loan, 1925-45	£
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919..	£
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920..	£
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1921..	£
6% Exchequer Bonds, 1920..	£
War Expenditure Certificates ..	£
War Savings Certificates ..	£
Other Debts created under War Loan Act, 1915 ..	£
Telegraph Money Act, 1913 ..	£
Under Post Office Rly. Act, 1913 ..	£
Under Military Works Acts, 1897-1903	£
Under Housing Act	£
Redemption of Exchequer Bonds, 1904	£
Cunard Loan—repayment on account of principal ..	£
Suez Canal Drawn Shares..	£
Ways and Means Advances	£
Decrease in Exchequer balances	£
	£64,164,050
National Debt Service ..	£
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	£
Development & Road Impvt.	£
Payments to Local Taxation	£
Other Consolidated Fund Charges	£
Supply Services	£
Bullion Advances	£
For Advance for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 ..	£
For Treasury Bills	£
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan Redemption Act, 1910 ..	£
Issues under Section 61 of Finance Act, 1916 ..	£
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913	£
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 ..	£
Under Housing Act	£
Public Buildings Expenditure Act, 1903	£
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8..	£
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11..	£
For Redemption of Exchequer Bonds, 1904 ..	£
Exchequer Bonds, 1916 ..	£
Cunard Loan repayment issued to reduce debt under the Cunard Agreement ..	£
Deficiency advances repaid ..	£
Ways and Means Advances repaid	£
Increase in Exchequer balances	£
	£64,164,050

SHORT TERM GOVERNMENT LOANS.

	Nett Sales Last Week.	Nett Sales This Week.	Total Outstanding.
Treasury Bills	£	£	£
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919 ..	£	£	£
Do. 1920	£	£	£
Do. 1921	£	£	£
6% Exchequer Bonds	£	£	£
War Expenditure Certificates ..	£	£	£
War Savings Certificates ..	£	£	£

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1916.	1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
January	£	£	£	£
February	£	£	£	£
March	£	£	£	£
April	£	£	£	£
May	£	£	£	£
June	£	£	£	£
July	£	£	£	£
August	£	£	£	£
September	£	£	£	£
October	£	£	£	£
Nov. 1	£	£	£	£
" 8	£	£	£	£
" 15	£	£	£	£
" 22	£	£	£	£
Total ..	£	£	£	£

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	Nov. 3, 1916.	Oct. 27, 1916.	Nov. 5, 1915.
Gold coin and certificates ..	£	£	£
Gold Redemption Fund ..	£	£	£
Gold Settlement Fund ..	£	£	£
Legal tender notes, silver, &c.	£	£	£
Total reserves	£	£	£
5% redemption fund against F.R. bank notes	£	£	£
10-day bills and loans	£	£	£
30-day bills and loans	£	£	£
60-day bills and loans	£	£	£
90-day bills and loans	£	£	£
Maturities over 90 days ..	£	£	£
Total	£	£	£
Investments—			
U.S. Bonds	£	£	£
One year U.S. Treasury notes	£	£	£
Municipal Warrants	£	£	£
Federal Reserve notes—nett.	£	£	£
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—nett.	£	£	£
All other assets	£	£	£
Total assets	£	£	£
Paid-up capital	£	£	£
Government Deposits	£	£	£
Reserve deposits—nett. ..	£	£	£
Note circulation—nett. ..	£	£	£
Fed. Res. notes in circulation	£	£	£
All other liabilities	£	£	£
Total liabilities	£	£	£
Gold reserve against nett liabilities	£	£	£
Cash reserve against nett liabilities	£	£	£

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	Nov. 18, 1916	Nov. 11, 1916	Nov. 4, 1916	Nov. 20, 1915
Loans	£ 691,672,000	£ 680,378,000	£ 669,322,000	£ 623,626,000
Reserve held in own Vaults ..	88,042,000	93,632,000	92,378,000	106,742,000
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk.	36,126,000	34,634,000	34,664,000	33,188,000
Reserve held in Other Depos.	11,158,000	10,810,000	10,670,000	10,124,000
Nett Demand Deposits ..	686,592,000	678,988,000	667,352,000	642,558,000
Nett Time Deposits ..	33,679,000	33,854,000	33,118,000	28,712,000
Circulation	6,124,000	6,248,000	6,366,000	6,080,000
Excess Lawful Reserve ..	16,954,000	21,946,000	22,474,000	38,988,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits.

NEW YORK STATE BANKS & TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.).

	Nov. 18, 1916	Nov. 11, 1916	Nov. 4, 1916	Nov. 20, 1915
Loans	£ 149,048,000	£ 147,274,000	£ 146,840,000	£ 123,472,000
Specie	12,162,000	12,074,000	12,138,000	10,468,000
Deposits	159,302,000	157,610,000	155,674,000	129,070,000
Legal Tenders ..	2,022,000	2,018,000	1,944,000	1,894,000

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Nov. 23, 1916	Nov. 16, 1916	Nov. 9, 1916	Nov. 25, 1915
Gold in hand ..	201,443,560	200,920,160	200,376,000	193,407,720
Silver in hand ..	12,659,320	12,767,480	13,031,920	14,401,560
Bills discounted ..	24,079,120	24,734,240	25,282,080	11,813,240
Advances	53,877,440	54,164,440	54,282,080	22,866,760
Note circulation ..	635,095,840	635,771,280	638,901,640	571,136,960
Public deposits ..	3,448,800	2,895,600	4,882,000	1,713,680
Private deposits ..	74,099,900	69,204,800	71,912,880	106,847,240
Foreign Bills ..	112,480	111,520	203,520	48,320

Proportion between bullion and circulation 33.55 per cent. against 33.61 per cent. last week. Advances to the State £260,000,000, inc. use £1,000,000. The adjourned payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium, £24,831,200, decrease £54,320, and at the branches £29,671,000, decrease £81,920.

IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Nov. 14, 1916	Nov. 4, 1916	Oct. 29, 1916	Nov. 13, 1915
Notes in reserve ..	£ 11,660,000	£ 9,010,000	£ 10,410,000	£ 9,346,200
Gold	156,050,000	155,670,000	155,880,000	160,316,300
Gold in reserve abroad	205,510,000	205,500,000	205,500,000	13,017,300
Loans and Discounts, including Treasury Bonds ..	896,710,000	668,550,000	600,350,000	—
Circulation note issue	868,340,000	793,490,000	784,490,000	513,400,000
Deposits, including Treasury deposits ..	22,617,000	23,123,000	22,373,000	21,137,000

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Nov. 15, 1916	Nov. 7, 1916	Oct. 31, 1916	Nov. 15, 1915
Total Coin & Bullion ..	£ 126,650,000	£ 126,394,750	£ 126,113,300	£ 123,480,350
Treasury Notes ..	15,023,750	12,647,150	11,472,300	29,547,399
Bills discounted ..	411,510,650	389,769,750	393,880,350	216,017,350
Advances	688,650	731,650	698,400	803,550
Note circulation ..	358,933,950	362,312,700	363,018,350	291,647,250
Deposits	196,654,550	170,183,250	172,918,000	77,494,050

Clearing House returns during Oct., £309,547,600 against £282,125,250 in Sept.

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Nov. 11, 1916	Nov. 4, 1916	Oct. 28, 1916	Nov. 13, 1915
Gold	£ 47,898,225	£ 47,532,110	£ 47,414,062	£ 32,566,189
Silver	29,641,134	29,648,002	29,885,202	29,547,399
Foreign Bills ..	3,965,652	3,897,489	4,018,277	4,287,654
Discounts and Short Bills ..	25,872,745	25,707,127	25,143,027	26,742,744
Treasury Account, &c. ..	29,800,362	30,337,504	30,890,358	28,307,125
Notes in Circulation ..	93,824,974	93,715,496	92,349,380	83,603,604
Current Accounts, Deposits	28,741,579	28,362,397	29,170,709	26,578,360
Dividends, Interests, &c. ..	1,569,533	1,630,406	1,994,025	1,263,645
Government Securities ..	3,365,515	3,939,027	4,117,644	1,270,520

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	Oct. 10, 1916	Sept. 30, 1916	Sept. 20, 1916	Sept. 10, 1916
Total cash	£ 42,670,600	£ 42,379,320	£ 42,496,720	£ 43,130,520
Inland Bills	21,304,000	21,477,000	20,448,680	19,514,520
Foreign Bills	833,600	835,120	834,400	833,320
Advances	7,624,160	7,671,000	7,047,120	7,548,800
Government securities	8,785,680	8,798,040	8,831,040	8,828,320
Circulation	146,989,960	144,848,520	139,766,920	138,103,560
Deposits at notice ..	15,469,800	14,813,160	15,479,120	14,127,740
Current accounts ..	13,727,360	13,727,320	15,174,520	15,878,640

BANK OF NORWAY.

	Nov. 15, 1916	Nov. 7, 1916	Oct. 31, 1916	Nov. 15, 1915
Gold	£ 6,105,000	£ 6,114,000	£ 6,127,000	£ 3,753,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	5,386,000	5,611,000	5,480,000	3,634,000
Govt't Securities ..	767,000	767,000	767,000	781,000
Discounts & Loans ..	7,033,000	7,368,000	7,382,000	4,334,000
Notes in Circulation ..	13,135,000	13,323,000	13,061,000	8,139,000
Deposits at notice ..	3,966,000	4,469,000	4,045,000	1,636,000

NETHERLANDS BANK (12 Florins to the £).

	Nov. 18, 1916	Nov. 11, 1916	Nov. 4, 1916	Nov. 20, 1915
Gold and Silver ..	£ 49,055,083	£ 49,217,166	£ 49,293,250	£ 34,560,468
Bills and Advances ..	13,028,750	13,047,750	13,420,500	13,919,281
Note circulation ..	61,877,000	61,931,250	62,350,581	47,382,130
Deposits	3,818,666	3,957,750	4,014,416	3,046,307

BANK OF SWEDEN.

	Nov. 11, 1916	Nov. 4, 1916	Oct. 28, 1916	Nov. 13, 1915
Gold	£ 9,882,000	£ 9,885,000	£ 9,885,000	£ 6,297,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	8,346,000	8,528,000	8,969,000	6,985,000
Swedish and Foreign Govt. Securities ..	3,789,000	3,799,000	3,812,000	2,945,000
Discounts and Loans	4,859,000	4,932,000	4,267,000	4,181,000
Notes in circulation ..	20,706,000	21,025,000	19,942,000	16,683,000
Deposits at notice ..	5,094,000	5,176,000	5,723,000	4,319,000

SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	Nov. 15, 1916	Nov. 7, 1916	Oct. 31, 1916	Nov. 15, 1915
Gold and silver ..	£ 13,584,604	£ 13,589,200	£ 13,619,908	£ 12,162,440
Bills	7,466,636	7,417,520	7,563,356	5,108,440
Note circulation ..	18,832,736	19,140,212	19,420,732	17,188,228
Current and deposit accounts ..	4,120,996	3,521,752	3,668,435	2,698,568

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.
Paris	cbqs.	27.80	27.79	Antwerp	sl or	—	—
Brussels	cbqs.	—	—	Italy	sl or	31.95	31.94½
Amsterdam ..	sight	11.62½	11.668	Constantinople	3 mths	—	—
Christiania ..	—	17.32½	17.28½	Rio de Janeiro ..	90 dy.	12½-1	12½-1
Stockholm ..	—	16.87½	16.83½	Buenos Aires ..	90 dy.	50½-1	50½-1
Copenhagen ..	—	16.67½	16.64½	Calcutta	T.T.	14½-1	14½-1
Petrograd ..	3 mths	15½	15½	Bombay	T.T.	14½-1	14½-1
New York ..	cable	4.76½	4.76½	Hong Kong ..	T.T.	2½-1	2½-1
Lisbon	sight	32d.	31½d.	Shanghai ..	T.T.	3½-1	3½-1
Madrid	sight	23.12½	23.02½	Singapore ..	T.T.	2½-1	2½-1
Switzerland ..	—	24.75	24.67½	Yokohama ..	4 mths	2½-1	2½-1

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Nov. 21, 1916.		Nov. 23, 1916.	
		Buyers	Sellers	Buyers	Sellers
Amsterdam ..	Cable transfers ..	11.65	11.68	11.66	11.69
"	Three months' bills ..	11.80	11.85	11.83	11.87
Paris	Cable transfers ..	27.78	27.81	27.78	27.81
"	Three months' bills ..	28.15	28.20	28.15	28.25
Marseilles ..	Three months' bills ..	28.15	28.20	28.15	28.25
Switzerland ..	Cable transfers ..	24.60	24.70	24.70	24.80
"	Three months' bills ..	24.96	25.06	25.06	25.16
Petrograd ..	Cable transfers ..	154	156	154	156
"	Three months' bills ..	156½	157½	—	—
Genoa, &c. ..	Cable transfers ..	31.75	31.85	31.87	31.97
"	Three months' bills ..	32.20	32.30	32.32	32.42
Spain	Cable transfers ..	23.18	23.28	23.10	23.20
"	Three months' bills ..	48½	49	48½	—
Lisbon and Oporto	Cable transfers ..	31½	32½	31½	32½
Copenhagen ..	Cable transfers ..	17.60	17.70	17.58	17.68
Christiania ..	Cable transfers ..	17.24	17.34	17.24	17.34
Stockholm ..	Cable transfers ..	16.83	16.93	16.78	16.88

TREASURY BILLS.

	Last week.	This week.
Three months ..	5½ ..	5½ ..
Six months ..	5½ ..	5½ ..
Nine months ..	5½ ..	5½ ..
Twelve months ..	5½ ..	5½ ..

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Last week	This week
Thirty and sixty day remitted	5½ ..	5½ ..
Three months ..	5½ ..	5½ ..
Four months ..	5½ ..	5½ ..
Six months ..	5½ ..	5½ ..
Three months fine inland bills	5½ ..	5½ ..
Four months ..	5½ ..	5½ ..
Six months ..	5½ ..	5½ ..

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Last week	This week
Bank of England minimum discount rate	6 ..	6 ..
short loan rates	6½ ..	6½ ..
Bankers' rate on deposits	4 ..	4 ..
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	4½ ..	4½ ..
" 7 and 14 days' notice	4½ ..	4½ ..
Current rates for 7 day loans	5 ..	5 ..
" for call loans	5 ..	5 ..

Kyshtim Corporation.—Total production blister copper for four weeks to October 29, O.S., 392 long tons.

Irtysh Corporation.—Ridder mine: Ore milled, Oct., 978 tons; zinc concentrates produced, 340 tons; lead produced, 120 tons; zinc concentrates shipped to Ekibastons, 254 tons. The railway is completed to 72 versts. Ekibastons mine: Coal produced, 418,713 poods; coke produced, 20,720 poods; zinc produced, 3,165 poods.

Two excellent lectures on "How Our Overseas Trade is Financed," delivered in connection with the London Chamber of Commerce, and reproduced from the author, Mr. F. E. Steele's "Present-day Banking," have been published in pamphlet form by Messrs. Butterworth and Co. at the price of one shilling, post free. Mr. Steele does not attempt to theorise on the mechanism of exchange, or to go into any abstract discussion of cause and effect, but just simply describes how payments are made for both imports and exports by modern methods and modern credit facilities. The little pamphlet will be useful to students, and can be read with instruction by the general public.

The Week's Stock Markets.

About the best that can be said with regard to the Stock Exchange is that business has been just a trifle better than it was last week, and that is not saying a great deal. Everywhere there has been stagnation and apathy, partly because the next big War Loan hangs like a threatening pall over the markets. With the conversion of other stocks the amount aimed at cannot be much less than £2,000,000,000, and to make us quite comfortable it ought to be considerably more in spite of the skill with which temporary borrowing has carried us through so far. But the strain is severe, and people who talk airily about the bulk of the money being spent in the country, and therefore representing merely a change in pockets, take an extremely superficial view of the matter. We must repeat again and again that business on the Stock Exchange cannot revive to any appreciable extent while expenditure goes on at the present rate, and with the prospect of a still further increase. Of course, there are individual stocks or groups that come to the front from time to time, but they are only a handful of pebbles on the beach. Among them United States Steel established a new high record, but we are glad to see that our own sources of supply are becoming more and more independent of the dollar-ridden Yankees. Argentine Rails suffered a severe set-back on the proposal (not a new one) to impose an export tax on cereals, but a more important factor is that the weather conditions in the Republic appear to be still very unfavourable, and the outlook is not at all cheerful. However, Argentina has great powers of recuperation, and we do not think holders should allow themselves to be frightened out of their stocks. The Home Railway market had a pleasant surprise in the announcement of the belated dividend on North British preferred stock, but prices in this section could not sever themselves from the depressing influences prevailing elsewhere.

The Rumanian news has dominated all else in the Stock Markets and the tone has been on the whole dull. Very little interest was shown in investment stocks, most of which have been heavy, and the only securities in which there was any real activity were Engineering and Munition issues. Consols declined to 55½, the 3½ per cent. War Loan to 83½, and the 4½ per cent. issue to 95½. An inquiry for India 3 and 3½ per cents. sent prices up at first, but they reacted and closed below the best at 57½ and 66½ respectively. Bank of England stock was further marked down to 107. Colonial Government stocks were hardly mentioned, and the majority of movements in Foreign Government bonds were adverse. French War Loan relapsed to 80½, the old issue being x.d. at that figure, and a number of Russian stocks were from 1 to 3 down, but Japanese 4½ per cent. were exceptionally harder, and several Chinese loans showed improvement. Among South American things, Brazilian 5 per cent. Funding improved to 87, but the new Funding loan fell to 75, and the 5 per cent. 1913 issue was ½ lower.

The Home Railway market has been exceedingly quiet, except for a demand for Underground issues, which were rather sought after on a story that fares were to be raised. The income bonds were lifted to 92 and the ordinary shares to 2½, but profit-taking followed and they closed well below the best. Metropolitan and District both improved, but here also the highest prices were not maintained. Brighton deferred rose sharply to 63, but apart from these and falls of ½ in North-Eastern and ½ in Great Western, the changes were small. The announcement by the North British that payment would be made of the postponed dividend on the preferred stock for the first half of the year had no effect on the quotation. Canadian Pacific shares fluctuated between 180½ and 178½, and closed at the lowest, while Canadian Northern income fell to 39½, Grand Trunk third preference was ¾ down, and the ordinary ½ lower, but the second hardened to 50. American Railroad shares have followed Wall Street impulses, as usual, and the week began with a general improvement, but most of the early gains have since been lost owing to fears of labour troubles. United States Steel have moved in a sensational fashion, and after touching 130½, finished at 138, or a rise of over 8 points on the week. Argentine Railways have been decidedly heavy on the unfavourable outlook caused by the drought, Buenos Ayres Great Southern has fallen 5, Central Argentine 4½, and Buenos Ayres Western 4½, while Buenos Ayres and Pacific dropped 2, and Cordoba Central second debentures were marked down 2½. United of Havana ordinary relapsed to 82½, and Havana Terminal debentures were marked down to 93. Mexican Railway stocks have also been weaker.

There has been little or nothing doing in Bank shares, but National Provincial £12 paid improved ½, and Capital and

Counties, London County and Westminster, and Union of London and Smiths all lost ¼. Union of Australia, Chartered and National of India all fell 1, and Hongkong were ½ lower. Shipping shares have mostly been quiet. Court Line met with support, and improved to 38s. 3d., and Furness were 1s. 9d. better at 54s. 3d. An active business has been done in Engineering and Munition shares, and Cammell Laird, Fraser and Chalmers,

	Last Week	This Week		Last Week	This Week
Consols.....	56	55½	N.S.W. 4½% 1922-7.....	94	94
War Loan 3½%.....	84	84	" 5% 1921-3.....	96½	96½
" 4½%.....	96	96	" 5½% 1921-2.....	97½	97½
India 3%.....	57	57½	New Zealand 4%.....	84	84
" 3½%.....	66½	66½	Queensland 4%.....	84	82
Australian 5½% 1920-22.....	99½	99½	" 4½% new.....	93½	93½
Canada 4% 1940-60.....	83	83	Union of S. Africa 4½%.....	92	92
" 4½% 1920-5.....	94	94	1920-5.....	92½	92½
N.S.W. 4%.....	83	83	Victoria 4½% 1920-5.....	92½	92½
" 4½% 5 yr. bds.....	95	95	Westn. Aus. 4%.....	81½	81½
Belgian 3%.....	62	62	French War Loan, 5%.....	51½	80½
Brazil, 1913.....	63	62½	New.....	95	95½
" New Funding.....	77½	75	Japan 4½% (1st).....	95	95
Chinese 1896.....	88½	88½	" (2nd).....	95	95
" 1912.....	71½	72	Russia 4%.....	66	66
Egypt Unified 4%.....	79	79	" 4½%.....	77	76
French War Loan, 5%.....	81½x	80½x	" 5%.....	84	82
Brighton defd.....	61½	63	London and S.W. dfd.....	22½	22½
Caledonian defd.....	83	83	Do. new pf.....	98	98
Chatham ord.....	84	83	Metropolitan.....	22½	24
Gt. Central pf.....	74	74	Do. 5% New pf.....	90	90
" dfd.....	74	74	Met. District.....	15½	16
Gt. Eastern.....	35½	35	Midland dfd.....	56½	56½
Gt. Northern dfd.....	37½	37½	Nth. British dfd.....	13½	13½
Gt. Western.....	90	89½	Nth.-Eastern.....	100½	100
Lancs. and Yorks.....	68	68	Nth.-Western.....	97½	97½
			Sth.-Eastern dfd.....	26½	26½
Canadian Pacific.....	179½	178½	Chesapeake.....	70	71½
Do. 6% Notes.....	108½	109½	Erie.....	33	39½
E. Indian Guar. 4½% debts.....	93	93	Milwaukee.....	96½	97½
Grand Trunk ord.....	104	10	N. Y. Central.....	111½	112½
Do. 3rd pf.....	24½	24½	Southern.....	29	20½
Do. 5½% 3-yr. Notes.....	96	96	Southern Pacific.....	104½	103½x
Do. 5½% 5-yr. ".....	96	96	Union Pacific.....	154½	155½x
Atchison.....	109½	108½	U. S. Steel.....	130	138
Baltimore.....	89½	90½			
Antofagasta dfd.....	127½x	126x	Cent. Argentine ord.....	69½	65
Brazil Common.....	52	52	Do. 5% Notes.....	94x	94x
B. A. & Pacific.....	43x	41x	Do. 6% ".....	98½x	98½x
B. A. Gt. Southern.....	81	76	Leopoldina.....	34	33½
B. A. Western.....	80½	76	Mexican ord.....	17½	17
			San Paulo (Brazilian).....	133½	183
Bank of Australasia.....	114	114	United of Havana.....	84	82½
Barclay & Co. "A".....	72	72	London City & Midland.....	78	78
Do. "B".....	108	108	London County & West.....	13	14½
Capital & Counties.....	23½	23½	London Joint Stock.....	21½	21½
Chartered of India.....	58	57	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (£100 pd).....	25½	25½
Hongkong & Shanghai.....	78	77½	Do. (£12 pd).....	30½	31
Lloyds.....	24	24	Parr's.....	28	28½
London & Provincial.....	16½	16½	Standard of S.A.....	10	10
London & S.W.....	118	118	Union & Smiths.....	24	23½
Apollinaris ord.....	3	3			
Armstrong, Whitworth.....	40½	40½	Forestral Land.....	51½	52½
Associated Cement.....	3	3	Furness, Withy.....	52½	54½
Birmingham Small Arms.....	47½	47½	Hudson's Bay.....	6½	6½
Borax dfd.....	34½x	34½x	Imperial Tobacco 'B' pf.....	22½	21½
Bovri.....	20½	20½	Do. 'C' pf.....	34½	34½
Brazil Traction.....	54	51	Kynochs.....	30½	33½
British Amer. Tobacco.....	58½	57½	Lever Bros. "C" pf.....	20½	20½
Brown (John), & Co.....	36½	36½	Lyons, J.....	48	38½
Brunner, Mond.....	44x	44x	Marconi.....	3	28½
Cammell-Laird.....	61½	7	Maypole Dairy dfd.....	20½	19½
Castner-Kellner.....	32	32	Mond Nickel ord.....	32	32
Coats.....	67½	68	National Steam Car.....	19½	20½
Cunard.....	88½	90½	Pears, A. & F.....	18	18½
Dennis Bros.....	35½	35½	P. & O. dfd.....	34½	34½
Dorman, Long.....	35½	35½	Royal Mail.....	120	120
Eastmans.....	7½	7½	South Durham Steel.....	33½	33½
English Sewing Cotton.....	45½	46½	Underground Inc. Bds.....	90½	91½
Fine Cotton Spinners.....	31½	31½	Vickers.....	39½	38½
Anglo-Egyptian "B".....	12½	12½			
Baku (ros.).....	3½	3	Mexican Eagle pf.....	37½	38½
Burmah.....	48x	48x	North Caucasian.....	25½	25½
Lobitos.....	43½	41½	Roumanian Cons.....	13	11
Maikop Combine (ros.).....	3½	3	Royal Dutch (100 gulden).....	44½	44½
Maikop Pipeline.....	4½	3½	Shell.....	58½	58½
Mexican Eagle.....	37½	37½	Spies (10/-).....	13½	12½
			Ural Caspian.....	30½	29
Anglo-Java Rub. (2/-).....	5½	5½			
Anglo-Malay 2/-.....	11½	11½	Malayalam £1.....	35½	35½
Ayer Kuning £1.....	32½	34½	Merlimau 2/-.....	5½	5½
Bukit Mertajam 2/-.....	4½	4½	Pataling 2/-.....	32½	33½
Bukit Sembawang 2/-.....	3½	3½	Port Dickson 2/-.....	3½	3½
Carey United £1.....	40½	41½	Rubber Trust £1.....	25½	25½
Grand Central £1.....	26½	25½	Sapumalkande £1.....	22½	22½
Gula Kalumpung £1.....	31½x	31½x	Sialang £1.....	66½	69½
Highlands £1.....	54½	54½	Singapore Para 2/-.....	3½	3½
Java Para £1.....	30½x	29½x	Singapore United 2/-.....	3½	3½
Johore Rubber Lands £1.....	31½	30½	Tapiang 2/-.....	3½	3½
Langen Java £1.....	45½	43½	Tanjong £1.....	83½	88½
Linggi 2/-.....	21½	22½	Tanjong Malim £1.....	30½	29½
London Asiatic 2/-.....	71½	71½	Tebrau £1.....	71½	76½
Malacca £1.....	85½x	85½x	United Serdang 2/-.....	11½	12½
Abdontiakon (10/-).....	51½	56	Vallambrosa 2/-.....	18½	18½
Brakpan.....	42½	42½	De Beers dtd. (£2 ros.).....	13½	13½
Brok-n Hill Prop. (8/-).....	54½	52½	East Rand.....	15½	15½
Cam & Motor.....	11½	11½	Gt. Boulder (2/-).....	11½	11½
Central Mining (£12).....	7½	7	Meyer & Charlton.....	58½	58½
Chartered.....	11½	11½	Modder "B".....	7½	7½
City Deep.....	42½	42½	Do. Deep.....	7½	7½
Cons. Gold Fields.....	12½	12½	New Modder (£4).....	18½	18½
Cons. Langlaagte.....	17½	17½	Rand Mines (5/-).....	38½	38½
Crown Mines (10/-).....	32½	32½	Rio Tinto (£5).....	61½	63
			Van Ryn Deep.....	37½	37½

Curtis's and Harvey, Kynochs, and Richardsons Westgarth ordinary and preference all showed substantial gains. Otis Steel jumped to 97½ on buying from New York, but went back to 81 on profit-taking, and closed at 86. Amongst Canadian things Lake Superior common at one time touched 31½, but finished only ½ better at 29, while the first debentures and income bonds rose 1½ and 2 respectively. Spanish River Pulp and Paper continued to improve, and the ordinary and preferred closed 3½ and 2½ up respectively. Brazilian Traction were flat, and 3 down at 51, and Mexican Tramway and Mexican Light and Power issues were all marked down sharply.

Cities Services, however, improved to 370. Except for some inquiry for Niger, which lifted them to 415 3d., little of interest occurred in Land shares. Amongst Miscellaneous things British Aluminium were in request, and rose to 30s., but Associated Cement preference and British Cement preference both gave way. A demand sprang up for British American Tobacco, lifting them to 57½. Amongst Catering things Lyons weakened to 3½, and Frederick Hotels preference lost ½, and Meat shares were dull. Textiles generally were firm, and Coats after dropping to 6¼ recovered to 6¾.

Oil shares have again been a most uninteresting market. "Shell" and Royal Dutch were unaltered, but a fair inquiry was experienced for Anglo-Egyptian "B," which fluctuated between 11s. 6d. and 12s. 6d., and finished near the best. Roumanian Consols were heavy on the war news, and several Russian things were easier. Mexican Eagle continued to receive attention, and were all harder, but Lobitos declined to 41s. 6d. Business in Rubber shares has been on a very small scale, but the tone has been firm in sympathy with the strength of the commodity market. Tebrau rose sharply on the report, and Tandjong, Kuala Lumpur, Batu Tiga, Sungei Bahru were prominent with substantial gains. Java descriptions were quiet, and Trust company shares idle.

LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

SUGAR.—There was a good demand for all descriptions, and quotations remained at recent level. In the three chief ports of the United Kingdom stocks of raw sugars total 48,900 tons against 40,760 at the same time last year.

COFFEE.—A moderate assortment was catalogued in auction during the week, which elicited fair support at a steady range of values. Moderate transactions were effected for future delivery, though the market proved rather unsettled. December, sold, 46s. 3d.; March, 47s. 6d.; May, 48s. 6d., 48s. and 48s. 3d.

COCOA quiet, and rates nominally unaltered in the absence of auctions.

TEA.—At public sale 46,500 packages Indian, 16,800 packages Ceylon and 5,000 packages Java were offered and soon disposed of to a brisk demand, at mostly ½d. to ¾d. per lb. advance on rates current previously.

SPICE.—With a steady demand and offers sparingly made, prices moved against buyers. Fair black Singapore pepper, December-January, steamer, sold, 9d.; ditto, January-March, 9½d.; white Singapore, afloat, rod.; Muntok, January-March, 10½d. Cloves dearer, and fair quality Zanzibar, spot, sold, 7½d. Sago and tapioca rather quiet, but firm, with sellers indifferent.

FRUIT.—Currants and sultanas in moderate support, and prices mostly unaltered. In auction, some 400 tons Valencia raisins were offered and partly disposed of at 6s. to 8s. per cwt. decline. Muscatels generally 5s. per cwt. easier, but offerings mostly cleared.

RICE.—Quite a good volume of business transpired at full to again dearer prices. Bran further hardened under want of sellers. Beans move off readily at high quotations. Rangoon, spot, sold, £36 10s.

FIBRES.—Manila hemp dearer on sustained buying orders. Fair, October-December, sold, £56 to £56 10s.; coarse, £53 10s.; ditto, January-March, £53; brown, October-December, £52 10s. New Zealand firm, quiet. Jute stronger, with few offers from Calcutta. Native first marks assortment, October-November and November-December, Dundee, sold, £39 to £39 15s.

SHELLAC.—Moderate sales were effected at about steady rates. T.N., December, sold, 140s., 141s., and 140s.; March, 144s., 145s., and 144s.

RUBBER firmer, with a steady demand both with regard to spot and forward. Plantation spot, crepe, sold, 2s. 7½d., 2s. 10½d., and 2s. 10d.; January-June, 2s. 8½d., 2s. 10½d., and 2s. 10d. Ribbed smoked sheet, spot, done, 2s. 7½d., 2s. 10d., and 2s. 9½d. Fine hard Para, spot, changed hands at 3s. 4d.

COPRA market steadily hardened on reserved offers and liberal buying orders, and business in a great measure was checked.

METALS.—Copper: In the standard market business was on a limited scale this week, the tendency being still in an upward direction, and sellers again exercising reserve. Cash delivery settled down last Monday at £141 10s., three months £137, while by the middle of the week values of these dates reached £144 and £139 10s. respectively. Thursday's final figures respecting these positions were £144 10s. and £139 10s. Electrolytic, £165 to £163.

TIN was fairly well taken up at further rising figures, with sellers holding off from time to time. By the middle of the week standard cash delivery fluctuated to £191 10s., and three months to £193. A rather subdued tone prevailed at Thursday's meeting, but the tendency was firm, cash delivery settling down at £191 10s., and three months at £193. Spelter dearer, chiefly near. G.O.B., November, £58; and February, £55. Lead dull. Soft foreign, November, £30 10s.; and February, £29 10s.

CORN (Mark Lane).—Further rises have been checked in most directions since last Monday, the tone of markets, however, remaining decidedly in sellers' favour, and business all round on a fairly good scale. Barley, oats, and maize shared in main support. Wheat: English, whites and reds, delivered up, range to 80s. per qr. (504 lbs.). Imported: Australian, 79s., landed; Indian, 80s., ex ship. Flour: American, first spring patents, 61s. 6d. upwards, landed. Oats: Plate, 45s. 6d. upwards, landed; American, white clipped, No. 2, 46s., ex quay. Grinding barley: Indian, 62s. 6d. upwards, ex quay. Maize: Sound Plate, landed, 65s.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—There has been a change of sentiment in the market this week, and after bullish influences for some time back, there is now a disposition to rather

discredit the high prices which rule in all quarters. In raw cotton circles, liquidation on the part of holders has been more pronounced, with the result that prices, after reaching very high levels, are showing signs of giving way somewhat. This movement may be temporary, but traders in yarn and cloth have been a little scared by the bearish advices from some quarters. Further developments have occurred in connection with the agitation for an advance in wages in the cardroom section of the trade. Both masters and men, as a result of ballots, have received full support from their members with regard to the action taken. There is no fear whatever of any stoppage of machinery, it being taken for granted that the Government will prevent a strike. In cloth for export a fair amount

CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 24, 1916

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
Sugar —per cwt.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Wool —per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
duty 14½, 98% polarisation			Australian		
Tate's Cubes No. 1	2 7 1½	2 7 1½	Scoured Merino	2 2-4 5	2 2-4 5
Ditto, H.T.S.	2 6 7½	2 6 7½	Scoured Cr'ssbr	1 10-3 7	1 10-3 7
Fine granulated	nom.	nom.	Greasy Merino	1 7-2 3	1 7-2 3
Lytle's granulated	41 7½-42 1½	41 7½-42 1½	Greasy Crossbred	1 3-1 10	1 3-1 10
Foreign granulated, first marks	nom.	nom.	New Zealand (scoured) Merino	6-3 10½	6-3 10½
f.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	1 2-2 0½	1 2-2 0½
German Cubes f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Cape snow white	2 4½-3 0	2 4½-3 0
French Cube	nom.	nom.	Indiarubber —per lb.		
Crystallised, West India	nom.	nom.	Plantation, Spot		
Beet, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Crepe	0 2 7½	0 2 9½
Tea —per lb., duty 1½ lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Coal —per ton		
Indian Pekoe	0 10½-1 2½	0 11-1 1½	Durham, best	nom.	nom.
Broken	11-1 4½	0 11½-1 2½	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Orange	11-1 3	0 12-1 7	East Hartlepool	nom.	nom.
Broken	11½-1 10½	1 0½-1 11½	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Pekoe Souchong	1-1 0	0 10½-1 0½	Steam, best	20	28 0-30 0
Ceylon Pekoe	10½-1 2	0 10½-1 2½	Seconds	25 0-26 0	25 0
Broken	10½-1 2½	0 11-1 2½	Lead —per ton	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Orange	11½-1 2½	0 11-1 2½	English Pig	32 5 0	32 5 0
Broken	11-1 5½	1 1½-1 5	Foreign soft	30 10 0	30 10 0
Pekoe Souchong	10-1 0	0 10½-1 0	Quicksilver —per bottle (brst band)	£17½	£17½
Cocoa —per cwt.			Flax —per ton		
duty 6½ lb.			English Ingots	£191-192	£193-£194
Trinidad—per cwt.	79 0-81 4½	76 0-81 4½	Do. bars	£192-193	£194-£195
Grenada	79 0-78 6	8 0-78 0	Standard cash	£183 17 6	£190 5 0
West Africa	63 0-71 0	68 0-71 0	Lin Plates, per box	nom.	nom.
Ceylon Plantation	70 0-89 0	70 0-90 0	Jopper —per ton		
Guayaquil Arriba	94 0-96 0	96 0-98 0	English, Tongue	nom.	nom.
Offee —per cwt.			per ton		
duty 4½ lb.			Best Selected	£163-£157	£165-£166
East India	67 0-95 0	67 0-95 0	Sheets	£172	£184
Jamaica	62 0-120 6	62 0-120 6	Standard	£139-£138	£144-£141 10
Costa Rica	62 0-84 0	62 0-84 0	Jute —per ton		
Provisions			Native firsts for shipment Nov-Dec	£38 5 6	£40 0 0
Butter , per cwt.			Oils		
Australian finest	202/-205/-	204/-208/-	Linseed, per ton	£504-£512	£514-£524
Irish Creameries	2 4/-212/-	204/-214/-	Rape, ref., English, barrels	£54-£56	£54-£56
Dutch ditto	202/-204/-	204/-208/-	do. do. English, do. do.	£50 0 0	£50-£51
Russian finest	nom.	nom.	Cott'n Seed, crude	£47-£48	£47-£49
Normandy baskets	nom.	nom.	Ditto, refined	£51-£56	£53-£59
Danish finest	218/-220/-	218/-220/-	Petroleum Oil, per 8 lbs.	1½	1½
Brittany rolls	18/6-21/6	18/6-21/6	Water White	1½	1½
Bacon —per cwt.			Oil Seeds, Linseed	—	—
Irish	112 0-120 0	111 0-120 0	Caoutchouc—per 4½ lb., Nov-Dec	5 0 0	5 6 0
Continental	105 0-206	104 0-120 0	Rape, Toria	83/6	85
Canadian	100 0-114 0	105 0-112 0	Iron —per ton		
American	97 0-104 0	92 0-105 0	Cleveland Cash	nom.	nom.
Hams —per cwt.			Tobacco —duty, manufacture		
Irish	148/-162/-	148/-164/-	5/6 to 6/2½ per lb.		
Canadian	104 0-110 0	120/-122/-	Maryland & Ohio	0 6-0 1	0 6-0 10
American	74 0-116 0	75 0-116	per lb. bond	0 8-1 6	0 8-1 6
Cheese —per cwt.			Virginiana	0 6½-0 1	0 6½-0 10
Dutch	84 0-123 0	84 0-120 0	Kentucky leaf	1 0 3	0-3 0
Canadian	120 0-123 0	124 0-128 0	Latakia	1 0 0	0-6 0
English Cheddar	120 0-130 0	120 0-132 0	Stavana	0 6 0	0-6 0
Wilt's loaf	nom.	nom.	Alania	0 6 0	0-6 0
New Zealand	nom.	nom.	Cigars, duty 10/6	2/ upds.	2/ upds.
Rice —per cwt.			Timber —Wood.		
Garden Siam	s. u. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Pitch Pine	250/-270/-	250/-270/-
spot	18 6	19 0	Indian Teak	400/-000/-	400/-000/-
Rangoon 2 stars	18 6	19 3	Furpentine —American Spot	2 5 6	2 9 3
Eggs —per 120.			Copra —Malabar, London		
English	35 0-36 0	35 0-36 0	Oct.-Dec.	nom.	nom.
Irish	33 0-35 0	33 0-35 0	Ceylon, London	£40	40 12 6
Danish	34 0-35 0	35 0-38 0	South Sea	£39	39 12 6
Spelter			F.M.S.	39 5 0	39 17 6
G.O.B. as to position	£57½-£55½	£58-£55			
Flour —per sack.					
Town Households	59/-	59/-			
Official	59/-	59/-			
American First	61/6 upds	61/6-61/6			
Patents					

of inquiry has come round, but buyers and sellers have been less disposed to arrange contracts of weight. For India, miscellaneous sales have been reported, chiefly in light goods and fancies, and most of the offers in standard makes have been too low to be put through. A little more inquiry has been mentioned for China, but progress has been rather difficult. Something has been done, however, in both greys and whites for Shanghai, and also for Singapore. The minor markets on the whole have been less active, but business continues to be done for Egypt, especially in sized goods, if makers are prepared to meet buyers. The home trade has not given support of any moment, and numerous buyers are inclined to act rather cautiously. It is understood that the cost of calico printing will be increased at the beginning of next year. American yarns for home consumption

have been well held in quotation, most spinners being independent, but the turnover for the week has been rather smaller. In shipping yarns most of the demand has been in cops for Holland, and bids for India remain disappointing. Trading in Bolton spinnings has been thoroughly upset by the violent fluctuations in Egyptian cotton rates, and both buyers and sellers have been disposed to look on until the outlook is clearer.

American Business Notes.

How bountiful to iron and steel interests of the United States the war has been is well illustrated by the periodical exhibits of the United States Steel Corporation. It was nearly bankrupt before the European War broke out, and had sunk so low as to be unable to pay its preferred stock dividend out of revenue. It is now paying dividends at the rate of 10 per cent. on its common stock, and has accumulated surplus profits at the end of nine months of \$227,657,000. After meeting sinking fund and depreciation funds, considerably enlarged from pre-war time allowances, and interest on its bonds, &c., the surplus is still \$180,820,000 before deducting any dividend. This is for nine months only of the calendar year, which is also the company's financial year. It has paid 5½ per cent. on the ordinary stock for that nine months besides the full dividend on the preferred, and the surplus remaining after doing all that to be added to the revenues of the current quarter is \$132,678,000. Two years ago at the same date there was a deficit of \$11,359,000, after giving the preferred stock its dividend and distributing 3 per cent. to the common stock, for the nine months that is. And all the glory of the new prosperity has been made out of the French, British, Russian, and Italian Allies in this war. We cannot reproach the controllers of this quasi-monopoly for having thus fleeced these countries, because from their circumscribed point of view they think themselves warranted in extracting the utmost possible advantage from the belligerents in their extremity, and accordingly charge the highest prices for the goods supplied. It, however, has not occurred to them that after the war they may, perhaps, have exhausted these customers to such an extent that no business will be possible with them for many a day to come; that, therefore, they may then lose all they have now piled up in the way of profits, and be worse off at the end than in the beginning. It will be a necessity as well as good policy on the part of the Allies to buy nothing abroad they can manufacture themselves for many years after the war ends.

A question will surely come up presently in the United States of much interest to owners of their railroads. It is this—how far are the controlling financiers who guide the railway policy of the Republic, and draw fabulous wealth from their uncontrolled powers, to be above the moral law and at liberty to take as much as they please out of these properties regardless of any consideration except their own selfish interests? As an illustrative example, take the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad. This fine property was captured by the late J. J. Hill and his associates, who bought up practically all its ordinary stock and then halved the ownership between the Great Northern (Hill's company) and the Northern Pacific companies, issuing a 4 per cent. bond jointly secured by these two companies to find the money to pay for and hold the stock bought. J. J. Hill was probably the astutest and, certainly in some respects, the most far-seeing railroad monopolist of his day, and the way in which he and his associates have worked this Chicago, Burlington and Quincy road is a marvel of skill and, we must also say, of unscrupulousness towards the public. They have never paid more than 8 per cent. on the ordinary capital, which was enough to leave a handsome profit to the two companies that had assumed responsibility for the bonds sold to the public to provide the purchase money, but every year the real profits were more or less largely in excess of the amount required to provide this 8 per cent., and this surplus money they utilised not to release the commerce of the district from obviously excessive, or at least most onerous, charges, but to

build up the equipment and improve the physical condition of the road, to pay off its funded debt and otherwise to consolidate the property as a free-of-debt, revenue-yielding enterprise of impregnable strength as a source of wealth. In the nine years since 1907, when the Inter-State Commerce Commission imposed a new system of accounting upon the railroads, by which some facts previously concealed were revealed, the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy has spent \$35,102,000, or over £7,000,000, on direct additions to the property. Within the same period \$15,177,000 of funded debt have been paid off, and on June 30, 1916, the company had \$23,825,000 lodged in sinking fund reserves, besides \$9,557,000 of surplus not specifically invested. And beyond all this there is now not less than \$105,088,000 standing unallocated to the credit of profit and loss, so that altogether the company within this brief period of time has accumulated a corporate surplus of \$188,750,000, or \$78,000,000 more than the entire amount of its outstanding share capital. How has it done this? Partly by increased economy in working, none of the benefit of which seems to have gone to the users of the road. The train-load, for example, which was 15 years ago only some 200 tons, has been raised to 558 tons, in revenue-yielding freight alone, the gross train-load being 658 tons. That means an enormous economy in the cost of transport, and the whole of the gains thus secured by skilful management is appropriated by the owners of the road. In 1916 alone the surplus or nett revenue was enough to pay 27 per cent. upon the outstanding stock of the company, and only 8 per cent. was distributed. How long will the communities served by this fine instrument of civilisation tolerate what looks like oppression, or at best callous indifference to the well-being or suffering of others?

A road that might have been almost as prosperous, if not quite as prosperous as the Burlington and Quincy, is the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific, but it has been made bankrupt by a trick described in this column some time ago, and handed over to a receiver by, we should judge, unscrupulously skilful financial manipulation. It certainly did well enough last year to show that, with good and honest management, it had native strength sufficient to keep it solvent. But we presume it did not suit the railroad masters of the West to have it so. They are probably ambitious to rival the great *coup* of J. J. Hill and his associates, and therefore this road, which earned \$75,347,000 last year, and, after paying all operating charges, had \$20,804 of nett revenue left from working the lines alone, is technically bankrupt and in the hands of a receiver, who seems to be adding to its debt, by placing certain of its issues of certificates ahead of the first and refunding mortgage and Series "B" certificates. This receiver has had a special report upon the physical condition of the properties and the methods of working prepared by Mr. J. W. Kendrick, described as an "eminent railroad expert," and this says that economies of \$10,464,000 could be made, but preliminary to the saving there must come an expenditure of \$32,848,000 spread over three years to improve the property. From this and other observations one should judge that the management is slovenly, and that there has been an enormous waste in the handling of goods. In last fiscal year, for example, payment for damages alone to goods handled took \$882,000, but that, however, was \$403,000 less than the similar charge of the year before, so the receiver may have done some good. Passenger traffic, however, shows a lagging tendency, which may point in the direction of poor control, and much of this may be the outcome of a policy directed to lower the value of the property so as to obtain it cheap. It is over 8,000 miles in length, and has a fine business and ought to do well. Doubtless it will do well when the master-players have worked their will with it and gained their object. A significant note is added to the certificates of the accountants, Messrs. Touche, Niven and Co., who say that, while approving of the financial statement as a whole, they "are of opinion that the provision made for depreciation of equipment is not fully adequate."

That remark may mean a great deal, and appears to confirm our surmise.

To conform to custom, the receiver of the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas Railway, Mr. C. E. Schaff, who was appointed at midnight on September 26, issues the annual report of the company's operations as usual, and in the usual form. It is not altogether a pleasant report, for it shows that, after charging off interest accrued during the year, \$6,585,000, there was a deficit of \$1,873,000. That compares with a surplus of \$1,475,000 in the previous year, and one of \$539,000 two years ago. What makes the matter worse is that the company's gross receipts have dwindled, were, in fact, very little above the figures of three years ago at \$32,486,000, while working expenses were decidedly high, no less than \$25,794,000, or fully \$3,000,000 above the figure of the previous year. So the entire nett revenue, after adding in small items from outside sources, was only \$7,056,000, and as \$1,650,000 was absorbed by taxes, which have run up to that figure from \$1,288,000 three years before, as interest on bonds, notes, &c., took \$6,447,000, and rentals of joint track, &c., \$670,000, these and other payments swept away more than the nett income, as stated. It appears that interest to the amount of \$3,594,000, due upon a variety of small mortgages, remains unpaid at June 30 last, and the income available for interest indicates a decrease of \$3,240,000, says the receiver, in recapitulating the results. It should be added that the Wichita Falls and North-Western Railway, 329 miles long, is not embraced in the receivership. Briefly, gross receipts fell off about \$700,000, or 3 per cent., while working expenses increased by \$2,827,000, or 12 per cent., and taxes rose \$322,000, or 24 per cent. A certain amount of work seems to be done, representing efforts to maintain or improve the physical position of the property, and the money comes from the sale of receivers' certificates. Rate difficulties in Texas have been vexatious, and are not yet settled, but they are not so great as to have seriously affected the earning power of the road. Something else must be awry.

The preliminary statement of the foreign trade of the United States for October shows that imports had a value of \$174,400,000 and exports one of \$490,600,000. No wonder that the country is being embarrassed by the gold thrust in upon it, for while the value of the imports has risen compared with the same month last year by only \$16,000,000, exports have risen \$156,000,000.

Insurance News.

The valuation return of the London Life Association made up at December 31 last gives the figures for the five years ended on that date. The association, as is well known, does not allocate "profit." Tables of mortality used in the valuation are the Om (5) table for assurances, and the rate of interest assumed in the calculations is 3 per cent. The amount allowed in respect of reduction of premiums was £1,088,137 during the five years in question; the number and amount of the policies participating varies from day to day, but 6,797 policies with sums assured of £7,898,730 (after deduction of reassurances) were participating on December 31, 1915. The amount reserved in the valuation in respect of the increases in the rates of reduction declared during the five years was £148,272. During the period £83,072 was transferred to reserve, £300,000 to war reserve, and £25,000 to special reserve in respect of contingent guarantee of reversionary bonus, or a total of £408,072, from which is deducted £359,022 transferred from valuation reserve, the nett amount carried to reserve out of revenue thus being £49,050. An amount of £229,112 was drawn from revenue to write down securities, and the unappropriated balance on December 31 was £23,978. The amount of the funds at the end of the period was £5,431,942—an increase during the five years of £265,072.

The South British Insurance Co.'s nett premium income for the year ended August 31 showed an increase

of £5,502 over the previous year's figures at £558,799, making, with the income from interest and rents, a total of £602,310, or £6,115 more; the surplus in the underwriting account, after making full provision for losses outstanding, was £71,224. The dividend for the year is again made up to 4s. 6d. a share, and after making additions to the various reserves and for writing down investments, requiring £66,225 in all, the balance carried forward is £51,629, as against £48,410 a year ago.

Critical Index to New Investments.

DUNLOP RUBBER CO., LTD.

As we stated in dealing with the report of this company, it is proposed to increase the capital by £1,000,000 in 6½ per cent. cumulative "B" preference shares, which are now offered for subscription at par. Preferential consideration will be given to applications from shareholders in this company and in the Parent Tyre Company, and from French income stockholders, who will probably take up the bulk of the issue, for which the sanction of the Treasury has been obtained, but outsiders may have a chance. So far as it is possible to judge from the figures available, dividends on the new shares are amply secured, and they ought to prove an attractive industrial investment, even if the value of money remains at the present high level for a good many years to come. The shares are payable 2s. 6d. on application, 7s. 6d. on allotment, and 5s. each on March 1 and June 1 next year.

MARCONI INTERNATIONAL MARINE COMMUNICATION Co., LTD.

Shareholders in this company are invited to subscribe for the unissued balance of 43,916 £1 shares at the price of 35s. each, payable 10s. on application, 15s. on allotment, and 10s. on or before January 15 next. Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Company, Limited, which has a very large holding in the company, has undertaken to subscribe at the issue price for any shares not taken up by the shareholders. The company has apparently been doing well financially, and there can be no question as to the valuable services it renders; but the reports do not furnish sufficient information to allow us to form an opinion as to whether the premium demanded is justified. But the shares are quoted at about 42s 6d., and doubtless they will be snapped up by the people privileged to apply.

Tea, Oil and Rubber.

Rubber behaves in the most contradictory manner. Last week a strong upward movement was fostered by the sinking of the *Arabia*, with the loss of its rubber cargo, and the consequent decrease in the amount of stocks held here. This week it was reported that the *Tactician* also had been sunk, but this, fortunately, proved unfounded, and stocks have again increased some 900 tons to 9,500 tons. Nevertheless, the price has continued to creep up, and it is now 2s. 9½d., the highest figure reached since the early months of the year. It is impossible to account satisfactorily for such fluctuations, and we have given up guessing. Of course, the strength of the commodity has been reflected in the share market, but business has been restricted by the scarcity of stock. The old-established higher-priced shares have been most in demand, on the assumption that they are little affected by the excess profits duty. It is a welcome change from the favour shown recently of low-priced shares, many of them of a rubbishy character, but the reasoning is not very sound. Even now it is quite on the cards that the excess duty will be replaced by a tax on output, which might alter the basis of valuation quite materially.

During the year ended June 30 the Tebrau Rubber Estates brought a further 482 acres into tapping, making a total of 2,658 acres in bearing, and giving an average of 2,461 acres. The number of trees in this area is 350,765, or nearly 132 per acre, which the directors frankly admit is far too many; but they have been

unable to carry out their policy of thinning them to the extent intended owing to shortage of labour. A yield of 2.823 lbs., or .571 lbs. more, per tree was obtained, and the output of 933,041 lbs. was well above the estimate, while it exceeded the previous year's crop by 286,959 lbs. The company was also fortunate in obtaining an advance of 7.86d. to 2s. 10.03d. in its gross price, while the "all-in" cost was only .70d. higher at 1s. 2.65d. Including £1,352 more at £8.272 brought in, the nett profits showed the big increase of £43,517 at £89,610, and after transferring £25,000, or £9,000 more, to reserve, the dividend is raised from 10 per cent. to 35, and £11,860, or £6,588 more, is carried forward. A year ago £10,661 was spent on development, of which £3,321 was met out of revenue, and £7,340 was charged to the reserve, owing to the refusal of the Treasury to allow the company to issue further capital. The expenditure for the past 12 months was £4,536, and this also has been debited to reserve, together with £9,055 for cost of new factory; so that, after providing for depreciation, the cost of the undertaking shows a reduction of £1,577 at £150,096, which is equivalent to £40 7s. 2d. per planted acre, or an increase of £1 12s. 9d. If the reserves are deducted the cost is only £29 3s. 10d., or 1s. 8d. more. The company is amply provided with funds, cash balances being £23,176 up at £33,460, while £30,000 has been invested in Exchequer bonds. In view of the further area coming into bearing and the short supply of labour, the directors say that it may be necessary to restrict tapping operations, and to rest the younger and weaker trees, but the crop is nevertheless estimated at 1,100,000 lbs.

The Consolidated Estates Co. is a good example of an old-established tea plantation which has taken up the cultivation of rubber in addition, with very satisfactory results. It had 3,637 acres under tea, of which 3,565 acres, or 203 acres more than in 1914-15, were in plucking in the year ended September 30, and the crop harvested amounted to 2,215,486 lbs., or an increase of 147,429 lbs. Owing to heavier freight and insurance charges, the nett price of the portion of the crop realised in London was .78d. lower at 8.15d., while the cost rose by .19d. to 5.61d. The area under rubber is 2,926 acres, but there is nothing in the report to show how much of this has reached the productive stage. A crop of 868,973 lbs., however, was obtained, compared with 675,871 lbs. in the previous year, and the average nett price was 5d. better at 2s. 5.36d. Nett profits, including £2,486 more at £7,105 brought forward, were £20,929 up at £89,555, and in addition to paying a dividend of 50 per cent. on the ordinary shares the directors give them a bonus of 10 per cent., making 60 per cent. in all, against 45 per cent. last time. Had it not been for the necessity of providing for excess profits duty an even larger distribution could have been made, but in view of this obligation a substantial balance has been kept in hand. Nothing is written off compared with £6,901 for debenture redemption, and the appropriation to development fund is halved at £10,000, leaving £34,435, or £27,330 more, to be carried forward. The development fund will now stand at £30,000, making the total reserves £106,901, against an outlay on the estates of £211,153. The balance in the hands of the general managers is £11,602 down at £30,396, but the company has invested £53,994 in Treasury bills. Crops for the current year are estimated at 2,180,000 lbs. tea and 950,000 lbs. rubber, and forward sales of rubber for delivery in 1917 have been made at 2s. 5½d., while there are also contracts outstanding for delivery before December 31 next for 28 tons first latex at an average of 3s. 4d.

BANTARAWA RUBBER.—This company has 1,210 acres under rubber planted between 1906-7 and 1910, and in the year ended June 30 the whole of this area, except 77 acres, was in tapping. The crop was 98,960 lbs. larger at 237,256 lbs., while the gross price realised was 4.43d. better at 2s. 7½d., and the total income, including a small amount from coconuts and copra, and miscellaneous receipts, showed an increase of £12,592 at £27,334. No details of cost are given, but after providing for all charges,

writing off an extra £500 at £2,000 for depreciation, and setting aside £2,000, as against nothing, as a development reserve, the nett profits are £6,245 up at £7,311. Adding £2,474 brought forward, the divisible total is £7,311 up, and the company pays an initial dividend of 7½ per cent., tax free, leaving £2,015 or £459 less to be carried forward. All expenditure other than new machinery, has been charged to revenue, and in this item the depreciation allowance exceeded the outlay by £771, reducing the book value to £4,795. The crop for the current year is estimated at 300,000 lbs., of which 70,960 lbs. were harvested in the first four months.

BERANANG (SELANGOR) RUBBER.—Owing to a reorganisation of the tapping arrangements the crop for the year ended June 30 was some 13,000 lbs. short of the estimate, but it exceeded the output of the previous year by 69,348 lbs. at 207,325 lbs. The all-in cost, while rather higher than had been anticipated showed a reduction of 2.05d. at 1s. 5.9d., and as the price realised was 4.28d. up at 2s. 7.41d. the profits were £7,851 better at £12,467. Adding £56 brought in, as against a loss of £978 a year ago, the available surplus after providing for administration charges and debenture interest was £10,663. Of this £850 is again written off for depreciation, together with £1,650 or £690 more for preliminary expenses, and £2,493 for debenture issue expenses, extinguishing these items. The preference shares then get a dividend of 50 per cent., and £1,998 more at £2,054 is carried forward, subject to excess profits duty. Expenditure on the property during the year was trifling, but the issued capital was increased by £3,377 to £56,779, partly through the conversion of £1,800 first mortgage debentures into preference and ordinary shares. Cash is £4,584 up at £4,944, and the company also holds £2,980 in Treasury bills, so that it has plenty of funds in hand for the planting of a further 230 acres, which is to be carried out in the current year. The crop for 1916-17 is estimated at 250,000 lbs., at an all-in cost of 1s. 3.6d., and of this 75,082 lbs. were harvested in the first three months.

MONERAKELLE RUBBER.—In the year ended June 30 this Ceylon undertaking harvested 157,135 lbs., or 14,551 lbs. more than in the previous year, while the price realised was 5½d. better at 2s. 6½d. Actual working charges were reduced, but owing to the new export duty of 1d. per lb., the f.o.b. cost was ½d. up at 1s. 1½d. Nett profits, including £2,998 brought in, showed an improvement of £4,585 at £13,526, and after setting aside £2,000, or £500 less, to development reserve, making that fund £10,000, the dividend is raised from 10 per cent. to 18 per cent., and £5,740, or £2,742 more, is carried forward, subject to excess profits duty for 1914-15 and 1915-16. The outlay on development for the year amounted to £1,274, bringing the total cost up to £40,239, or just over £49 per planted acre. For the current year a crop of 190,000 lbs. is expected.

GALANG BESAR RUBBER.—In addition to an increase of 25,064 lbs. to 391,428 lbs. in its crop for the year ended June 30, this company benefited by a rise of 5.47d. to 2s. 7.41d. in the price realised, and although the all-in cost was a trifle higher at 1s. 8.91d., the nett profit of the Dutch working company was nearly doubled at £17,116. The combined profits of the Dutch and English undertakings were £8,779 larger at £17,664, and after paying the fixed dividend on the preference shares, a dividend of 8 per cent., tax free, or 3 per cent. more, is paid on both preference and ordinary shares, leaving £3,704 to be carried forward, or £1,172 more than was brought in. For the current year the crop is estimated at 400,000 lbs., but the f.o.b. cost for some reason not explained is put at 1s. 5.07d.

SCOTTISH TRUST AND LOAN OF CEYLON.—Notwithstanding its title this company is entirely a tea plantation undertaking. A reduction in crop owing to severe drought in one of the districts where it owns estates was more than made good by favourable weather elsewhere, and the total crop for the year ended August 31 was 126,463 lbs. larger at 1,627,263 lbs. Prices are only quoted nett, and the average shows a fall of .76d. at 8.79d., most of the drop being due to an increase of .61d. in freight charges, and to the new Ceylon export tax. Profits, including £949, or £309 less, brought forward, were £4,675 down at £20,752, but nothing is written off compared with £5,000 to estates cultivation account, and after providing for general charges the nett balance was only £120 smaller at £17,037. A year ago £5,000 was put to suspense account to meet the excess profits tax for 1914-1915, but it now seems probable that this will prove insufficient, and as the liability for excess profits for the year under review must also be provided for, a further £8,000 is transferred to suspense account. Nothing, however, is set aside for reserve compared with £2,000, and after writing another £1,000 off recruiting and coast advances, the dividend is reduced from 15 per cent. to 13, leaving £1,730, or £580 more, to be carried forward.

CEYLON LAND AND PRODUCE.—For the year ended June 30 a small increase of 19,360 lbs. to 1,178,064 lbs. in the tea crop was neutralised by a reduction of 16,526 lbs. to 418,250 lbs. in the tea made from bought leaf, but the rubber crop showed a substantial increase of 64,163 lbs. to 283,842 lbs., and the cocoa crop was 363 cwt. larger at 2,061 cwt. Tea realised .69d. less at 8.18d., but the rubber price was 6¼d. better at 2s. 7d., after allowing for an increase of .64d. in freight, insurance, and other charges, and nett profits, including £6,951, or £380 more, brought forward, were £2,323 up at £34,533. Out of this £11,000, as against £4,942, is set aside for excess profits duty, income-tax, directors' fees, &c., but nothing is put to reserve compared with £3,000, and in addition to maintaining the dividend at 25 per cent., the bonus is doubled at 10 per cent., leaving £330 less at £6,621 to be carried forward. The directors say that the duties imposed by the Ceylon Government from October 1, 1915, of the equivalent of ¼d. per lb. tea, 2s. 3d.

per cwt. cocoa, and 1½d. per lb. rubber, placed an additional burden on the company last season of £2,600. Crops for the current year are estimated at 1,080,000 lbs. tea from the company's own estates, and 345,000 lbs. rubber, of which 331,591 lbs. tea and 108,438 lbs. rubber had been secured by October 31. Forward contracts have been made for the delivery of 39,200 lbs. rubber at an average of 2s. 9d. per lb.

PLANTATION AND GENERAL DEVELOPMENTS.—Established on December 16, 1914, this company brought its first accounts up to November 30, 1915, covering about 10½ months, but the directors have now decided that a more convenient date for closing the financial year is September 30, and have made a further change. During the period advantage was taken of the favourable opportunities for the realisation of many of the securities held, and the profits from these sources were £1,576 up at £1,687. Income from investments was naturally reduced, but after providing for administration charges the nett profit was £1,951 against £906 for the previous period. Of this £330 is again written off preliminary expenses, and dividends aggregating 7½ per cent. have been paid as against 2½ per cent., leaving the balance carried forward £90 up at £156. Investments show a reduction of £4,452 at £13,615, and cash is £5,126 higher at £6,735, the directors stating that the retention of this large proportion of the funds in hand is necessary in view of pending negotiations for the acquisition of other properties. Since the date of the balance-sheet a considerable sum has been invested, and a provisional agreement has been entered into for financing an important colonial undertaking.

BATAVIA PLANTATION INVESTMENTS.—September rubber output, 74,515 lbs.; increase, 17,752 lbs. Nine months of the current year, 562,776 lbs.; increase, 61,396 lbs.

BRITISH BORNEO PETROLEUM SYNDICATE.—This undertaking holds the exclusive petroleum rights of the whole of British North Borneo, but does not appear to have made much of them so far. It has, however, now granted a sub-concession to an important Japanese organisation, which has undertaken the prospecting of the territory, and the vigorous development of all oilfields which may be located, paying the syndicate a substantial royalty on the petroleum produced. An area of 440 square miles at Klias Peninsula and Mangalum Island are excluded from this arrangement as these are held by the Netherlands Colonial Petroleum Company. Particulars of the work done by the Netherlands Company are given, but apparently they are not regarded as very encouraging seeing that this company is considering the cessation of further operations in British North Borneo. The same company has been working in the State of Brunei, and was so far successful that oil was being produced until June, but as there was no tankage to store it, and the oil was not further required for fuel, the pump was withdrawn. The directors say that they are advised that a good supply of oil should be obtained when the well is sunk deeper as the nature of the oil indicates the likelihood of more highly productive oil sands being found at a greater depth. No further drilling, however, has been carried on since oil was struck, and the agreement with the Netherlands Company having expired that company has decided not to proceed with further operations.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

Alabama Great Southern Railroad.—3 per cent. and an extra of ½ per cent. on the preferred, payable Feb. 23.

Army and Navy Investment Trust.—At the rate of 12 per cent. per annum on the deferred for half-year ending Nov. 30, same as a year ago.

Assam Company.—Interim of 7½ per cent., or £1 10s. per share, less tax, payable Jan. 1, same as a year ago.

Blyth Shipbuilding and Dry Docks.—Final of 5 per cent., making 10 per cent. for the year, less tax.

British Ever Ready.—At the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the preference and ordinary for half-year ended Sept. 30, payable Dec. 1, same as a year ago.

Cassel Cyanide.—Final of 2s. per share, making 3s. for the year, against 2s. 9d. last year.

Deamoolie Tea.—Interim of 6 per cent., less tax at 4s. 6d., on account of 1916, payable Dec. 6, against 5 per cent., free tax.

Dominion Bank (Canada).—Usual quarterly of 3 per cent., payable Jan. 1.

Doom Dooma Tea.—Interim of 5 per cent., less tax at 4s. 6d., on account of 1916, payable Dec. 12, same as a year ago.

Durban-Roodepoort Gold.—Interim on account of year ended Dec. 31 of 2s. per share (10 per cent.), free tax, payable Dec. 20, against 3s.

Globe Telegraph and Trust.—Quarterly interim of 2s. on the ordinary.

Indian and General Investment Trust.—Interim for six months ended Oct. 31 on the deferred at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, payable Dec. 13, against 6 per cent.

Kellner-Partington Paper Pulp.—Final on ordinary of 17½ per cent., making 25 per cent. for year, free of tax, against 17½ per cent. for last year.

London and River Plate Bank.—Final for year ended Sept. 30 of 9 per cent., less tax, making 15 per cent. for year, forward £228,758; same as a year ago, with £260,976 forward.

Luipaard's Vlei Estate and Gold.—Final of 6d. per share, less tax, making 1s. per share for year ended June 30.

Millom and Askam Hematite Iron.—Final of 6 per cent., making 10 per cent., tax free, for year, same as a year ago, with £25,000 to reserve, £30,000 (against £25,000) for depreciation, £11,139 forward (against £9,990).

Mongu (Nigeria) Tin.—Interim of 5 per cent., free of tax.

New Heriot Gold Mining.—40 per cent., against 35 per cent.

New Pegamoid.—At the rate of 10 per cent. for year ended Sept. 30; to reserve £2,000; forward £2,424; same as a year ago, with £1,000 reserve, and £2,763 forward.

North British Railway.—Interim at the full rate of 3 per cent. per annum on the preferred ordinary for half-year 10 June 30; payable Dec. 7. For the corresponding period the dividend was the same. The delay in making the announcement has been due to a dispute regarding an allowance for wagon repairs, &c.

Pahang Consolidated.—In respect of year ended July 31 last on the ordinary, 10 per cent., less tax at 3s. 8d. (making 15 per cent. for the year), on the preference 8½ per cent., less tax at 3s. 8d. (making 12 per cent. for the year), both payable Dec. 20; same as a year ago.

Pease and Partners.—Interim of 10s. per share on the ordinary and deferred, against 8s. a year ago.

Peruvian Corporation.—After provision for amortisation and interest on debenture stock the net revenue, including £146,571 brought forward, shows a balance at June 30 of £315,657. Of this £59,607 is set aside for income-tax, depreciation of investments, and lake steamers' insurance, and a dividend of ½ per cent. is paid, together with preference stock and an additional 1 per cent. on debentures, as required by the debenture resolutions, making 5 per cent. for the year, leaving £183,407 to be carried forward.

Rupai Tea.—Interim of 6 per cent., less tax, at 4s. 6d. on account of 1916, payable Dec. 6, against 5 per cent.

Scottish Investment Trust.—Final of 4 per cent. on the deferred, making 6 per cent., less tax, for year, against 5 per cent.

Sennah Rubber.—Final of 7½ per cent. net, making 15 per cent. net (equal to £18 3s. 7d., less tax at 3s. 6d.) for year to June 30, with £30,000 to reserve, against 10 per cent. with £20,000 to reserve.

Shawinigan Water and Power.—1½ per cent. for quarter ending Dec. 31 on the common, payable Jan. 10.

Siddeley-Deasy Motor-Car.—On the ordinary for 12 months at the rate of 1s. per share, free tax. The directors state that it is not possible to issue a balance-sheet at the present time in view of the questions which are outstanding in regard to profits under the Munitions of War Act. The auditors have reported that the profits are in excess of those earned in any previous period.

Strathmore Rubber.—Second interim of 10 per cent., less tax, same as last year.

Tara Tea.—Interim of 6 per cent., less tax at 4s. 6d., on the ordinary, payable Dec. 6, against 5 per cent., tax free.

Third Edinburgh Investment Trust.—Final on deferred at the rate of 8 per cent., making 6 per cent. for year, less tax, against 4 per cent.

Tronoh Mines.—1s. per share, less tax at 4s. 6d., in respect of year to Dec. 31, payable Dec. 21, same as a year ago.

United Temiang (F.M.S.) Rubber.—5 per cent. in respect of year ended July 31, with £10,000 to reserve, and £10,800 forward; same as last year, with £5,000 to reserve.

Vallambrosa Rubber.—Interim of 6d. per share, less tax, same as last year.

Wm. Fison and Co.—Final at the rate of 8 per cent. for half-year on the ordinary, making 6 per cent. for the year, with £12,000 to reserve and £3,000 forward, against 4 per cent., with £3,000 to reserve and £3,000 forward.

Zinc Corporation.—2s. per share on the preference, being first half of the fixed preferential dividend of 20 per cent. for 1916, payable Jan. 1, less tax at 4s. 6d.

What Balance Sheets Tell.

ARGENTINE NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY CO., LTD.

It is pleasing to be able to record some improvement in the affairs of this company, but the results of its operations are still a long way from reaching a point at which they could be regarded as remotely satisfactory to the proprietors. A year ago gross receipts fell £89,000, and working expenses £53,000, leaving the nett revenue £36,000 lower at £74,920. For the 12 months to June 30 gross receipts were £328,715, an increase of £69,100, while working expenses were only £10,000 higher at £194,655, so that nett revenue advanced £50,000 to £134,000. After providing for interest on the A and B debentures (£109,610) it is proposed to place £20,000 to renewals account, and with minor adjustments the debit balance is raised from £61,210 to £80,400. The report mentions that a sum of £24,800 is to be applied to the redemption of 50 per cent. of "B scrip" outstanding, but we cannot trace this in the accounts by any rough analysis, and the point is not worth wasting much time over. All the same, it would surely be possible for the directors to present the actual position more clearly instead of in the form of a sort of jig-saw puzzle. Practically the whole of the increase in receipts was due to goods and live stock traffic, the former showing an improvement of £34,450 or 27 per cent., and the latter a gain of £38,000, or over 84 per cent., but there was a rather substantial decline in miscellaneous receipts. Locomotive running expenses increased £18,000, but fortunately it was possible to effect economies in other directions. The individual items, however, are comparatively trifling, and need not be referred to in detail.

COX AND CO.

This well-known firm has long been one of the leading Army banks, and the new forces which have been created for the war have naturally brought it a considerable amount of new busi-

ness. The balance-sheet as at October 9 shows an increase of £3,087,913 to £13,391,872 in its liability on current, deposit and other accounts. Against this cash is £765,339 up at £2,892,083, and money at call £1,369,307 up at £3,000,093, while £1,928,000 has been invested in Treasury bills. Investments in British Government stocks, however, have been reduced by £590,444 to £1,363,576, and Indian and Colonial securities are £81,003 down at £496,224. Advances to customers come to £2,419,927, or £79,600 more, but bills of exchange are £391,600 lower at £1,547,737, and acceptances, which appear on both sides of the accounts, show a decrease of £71,885 at £215,445.

CANADA CO.

A circular has been issued by the directors, stating that the new Act of 1916 is now in force, and that the issue to shareholders of nine fully-paid shares, in addition to each share held, will be effected as on January 1. The exercise of the powers of the Act cannot be brought into full operation until one year after the war, as no fresh capital can be raised for the extension of the business without express sanction of the Treasury. The directors, however, are in consultation with the company's commissioners in Canada with a view of securing such new business as may be at present available, and of making arrangements to take a full share in the prosperity of the Dominion, which is confidently looked for after the war. In this connection they point out that the company is now prepared to undertake the agency and management of property in the Dominion or in Newfoundland. The directors propose, in exercise of the power in the new Act, to pay an interim dividend on the existing 8,319 shares of 5s. per share, tax free, on account of the receipts for the present half-year. A balance dividend will be declared in March next, when the complete audited accounts for 1916 will be submitted, and it is proposed that in future dividends should be declared in March and September.

LLOYD'S PACKING WAREHOUSES, LTD.

We do not know what is the nature of the business carried on by this company, but it is evidently one which has benefited considerably by the war. Twelve months back the nett profits showed a reduction of £9,033 at £6,988, but for the year ended September 30 they were up to £52,319, or an increase of no less than £45,331, after writing off an extra £1,804 at £9,024 for repairs, and providing £14,260 or £1,523 more for depreciation. A smaller balance of £8,156 was brought in, but the available total is still £39,507 up at £60,475, and the directors take advantage of this exceptional prosperity to strengthen the position. Appropriations to reserve are resumed with £20,000, and £5,000 is put to the fire insurance fund, after which the dividend on the ordinary shares is raised from 5 per cent. to 8, and a bonus of 2 per cent. is paid in addition, leaving £10,483 or £1,459 more to be carried forward. Current liabilities have risen by £61,220 to £110,986, but the increase is more than offset by a reduction of £75,475 to £10,406 in bank loans. On the other hand, stocks are £13,890 larger at £51,432, and debtors owe £20,575 more at £80,780. Property and goodwill account shows a decrease of £10,603 at £630,204, against which the reserve and fire insurance funds now amount to £149,553.

BIECKERT'S BREWERY CO. (1900), LTD.

The best that can be said about the results for the year ended June 30 is that the decline of the two previous years would seem to have been checked. Sales improved, but the cost of materials and fuel prevented the company from reaping any appreciable benefit, and nett profits were only £1,068 up at £52,073. A smaller balance of £24,827 was brought in, so that the divisible surplus of £76,900 was a mere £518 better, but the directors appear to believe that the corner has really been turned, and the dividend on the ordinary stock, which was reduced by 3 per cent. in each of the two preceding years to 3 per cent., is now raised to 5 per cent. Last year's appropriation of £7,500 as special provision for income-tax is repeated, and another £7,500 is written off investments, as against a similar amount off bad debts, but the balance carried forward is further reduced by £6,367 to £18,461. During the year the balance of £10,400 6 per cent. redeemable debentures was paid off, bringing the debenture indebtedness down to £187,690. Current liabilities, however, have risen by £12,168 to £90,682, against which cash and bills come to £16,035 more at £36,281, and stocks are £9,711 larger at £76,621, but debtors owe £9,404 less at £81,467, and investments and loans at cost are a trifle lower at £113,598.

SANTA CATALINA NITRATE CO., LTD.

This company reopened its oficina in September, 1915, and in the 10 months ended June 30 obtained an output of 313,048 quintals, in addition to which profit was taken on 9,136 quintals in stock at the beginning of the year. Profits from all sources were £20,360 larger at £24,132, and after providing for London office charges and writing off £1,690, or £609 less, for depreciation of investments, there was a surplus of £19,257, compared with a debit of £2,516 for the previous year. The directors resume the payment of dividends with a distribution of 20 per cent., and write off £1,957 for depreciation of grounds, leaving £325 to be carried forward, as against a debit of £1,175 brought in. Stocks of iodine, including £1,547 for the proportion held in Germany, are £2,274 up at £4,087, but stocks of nitrate are £9,530 down at £17,569. Debtors, however, owe £8,165 more at £9,716, and in addition to an increase of £3,745 to £5,750 in cash there is a new item of £8,975 for bills receivable. On the other hand, sundry creditors are £2,640 up at £10,334, but the loan of £4,950 has been paid off.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1916, and Nov. 18, 1916:—

	Estimate for the Year 1916-1917. (See note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1916, to Nov. 18, 1916.	Total Receipt into the Exchequer from April 1, 1915, to Nov. 20, 1915.
Balances in Exchequer on April 1—			
Bank of England	—	25,111,065	81,898,728
Bank of Ireland	—	463,941	1,552,224
REVENUE.		25,575,006	83,450,952
Customs	71,000,000	41,717,000	30,369,000
Excise	65,000,000	35,110,000	33,498,000
Estate, &c., Duties	30,000,000	18,868,000	29,380,000
Stamps	7,000,000	4,592,000	4,113,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,650,000	330,000	340,000
Property and Income Tax and Super Tax	195,000,000	41,469,000	20,566,000
Excess Profits Duty (including Munitions Levy)	86,000,000	56,121,000	—
Land Value Duties	475,000	131,000	62,000
Post Office	36,100,000	20,600,000	20,100,000
Crown Lands	550,000	320,000	290,000
Receipts from Suez Canal ..	—	—	—
Shares and Sundry Loans ..	5,000,000	4,820,767	772,960
Miscellaneous	3,500,000	11,334,385	3,464,236
Revenue	502,275,000	235,353,092	138,935,196
Total, including Balance		260,928,098	222,386,148
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion	—	2,610,000	1,410,000
For Treasury Bills (for supply)	—	1,419,778,000	219,013,000
For Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	—	3,087,600	—
For War Loan, 1925-1928	—	—	35,798,408
For 3% Exchequer Bonds, 1920	—	—	242,345
For War Loan, 1925-1945	—	424	585,850,000
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919	—	34,222,000	—
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920	—	84,140,469	—
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1921	—	62,464,000	—
For 6% Exchequer Bonds, 1920	—	101,850,000	—
For War Expenditure Certificates	—	28,156,500	—
For War Savings Certificates	—	35,800,000	—
For other Debt created under the War Loan Act, 1915, and Finance Act, 1916	—	86,106,208	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913	—	180,000	1,230,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913	—	160,000	160,000
Under Housing Act, 1914	—	45,200	650,000
East Africa Protectorate Loan Repayments on account of Principal and Interest	—	—	3,825
Temporary Advances—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £345,000,000 in 1916-1917 and £231,150,000 in 1915-1916)	—	457,866,500	272,196,500
Total		2,577,424,999	1,338,940,226
EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Estimate for the Year 1916-17. (See note.)	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1916, to Nov. 18, 1916.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1915, to Nov. 20, 1915.
EXPENDITURE.			
Permanent Charge of Debt ..	12,818,000	14,720,868	16,851,960
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	114,436,000	67,292,908	7,065,274
Road Improvement Fund	—	—	694,395
Payments to Local Taxation ..	—	—	—
Accounts, &c.	9,500,000	5,513,328	5,537,053
Other Consolidated Fund	—	—	—
Services	1,700,000	1,282,986	1,193,592
Supply Services	1,697,529,000	1,153,613,382	840,830,148
Expenditure	1,825,983,000	1,242,423,472	872,172,422
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion	—	2,680,000	1,945,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	—	91,370	91,370
For Treasury Bills for Supply	—	921,347,000	86,125,000
For Exchequer Bonds under the War Loan (Redemption) Act, 1910	—	—	16,395,500
For Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	£4,060,900	—	—
Less: paid off by the National Debt Commissioners	973,300	3,087,600	—
For Exchequer Bonds under Section 61 of the Finance Act, 1916	—	108,650	—
For Issues under Section 1 (5) of the War Loan Act, 1915	—	—	170,143,373
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913	—	190,000	1,300,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913	—	160,000	160,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..	—	8,000	—
Under Housing Act, 1914	—	44,500	650,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8, issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1903	—	69,000	60,000
Old Sinking Fund—1910-1911 ..	—	—	—
Issued under the Finance Act, 1911—			
Section 16 (1) (b)	—	43,160	100,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1911-1912—Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Co. (Acquisition of Capital) Act, 1914	—	250,000	250,000
East Africa Protectorate Loan Repayments— Issued to reduce Debt under the Finance Act, 1911	—	—	3,825
Temporary Advances repaid—Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £296,563,000 in 1916-17 and £163,701,000 in 1915-16)		374,449,500	163,701,000
Balances in Exchequer—			
Bank of England	30,901,926	24,824,820	1,313,097,430
Bank of Ireland	1,570,821	1,017,976	25,842,796
Total		2,577,424,999	1,338,940,226

MEMO.—Treasury Bills outstanding on Nov. 18, 1916 *£1,113,106,000.

* Includes £260,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of this Account.

NOTE.—Estimate as in House of Commons Paper No. 50 of 1916, and Supplementary Grants Treasury, November 20, 1916.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

ANSELL'S BREWERY.

A DIFFICULT YEAR.

The sixteenth annual general meeting of Ansell's Brewery Company, Limited, was held on Friday, November 17, at the Queen's Hotel, Birmingham, Mr. Edward Ansell presiding.

DIRECTORS' REPORT.

An extraordinary meeting of the shareholders was held on July 4, 1916, when a resolution was passed unanimously sanctioning the conversion of £200,000 (part of the reserve fund) into ordinary shares, by the allotment of the unissued balance of the authorised ordinary share capital, *pro rata*, among the existing ordinary shareholders. The resolution was duly confirmed at a subsequent extraordinary meeting, held on July 28, 1916. The new shares have been duly issued, and will rank for dividend as from October 1, 1916.

The nett profit for the twelve months ended September 30, 1916, after making full provision for depreciation and bad and doubtful debts, is £92,347 6s., which, with the addition of £78,049 14s. 5d. brought forward from last year, produces £170,397 0s. 5d. Out of this amount the sum of £28,062 10s. has been paid for interest on debentures at 4½ per cent., and interim dividends on preference and ordinary shares at the rate of 5 per cent. and 10 per cent. per annum respectively, and the directors after providing interest on debentures accruing to September 30, 1916, managing directors' salaries, and directors' fees, now recommend the payment of a final dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, less income-tax, on the preference shares, and at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, and a bonus of 2s. per share, on the old ordinary shares, free of income-tax, leaving a balance of £111,509 10s. 5d., of which it is proposed to place £30,000 to reserve, bringing this account up to £155,000, and to carry forward £81,509 10s. 5d. to next year's account.

The Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH.

The Chairman said they had gone through a trying and difficult year. Unprecedented prices had been charged for brewing materials, and they had also had heavy taxation. He believed that at the present moment they had paid something like £300,000 to the Government, but he had no doubt they would make good use of it. They had also had to pay higher wages in all departments, but that they fully expected. For these reasons a substantial increase in the price of beer had been necessitated. But, whatever might be said, beer was the national beverage, and its consumption was largely regulated by the prosperity of the country or by the wage-earning power of the masses. As to the balance-sheet, he thought they might regard the financial result of the past year as satisfactory. The nett profit for twelve months, after making full provision for depreciation and bad and doubtful debts, was £92,347, which, with the addition of £78,050 brought forward from last year, produced £170,397. Out of this sum £28,062 had been paid for interest on debentures and interim dividends on the preference and ordinary shares. The directors, after providing interest on debentures to September 30, recommended the payment of a final dividend on the old ordinary shares at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, and a dividend of 2s. per share (free of tax). This would leave a balance of £111,509, of which it was proposed to place £30,000 to reserve, bringing this account up to £155,000, and to carry forward £81,509. Their stocks now stood at £141,566, as against £77,833 last year, and with this amount they were well provided for another twelve or eighteen months. It might interest them to know that 200 employees had up to now joined the forces, and at least 100 had left the company's service to enter munition works. He thought they might regard that, from the firm's point of view, as satisfactory. He regretted to say a number of those who had joined the colours had lost their lives. The directors had continued to pay allowances to the wives and families of men on service, and a sum of £4,600 had been expended in that direction.

Mr. J. A. Fairhurst seconded the adoption of the report, which was approved.

Mr. Joseph Ansell congratulated the company upon its success, and added that he knew of no industry which had been more harassed in the past or which was threatened to be more harassed in the future than the brewing trade. It was suggested the present was an opportune time for the State to take over the trade. He ventured to think, having some knowledge and experience of the licensing laws, that no time could be more inappropriate for ventilating such a question. Surely the efforts of every man and woman in this country should be directed towards bringing the war to a speedy termination. When that was done, the time would arrive for considering domestic legislation, and whether or not it was in the interest of the country for the State to control the business instead of leaving it as it was now.

Mr. J. A. Fairhurst was re-elected a director of the company. The proceedings then terminated.

DALGETY AND CO.

The 32nd annual general meeting of Dalgety and Co., Ltd., was held on Thursday at 45, Bishopsgate Street, the Hon. Edmund W. Parker, the chairman of the directors, presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. H. E. Davison) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: You will be glad to learn that during the period under review the drought from which Australia was suffering has, I may say, completely broken up, and the Commonwealth as a whole is now enjoying a very favourable season. Wool growers have been receiving prices for their produce which were formerly undreamt of, and this has to a certain extent recompensed them for the very heavy losses of sheep that they suffered through the drought. Further, there was a magnificent yield of wheat last year, but the benefit that farmers would in ordinary times have reaped from such a large production has been to a great extent nullified by the difficulty in marketing it, due to the scarcity of tonnage and the consequent high rates of freight. Having regard to the successful year that this has proved to be for the company, the directors propose, in addition to the customary dividend of 8 per cent., to pay a bonus of 2 per cent., which I feel sure will in these times of high cost of living prove very acceptable to shareholders. While on this point I may add that we considered it only just and right that our staff should also share in the prosperity of the company and receive from it some contribution towards the much increased cost of living, especially in Australia; we accordingly granted them a bonus of 10 per cent. on their salaries, for which we have received their grateful thanks. Every other company that I know of in Australia has done the same thing. In Australia seasonal prospects are excellent throughout New South Wales and Victoria, and good in nearly all Queensland, while in South Australia the position is very satisfactory. In the foregoing States a good summer and autumn lambing is expected. In Western Australia the outlook is good except in the Lower Murchison district, where the rainfall has been below the average. However, the position there is still safe. As regards the wool clip, it is expected that the total production will be fully equal to last season. The agricultural outlook in general is satisfactory, though in West Australia only a fair yield of wheat is expected. So far as can be judged at present, the forthcoming Australian harvest is estimated to yield 120 to 140 million bushels of wheat. Dairying prospects are good everywhere, and it is expected that New South Wales exports of butter will exceed those of last season, while in Victoria the season is sufficiently good to partly counteract the effects of the depletion of stock during the 1914 drought. In Queensland, feed is abundant, but production is reduced owing to the serious losses of dairy cattle. As regards New Zealand, our superintendent reports that weather conditions are favourable throughout the Dominion, with the result that agricultural prospects are good and feed abundant, while values of live-stock remain at a high level. After calling attention to the principal figures in the balance-sheet and the profit and loss account, the Chairman continued:—I now come to what is the most serious item in this account—income-tax, which shows an increase of £41,032. Shareholders who keep their old balance-sheets will notice, if they will refer to them, that in the last four years this item has quadrupled, and this not owing to our increased profits except to a small extent. I do not think that any of us grumble at the increased income-tax, either here or in Australia, as we know that funds must be forthcoming to carry on the war, but what we and others similarly situated do resent is having to pay the tax twice over. The bulk of our profits are earned in Australia and New Zealand, where they already pay a severe income-tax, and are then taxed again when brought over here for distribution to the shareholders. This, it seems to me, is most unfair, and the result is that those people who have invested money in the colonies or in colonial companies such as this company are mulcted in a double income-tax, whereas the bulk of the community only pays one tax. Several important and influential meetings have been held in this country to protest against this unfair treatment, but so far, I am sorry to say, with very little result. They have had this effect, however—that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has acknowledged that we have a legitimate grievance, and a certain measure of relief has been granted in that he has provided in the United Kingdom Finance Act for 1916 that upon proper proofs of this double taxation in respect of profits for the financial year ended April 5, 1917, repayment of the colonial tax can be claimed up to 1s. 6d. in the pound. He has also further promised that a committee shall be set up after the war to inquire into the working of the Income Tax Acts and the incidence of this double taxation. It, however, falls upon us very hardly, that we should have to pay the double tax in the meantime and have to wait for any further relief until after the war is over. Large as is the amount that we are called upon to pay now, we have not yet felt the full force of the present rate of taxation, because, given that we make the same amount of profits next year, our provision for English taxation, without any increase in the present rates, will have to be at least £20,000 more, or a total of over £100,000 here and in Australasia combined—a sum equal to 10 per cent. upon our ordinary capital. To sum up, the position is, that after making full provision for all bad and doubtful debts, there remains a net profit for the year's working of £213,857 12s. 1d., to which has to be added the amount brought forward from last year, £208,686 13s. 10d., giving a total of £422,544 5s. 11d., out of which we have already paid the interest on the 5 per cent. preference shares, £25,000, leaving a balance of £397,544 5s. 11d.

Mr. Arthur S. Blake seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

UNION COLD STORAGE CO.

The nineteenth ordinary general meeting of the Union Cold Storage Co., Ltd., was held on Thursday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, Mr. Roger P. Sing (the chairman) presiding. The Secretary (Mr. Edward Hinchliff) read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said he had no hesitation in expressing the opinion that the results shown by their nineteenth annual balance-sheet and profit and loss account were entirely satisfactory taking into consideration the innumerable difficulties occasioned by the war. Their cold stores, both abroad and at home, were located in positions that had proved them to be of the utmost value to our own Government and our Allies in helping towards the adequate provisioning of both our own and the Allied armies. He thought it reflected credit on the management of their various stores that there had been no special interruption to the business during the past difficult year. Their new freezing works at Zarate, in the Argentine Republic, were practically completed, and were commencing operations. The necessary capital for the erection of these works formed part of the issue made in 1913. At the last two annual meetings he had alluded to freezing works at Port Darwin, Northern Australia, and it was anticipated that they would be ready for operation in time to deal with next season's cattle. This would open up an important new source of supply, and materially assist in the development of that portion of the Empire, and he ventured to prophesy that there was a great future before it. These new supplies were destined to find their way into the company's stores. Seeing that 1916 was already so far advanced, the shareholders would undoubtedly wish to hear something as to the prospects for the current year. The results obtained to date were such as to warrant his stating that they might reasonably expect their progress for 1916 would be quite in keeping with their past record. In addition to paying debenture interest, the 6 per cent. preference dividend, the 10 per cent. "A" preference dividend, and the other usual fixed charges, they had put aside out of earnings the sum of £54,635 for depreciation, and £13,393 had been written off capital issue expenses account. They had purchased and cancelled £42,934 debenture stock, making the total redeemed to date £275,821. They had also reduced the specific mortgages during the year by a further sum of £6,000, making a total now paid off of £33,000. There remained on revenue account an available balance of £67,627, and the board now recommend the payment of the usual dividend of 10 per cent. per annum on the 300,000 ordinary shares for the year 1915. There would then remain a balance on revenue account of £37,627 to carry forward to 1916, against £37,878 7s. brought in from the previous year.

Mr. T. B. Horsfield seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

A meeting of the first mortgage debenture stockholders was afterwards held to consider resolutions with reference to the proposed issue of further stock not exceeding £350,000, ranking *pari passu* with the existing outstanding stock.

The Chairman said that the circular which had been issued to them fully explained the board's intentions, and he had no hesitation in recommending them to authorise the proposed increase of capital as being in the interest of all classes of stockholders and shareholders in the company. The four ships which were being built, the payment for which would be financed out of their increase of capital, although not actually belonging to them, would be run in their interests, and would ensure, so far as it was possible, a regular and constant flow of meat from abroad into their stores. The fact that the Treasury had consented to this issue of capital showed that those in authority looked favourably on the proposition. They were permitted on this occasion to invite the public to subscribe, but their stockholders and shareholders would receive first consideration. He concluded by moving the resolutions.

Mr. Horsfield seconded the resolutions, and the Chairman, in answer to a question, said the issue price of the new debenture stock would be 90.

The resolutions were carried unanimously.

A special class meeting of the 6 per cent. cumulative preference shareholders was next held, at which resolutions were passed authorising an increase in the existing issue of £1,080,000 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares by the issue of a further £400,000 of this class of shares, and also authorising the board to create and issue the proposed further debenture stock.

The Chairman stated, in reply to a question, that the new shares would be issued at par.

Similar resolutions with regard to the proposed issue of debentures and preference shares were agreed to at a special class meeting of the 10 per cent. "A" preference shareholders, and also at an extraordinary general meeting of the company.

EDISON SWAN ELECTRIC CO.

The thirty-third ordinary general meeting of the Edison Swan Electric Co., Ltd., was held on Wednesday, at the office, Queen Victoria Street, Mr. C. J. Ford, the chairman of the company, presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. R. H. Parker) having read the notice calling the meeting,

The Chairman said he believed it was correct for him to say that the turnover in the year ended June 30 last had never been on such an extensive scale since the company started business. The profit earned for the period had been increased from £14,000 to £24,000, which he trusted the shareholders would consider satisfactory in all the circumstances. Had it not been

for the increased cost of labour and raw materials, which might be safely put at between 30 per cent. and 40 per cent., the profits would have shown a still further improvement. The company was urgently in need of further capital, and the time had now arrived when the board felt that the most serious effort must be made to provide further funds. For this reason it was much to be regretted that it had been impossible for the directors to recommend the payment of a dividend, as, although there was a profit of £24,000, they had had to employ £16,000 of the amount in additional plant and machinery. If, on the other hand, they had further adequate working capital, it would, no doubt, be possible to distribute a proper proportion to the shareholders in the shape of dividends. For this reason the directors recommended the transfer to the reserve of £25,000, bringing it up to £40,000, and carrying forward £4,025. The usual course for a company with uncalled capital of £2 per share on 99,000 ordinary shares would be to call up the necessary amount required, but this was denied to them, as the amount was pledged to the debenture stockholders as part of their security, and could not be called up without their consent. Undoubtedly, this uncalled liability had a very prejudicial effect upon the price of the shares, as otherwise there was, to his mind, no reason whatever why, with the company's improved prospects and its profit-earning capabilities, they should not stand at a higher price, and this reflected itself in great measure, undoubtedly, upon the price in the market of the debenture stocks. The debenture stockholders and the shareholders had divergent interests, but a scheme had been discussed with leading representatives of both interests, and there was now a fair chance of arriving at a solution of the difficulty. It had been proposed that the liability on the ordinary shares should be met in the following way:—To offer to existing shareholders the right to subscribe for £1 of preference shares in respect of each ordinary share held by them, and if they accepted this offer, the debenture stockholders would be asked simultaneously to agree to the cancellation of the £2 liability in respect of such shares held by those parties who availed themselves of this option; shareholders who did not so avail themselves of the option would be left, as they were to-day, with the liability. As a recompense to the debenture stockholders for this concession, it was suggested that the two classes of debenture stocks should be amalgamated into one class, and that the interest thereon be fixed all round at 5 per cent. per annum. This would throw an additional burden by way of interest upon the company amounting to £3,000 per annum, but in the circumstances he thought it was entirely warranted. Further, it was suggested that after paying the preference dividend up to 7 per cent., a percentage of the available profits remaining should go to a sinking fund for redeeming debenture stock, and the balance would therefore be available for dividend on the ordinary shares. He was hopeful that after the cessation of hostilities restrictions would be put upon the free import into this country of electrical goods at the ruinous cut prices which had hitherto prevailed, and that, with adequate working capital the company would be able to do a largely increased profitable business, particularly on the export side.

Mr. E. B. Ellice-Clark seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

ARGENTINE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.

The ordinary general meeting of the Argentine Great Western Railway Co., Ltd., was held on Wednesday, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., the Right Hon. Lord St. Davids (the chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. J. T. Dillon) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: The gross receipts for the past year show some recovery after the large falling off in the previous year, and have amounted to £972,301, as compared with £920,551, being an increase of £51,750, or 5.62 per cent. As the Buenos Ayres and Pacific Co. has this year paid 5 per cent. on its second preference stock, the ordinary stock of our company receives a similar dividend of 5 per cent. for the year, as also does our preferred stock. Passengers show some falling off, the receipts from this source having decreased by £6,511. Parcels and sundries, on the other hand, show an increase of £5,594. The receipts from goods have increased by £48,737, and those from live stock by £4,887. In the receipts from goods, wine continues to be our principal source of traffic, the receipts therefrom amounting to almost one-half of the total goods traffic. A favourable sign of better trade in the districts served by the railway is the increase in the receipts from general goods of £20,675, or 20.29 per cent. better than in the preceding year. The total net expenditure on capital for the year is £19,764. The investments continue to be shown in the balance-sheet at cost price, but a valuation made of these at June 30 last shows a depreciation of 10.42 per cent. This is somewhat less than the depreciation shown at the corresponding period last year, when it amounted to 13½ per cent. We held a certain number of investments, principally American Railway gold bonds, which, in accordance with the desires of the Government, we have either sold or lent to the Government. There was a loss on realisation of £4,464, but the amount received from the sales has been re-invested in our own Government securities at a higher rate of interest. With regard to the prospects of the current year, the traffics upon our line, up to the latest advices, show a falling off of £12,210 as compared with the preceding year. The following is a cablegram received to-day as to the present position in the irrigated districts on our line:—"Vineyards and fruit excellent; large yield grapes promised. Alfalfa plantations thriving; movement fine

cereals and maize dull; wine and live stock good." The prospects of good vine crops in the districts served by our railway are, therefore, favourable, but it has to be borne in mind that the consumption of wine produced depends upon the general prosperity of the country, and that prosperity is largely contingent upon good wheat and maize harvests. You will expect me to give you, as usual, some sort of estimate of how the present year is likely to turn out. I regret that I cannot hold out any very hopeful prospects, as Argentina is troubled by drought. About three weeks ago I saw a careful estimate which stated that "if rain fell there would possibly be about half as much wheat for export as there was the year before." Since that estimate was made, though there have been a few slight showers, there has been nothing approaching the needed rainfall, and I fear the outlook for wheat in Argentina over the greater part of the country is bad. As regards maize, it is too early to venture on prediction, for supposing ample rain fell now, it would still be possible to sow maize for another fortnight at least, and in some districts possibly longer. There is against the prospects for the maize crop, however, the additional fact that locusts have spread about the country more than usual, and maize will be liable to suffer through their ravages. To sum up the position, therefore, I can only say that the drought the country is experiencing is almost unprecedented, and that railways are likely to have to face a most difficult year.

The Hon. Charles N. Lawrence seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK.

The 30th ordinary general meeting of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank was held on Tuesday, at the bank, 27, Clement's Lane, Mr. Henry Adair Richardson (the chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. Geo. H. Soul) read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman said that, considering the times we were living in, it was highly satisfactory to the directors to be able to put before the shareholders the exceptionally strong balance-sheet which they asked them to pass that day, nor, he took it, would it require a long address from him to commend the profit and loss account to their approval. The result was due mainly to the satisfactory growth of over £2,000,000 in their deposits. The past season's cotton crop was 4,615,000 cantars, grown on an area of 1,100,000 feddans, or, say, two-thirds of the average area planted. It was all sold, and realised some £3,000,000 more than the previous crop, which was at least 2,000,000 cantars larger. The cereal crops had been good, and had realised very high prices. There had been an exceptional crop of maize, which had left an important surplus available for export. Up to July 31 some £800,000 worth in value had been exported, as against £250,000 in the previous year, and nothing before the war. Until recently everything pointed to a 7,000,000 to 7,500,000 cantar crop of cotton for the present season, but unfortunately the worm had appeared, and now it was expected that they would not get more than 6,000,000 cantars. The high price of cotton might amply compensate the fellaheen for the reduction in the amount of the crop this year, but a small Egyptian crop coinciding with the short American supply was a misfortune for the world. During the year the bank closed its branch in Paris, as the board saw little prospect of working the branch at a profit. Dealing with the principal items in the balance-sheet, he pointed out that the deposits, &c., were nearly £2,250,000 up—good evidence of the high credit which the bank enjoyed—but part of these deposits must be regarded as war-time money, and they must be prepared to lose some of them when the war was over. On the credit side cash was up £500,000 at £1,786,000, a large amount to have lying idle, but, as bankers to the Army in Egypt and the Treasury in Malta and Gibraltar, it was essential to keep large cash balances on the spot to meet the heavy demands that are made upon them. Investments, standing at £776,000, included £600,000 of Four and a-Half per Cent. War Loan. The balance was largely in short-time Indian Railway debentures; depreciation had been provided for in full. Bills receivable showed an increase of £2,000,000. This item, added to the amount of cash they held, represented fully 100 per cent. of their total demand liabilities. Turning to the profit and loss account, he thought they might congratulate themselves on the result, for, although one effect of the war had been to raise interest rates to the benefit of the bank, another effect had been to depreciate securities, add to their bad and doubtful debt accounts, and increase largely their working expenses, so shareholders would not be surprised that, although the gross profits were £23,000 more than last year, the nett profits were only £10,000 more. He trusted the shareholders would approve the appropriation the board had made of the surplus profits. As regards the current year, he was not going to prophesy. So far they were doing well, but the sudden and rapid rise in cotton came at an unfortunate time, and must have caused loss to many merchants and dealers, while the speculation that had been rampant in the cotton markets, unless stopped by the new regulations adopted last week in the Liverpool Cotton Exchange to check speculation, would make business as difficult as it would be dangerous for the remainder of the Egyptian season. They must do their share of financing the business, but, however careful they might be and however much alive they were to the situation, they could not be sure of immunity from loss.

Mr. Alan Richardson seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A. DARRACQ AND CO.

The 11th annual ordinary general meeting of A. Darracq and Co. (1905), Ltd., was held on Friday at Salisbury House, London Wall, E.C., Mr. Norman Craig, K.C., M.P., chairman of the company, presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. A. A. Yeatman, F.C.A.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in the course of moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: For the third time since the outbreak of the world war it becomes my duty to address you. Its continuance has involved a very heavy burden of constant readjustment in the conduct of the business of the undertakings from which the main income of the company is derived. I need hardly tell you that all energy and activity in the factories in which we are interested are devoted wholly to strengthening the hands of the Allied Governments and to ensuring and expediting the completeness of victory which alone can bring a permanent peace. One of the most important changes worked by the war, so far as this company is concerned, is its conversion from a trading to a holding company. I explained to you last year that to obtain full advantage from our works in France it was necessary to form a French company to acquire the assets in that country. The accounts of the Société Anonyme Darracq have not yet been presented, and it is therefore impossible to give the result of its trading for the whole year. In April, 1916, however, its directors felt justified in distributing a sum of £80,000 by way of interim dividends. This dividend of 20 per cent.—not, you will note, at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum—would in itself justify the step taken in forming the French company. Moreover, without travelling into the unknown, it is not unreasonable to hope that the final accounts may enable the French management to make some further distribution. In this case the board of this company may later be able to make a further declaration by way of interim dividend than that now recommended to you for approval. Following the formation of the Société Anonyme and as a logical sequence thereto, an English company was formed in the spring of this year under the name of the Darracq Motor Engineering Co., Ltd., to acquire the Fulham and Bond Street assets of this company, and this company has been able to declare a dividend of 6 per cent. On October 1, 1916, the debenture bonds fell due for payment and were duly repaid, the money being provided by means of the cash held by the trustees, the debenture service fund, and cash provided by the company. The company is therefore wholly free from any capital liability under this head. With regard to goodwill, this item originally stood at £416,123 7s. 2d., and had in pursuance of a policy steadily pursued by the company been reduced at the end of the financial year to end September, 1915, to £126,423. Of this sum, £78,446 is now represented by fully paid up shares in the Société Anonyme Darracq, £25,000 by fully paid up shares in the Darracq Motor Engineering Co., Ltd. These shares will be more interesting to shareholders in this company with their dividend-producing quality than in the intangible form of "goodwill" in which you previously knew the asset. The redemption and repayment of debenture bonds accounted for a further £16,000, leaving to be dealt with only a balance of £6,076 17s. 6d. This balance has been written off in the profit and loss account, and to the hearty satisfaction of the board, and, I doubt not, of the shareholders, the item of goodwill disappears. To the extent of a little over £100,000 it is replaced by dividend-earning shares, the balance being extinguished altogether. A superficial observer might from a casual consideration of the accounts make the comment that the past year's showing is not quite so good as that of the previous year. A little thought will qualify this view. You have in the first place to remember that, being now a holding company, we are mainly dependent upon the dividends declared by the trading companies for our revenue. A comparison of the showing of this year with that of last year from a trading point of view must also be made with the memory that last year's accounts included a profit of about £25,000, derived, not strictly speaking from trading, but from the Argyll deal. The increase in income-tax in this country, and the necessity for a reservation against a claim upon this company by the French Government for excess profits during the period before the sale of assets to the Société Anonyme are also relevant considerations. The increased taxation in France as bearing upon the ability of the Société Anonyme to declare dividends is another factor with real, if indirect, bearing upon the position. Making a comprehensive and well-informed survey of the surrounding facts, I have no hesitation in expressing the view that there continues to be progressive improvement in the strength of this company's position. It will be remembered that last year we restored the general reserve to the figure of £150,000 by the addition of a sum of £50,000. And the directors hold a strong opinion that in the true interests of the company a further sum of £20,000 should go to general reserve out of the nett profits of the year under review. We are conducting business in the midst of all the doubts and uncertainties created by a war which is producing and will produce great social, economic, and industrial changes and difficulties. It is impossible to forecast with any pretence of certainty the problems or the solutions of the problems of the motor trade after hostilities cease. A long and difficult period of readjustment will ensue. The new models will be to find and the old markets to recapture as well as the new markets to seek. It would, in the opinion of the directors, be in the highest degree impolitic to regard these questions as without urgency and importance, because this company is a holding as distinguished from a trading company.

Mr. H. S. Higginbottom seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

What Sort of Christmas Shall Our Soldiers & Sailors Spend?

SIR DOUGLAS HAIG HAS MADE AN APPEAL FOR
MAGAZINES TO BE SENT TO OUR MEN AT THE FRONT.

REV. WALTER WYNN, the Editor of "THE YOUNG MAN AND WOMAN," has received an application from the Controller-General, requesting him to supply our Soldiers and Sailors with reading matter. Mr. Wynn has had abundant proof of the wisdom of this request in hundreds of letters he has received from men, who, in their loneliness, feel acutely the need of cheerful and inspiring literature. He has, therefore, formed a committee of gentlemen to act with him, and has registered the fund he proposes to raise, in accordance with the recent Act (August, 1916). The City of London Committee has granted the following Certificate for the Fund:—

WAR CHARITIES.

It is hereby certified that the Charity called The Distribution of Magazines to Soldiers and Sailors Fund was on the 2nd day of November, 1916, registered by the Common Council of the City of London under the provision of Section 1 of the War Charities Act, 1916.

Signed,
JAMES BELL,
Town Clerk.

Guildhall, E.C.

It would appear as if this were simply a scheme on behalf of "THE YOUNG MAN AND WOMAN." It is not so. If any donor wishes any other magazine or magazines sent to the front he is requested to state the name or names of them across the second coupon, and the Rev. Walter Wynn will gladly see the wish carried out. But the Xmas issue of "THE YOUNG MAN AND WOMAN" has been specially prepared to meet the needs of our men at this time, and on this ground only you are asked to subscribe to it. Yet there are many other magazines. By all means, state your choice. The Controller-General will be grateful to you. It must be understood that the Committee cannot promise to send to any individual soldier or sailor. The Army and Navy will be treated as a whole. If you choose any other magazine write it after the word "Or" on second coupon.

The aim is to send, if funds allow, a million, or a minimum of 50,000 free copies of "THE YOUNG MAN AND WOMAN" to our Soldiers and Sailors in the trenches, on the seas, in huts, hospitals, and convalescent homes. The magazines will be sold at sixpence each, they will be beautifully printed and illustrated, and will contain original contributions from some of the best writers of the day, including Annie S. Swan, Katharine Tynan, George Edgar, Emma Burgess, E. Everett-Green, Estelle Stead and others. Every word will be clean, healthy, inspiring and cheering. The Government guarantees a careful distribution of every gift copy. All donations are subject to the supervision of the City of London Committee. Every reader of "The Investors' Review" can help. Sixpence or a shilling will be of service, but One Pound will enable a large number of men to spend happy hours during this Christmas time.

There are two ways in which you can help, viz., fill up both of the following forms:—

I. FOR NEWSAGENT.

To.....

Dear Sir,

Kindly supply me with..... copies of the Christmas number of "THE YOUNG MAN AND WOMAN," (1916).

(Name).....

(Address).....

I.R.

Kindly write distinctly.

2.

To the Editor of

"THE YOUNG MAN AND WOMAN,"

31, Temple House,
Tallis Street, E.C.

Date.....

Dear Sir,

I have much pleasure in enclosing cheque (postal order) value £..... for free copies of "THE YOUNG MAN AND WOMAN" to be sent to our Soldiers and Sailors.

(Name).....

(Address).....

I.R. Kindly write distinctly.

The Christmas number of "THE YOUNG MAN AND WOMAN" will contain 64 pages of reading matter, of such an inspiring character that it will make a man more a man, and a wounded soldier better able to bear his pain. The following messages which the Editor has received during his Editorship will be sufficient proof of the value of "THE YOUNG MAN AND WOMAN."

THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK.—"I have read your articles in 'The Young Man' with much pleasure."

REV. F. B. MEYER.—"My best of good wishes go with this scheme of circulating 50,000 free copies of 'The Young Man and Woman' as Xmas reading for the boys and men in blue and khaki. The true way of improving men's mental and moral outlook is to guard their leisure hours and supplant the evil by the good. I am sure Rev. Walter Wynn will provide good quality."

LORD KINNAIRD.—"I hope your paper will increasingly be successful, and prove a help to many young men."

DR. CLIFFORD.—"The 'Young Man' is a splendid tonic. The variety of topics, the sparkle, the nimble and lucid style, the sanity and balance—I congratulate you. You are doing splendidly."

DR. ARMITAGE ROBINSON (Dean of Bath and Wells).—"I wish all good success to your magazine."

REV. DR. HORTON.—"I heartily wish you great success."

MISS ESTELLE STEAD (Editor of 'The Review of Reviews').—"May Mr. Wynn's effort to make 'The Young Man and Woman' a source of interest and joy be crowned with success."

MR. SILAS HOCKING (the well-known Novelist).—"I wish you well in your noble work."

If you wish to help, kindly do so now. If you wait you probably won't get a copy, because only ordered copies will be printed to save risk and expense. So act at once, and then on Christmas Day, when you are comfortably seated at home, you will at least feel you have done your bit to give our fellows some healthy, good reading, such as all classes, and men of all creeds, can read with pleasure. Wyman's stalls will make a special exhibition of the magazine. Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son have promised to execute promptly all orders received. Willings also. Your own newsagent will be pleased to receive the above coupon, filled up by you. But a direct gift will be of especial value, because you can be sure of official distribution of the magazines for which you pay. Everybody should buy the Christmas Number of "THE YOUNG MAN AND WOMAN," and all the readers of "The Investors' Review" are requested to subscribe to this authorised Fund by filling up the second coupon. All subscriptions will be duly acknowledged.

ACT NOW. Let us give our boys the happiest Christmas we can.

The Treasury has been consulted under the notification of the 18th January, 1915, and raises no objection to this issue. It must be distinctly understood that, in considering whether they have or have not any objections to new issues, the Treasury does not take any responsibility for the financial soundness of any schemes or for the correctness of any of the statements made or opinions expressed with regard to them.

The special permission of the Committee of the Stock Exchange has been granted for dealing in these shares so soon as the share certificates or provisional certificates for the shares now offered are ready. The Company states that share certificates will be ready on December 14th, 1916.

The List of Applications for purchase will close on the 27th day of November, 1916.

THE DUNLOP RUBBER COMPANY, LIMITED.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL, £3,000,000,
Divided into

1,000,000 CUMULATIVE 6 PER CENT. "A" PREFERENCE SHARES OF £1 EACH	£1,000,000
all of which are issued. The "A" Preference Shares confer on the holders thereof the right to a fixed cumulative preferential dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the amount for the time being paid up or credited as paid up thereon, and shall in a winding-up rank both as regards dividend and capital in priority to the other shares, and shall not confer any further right to participate in the profits or the surplus assets of the Company.	
1,000,000 CUMULATIVE 6½ PER CENT. "B" PREFERENCE SHARES OF £1 EACH	£1,000,000
The whole of which are now offered for sale. The "B" Preference Shares confer on the holders thereof the right to a fixed cumulative preferential dividend at the rate of 6½ per cent. per annum on the amount for the time being paid up or credited as paid up thereon and the right in a winding-up out of the assets remaining after satisfying all claims in respect of the 1,000,000 existing Preference Shares (which shall hereafter be known as "A" Preference Shares) to return of capital and payment of all arrears of dividend whether declared or undecleared at the commencement of the winding-up in priority to any return of capital or other payment in respect of any shares other than the said "A" Preference Shares but no further right to participate in the profits or the surplus assets of the Company.	
1,000,000 ORDINARY SHARES OF £1 EACH	£1,000,000
all of which are issued. Entitled to the balance of the profits and assets available for distribution.	
	£3,000,000

OFFER FOR SALE OF

1,000,000 Cumulative 6½ per cent. "B" Preference Shares of £1 each.

THE LONDON COUNTY AND WESTMINSTER BANK LIMITED, Temple Bar Branch, 217 Strand, London W.C. 21 Lombard-street, E.C., Branches, and Head Office, 41 Leithbury, E.C., are authorised on behalf of and as Bankers for the Contractor who has agreed to acquire the same, to receive applications for the purchase of 1,000,000 CUMULATIVE 6½ PER CENT. "B" PREFERENCE SHARES OF £1 EACH AT PAR, payable as follows:

£	s.	d.	
0	2	6	per Share on Application.
0	7	6	per Share on Acceptance.
0	5	0	per Share on March 1st, 1917.
0	5	0	per Share on June 1st, 1917.

£1 0 0

The quarterly dividends payable 1st March, June, September and December will accrue upon 10s. per share from the 1st day of December, 1916, and upon 15s. per share from the 1st day of March, 1917, and upon 20s. per share from the 1st day of June, 1917. Payment may be made in full on Acceptance or on the due dates of subsequent instalments. Interest at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum will be charged upon overdue instalments.

All shares applied for and accepted hereunder will be allotted direct to the applicants by the Dunlop Rubber Company, Limited, and the name of the applicant, on payment of the amount due on acceptance, will be entered in the Company's Register of Members as holder of shares 10s paid, and the subsequent instalments will be payable to the London County and Westminster Bank Limited on behalf of the Company.

"THE PROCEEDS OF THE ISSUE WILL BE USED MAINLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING:

1. Increased stocks of raw materials and manufactured goods to the value of approximately £750,000, necessitated by the continued expansion of the Company's trade at home and abroad.
2. Additional working capital to finance the manufacture and sale of solid motor tyres for transport purposes. This new branch of trade, which it is believed will become as important as that of the pneumatic motor tyre business, has, under the impetus of the war, developed with much greater rapidity than the Directors anticipated."

(Vide Company's Circular Letter to its Shareholders, dated 30th October, 1916.)

The net Revenue of the DUNLOP RUBBER COMPANY, LIMITED, for the past ten years, exclusive of premiums on Ordinary shares and after deducting all interest and other charges ranking before the Preference Dividends, is certified by the Company's Auditors to have been as follows:

Year ended 31st August, 1907	£275,531 15 7
" " " 1908	237,772 15 7
" " " 1909	304,614 19 7
" " " 1910	280,500 19 2
" " " 1911	128,245 3 2
" " " 1912	226,440 3 1
" " " 1913	371,262 16 3
" " " 1914	404,624 15 5
" " " 1915	435,050 9 4
" " " 1916 (estimated to exceed)	435,000 0 0

"It is anticipated that the profits for the year ended August 31st, 1916, will exceed those shown in any previous balance sheet of the Company. The sales for the year were the greatest in the history of the Company, although no increase has been made since the outbreak of war in the selling prices of the Company's goods."

(Vide Company's Circular Letter to its Shareholders, dated 30th October, 1916.)

The amount required to pay the dividend on the total Preference Capital including the present issue is £125,000.

The above table shows that during the past four years the average annual sum available for dividend on the whole Preference Capital has been over £411,480, which is sufficient to pay such dividend nearly 3½ times over.

The Assets of the Company, according to the Balance Sheet as at 31st August, 1915, exclusive of Goodwill, Patents, Trade Marks, and the value of certain Royalty Agreements, which yielded last year £23,981 16s 1d, amount to

£3,642,647 1 1

Deduct

All charges and liabilities ranking before the Preference Capital, including the final Dividend on the Ordinary Shares for 1915

795,598 6 9

Add

The proceeds of Preference and Ordinary Share Capital since issued, including the present issue of "B" Preference Shares, amounting approximately to

1,204,800 0 0

Net Assets on which the Preference Share Capital has a preferential claim

£4,051,848 14 4

The total Preference Capital is therefore covered more than twice over, without taking into account the net increase in the assets from the trading of the Company for the year ended 31st August, 1916, or Goodwill, Patents, Trade Marks, and Royalty Agreements, which, although not included, are of great value.

Preferential consideration will be given to applications from Shareholders and French Income Stockholders of the Dunlop Rubber Company, Limited, and Shareholders of the Parent Tyre Company, Limited.

Application will be made to the London and Provincial Stock Exchanges for an official quotation for the Shares now offered.

By the Regulations of the Company, on a show of hands, every member present in person has one vote, and upon a poll every Ordinary Shareholder present in person or by proxy has one vote for every Ordinary Share held by him, and every Preference Shareholder (whether holding 6 per Cent. "A" Preference Shares or 6½ per Cent. "B" Preference Shares) present in person or by proxy has one vote for every two Preference Shares held by him.

Applications must be made on the prescribed form and must be lodged with the London County and Westminster Bank Limited, Temple Bar Branch, 217 Strand, London, W.C., 21 Lombard street, E.C., Branches and Head Office, 41 Leithbury, E.C., together with the amount payable on application.

If any applications be not accepted in respect of the full number of Shares applied for, the surplus amount paid on application will be appropriated toward the amount payable on acceptance, and any balance will be returned to the applicant, and if any application be not accepted the deposit will be returned in full. Failure to pay any instalment when due will render all instalments previously paid liable to forfeiture and the contract for sale to be cancelled.

A brokerage of 3d per share will be paid in respect of public applications accepted bearing the stamp of a broker or other approved agent.

Copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company and of the Special Resolutions creating the 1,000,000 "B" Preference Shares and altering the Articles of Association, and the Agreement under which the Contractor has agreed to acquire the Shares now offered for sale, can be seen at the offices of Messrs J. B. and F. Purchase, 14, Regent street, London, S.W., Solicitors for the Dunlop Rubber Company, Limited, or at the offices of Messrs Swann, Hardman and Co., 105, Cannon street, London, E.C., Solicitors for the Contractor and the London County and Westminster Bank, Limited, on any day during business hours prior to the closing of the list.

Circulars and Forms of Application can be obtained from the London County and Westminster Bank Limited, Temple Bar Branch, 217 Strand, London, W.C., 21 Lombard street, E.C., Branches and Head Office, 41 Leithbury, E.C.; Messrs Linton, Clarke, and Co., Pinner's Hall, Austin Friars, London, E.C.; E. F. Bisgood and Co., Warrford-court, London, E.C.; Lawson and Ormrod, 4, Norfolk-street, Manchester; F. W. Bentley and Co., Leeds and Huddersfield. Dated 22nd November, 1916.

The following are the Directors of the Dunlop Rubber Company, Limited. HARVEY DU CROS, J.P., Howbery Park, Wallingford; Chairman. SIR ARTHUR DU CROS, Bart., M.P., Canons, Edgware; Deputy-Chairman and Managing Director.

The Right Hon. THE EARL OF ALBERMARLE, K.C.V.O., C.B., A.D.C.

CHARLES WISDOM HELY, J.P., Oaklands, Rathgar, Dublin.

ROBERT WATSON, J.P., Linwood, Renfrew.

AUGUSTE DUTREUX, 4 Rue du Colonel Moll, Paris.

LOUIS M. BERGIN, 14 Regent street, London, S.W.; General Manager.

JOHN VIGERS WORTHINGTON, Aston Cross, Birmingham.

The Investors' Review

FOUNDED BY A. J. WILSON, FEBRUARY, 1892.

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NEW SERIES.

[Registered as a
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SATURDAY, DEC. 2, 1916.

[Price 6d.]

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NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK OF ENGLAND, LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED IN 1833.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - £15,000,000.

CAPITAL—Paid, £3,000,000; Uncalled, £2,300,000;
Reserve Liability, £10,800,000.

RESERVE FUND (Invested in English Government Securities),
£2,000,000.

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HEAD OFFICE: 15, BISHOPSGATE, E.C.

THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.

(Registered in Japan.)

ESTABLISHED 1880.

Subscribed Capital Yen 48,000,000
Capital Paid Up Yen 30,000,000
Reserve Fund Yen 20,800,000

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The Bank buys and receives for collection Bills of Exchange, issues Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit on above places and elsewhere, and transacts General Banking Business.

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K. TATSUMI, Manager.

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C. A. BOGERT, General Manager.

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Incorporated by the Special Charter of the Imperial
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HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

Capital (all paid up)	£18,000,000
Sterling Reserve, held in London at exchange of 2s. per \$ = £1,500,000	\$15,000,000
Silver Reserve	\$33,000,000
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	\$15,000,000

HEAD OFFICE—HONGKONG. Chief Manager—N. J. STABB.

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STANDARD BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA, LTD.

Bankers to the Government of the Union of South Africa in Cape Province, to the Imperial Government in South Africa, and to the Administration of Rhodesia.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	£6,194,100
PAID-UP CAPITAL	£1,548,525
RESERVE FUND	£2,000,000
UNCALLED CAPITAL	£4,645,575
	£6,194,100

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CURRENT ACCOUNTS are opened on the usual terms.

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THE BANK issues CIRCULAR LETTERS OF CREDIT available in all parts of the world.

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The Officers of the Bank are bound not to disclose the transaction of any of its customers.

FRANCIS SHIPTON, London Manager.

THE MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LTD.

Head Office: 15, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.

Capital Authorised	£1,500,000
Capital Issued	1,125,000
Capital Paid Up	562,500
Reserve Fund	550,000

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INDIA, BURMAH, CEYLON, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS
CHINA, AND PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS.

The Bank buys and sells Bills of Exchange, issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, and transacts banking and agency business in connection with the East, on terms to be had on application.

DEPOSITS received for one year at 5 per cent. per annum. Rates for other periods on application.

On current accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on daily balances.

THE LONDON & RIVER PLATE BANK (LIMITED).

ESTABLISHED 1862.

Authorised Capital	£4,000,000
Paid-up Capital	1,800,000
Reserve Fund	2,000,000

BRANCHES—

ARGENTINE.—Buenos Aires, Rosario, Mendoza, Concordia, Bahia Blanca, Córdoba, Tucumán, Paraná, Barracas (Buenos Aires), Once (Buenos Aires), Boca (Buenos Aires), Calle Santa Fé (Buenos Aires), Calle B de Irigoyen (Buenos Aires). URUGUAY.—Montevideo, Montevideo Agency (Calle Río Negro), Paysandu (Agency), Salto (Agency). BRAZIL.—Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Santos, Pernambuco, Para, Bahia, Victoria, Curitiba, Manaus (Agency). CHILI—Valparaíso. FRANCE—Paris (16 Rue Halévy). Agency in New York and Agents throughout the world.

Letters of Credit, Drafts, and Cable Transfers issued. Bills negotiated, advanced upon or sent for collection.—7, Princes Street, E.C.

THE BANK OF ADELAIDE.

(Incorporated by Act of Parliament, 1865.)

Authorised Capital .. £1,000,000.	Subscribed Capital .. £225,000
Paid-up Capital	£500,000
Reserve Fund	510,000
	£1,010,000
Uncalled Capital	125,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	625,000
	£1,760,000

London Office—11, Leadenhall Street, E.C.

BILLS on Australasia purchased or collected.

DRAFTS issued and REMITTANCES cabled.

DEPOSITS received for fixed periods at rates to be ascertained on application.

PERCY ARNOLD, Manager.

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BANK.

Established 1841.

Paid-up Capital .. £250,000 0 0 (25,000 Shares of £10 each.)	
Reserve Fund £680,000 0 0	Reserve Profits .. £29,970
	Reserved Liability of Shareholders £280,000.

Drafts issued, Remittances cabled. Bills negotiated or collected. Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be ascertained on application, and all banking and exchange business connected with Western Australia conducted through the London Agents, The Bank of Adelaide, 11, Leadenhall St., E.C.

BANKS.

BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Established 1817.



Paid up Capital	£3,500,000
Reserve Fund	2,675,000
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	3,500,000
	£9,675,000

Head Office: SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES.

London Directors:

Sir FREDERICK GREEN, Chairman.

H. L. M. TRITTON, Esq.

WALTER S. M. BURNS, Esq.

DAVID GEORGE, Manager.

J. S. CAMPBELL, Secretary.

HALKERSTONE MELDUM,

DAVID GEDDIE,

Assistant Manager.

Accountant.

The Bank has 341 Branches and Agencies in the Australian States, New Zealand, Fiji, Papua (New Guinea), and London, and Agents and Correspondents all over the World, on whom the London Office grants Circular Letters of Credit and Circular Notes. Also issues Drafts on demand. Makes Mail and Cable Transfers. Negotiates and Collects Bills of Exchange. Receives Deposits for Fixed Periods on terms which may be known on application, and transacts every description of Australian Banking business.

London Office: 29, THREADNEEDLE STREET, E.C.

BANK OF ROUMANIA, LIMITED.

Head Office - 27, Throgmorton Street, London, E.C.

Branch - 11, Calea Victoriei, Bucarest.

CAPITAL (fully paid), £300,000. RESERVE FUNDS, £200,350.

Chairman:

EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, K.P., C.V.O., C.B.

Vice-Chairman:

E. W. H. BARRY, Esq.

Bankers:

BANK OF ENGLAND.

GLYN, MILLS, CURRIE & Co.

The Bank was originally incorporated in 1866 under Roumanian Law, and in 1903 was transformed into an English Company under the Companies Act.

A General Banking business with Roumania is conducted, and correspondence from those having interests in that country is invited.

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND.

Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1727.

CAPITAL PAID UP £2,000,000

REST & UNDIVIDED PROFITS £800,986

Head Office: ST. ANDREW SQUARE, EDINBURGH.

ADAM TAIT, Cashier and General Manager

A. K. WRIGHT, Secretary.

London Office: 3, BISHOPSGATE, E.C.

WILLIAM WALLACE, Manager.

166 Branch Offices throughout Scotland.

Banking Business of every description transacted. Accounts opened for Foreign and Colonial Correspondents. Bills, Cheques, and other documents collected. Deposit received at interest repayable at call or at notice.

BANK OF NEW ZEALAND.

(Incorporated July 29th, 1861.)

BANKERS TO THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT.

London Office: 1, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL £5,500,000

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL.

Four per Cent. Guaranteed Stock	£529,988
"A" Preference Shares issued to New Zealand Government	500,000
"B" Preference Shares issued to New Zealand Government	250,000
Ordinary Shares	1,500,000
	£2,779,988
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits	£2,118,605

Negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange.

Grants drafts on its Offices in New Zealand, Australia, Fiji and Samoa. Remittances made by telegraphic transfer.

ALEXANDER KAY, Manager.

ENGLISH, SCOTTISH, AND AUSTRALIAN BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office—38, Lombard Street, E.C.

Subscribed Capital	£1,078,875 0 0
Paid-up Capital	539,437 10 0
Further Liability of Proprietors	539,437 10 0
Reserve Fund	450,000 0 0

LETTERS OF CREDIT and DRAFTS on the Branches and Agencies of the Bank in Australia can be obtained at the Head Office, or through the Agents of the Bank, in the chief Provincial towns throughout the United Kingdom.

REMITTANCES made by TELEGRAPHIC TRANSFER.

BILLS NEGOTIATED or forwarded for COLLECTION.

BANKING and EXCHANGE Business of every description transacted with Australia.

E. M. JANION Manager.

The Investors' Review.

Vol. XXXVIII.—No. 987.
New Series.

SATURDAY, DEC. 2, 1916.

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Passing Events.

Of the tiny amount of £5,842,000 received by the Treasury last week from taxation and public services, no less than £3,080,000 was drawn from excess profits duty alone. The yield from general taxation was thus at a very low level, and that coincided with what looks like an excessively heavy demand on account of the war. Actually the total expenditure of the week under all heads was £124,061,000, and of this no less than £89,323,000 was absorbed by supply services alone—that is to say, chiefly by the war. Add the £1,175,000 paid out as interest on war debts, and we get a total of £90,498,000 as what may be called the current expenditure of the week, an amount equal to £12,928,000 per diem, the highest ever attained. What can be the meaning of this stupendous outlay? It is in part a bookkeeper's result. The \$300,000,000 (£60,000,000) loan obtained recently from the United States is entered on both sides of the account, as money in and out again, the proceeds having doubtless been used to pay our owings in America for supplies of munitions. Remove that item, and the gross outgoings of the week were only £64,061,000, or £9,152,000 per day. Even this is a heavy demand, but we must always bear in mind the fact that it is not merely our own war costs which we have to meet, we are likewise helping powerfully to finance our Allies, and especially loyally sustaining Belgium, Serbian, independent—or non-Bosche—Greece, and now also standing by Rumania. Probably the demands of Rumania alone are necessitating very heavy expenditure by our Treasury just now, and active operations in Macedonia involve us in large costs. There is a certain solace in looking at facts from this side, because undoubtedly when we have secured the peace we are in quest of, all these helped countries, rescued and set free from the oppression of the Austrian, German, and Turkish aggressors, will be able in time to repay what we have advanced.

Treasury bills, £6,758,000. That is to say, our floating debt rolls in for renewal every day, and in increasing amounts, so last week the Government had to borrow £40,407,000 gross of Treasury bills and obtained £10,192,000 from the sale of 6 per cent. Exchequer bonds. This is the smallest amount yet received on that latest form of debt, and probably the aggregate will not go up much until the large interest and dividend disbursements at the turn of the year put the public in funds. Added to the previous figures, however, the Treasury has up to date received £112,042,000 on these 6 per cent. Exchequer bonds alone. Allowing for the amount of due Treasury bills renewed, the nett addition to that form of debt on the week was £11,368,000, raising the aggregate of the Treasury bill floating debt to £1,124,474,000. Although the week's income from taxes, &c., was small, the aggregate received to date by the Exchequer on account of the year's Budget estimate has been £235,353,000, or £96,418,000 more than the amount received to the corresponding date last fiscal year. The total expenditure, however, has been almost £447,000,000 larger than last year's, and now amounts to £1,332,921,000, which is only £493,000,000 short of the estimated outlay for the entire year. The prospect, therefore, is that expenditure will considerably exceed the estimates unless the unexpected should happen, which is quite within the bounds of possibility. Taking the prospect as it stands, however, it does seem a pity that so little is being drawn in by the other credit-raising expedients. For weeks past the receipts from the sale of War Savings certificates have been put down at £1,000,000; this last week they gave only £700,000. Are these entries rough guesses or statements of fact? Whichever they may be they are very disappointing. And so are the sales of War Expenditure certificates, although last week they produced £534,000, as against £287,000 the week before, they make a mean display. With all these helps, big and little, the Exchequer balances had to be reduced by £4,835,549 to square the account.

Why is it that the poor amongst us are being so much harried by the retail grocer over the supply of sugar? Quite early in the experience of war scarcity a rule was established by retailers of groceries which

We have said, however, that the total outgoing of the week was £124,061,000, or, say, £34,000,000 more than the amount actually spent under all war headings. The difference is made up of redeemed Treasury bills, £26,805,000, and repaid supply

forbade the supply of people with sugar unless they also bought tea. It is within our experience that this arbitrary stipulation was enforced with an insolence and disregard of the circumstances which would have evoked strong resentment had times been ordinary. Why does the Sugar Board allow a method of trading which is not only unfair to the poor, but injurious to the health of their children, to continue? There ought surely to be some definite method whereby so much sugar per person could be allowed without any stipulation as to obligatory purchases of any other article whatsoever. That is one genuine grievance. Here is another which surely deserves remedy:—Sugar is not fairly apportioned out in different districts. It is surmised that no account has been taken of the large influx of new inhabitants caused in certain localities by the establishment of munition factories. The authorities have apparently obtained a rough-and-tumble estimate of the quantities of sugar consumed in each district before the war, and have assigned proportionate quantities under the new regulations calculated to furnish the inhabitants of each district with the fixed percentage of their usual supply. But they have been wholly oblivious to the fact that the number of inhabitants may now be less in one district and much larger in another, owing to the changes caused by war-work aggregation. The consequence of this haphazard method of doling out sugar is that some districts do not appear to get half the quantity they are entitled to, while there is almost a glut in others. Would it not be possible to remedy grievances of this kind and to avoid hardship to the bulk of those who in the end have to bear the chief brunt of the struggle? We know of cases where families, and that not of the poorest class either, are unable to obtain any sugar at all for the children, and yet there seems to be no real shortage in the country. Certainly the Cuban, the whole West Indian, crop is good this year, and gives promise of an abundant surplus available for export to Europe. Probably administrative ineptitude is at the bottom of the muddle.

An interesting diagram has been published by the *Liverpool Post and Mercury* illustrative of the effects of the Liquor Board Control Order upon the drunkenness of Liverpool. Before that came into operation the average weekly convictions for drunkenness ranged in the case of men and women together from 170 in 1906 to 286.5 in 1913. The Liquor Board Control Order came into force on August 16 of last year, and its effect was at once visible in a reduction of the number of drunkards to 83 per week in the case of men and to 38 in the case of women for the latter part of last year. For the current year the reduction is to 83.5 and 32.5 respectively. The order, in fact, immediately brought down the weekly average as to women by exactly one-half, and for men it was brought down from 166.5 to 83. For the two together the reduction was from 213.5 to 121. That is a most satisfactory story, and encourages us to hope that perseverance in this restriction will do much to mitigate, or even remove, many social miseries.

Active steps are now being taken to secure a free market in the Treasury deposit certificates issued under Scheme B. Arrangements have been made by the Treasury with the agents of foreign governments for the release of securities in exchange for deposit certificates; when the latter are purchased for sinking fund purchases. Messrs. Baring Brothers and Co. have already taken certificates in respect of Argentine bonds required for redemption purposes, and this week for the first time purchases for the sinking fund of the Japanese $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. loans have been made in the form of certificates issued under Scheme B, the same prices being paid in the market for these as for the bonds themselves. Thus a free market was established in these certificates on the Stock Exchange for the first time. When the negotiations between the Treasury and the Stock Exchange have been completed, a free

market will develop in deposit certificates generally. Next month Messrs. Rothschild will accept at equal prices delivery of deposit certificates or bonds on account of purchases for the sinking funds in respect of Chilean and Brazilian bonds. A free market has always existed in Scheme A deposit certificates, because the securities are marketable in New York. The Treasury is therefore always ready to purchase such securities, and it is the patriotic duty of holders of those securities, whether held here or in New York, to place them at the disposal of the Treasury.

Although we have heard of some hare-brained suggestion for the amalgamation of the leading Scotch banks, we do not suppose for a moment that it has been treated seriously in responsible quarters. At any rate, the Royal Bank of Scotland seems to do passing well on its own account, and we have no doubt it will be sitting up taking in a few deposits and bills when it celebrates its bi-centenary a decade hence. For the year ended October 14 it made a gross profit of £558,550, or £62,100 more than in the previous twelve months, while the expenses, including a bonus of £8,370 to the staff, were £17,400 higher, and the nett profit is up £44,700 at £338,420. After repeating the dividend of 10 per cent. and writing the usual £6,500 off bank premises, the balance of £174,420 is applied in writing down stocks. This figure is £64,000 more than last year, but on that occasion £160,000 was taken from "rest" and applied to the same purpose, so that in two years no less than £440,000 has been set aside for the depreciation of investments. Changes in the balance-sheet indicate increasing strength in the position of the bank, although judging by the bills and acceptances general business is sluggish. But there is plenty of money about, and while deposits have risen £2,820,000 to £21,966,000, there has been an expansion of £451,000 at £2,091,000 in the note circulation. Altogether, the liabilities to the public amount to £25,121,000, an increase of £3,314,000. On the assets side cash is a trifle lower at £3,097,000, but money at call and short notice has increased £627,000 to £3,883,000. British Government securities are £480,000 higher at £5,842,000, apart from an increase of £4,130,000 to £5,696,000 in the amount of Treasury bills held. On the other hand, foreign and colonial loans have been reduced by £275,000. Ordinary bills are £90,000 higher, but advances have been reduced £384,000 to £4,280,000, and loans on securities £500,000 to £1,164,000. It is explained that in order to assist the Government in financing the war, the directors have sold a number of the bank's investments, and have invested the proceeds in British Government securities. They have also lent other securities to the Treasury under the schemes for regulating the foreign exchanges, and in association with other banks have undertaken to open foreign credits on behalf of the Government and the Allies. In all respects the story is an excellent one.

It would be interesting to know how much J. and P. Coats, Ltd., has set aside for excess profits duty so as to get at the real measure of the company's prosperity in the year to June 30. But we must be content with the figures available, and they show that the trading profits, after allowing for the new tax, were £720,000 higher at £3,290,000. Interest and other receipts increased £70,000, and with £360,000 more brought forward the available balance is £1,150,000 up at £4,766,500. It is an immense total, and after providing for the preference and preferred ordinary dividends it would be sufficient to pay 80 per cent. on the ordinary shares and still leave over £400,000 for till money. But as already announced, the directors prefer to retain the dividend at 30 per cent., and after setting aside £100,000 against £30,000 for depreciation of investments, the balance forward is increased by £1,080,000 to £2,456,500. There is such a thing as carrying prudence too far, and we think the shareholders are entitled to a larger proportion of the profits earned and stowed away; although we believe it would

show still greater and more worthy prudence if consumers received first consideration. That, however, concerns the future, not the past, and when we look at the balance-sheet we begin to wonder what can really be in the directors' minds. The preference shares amount to £2,500,000, and the dividend requires £150,000. Then there is £3,000,000 in preferred ordinary stock, on which the dividend is £600,000, so that on the profits of last year there was a margin of £2,630,000 for dividends on the £4,500,000 ordinary shares. But in addition there is a reserve fund of £5,500,000, a dividend reserve fund of £2,100,000, and, as we have seen, a balance of £2,450,000 carried forward. Altogether, therefore, over £10,000,000 is being hoarded up, apart from whatever hidden reserves may be tucked away in the business. Is it the idea to go on piling up reserves until it is the right psychological (!) moment to give a bonus of two shares for every ordinary held? That would be very nice for the people who participate, but it is poor consolation to those who, for one reason or another, have to sell now. It would also, after a year or two, help to conceal the outrageous, monopolistic profits the company is making. We do not know, and can only surmise, but the policy of the directors is as obscure as Chinese hieroglyphics. Of course, the balance-sheet is an amazingly strong one. Sundry creditors are up £660,000, while debtors have been reduced £230,000. Cash is down £650,000, and cash in foreign countries at war £410,000, but investments are up £2,000,000, advances to subsidiary companies £360,000, and stocks £260,000, while £400,000 was laid out on additional shares in subsidiary companies and other capital expenditure. No, we cannot discover the bogey that frightens the directors so, and prevents the shareholders from coming to their own.

Having regard to the conditions prevailing in Argentina, shareholders in Harrod's (Buenos Aires), Limited, ought to be fairly pleased with the report to August 31. The results are not brilliant by any means, but they are a great improvement on those of the previous twelve months. No profit and loss account is given, which is a grave omission in a business of this kind, but it is stated that the trading showed an increase of upwards of 50 per cent., and the nett profit is returned as £60,540, against £8,815. A year ago £6,470 was deducted for depreciation, replacements, &c., and this time the corresponding amount is £6,890, totally inadequate sums, we should say, for a business involving a capital of a million and a half. However, the balance of £53,650 is sufficient to wipe out the deficit brought from last year, and leave £2,300 to be carried forward. Such a recovery is not to be despised, but a glance at the balance-sheet will help the unfortunate shareholders to moderate their transports. First we have £600,000 in $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. cumulative preference shares, on which no dividend has yet been paid. The amount of the arrears ought to be stated (Messrs. Price, Waterhouse and Co. please note), and for three years they would total £117,000, but it may be a little less. Next comes £900,000 in ordinary shares, entitled to 10 per cent., but they are a long, long way from touching it. The Newtonian theory of capitalisation would not be complete without deferred shares; and here we are, here we are again—240,000 of us at 1s. apiece, fully paid, too, as the report is careful to state. Then there are mortgages for £77,000, sundry creditors for £118,500 (an increase of £44,000), and a brand new bank overdraft for £50,000, so that the total liabilities exceed £1,750,000. On the other side, we have land and buildings £10,000 up at £625,860, and fixtures, fittings, plant, &c., £17,600 up at £194,000. To this sumptuous item is now appended a footnote: "N.B.—Sinking fund created for extinction of fixtures and fittings in 40 years." Fancy that! We have always understood that Buenos Aires is a pretty warm place, but we are now inclined to think it "bates Banagher," and "Banagher bates the devil." Next we have £118,370 for shares at cost in the Thompson

Muebles Company, as to the value of which the auditors make a reservation in their report. Then follows £234,600 for preliminary expenses and underwriting commission, a truly noble asset for the proprietors to contemplate. We have nothing to say about stock-in-trade, except that it has increased £100,000 to over half a million. Sundry debtors at £22,600 (an increase of £8,600) have the appearance of a poor relation beside the other gorgeous figures. Treasury bills for £30,000 have been disposed of, and cash is up £35,600 at £56,700, but this, of course, includes the overdraft already mentioned. That is the whole story. Are you surprised if we are inclined to gibe, good reader?

There is nothing very exciting in the report of the Parent Tyre Company, Limited, for the year to August 31, as its sole interest now is the holding of 712,468 ordinary shares in the Dunlop Rubber Company, Limited, valued at £2,098,910. A year ago there were other investments for £20,000, but these have been disposed of. Revenue amounted to £111,050, a decrease of £7,500, and the nett profit is £5,500 lower at £107,200, while £9,400 less at £2,220 was brought forward. The dividend on the deferred shares has been reduced from $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to 7 per cent., and only £500 is left to carry forward, but, as has been previously explained, the Dunlop Rubber Company has not yet made up its accounts, and there may be a further dividend to come from that source. However, we shall get the latest news at the forthcoming meeting.

Several more shipping amalgamations are announced, and in the present state of the freight market they are probably a step in the right direction, as a fleet under one control can be more economically employed than the same vessels in the hands of different owners. But if the purchase price is fixed on the basis of war profits, we can foresee trouble when normal conditions return. Messrs. Petersen and Co. (London-American Maritime Trading Company, Limited) have acquired the Calliope Steamship Company and the London Marine Steamship Company, each of which owns two steamers. Mr. Percy Samuel has purchased the Ariadne Steamship Company, which also owns two cargo steamers, and it is stated that the amount involved is about £400,000. Messrs. P. Samuel and Co. already control four vessels of about 4,000 tons each, and no doubt see their way to employ the additional boats to advantage, although the price seems high. A Clyde shipyard arrangement is also announced, D. and W. Henderson and Co., Limited, having acquired an interest in the adjoining yard belonging to A. and J. Inglis, Limited, but no change in the management of the two businesses is involved.

The Government is probably to be congratulated upon its decision to take over control of the South Wales coal mines. Much will depend on how the control is exercised. Obviously, for some time back the owners and operatives of mines in that part of the kingdom have been so completely at variance as to preclude the possibility of harmonious action. There was consequently no other course open to the Government if it wished to make sure of the necessary supplies of Welsh coal for the Fleet. Thus step by step the imperative need of our war-created necessities is driving us towards State control in directions that before the war would never have been thought of. We began with the railways and proceeded to industries of various kinds which became Government-controlled in order to provide us with weapons and munitions of war. Now we have come to coal, and soon the like pressure will drive us to deal with land. It is a scandal, indeed, that nothing has been done to tackle the clamant grievances of the nation over the waste of its resources in land now withheld from cultivation, but it will need a tremendous amount of agitation and pushing to get the Government to move out of the established routine,

and to shake itself clear of the reverence with which everything connected with the ownership of land is surrounded. Its attitude was significantly revealed in the House of Lords on Wednesday afternoon when, in reply to some remarks of Lord Dunraven urging that effective steps should be taken to ensure the proper supply of wheat from our home acreage, the Earl of Crawford, President of the Board of Agriculture, promised that his department would extend allotments on vacant land around towns so as to give opportunity for the cultivation of small plots. Moreover, his department, it seems, has actually risen to the consciousness that something should be done to redeem our waste common lands, at least it had "advised the use of selected portions of common lands for the production of food," although his lordship did not suppose that such lands could be extensively used for this purpose, because "generally it was not in the vicinity of a large town from which labour could be obtained," but he hoped that landlords and the tenants on their farms would, when it was desired, surrender land near the homes of villagers to be used "with probably excellent results as allotment gardens." This is very nice and benevolent, and exhibits well the hesitating, feeble attitude of our administrators, mostly landlord swayed, towards this, the most vital question of all the bewildering multitude with which we shall be called on to deal. You must wake up and move faster, gentlemen, else you will be caught by the rising tide.

The *Times* has taken a surprisingly non-capitalist view of the South Wales labour dispute, and must thereby have risked its popularity somewhat with the selfish classes who cannot yet see that they are doing their best to get the country defeated in this war by their grasping in the good old style after multitudinous profits at no matter whose expense. They will have to give up that attitude whether they will or no, and none too soon has the Government interfered to intercept inordinate gains of mine owners. In equity there ought never to have been any mine "owners" except the nation. Here is a little table extracted from the *Times* financial notes, that illustrates how certain collieries have prospered since the war began. It is worth preserving for reference. So great is the prosperity that they are able to show immense increases in nett earnings after deducting the amount payable as excess profits duty, and we think this fact should be borne in mind when next the Chancellor of the Exchequer comes to draw up his Budget. He can with a clear conscience then increase the levy under this new tax so as to at once fill his purse better and educate the thoughtless capitalist classes to some conception of war self-denial. The ordinary citizen has a feeling that gains of this kind made out of the country's misfortunes can never bring any good to those favoured ones that pocket them:—

Companies.	Past Year's Profits.	Preceding Year's Profits.	Last Divi- dend.	Previous Divi- dend.
	£	£	%	%
Broomhill Collieries	89,764*	52,746	10	Nil
Cons. Cambrian	185,230	139,897	15	10
Cory, Wm.	453,136*	215,378	15	10
Horden Collieries	183,504	86,130	12½	7
Jas. Nimmo	66,335*	69,122	20	10
Lothian	65,763*	42,597	15	5
Sheepbridge	205,891	168,396	15	15
Wilsons and Clyde	58,314*	47,768	25	22½

* After deducting Excess Profits Duty.

To the ever-growing list of controlled undertakings which have been unable to present their accounts owing to questions outstanding with the Ministry of Munitions has been added John I. Thornycroft and Co., Ltd. When the company was placed under control as from July 12, 1915, the directors decided to alter the date of the financial year to July 31, but they now state that although the meeting has been delayed as long as possible, they have been unable to prepare the accounts in time for the meeting which must be held during the current year. As in the previous period of the war, practically the whole of the company's resources were

employed on war work, and some idea of the magnitude of the business may be gathered from the statement that the turnover has been more than four times the pre-war average. A final dividend of 10 per cent. is paid on the ordinary shares, making, with the interim payment of 7½ per cent. in May, a total distribution of 17½ per cent. for the year.

Yet another undertaking which is unable to present accounts until an adjustment has been made with the Ministry of Munitions and the Inland Revenue Department is the Triumph Cycle Co. The company was declared a "controlled establishment" in August, 1915, and the directors say that since that date the output has been larger and more varied than during any previous corresponding period of its history. Although no accounts are submitted, the directors are satisfied that the profits for the year ended August 31 are sufficient to justify them in repeating the dividend of 20 per cent. and bonus of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, which were paid for the previous 12 months. In addition, they transfer £2,000, or £500 more, to the employees' pension fund; but we must wait for the full accounts to learn whether or not the other appropriations made will be on the same scale as a year ago, when £20,000 was set aside for dividend reserve.

Holders of Argentine Provincial bonds will be interested to read the statement issued by the Council of Foreign Bondholders with regard to the Province of Corrientes, which has been in default since February, 1915. No doubt the Province is feeling the effects of financial stringency, but that does not appear to be the chief reason for its refusing to pay the bondholders their interest. The Executive and the Legislative Chamber are at loggerheads, and while the former professes its willingness to pay up, it cannot do so because the Legislature refuses to budge. But for the injury done to foreign creditors, the situation would be quite Gilbertian. The worst feature, however, is that the National Government has been appealed to twice and has not even had the courtesy to acknowledge the representations made to it, much less to take any steps towards securing a settlement with the bondholders. This is not by any means the first time there has been trouble with Argentine Provinces, whose efforts in future to raise loans here must be sternly discountenanced till they show a greater regard for honest dealing. But the National Government cannot be held blameless. There are many ways in which it could bring pressure to bear if it chose to see foreign creditors protected. Apparently it does not choose, and it, too, must share the odium of dishonesty.

Japan announces the repayment of another half-million of the 4½ per cent. loans of 1905, which brings the total amount redeemed in the past two years up to £6,250,000, a very useful contribution to the financing of the war. Originally the loans amounted to £60,000,000, in two series of £30,000,000 each, but they have been reduced to £50,700,000, so that over £9,000,000 in all has been paid off. The whole amount must be redeemed by 1925, and this has led to the curious anomaly that while the 4½ per cents. are quoted at 95, the 5 per cent. loan of 1907 stands at 89. Under the terms of the latter issue, which was for £23,000,000, the loan may run till 1947, but the Government has the option of redeeming it after 1922 on giving six months' notice. There is not much chance of conversion on better terms, but as the repayment of the 4½ per cents. progresses the position of the 5 per cents. improves, and we are inclined to think that an exchange of the former into the latter would be good business. Thanks to the munitioning requirements of the Allies, Japan is enjoying unparalleled prosperity, and she has made excellent use not only of her opportunity, but also of the funds it has provided.

Drought again pressed very heavily on the Scottish Australian Investment Company in its year ended

June 30, and especially in Queensland, where losses of stock were large, and some of the most productive stations in normal times showed actual loss or much-reduced profits. Matters were not quite so bad in New South Wales, and a very good wheat crop was obtained, but in spite of this, and of high prices for wool and stock, the income from all sources showed a decrease of £40,173 at £136,648. The steadily increasing burden of taxation is also causing the directors considerable anxiety, the payments in the Colonies having risen by £10,270 to £47,130, and income-tax at home by £8,532 to £9,593. After providing for these charges and for administration expenses, the nett profits show a further decrease of £58,582 (following one of £64,255), and, with £45,825 brought in, the available balance is £49,462 smaller at £116,529. The dividend on the consolidated ordinary stock is only cut down by $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., but £20,000 less at £10,000 is transferred to reserve, and, after giving £2,150 less at £660 for war relief donations, the balance carried forward is reduced by £25,388 to £20,436. Pastoral property shows a decrease of £119,551 at £601,389, but freehold property has risen by £19,840 to £632,188, and £99,401 has been invested in War Loans, Exchequer bonds, and Treasury bills. Cash, too, is £61,710 up at £216,099, but produce consignments are £12,575 down at £6,375, and debtors owe £29,969 less at £30,546, while creditors and bills of sale have risen by £22,955 to £127,678. Although the drought has broken in Queensland, and prospects are rather more favourable, the directors do not seem to be hopeful of much improvement, owing to the loss of stock and consequent shortage in the wool clip, and also to the heavier taxation which appears to be inevitable in connection with the war.

At an inaugural luncheon on Tuesday at the Savoy Hotel the Russo-British Chamber of Commerce—the real thing this time—was duly christened, one may say, and started on its career. We cordially wish it a long and prosperous career for our own sakes as much as for Russia's. For unquestionably the new attitude towards Russia the creation of such a body in this country signalises, is infinitely more promising than the old. Those who can remember the ancient suspicions, the dreads about Russian designs against India, the excitement aroused by every step forward taken by her in Central Asia, the wars even that our people were plunged into to check the spread of Russian power and influence, cannot avoid a feeling of thankfulness that all the outlook should now be so changed. It must remain changed if the two empires are to work together for the advancement of their peoples in the way of civilisation and beneficent peace after this conflict ends. And if Russia works clear of German ideals of administrative tyranny, if she attains in conduct to the humanitarian ideal of the Slav, we need have no fear that she will ever be untrue to the friendship now so cordially felt and expressed. But we must not confine our efforts to the cultivation of engaging sentiments. Effort must be made, and made unceasingly, to give the new friendship something real and living to feed and flourish on. Lord Robert Cecil, who took the chair at the function in the unavoidable absence of the Prime Minister, did well, therefore, to dwell on the practical aims to be kept in view. He avowed that he "would like to see exchanges of visits by representatives of commerce in the two countries, and the maintenance of the efforts made in some of our towns to train young men in the Russian language, thought, and tradition, in order that they might establish in Russia the foundations of British commerce. The union of Russia and Britain was not merely the work of Governments, or even of commerce; it was the work of the individual citizens of the two countries. The great task which the Russo-British Chamber of Commerce had before it was to strengthen and intensify the interest of British commercial men in Russian things, to encourage these efforts to establish Russian commercial interests, and to draw still closer the bonds

which united the two countries." There you have a practical idea which must ever be kept before us.

No improvement can be recorded in the affairs of the Continental Union Gas Co., Limited, and none can be expected until conditions in Europe become more settled. In the year to June 30 the revenue was £8,325, or £1,300 less than in the previous twelve months, and about £60,000 less than the normal. After paying management charges and income-tax, there is a balance of £3,000, which, added to the £20,300 brought forward, it is proposed to place to foreign dividends suspense account. It is explained that the payment of £29,960 declared by the Compagnie l'Union des Gaz in respect of the period to June 30, 1914, is indefinitely postponed, and this absorbs the profit balance, which is accordingly placed to suspense. Arrangements have recently been made which should reduce the high freights on coal to French and Italian ports, and materially benefit the company's large Continental interests, which have been unproductive since the outbreak of the war. It is also hoped that an increase in the price of gas will be authorised in several towns. Investors must just wait with what patience they can till times mend, but the company is sound, and will recover.

Further decisions have been rendered by the Board of Referees in applications for an increase in the statutory percentages for mining industries under the excess profits duty provisions of the Finance Act, 1915. In the case of the tin mining industry of Nigeria, the statutory percentage has been raised from 6 per cent. to 13 per cent. for companies, and from 7 per cent. to 14 per cent. for private firms; while for the chrome ore industry in New Caledonia the statutory percentage has been fixed at $22\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for companies, and at $23\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for private companies. As regards coal mining in this country, the statutory percentages have been fixed at 9 per cent. for companies, and at 10 per cent. for private firms. Appeals in the most important metal industries are still under consideration.

National Health Insurance.

Public attention was so much concentrated on the criticisms made in the recent report of the Committee of Public Accounts on certain war contracts that the very valuable comments of that committee on the finance of the National Health Insurance scheme have been entirely overlooked. Yet the subject is really of far greater importance. Even the worst of war contracts must terminate with the war, but the solvency or otherwise of this gigantic scheme is a question that, if not wisely dealt with, may mean an almost unendurable financial burden on the nation for generations to come.

The cost of National Health Insurance to the Exchequer alone, and exclusive of the enormous sum raised by the compulsory contributions of employers and employed, has been as follows:—

Estimate.	Grants Under the Act of 1911.	Additional Grants.
	£	£
1912-13.....	1,816,000	1,847,650
1913-14.....	4,006,850	1,899,650
1914-15.....	4,205,800	2,893,300
1915-16.....	5,626,400	987,550
1916-17.....	4,617,050	1,135,900

As to these huge additional grants the comment in the report is illuminating:—"It appears that most of these additional grants, which are outside the main framework of the Act of 1911, at first received no Parliamentary sanction other than that of the Appropriation Act itself, but that as regards the financial year 1914-15 (with the accounts of which your committee are immediately concerned), the grants are covered by the specific statutory sanction contained in Section 1 of the Amending Act of 1913. The position has therefore now been regularised. At the same time, your committee cannot but view with anxiety the results which may follow from the very wide powers given by

that section of departing from the original contributory basis of the National Health Insurance scheme as embodied in the Act of 1911."

The original basis of the Act was that the funds for providing benefits were to be derived from two sources in a fixed proportion; seven-ninths from the contributions of employers and employed and two-ninths from grants from the Exchequer. This proportion has now entirely gone by the board, and there is nothing to prevent the additional grants for benefits exceeding in the end the sums provided out of contributions, although such disastrous finance is perhaps not very probable. But unfortunately as deficits occur, owing to the very doubtful actuarial calculations on which the Act was originally based, the tendency to apply to the Treasury as a sort of Fortunatus' purse instead of adopting the far more disagreeable course of lessening benefits or raising contributions is almost irresistible. No general report as to the finance and administration of the Act has been issued; but an interim report was drawn up some three months ago by a Departmental Committee appointed to inquire into the matter. Their inquiry showed that while on the whole the contributions in the case of men were adequate to provide the benefits distributed, those of women were markedly insufficient. To meet this difficulty practically all the committee were able to suggest was a further additional grant from the Exchequer and a new raid on the Sinking Fund. These obviously makeshift proposals were considered in expert quarters as quite inadequate; and the Faculty of Insurance decided to hold an independent inquiry of its own. This inquiry, which is still going on at the House of Commons, is entirely unofficial, and, in consequence, evidence has been refused in some cases; but a good deal has been given, and much of it is not at all of a reassuring character. The Committee of Public Accounts, in their report, suggest an investigation into the cost of administering the Act. In deference to a nationalist sentiment carried to extremes, the Insurance Act is worked by four separate Commissions in the four countries of the United Kingdom, with the pleasing result that administration expenses form in England 6 per cent. of the total expenditure of the Commission; in Scotland, 8 per cent.; in Wales, over 10 per cent.; and in Ireland, 16 per cent. The explanation offered for this extravagant proportion in Ireland is that the Act was so unpopular that apparently almost as many officials had to be appointed to see that the people stamped their cards as there were persons insured. The administration expenses of the approved societies, which are reported to be very large, are, of course, not included in these percentages.

Apart from the purely financial side of the Act, there are other aspects of the scheme of great importance as to which even less information has been given to the nation. How does the medical side of the Act work? What sort of medical attendance do the mass of the insured get? Are the general health conditions of the people likely to improve under its influence? What effect are the abnormal conditions produced by the war likely to have both on the finance and on the general working of the Act? These questions are very difficult to answer; indeed, no complete answer would at present be practicable; but some possibilities may be suggested.

The amount of sickness among women would appear to have declined with the tremendous growth of employment among them. This may be in part due to the fact that with facilities for earning higher wages they can provide themselves with better food, housing, and clothing; it is also probably partly the result of the fact that the rate of wages at present general is more attractive than a sick allowance. The attractions of the sick allowance were naturally always very much less in the case of men; and no doubt abundant employment in their case has also been a help in keeping down the sickness rates—for the time being. A point that must cause some anxiety about the future is that considerable numbers both of men and women are undoubtedly working at very high pressure; and it is im-

possible to say how long this strain will last. When peace does come, and the strain is relieved, it is only too probable that the reaction may be serious, and that there will follow an excessive demand on the sick insurance funds. Indeed, the general health of the population may possibly even for some years be rather below the normal. It is hardly possible to estimate the effect of the presence of the large body of more or less disabled soldiers and sailors which the war must leave on the position of the approved societies until pension rates and other schemes for providing in whole or in part for these men have been more definitely arranged. Nor have we as yet had the smallest scintilla of information as to the working of that permanent disablement benefit which came into being last year, and which under normal conditions threatened to be a very perilous affair, and might under abnormal conditions be a pecuniary bottomless pit. Insured men called up to the Army are supposed to be kept in insurance at a fixed rate; some complaints have been heard from the Friendly Societies that these payments have not been regularly made, and, further, that when they are made they are inadequate to meet the liability. It is clear that if soldiers are often discharged from the Army hospitals before they have at all fully recovered their health, they may become a very serious burden on the funds of the societies, especially when disabled not so much through wounds as through ill-health and such diseases as rheumatism, tuberculosis, and heart weakness.

While there can be no doubt that very large numbers of the insured have derived much benefit from the medical service, it is impossible to doubt that there is on this point a good deal of well-founded complaint. The "choice of doctor," of which so much was made at the beginning of the scheme, disappeared almost at once; and it is certain that a fair proportion of the insured, in spite of being obliged to pay twice, prefer to employ a doctor of their own choice. Sometimes this is due to the inferiority in skill of the panel doctor, for it is stated that many medical men who could not make practices for themselves have profited immensely by getting a compulsory list of panel patients. Then doctors are said to make distinctions between their private and their panel patients, which is, perhaps, human; and the Fabian believers in an impossible equality are arguing that the best way to remedy this would be by forcing the whole population to become panel patients.

The management of the Drug Fund and the payment of the chemists seems to have been unsatisfactory from the first. The London Insurance Committee was put in the ignominious position of having to make a composition with its chemist creditors. Now we have the evidence of a chemist before the Faculty of Insurance Committee that he makes up large numbers of quite valueless prescriptions, because the Drug Fund is short and doctors are afraid of being surcharged. No doubt sometimes the doctors give a harmless prescription merely to satisfy their patients who have an extraordinary faith in the virtue of medicine. This very chemist admitted that he had seen a woman threaten to give a doctor a black eye because he told her she did not require any medicine. On the other hand, a curious illustration of what may happen if the doctors' expenditure on prescriptions is left entirely unregulated is given in the report of the Public Accounts Committee, to whom the tale was told of a doctor who was surcharged for prescribing week by week sufficient of a certain preparation of malt to last eight weeks. Whether the patient consumed the excess or whether his entire family shared in the unaccustomed luxury in a friendly spirit is unfortunately not stated.

The future of National Health Insurance is in many directions very uncertain; one point may, however, be taken for granted, and that is, that in the near future there will be an extension, and probably a very wide extension, of medical treatment and control for the most part, entirely at the cost of the State and without reference to the patients' contributions. The forces making for this are very strong, and practically there

is no opposition. The Insurance Commissioners have already issued a regulation to oblige panel doctors to assist their patients to take advantage of any specialist treatment provided by public authorities; and the next step, no doubt, will be to compel public authorities to provide such treatment where they are not doing so. The panel doctors, who have from the very beginning shown a remarkable perception of their own pecuniary interests, have accepted this new regulation very discontentedly, on the ground that they ought to receive additional payment; and this demand in its turn has been one of the causes leading to the movement for a State medical service. A nation already burdened as is ours with a huge bureaucracy might well hesitate to extend it further; while such an extension would inevitably deprive the great mass of the people of even the very small freedom in the choice of medical treatment which they at present enjoy.

The Peace to be Fought For.

III.—THE INDEMNITY AND POLAND.

Critics say, "You are again too soon with your suggestions about peace." It may be so; but the Germans do not take that view. For many a month past they have had in full blast here, and doubtless in other countries, an elaborate apparatus of peace propaganda, which our authorities have done nothing to check or counter-work. The material and probably most of the money for this cunning attempt to beguile comes from the "fatherland." State-waged "gospellers," philosopher professors, and journalists of all labels, but especially religious and financial journalists, preach sweet sentimentalities, theorise on the beauties of peace, and throw up clouds of gas calculated to be a blind or curtain valuable for hiding the overmastering Prussian's real designs. The material in these ways manufactured is turned into English and spread broadcast over this country, with the object of beguiling us to begin negotiations before the wild beasts have been dislodged from their prey or destroyed. With grave faces and an assumption of Christian meekness, the agents here, conscious and gulled, of the German Government retail these shoddy manufactures as if they were genuine expressions of unfettered German thought. They are no such thing, can be no such thing, when every preacher, every professor, every journalist in Germany is either the paid servant of the State or a suborned instrument of Prussian falsehood. No independent mind is allowed to express its thoughts within Germany, and yet the dupes and tools among us, shameless, insistently ask the country to accept shoddy hypocrisy of the kind they import and prepare for the English market as if it were genuine cloth of gold woven in freedom by the German soul. Everlasting shame, irretrievable loss of all we hold sacred, would attend success in this fraud. It is therefore surely time to formulate in all frankness what we believe to be the essentials to a durable, a millennial, peace, a peace without attaining which we shall lose all liberty, our Empire, our civilisation.

Assume that the destruction of property—and we say nothing of human life—caused by the barbarians in this war is assessed at twelve thousand million pounds sterling: how is to be paid back to the Allies? In our first, and undoubtedly premature, outline of the peace that must come if Europe is to preserve its civilisation and anew lead the van in human advancement, we assumed that the disarmament of the two robber Empires would release almost enough revenue to cover the indemnity charges they would be forced to meet. But that calculation was based on an indemnity capitalised at three thousand millions, whereas it will be at least four times that sum by the time the war ends. And the two Teutonic despotisms will be too completely exhausted to be able at once to furnish one-sixth of the £600,000,000 payment of this bill would demand every year, calculating interest at 4 per cent., with 1 per cent. additional as cumulative sinking fund. If the Allies took complete hold of the

trade and industrial productive capacity of the two Empires, they could not within ten years of the war's end squeeze half this amount annually out of their ruined populations.

Are we, then, to abandon the demand for repayment of the damages inflicted as far as mere money can repay? It will be to the peril of our own civilisation if we do. The longer the war lasts the more inexorable must the Allies become in their determination to exact retribution to the utmost. Therefore the whole property of the war makers will have to be confiscated, whether in lands, mines, or factories. The war-waging caste must be utterly dispossessed, and rendered for ever incapable of again disturbing the world's peace, if our end in going to war is to be completely attained. If the poor German serf had the soul of a man in him he would make his own resolution and be soon in a position to spare an increasing amount towards meeting the obligations his brutal taskmasters will have laid upon him. There is, we fear, no help of that kind to be looked for. Hunger even will not rouse a people so degraded, so completely slave-souled. But if the Allies unite to hold German trade under subjection, if all inlets and outlets are seized and placed under Allied control, then the slaves inhabiting the two derelict Empires and willing instruments of their crimes must either pay or perish. There never was much chance of any alternative. It is their destruction or ours.

"But the German populations of the two Empires are alone guilty; why, then, seek to punish the innocent with the guilty? Your proposals are too summary, too indiscriminately sweeping." We admit it, they are; and as the purpose of the Allies is to liberate not to enslave—they should even liberate the German slave from his ruthless taskmaster ere all be done—the indemnity demands must be used first to detach from the Hapsburg and Hohenzollern tyrannies the races and nationalities they have always oppressed. The

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Prussians themselves, expert ever in plundering, have shown us how to proceed—capital of the indemnity payable so much; offsets—territories withdrawn from the jurisdiction of the two tyrannies valued at so much on the other side of the account; difference—the sum payable by the two States out of what is left to them. Enormous difficulties will fall to be dealt with and smoothed away in settling the fate of the lopped-off parts, but with clean-handedness, patience, and singleness of purpose the work can be accomplished and peace be bestowed on Europe, a lasting peace under which the necessity for maintaining nations in arms would disappear. "Utopian!" Yes, but if we did not aspire to something above and beyond what nations have ever yet attained to, where would be the advantage to be derived from fighting this ruinous and ruining war? With every assistance we can wring out of the defeated aggressors it will only be by self-denial, by a surrender of private and personal quests and ambitions, and a devotion to the common good unexampled hitherto, that we may hope to preserve all that is worth having in our civilisation.

The great question is therefore how to partition out among claimants those portions of the two Empires now inhabited by non-Teutonic peoples held in bondage. Russia has already promised a free Poland—a promise mocked by the sham "Kingdom of Poland," the demented Kaiser, casting about for something to keep his Empire from foundering, and he with it, has clumsily stage-managed at Warsaw. The fully restored Poland means much more than that.

Before her first partition by Russia, Prussia, and Austria—all three empires being then Teuton dominated—the ancient kingdom of Poland, valiant and most powerful bulwark against the Turk as it had long been, marched with Pomerania and just stolen Silesia in the west, possessed the ports of Dantzic and Libau on the Baltic, and ran round the south side of the Gulf of Riga almost to the city of Riga itself. The territory of East Prussia, land inherited from the Teutonic knights by the Hohenzollern, was surrounded by Polish territory. In the east Poland embraced all "Black Russia," much of "White Russia," much of the Ukraine, all Galicia, "Little Poland" and "Great Poland," whose capital was Posen. In the days of their grandeur the kings of Poland extended their suzerainty not only over East Prussia, but, in the south, over territories lying far within modern Russia and down almost to the Black Sea. If all the lands indubitably Polish are gathered within the restored kingdom, as they ought to be, and we feel convinced will be, in a few years Poland will again be a great, civilised, progressive State, and an impregnable barrier against Teutonic land-grabbing raids, whether eastward or southward. To it should be surrendered the custody of such ports on the Baltic as Russia did not want to be bothered with, over and above its own Dantzic and Libau. Indeed, if the Prussians sold East Prussia to Poland, and they must sell if that course is considered expedient by the Allies, then all the Baltic littoral from, say, Memel to Dantzic would be permanently under Polish control. Galicia, and such parts of Silesia as desired to return to the restored kingdom, ought to be allowed to adhere, but on the Russian side it is probable that the new Polish frontier would not extend much, if at all, beyond the frontiers set by the second partition. That must be ultimately settled by the wishes of the inhabitants, and we believe the new spirit of Russia to be enlightened enough and high-minded enough to comprehend that the strength of a State lies permanently in the breadth and quality of the liberty its laws guarantee, and in its unselfish neighbourliness. Russia could have nothing to fear from a free Poland however it allowed that State's borders to be enlarged, and contentment in a non-aggressive neighbour—Poland never was a plundering State—would help to insure peace and liberty at home.

In many ways, therefore, the kingdom of Poland should be easy to set on its feet again, once the Prussian savage has been destroyed, and the capitalised value of a Poland, as now devastated, might be

deducted from the total of the indemnity. But no load should be laid on resuscitated Poland as its share of the indemnity annuity. If her revived prosperity enabled her to contribute to Russian, Serbian, or Rumanian necessities, if she helped these States, and if she also protected and helped a liberated Bohemia to make a fresh start in life, it is all we should look for. The true compensation must come from the wealth arising through the revival and expansion of Poland's agricultural, industrial, and mineral prosperity.

Peruvian Corporation.

It seems impossible for the Peruvian Corporation to be out of trouble of one sort or another for more than a year or two at a stretch, and the report to June 30 has more than one grievance to ventilate. We must say that it appears to have good grounds for complaint, and although the origin and early history of the Corporation was a rather unsavoury business, that is no reason why it should be unfairly treated at this time of day. In fact, we were hopeful from the tone of Senor Pardo's Presidential Message to Congress last July that the days of bickering were over, for he implied that the guano contract would be faithfully carried out, and that the disputes over it would be amicably settled. In the Message referred to it was stated that "there always remains a considerable balance of guano in favour of the Corporation which the latter may ship under the terms of its contract, a balance of which neither Congress nor the Government have had any intention of despoiling the Corporation." Yet a law was passed in February, 1915, against which the British, French, and Dutch Governments officially protested, declaring a preferential right in favour of the national agriculturists over the guano ceded to the bondholders, and cancelling the division of the deposits as agreed between the Corporation and the Government in 1909. Moreover, in June last a further Decree was issued restricting the loading of guano to certain islands which, the Corporation declares, mostly contain only small quantities, and many of the deposits are almost inaccessible. Protests have again been lodged both by the Corporation and the three Governments already mentioned, so far without effect, but perhaps the President has not yet had time to effect the settlement which he evidently contemplated. In any case, steps might have been taken to pay the annuity of £80,000, about which there is, and can be, no dispute. But during the past financial year only £10,000 was received, and a further £10,000 was paid in September, leaving arrears of £100,000. This is all the more inexcusable as the annuity, besides being a general charge on the country's revenue, is specifically secured on the sugar tax, which has yielded a sum more than sufficient to pay the Corporation's debt. It seems a pity that Peru should damage its credit in this way just at a time when the country appeared to be entering on a fresh era of prosperity, and we hope wiser counsels will prevail than to continue in default.

In other respects the report is a not unsatisfactory one, thanks mainly to the substantial recovery in railway earnings, which may be regarded as a very hopeful sign. On the Central Railway gross receipts were £502,435, an increase of £140,600, or nearly 39 per cent., while expenses were only £43,600 higher, and the nett receipts of £222,000 were £97,000, or 77½ per cent., better. The Southern Railway earned £256,200 gross, or £24,560 more, and the nett receipts were £14,250 higher at £80,790. Over the whole of the systems gross receipts amounted to £955,460, an increase of £195,000, and nett receipts to £370,360, an increase of £130,000. It should be mentioned, however, that the nett receipts were £449,260 in 1913-14, and as much as £468,700 in 1910-11, so that there is still a lot of leeway to make up. Most of the increase in receipts was due to mineral traffic, but there was also a substantial improvement in general goods, especially on the Southern line. Details of expenses are not given, but they appear to have been kept within

reasonable limits, considering the additional traffic handled.

Total revenue, converted at 23d., against 22d., per sol, amounted to £466,190, an increase of £60,000, and as debenture charges and administration expenses were practically the same, there is a similar gain in nett revenue at £223,085, to which has to be added £146,570, or £4,000 less, brought forward. Income-tax is doubled at £40,020, and £8,000 more at £15,590 is written off for depreciation of investments, but the provision of £10,000 for doubtful debts has not to be repeated, and the available balance is £256,050, or £37,000 more. Out of this an additional 1 per cent. is to be paid on the debentures, the same as last year, and the preference stock has again to be satisfied with a miserable dividend of $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., leaving arrears of $82\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. accrued at June 30. The balance forward is increased by £37,000 to £183,400, so that it would have been possible to treat the preference holders (they only get £18,640 altogether) more generously, but doubtless the directors are prudent to husband the resources till the disputes with the Government are settled. As already mentioned, £10,000, against £40,000, was received on account of the annuity, and the guano receipts were £50,000 less at £87,450. The whole of this was earned between July and September last year, and no shipments whatever have been made during 1916. During the year debentures for £68,400 were redeemed, leaving the amount outstanding £4,975,000. Amounts owing by the railway companies have been reduced £106,000 to £61,320, but sundry debtors are up £23,000. Treasury bills have increased £62,000, and bills receivable £78,000, while cash is £11,000 lower at £51,120. Other changes in the balance-sheet are unimportant. Under all the circumstances the showing is a fairly creditable one. If the guano receipts had been normal and the Government annuity paid, they would have made a difference of £160,000, which would go a considerable way towards wiping out last year's decline of £245,000 in nett revenue. Meantime, we can only hope that the Peruvian Congress will see the error of its ways and let bygones be bygones. But arrears of preference dividend now exceed £6,000,000, and the Corporation on its part would be wise to deal drastically with the capital account so as to create a feeling of greater confidence in the strength of its position. A lumbering wagon three-fourths submerged in mud is not a very impressive spectacle and is of little use to anyone.

By-the-Way War Notes.

A doubt sometimes enters the mind in reading our wisdom-laden daily newspapers whether the writers of the articles dealing with current war events ever look at a map. This week, in reading the German accounts of the brilliant progress in Rumania and most of the English comments thereon, we seem to have at last arrived at a practical certainty on this point, and are prepared to sustain the opinion that few of the war sages ever look at a map. Another thing that has struck us more forcibly lately than ever before is the avidity with which the German point of view is exhibited and German claims and clamours of "Victory, victory," treated as if fully justified by events. Ever since this Rumanian campaign began the British Press has, with rare exceptions, regarded poor Rumania as doomed, or as good as. The Germans and their Turkish and Bulgarian Allies were destined from the first, in the minds of the British Government, to swallow up the unhappy little country, to seize its oil deposits and all its stores of food so as to relieve the want at home, and then duly annex it to Austria, or perhaps to replace it with its former owner, the ever glorious and progressive Turk.

And the fact that the Germans were defeated in their first wolves' rush was given no weight whatever in considering the problem. Most critics did not even seem to know what the Germans were aiming at when they struck at the passes in the Carpathians,

and when the Teuto-Turko-Bulgar hordes under Mackensen pressed north through the Dobrudja. Undoubtedly Falkenhayn and Mackensen had a plan, but what that plan was could not be gathered from reading the lucubrations of the seemingly most popular guides on the war and its meanings. Had they but told us that, with their usual bounce, the Germans had imagined a plan for shutting out Rumania from Russian help, and had done their very utmost to carry that plan into effect, we might have had some more just conception of the splendid tenacity and fighting energy the Rumanians had displayed in defeating it. If the two German leaders had succeeded in overrunning Moldavia and in barring the Russians from coming to the assistance of Rumania, probably by this time Bucharest would have been in their hands, and much of the stores of grain and other riches possessed by the kingdom on its way to the hungry Fatherland. By the magnitude, then, of the disappointment the failure of this master-stroke must have caused, we can somewhat gauge the magnitude of the defeat the Germans experienced. Thanks to the strenuous resistance of the Rumanians and in the Dobrudja to the prompt assistance of Russia, the supreme danger was averted, and the triumphant Mackensen was obliged to fall back on to Constanza-Cernavoda line baffled.

But the skill with which this defeat has been buried beneath windy brag by the German High Staff and its Press servitors might excite more admiration than it actually does if only we understood it here and took a just measure of the situation. Instead of doing that, however, we have accepted the Prussian view, and their Press agencies have filled the world once more with conceptions of their infallibility and prowess in war which serves them in excellent stead in keeping the fears of neutrals alive and in deceiving their own people. What the two leaders, Falkenhayn and Mackensen, are now engaged in is a great game of bluff, bravely played. All the news about their marvellous progress with the invasion of Rumania comes from German sources, and is coloured up in the most boastful style. Reading their daily bulletins, one would imagine that the fate of Rumania is really sealed, and that the whole kingdom will presently lie at the foot of the conqueror, even as Belgium has lain for more than two years.

What is the real truth about the struggle there? The real truth appears to be that the marauding invaders are running straight into a trap in the bravado of sheer desperation. Just take your map and look at the position. Beaten back from the passes in the north-east part of the kingdom and in the Dobrudja, the Germans transferred their activities to the western section of Wallachia. Mackensen, as was stated a fortnight ago, left the command of the beaten hordes he had led into the Dobrudja (probably to starve there), and hastened to organise another nondescript force—for it could be nothing else, with so many of Bulgaria's and Germany's best troops facing Sarraïl—in order to make an attempt to cross the Danube much further west and south than was originally designed. He announces that he has succeeded in crossing the Danube, and Falkenhayn, also, has come down with his troops from the western passes of the Transylvanian Alps, and has overrun a considerable portion of that part of Wallachia. Nowhere have their movements been seriously resisted, for they are not able to claim much plunder of any description, and have now, therefore, to march northward and westward in order to meet the enemy on ground of his choosing, not theirs. They probably go through a country almost denuded of supplies before they arrived, and both armies run great risks of being attacked from flank and rear. Mackensen does not claim in his most vaunting bulletins that he has control of the Danube, and Falkenhayn cannot be sure of a secure line of retreat through the passes he has forced. The Russians, who are already in Transylvania, may get behind him and cut off his supplies, and Russia is also free to render every assistance to her Ally and ours. Therefore the adventure looks a most reckless one,

a project of despair rather than an example of prudent military strategy, but while it lasts the manoeuvre is certainly spectacular, and it decidedly serves one of the purposes aimed at in enabling the journalistic slaves to beguile sottish German mobs with fresh visions of the invincibility of the Kaiser's armies and the wonderful genius of their military leaders.

In some respects those Harmsworth newspapers, the *Times* and *Daily Mail*, are most valuable to us in that they never fail to keep sounding a note of alarm on one point or another. Now it is a politician who fails in this family's opinion to do its duty by the nation, and when other topics are lacking it can always be the Navy which is not up to the mark and allows itself to be fooled by some frightened scampers of German raiders in the Channel. Or it is our hard-worked troops who are not moving fast enough to please the Harmsworth swayers of Empire. They ought to have done this and that at the latest battle. But these are after all only side-shows in the vast, over-shadowing vigilance of this great family and its journals aforesaid. They foresee everything and forecast most things, tell us also what the enemy is doing in a way which is calculated to make our blood run cold at times, and to prepare our overcharged minds for the acceptance of any peace the great, all-conquering Teutonic race condescends to fling at us.

One of their employees, an American, Mr. Thomas Curtin, has of late been telling readers of both journals a great deal old and new about things in Germany as well as outside it, and some time ago he assured us that the activity in German shipyards was greater now than it had been before the war. He had not been inside these yards, but he could vouch for the truth of his statement by the evidence of his ears, for the din that came from within indicated feverish speed in shipbuilding. But he was not apparently quite accurate about the kind of vessels that were being built. He was told by the cunning and deceiving Teuton that the yards were busy with new ships for the German mercantile navy, in order that it might be ready and able to spring in and capture the world's ocean traffic when the war ended, and he believed what he was told, like the good, honest fellow he is. But now comes along another worthy and respectable contributor to these Harmsworth journals, viz., Mr. Frederick William Wile, and he tells us that he knows in the surest way that Germany is concentrating "practically every atom of her shipbuilding capacity" on the construction of super-submarines. Her main plan of campaign intended to end the war consists in "starving Britain into ignominious defeat by U-boat warfare." To that end "innumerable dockyards, Government and private, and all auxiliary industries are applying themselves to the turning out of submarines of the most powerful type at the rapidest possible rate." His information is to the effect that said U-boats are being commissioned ready for use "at the rate of two to three a week."

We thank this kind gentleman, who is also an American and an excellent journalist, for this warning, but he does not appear to suspect that our Admiralty may already know what is going on. Surely he cannot imagine that we control the North Sea and blockade the German commerce that used to fill it with ships without knowing what the submarine menace is. Two new super-submarines a week is equal to 100 a year and three a week to 150 a year. How many have we already destroyed of these German submarines? Will the feverish haste in construction suffice to make good the wastage? We take leave to doubt. These instructors seem always to write as if they were afraid our Navy was not equal to its duty, but they alarm themselves quite needlessly. Our Navy's vigilance and efficiency is amply demonstrated by the fact that Germany is being deprived of the necessities of life to a crippling extent, and by the further fact also that the "German submarine menace" in waters within the control of the British fleet is much less now than it was earlier in the war. This shows that the fleet is aware of the dangers and awake to its duties. It will prob-

ably take all the "super-submarines" the Germans can build to replace those captured or sunk, and the fact that the new pirate craft are said to be much larger than the old, with more powerful engines and torpedoes of larger size, need not alarm us overmuch, because the bigger the vessel the greater difficulty in concealing its movements under water.

The warning should, however, be taken by the Admiralty in the spirit with which it is given, and every effort made to arm our merchant vessels with guns of sufficient power to enable them to deal with these assassins of the sea when attacked by them. The crew of such a pariah vessel, prowling under orders to sink unarmed merchantmen regardless of every human consideration, cannot but be cowards at heart. Proof that they are so is surely afforded by their shyness in attacking trading ships that they know to be armed. They much prefer to commit their loathsome crimes in safety.

The week has been seemingly a dull one on the western front; so our volunteer military guides are again beginning to tell us that we are not doing our duty by Russia, that there is discontent in the French ranks at our slowness, and so forth. All this is because we have had no "big battle" with the accompanying heavy toll of losses in killed and wounded, but it does not follow that we have not been making progress, and probably the progress has been quite as substantial, although not so spectacular, as in any week since the Somme offensive began. Consider the fact that our big artillery now throws a shell a distance of 15 miles, and imagine what that capacity means to the German organisation behind their fighting line. By reason of our command of the air, each shot is aimed at a mark, and that means constant disorganisation of the enemy's transport, constant destruction or wastage of their provisions and material, and slaughter amongst the troops coming forward to relieve those worn out or down at the front, and a general demoralisation difficult to measure. By-and-by, when the leaders of the Allied armies consider that the psychological moment has come they will again bite off a more or less extensive section of the German defensive fortifications and again bring their big guns up to throw shells yet a few more miles further back on the German supply and reinforcement organisations. Thus the armies of France and England are fulfilling their arduous duty. It is a trying duty, and exacting, but as surely as the weeks roll by the Germans are being consumed, and only by consuming them can we hope for a satisfactory peace. That is indeed the saddest part of all this horrible war. No peace is possible with a people gone mad as the Germans are, so abandoned to the committal of every form of cruelty and brutality debased minds can imagine, that they give the Allies who are pitted against them no alternative but to slay and slay until all power of resistance becomes completely disorganised. Why not pause to think now and then? The best way to end the war satisfactorily for the Allies is not to indulge continually in spectacular battle scenes of carnage, but, as Joffre put it long ago, to "nibble" away the life and strength of the loathly foe. That is just what the men in command are doing. Try, therefore, to cultivate a little patience, and also a trifle of charity in judgment.

Were he not so tragic a figure, Kaiser William II. would be one of the most amusing potentates of the day. When we heard that he had resolved to go to the funeral show in Vienna of his deceased colleague in tyranny, there came to mind his behaviour at Tangiers, where he revealed himself to be, with all his braggadocio air, a most arrant poltroon. As originally arranged, that visit to Morocco was intended to be in the fullest sense a spectacular display, with the Kaiser as chief performer, but some wag of a fellow contrived to get conveyed to him a hint that his life would be endangered if he landed in Tangiers, and it was only at the last moment that he could pluck up courage to dart on shore, mount his horse, and dash to the German consulate, rest there for a moment, and

then scurry back again to his ship. His terror is said to have been ludicrous to see. Remembering that incident, we thought it improbable that the Kaiser would enjoy the Viennese funeral display, and, sure enough, he did not. He got to Vienna, unaccompanied by his weed of a son, but his courage assumed the form of a bad cold that necessitated his going back home in the evening before the funeral pageant was formed.

Probably the elaborately staged and Press advertised successes of the Germans in Rumania have weighed much with Constantine the Dane, and led him to risk dismissal by refusing to obey the orders of his guarantors. His departure from Greece should surely follow this last open act of defiance, and if any of our royalties have, as gossip in the vapid circles of West End society persists in asserting, egged him on and backed him up to resist, they must now become powerless to further arrest judgment. The Allies cannot afford to leave enemies in arms, least of all traitorous enemies, behind them while forcing their way into Bulgaria.

Unquestionably the German bulletins published this (Friday) morning make things look as black as possible for Rumania. In this country, which is always ready to swallow the Huns' story, people are therefore asking with growing anxiety, is Rumania also to be overrun by the robber fiends of Germany? Will its army be beaten down by lead and poison like that of Belgium, like that of Serbia, or will the marauders be brought to judgment, as it were, by their own arrogant presumption, and in spite of the wolfish cunning of their attack? The question cannot be answered yet, but we have faith, not only in the Rumanian people and armies, but in the righteousness of their cause. And it must never be forgotten that, thanks to the manner in which the earlier German plans were foiled, Russia is free as well as able and willing to come to the help of her little neighbour, so that even should the first onset of the Germans succeed in overrunning the country, they will be swiftly brought to book, and, let us hope, to retribution.

People here are, we trust, following closely the debates in the Reichstag over the proposal of the German Government to make war service universal for men and women. All between the ages of 18 and 60 are to be put under martial discipline and made to do "war work" of some kind. There is a lesson of deep significance in this desperate step to us here, a warning that we also must bestir ourselves, and to unite in effort as we have never yet done if the war is not to drag on until we are all ruined. From one point of view this last agony-revealing attempt of the Germans to stave off defeat is encouraging; it reveals the hopeless condition of the Government and the straits of the nation; but from another it also indicates that the fury of rage over the impending defeat, over the baulking of their ambitions, is making the nation perfectly mad, careless of everything except revenge, ready to sacrifice all that it formerly held valuable in order to avoid the shame and ruin of defeat. For a time that abandonment of all ordinary considerations affecting a people's well-being and future intensifies the fury with which the enemy fights.

American Business Notes.

Wednesday's Harmsworth papers published a most interesting article by Mr. Thomas Curtin on the composition of the so-called Peace Committee which has been formed in New York to try and arrange for easy terms that would let off the Hohenzollern criminals from the consequences of their iniquities, and place them in a position to strut and brag of their invincible might as before. We thank Mr. Curtin for his instructive condensed biographies of the leading members of this committee, and for the information he bestows regarding the position of leading Jews in America, for the members of the committee appear to be almost entirely Israelites. At the heart of it is Mr. Jacob Schiff, a Jew of Frankfort, who is senior partner in the well-known firm of Kuhn, Loeb, and Co., New

York, the greatest bankers, barring Messrs. J. P. Morgan and Co., in that city. Mr. Schiff is the wealthiest Jew in the United States, Mr. Curtin tells us, and is surrounded by a number of other able and wealthy Jews who are with him upon this sinister-looking Peace Committee, and we are cautioned against putting any trust in a self-chosen body thus composed. Mr. Curtin, we think, need have no fear. The pacifist Jews in America, whether pro-Ally or pro-Teuton, are just as powerless to stop this war as Mr. Curtin himself. As we say in our "War Notes" this week, the Germans themselves are the one sure obstacle to peace, and their spokesman, whether he be German Chancellor, the posturing and mouthing Kaiser himself, or any other sort of madman, all labour unceasingly to prevent hints of peace from arising in the ranks of the Allies.

The Jews, though, should take care lest they end in provoking that outburst of persecution against their race which we have dreaded ever since the war began. It is not overlooked that they have played a large, a master, part in springing the German attack on an anxious but unprepared and unsuspecting world. By their Oriental ruthlessness in industrial and mercantile competition, a ruthlessness which, as M. Millioud justly says in this month's *World's Work*, was rapidly bringing the German Empire to insolvency, war or no war, they drove the capitalists at whose head they stand into the camp of the brutal Prussian military class, and their prominent newspapers in Vienna, in Frankfurt, in Berlin, in Hamburg, everywhere throughout Germany, have displayed such subservience and such an unscrupulousness in deceiving the German people since war broke out, that there has grown up against them a distrust, a shrinking repulsiveness, which should make their leaders study to lie low, lest they provoke an outbreak against themselves, the consequence of which will certainly be their despoiling. By many in all countries, and not least in America, their wealth is regarded as ill-gotten, and whether it is so or not—in many instances it is not—they are most prominent among the class which is to-day in the United States exciting a deep and widespread sentiment of loathing and disgust in the minds of the majority of all ranks among citizens. New York is to-day flaming its sudden gains from war in the eyes of the people with a shameless abandon in wantonness that invites the fate of Sodom. If, then, Mr. Schiff and his co-racials are well advised they will abandon their "peace" agitation, and strive to keep quiet for fear of raising the blind passions of the suffering peoples they have enslaved and helped to drive to their destruction to a pitch that would insure the outbreak of a persecution more ruthless, more universal, than any the race has ever before suffered from. The pity of it is that could the Jews but rise to an unselfish ideal of life, and abandon their eager, their often savagely unscrupulous pursuit of personal gain, their talents would surely lead them to take a high place in the ranks of those who must labour unceasingly and unselfishly in the years to come at the task of mankind's regeneration.

THE CAPE COPPER COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at a Meeting of the Directors of the Company held to-day, it was resolved—

"That a dividend of 1s. 4.8d. (making 6 per cent. for the year) be and is hereby declared on the Cumulative Preference Shares, and of 3s. per Share on the Ordinary Shares (both less Income Tax at 4s. 8d. in the £), payable on the 1st January, 1917, to the Shareholders on the Books of the Company on the 30th November, 1916, and that the Transfer Books be closed during the said 30th November, 1916."

Holders of Share Warrants to Bearer are informed that Preference Coupons No. 49 and Ordinary Coupons No. 58 will be payable at the above rate on presentation at the Company's Office.

By order of the Board,

P. J. FRANKS,
Secretary.

9, Queen Street Place,

London, E.C.

29th November, 1916.

N.B.—Warrants for the Dividend will be sent by post to the Shareholders at their registered addresses.

For we must see all our civilisations perish utterly as a result of this diabolical and devil-inspired conflict if we do not take care that the basis of the civilisation of the future should be entirely changed from what it has been in the past. What but that is the warning given by the incessant unrest among the miners in South Wales? We have been made to live in a paradise of fools, which this war is destroying, and our working-classes are finding it out. When they attain full consciousness of that knowledge, neither Jew nor Gentile capitalist can escape a conflict of retribution.

If one can draw any certain inference from the results of the Presidential contest, it does not seem probable that the American people can be stirred up to take an active share in peace-at-any-price negotiations. Assuredly, it looks as certain as anything in politics can be, that the solid German-American vote, as it is called, was without any sort of influence in deciding the contest. The great German-American city of Milwaukee voted for Mr. Wilson, so did St. Louis, and so, also, did the county in Ohio which contains Cincinnati, and all these places are full of German-Americans. Either, therefore, they did not vote as expected, or their vote was entirely swamped by the resoluteness with which the American people stuck to their tried President. That is one lesson which apparently can be deduced from the result of the fight at the polls, and another is that new ideas are beginning to assert themselves with effect in the West and South. Evidently the Republicans do not like the prospect, but they will have to put up with it or else contemplate the possibility of a new secession. The Republican majority in the great State of New York was smaller, but in Illinois it was slightly increased. It rose, in fact, to 185,000, as compared with 179,000 in 1908, the last contest with which fair comparison can be made, because the one four years later was fought with a split Republican party, the malcontents of which were led by Mr. Roosevelt. It is significant, however, that in old Republican strongholds like Massachusetts, the Republican majority dropped from 110,000 to 21,000, that New Jersey gave 54,000 majority instead of 82,000, Maine 5,100 instead of 31,000, Connecticut 5,000 instead of 44,000, and even Pennsylvania 180,000 compared with 296,000. Thus it would seem that President Wilson even satisfied his Republican enemies to a degree that made his re-election sure, in spite of the votes in individual States cast against him. So the West and South alone did not put him back in his place.

The Fall River cotton mills in New England are sharing in the prosperity brought about by munition expenditure on the part of the Allied Governments in the United States. For the twelve months of the year now ending it is computed that the shareholders in the thirty-eight cotton mills have had a greater return on their investments than for several years back. The capital of these thirty-eight companies is \$30,332,000, and they have received this year 7.75 per cent. on that capital, whereas in 1915 they only got \$3.73, and in 1914 no more than 4.21 per cent. The greatest annual return on record is 11.09 per cent., in 1907, and the smallest 2.41 per cent., in 1898, that being the average for the whole of the companies whose figures are tabulated in the New York Commercial Chronicle. Some of the companies, however, seldom pay any dividend, and only a few can be regarded as splendidly prosperous, in spite of the tariff shelter provided for them.

How many miles of United States railroad are in the hands of receivers? We do not quite know, but at the end of last year 38,660 miles were thus foreclosed upon. There have been some additions during the current year, but these 38,660 miles represent a capitalisation of no less than £471,000,000, of which, say, £322,000,000 is in bonds and the remainder in stock. It is probable that this amount may be increased sensibly by the end of the current year, but the facts, as stated, are not altogether reassuring amid such abounding prosperity as now prevails throughout the Republic.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

Anglo-French (Transvaal) Navigation Coal Estates.—Interim of 10 per cent. (2s. per share) on the 7 per cent. cumulative preference. The above dividend will pay off all arrears and bring payment of annual interest up to date—namely, Aug. 16, 1916.

Attarce Khat Tea.—Interim of 6 per cent., same as last year.

Bank of New South Wales.—At the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for quarter ended Sept. 30, placing £50,000 to reserve, with £105,242 forward, same as a year ago, with £50,000 to reserve and £111,065 forward.

Bargang Tea.—Interim of 15 per cent.

Borbheel Tea.—Interim of 15 per cent.

Bordubi Tea.—Interim of 6 per cent., same as last year.

Borelli Tea.—Interim of 5 per cent., same as last year.

Briseis Tin.—6d. per share, less tax, payable Dec. 21.

British Electric Traction.—On the 6 per cent. cumulative participating preference for half year ended Sept. 30.

Camp Bird.—At the rate of 7 per cent. per annum on the preference for half-year ending Dec. 31, 1916, payable Jan. 1, free tax. Canadian General Electric.—Quarterly of 2½ per cent. for three months ending Dec. 31, making 8 per cent. for the year on the common; for the corresponding quarter 1½ per cent. was paid.

Champion Reef Gold of India.—Balance for year ended Sept. 30 of 6d. per share (less tax at the rate of 4s.), payable Jan. 2, making 1s. per share, or 40 per cent. for year, against 1s. 4d. per share, or 53 1-3 per cent.

Consolidated Tea and Lands.—Interim is 5 per cent. actual, same as last year.

Dreyfus and Co.—Final of 3½ per cent. on the ordinary, making 6 per cent. for year to June 30, £5,000 to general reserve, and £2,800 to reserve for redemption of goodwill, with £11,947 forward, same as a year ago, £2,500 to reserve, and £7,956 forward.

Eastern Assam Co.—Interim on account of 1916 of 5 per cent., free tax, payable Dec. 13, same as a year ago.

Ghoir Allie Tea.—Interim of 40 per cent.

Griffiths Lewis Steam Navigation.—Final of 8 per cent., making 20 per cent. for the year, free tax, payable Dec. 10, same as last year.

Highlands and Lowlands Para Rubber.—Second interim on account of 1916 of 12 per cent., less tax, payable Dec. 20.

Jugra Estate.—Interim of 30 per cent. on the ordinary and 35 per cent. on the cumulative preference, payable Dec. 9, against 20 per cent. on ordinary.

Kalgurli Gold Mines.—Interim on the ordinary of 2s. 6d. per share, less tax, payable Jan. 6, same as a year ago.

Kapar Para Rubber.—Second interim in respect of year ending Dec. 31 of 15 per cent., less tax, payable Dec. 15, making 30 per cent. so far this year, same as last year.

Madingley (Malay) Rubber.—Interim of 4 per cent., less tax, on account of year to Feb. 28, 1917, against 3 per cent.

Majuli Tea. Interim of 7½ per cent., same as last year.

Mergui Crown Rubber.—Interim at the rate of 7½ per cent. (actual), payable (less tax at 5s.) on Dec. 15, against 5 per cent.

Moabund Tea.—Interim of 7½ per cent., same as last year.

Mount Morgan Gold Mining (Queensland).—Dividend 1s. per share, payable Dec. 29.

North Lonsdale Iron and Steel.—8 per cent., making 14 per cent. for year, against 12½ per cent.

Pennsylvania Water and Power.—1½ per cent. for quarter ending Dec. 31, against 1 per cent.

Rosehaugh Tea and Rubber.—Second interim of 10 per cent. (actual), free tax, on the ordinary, payable on Dec. 11, in respect of year ending Dec. 31, making 17½ per cent., so far this year, against 12½ per cent.

St. Louis Breweries.—4s. per share (2 per cent.) on the ordinary, payable Jan. 1, against 1 per cent.

Sialang Rubber.—Interim of 8 per cent., less tax at 4s. 3d. (actual), in respect of year ending Jan. 31, payable Dec. 19, equivalent to 1s. 7 1-2d. per share. No further interim will be paid in respect of the year 1916-17. Against 6 per cent.

South African Breweries.—5 per cent. on the ordinary, being at the rate of 10 per cent. for the year, less tax of 3s. 6d. in the £, same as a year ago.

Southern India Tea.—Interim on ordinary of 9d. per share, free tax, on account of year ending Feb. 28, payable Dec. 11.

Steel of Canada.—4 per cent. on the ordinary, payable Jan. 1, out of earned profits for year ending Dec. 31, against nil a year ago.

Sulphide Corporation.—Final of 20 per cent. on the preference and 20 per cent. on the ordinary, payable Dec. 30, making 30 per cent. on both classes of shares paid out of the profit earned during year ended June 30 last against 20 per cent.

Telogoredjo United Plantations.—Interim of 5 per cent., less tax at 4s. 6d., on account of year ending Dec. 31, payable Dec. 12.

Trust Union.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, less tax, on the ordinary for half-year to Nov. 15, payable Dec. 15, same as a year ago.

Ulu Rantau Rubber.—Second interim in respect of year ending Dec. 31 last of 10 per cent., less tax, payable on Dec. 15, making, so far this year, 17½ per cent., against 15 per cent.

Union Bank of Canada.—Bonus of 1 per cent., payable Dec. 1, in addition to the usual quarterly, making 10 per cent. for twelve months.

Vallambrosa Rubber.—Interim of 25 per cent. (6d per share), less tax at 5s., in respect of year ending March 31, 1917, same as a year ago.

The Standard Bank of South Africa has opened a branch at Moorsburg, in the Cape Province, and an agency at Wellington Station, Wellington, Cape Province.

IRISH RAILWAYS.

		£	£		£	£
Belfast and County Down ..	Nov. 24	3,262	+	144	174,522	+ 7,344
Grand Canal	" 24	1,022	—	26	22,189	+ 2,257
Great Northern	" 24	23,385	+	1,835	1,134,773	+ 42,923
Gt. Southern and Western ..	" 24	35,519	+	3,456	1,579,108	+ 1,687
Midland Great Western ..	" 24	13,663	+	834	622,551	+ 13,505

* From Jan. 1. † From July 1.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
Assam Bengal ..	Oct. 21	1,32,000	+	15,546	+	3,98,000	+	31,497
Bengal & N.-W. ..	" 21	3,64,430	+	54,087	+	9,60,430	+	96,455
Bengal Nagpur ..	" 28	8,78,000	—	17,000	+	2,79,07,638	+	44,53,457
Bombay, Baroda ..	Nov. 18	13,64,000	+	53,000	+	81,68,000	—	3,67,000
Burma ..	Oct. 21	4,10,599	+	1,08,276	+	1,13,00,929	+	7,28,195
Delhi Umballa ..	Nov. 11	97,000	+	34,371	+	4,86,900	+	75,478
East Indian ..	" 25	21,48,000	—	97,000	+	1,70,83,000	+	7,25,000
Gt. Indian Penin. ..	" 18	21,76,600	+	4,25,400	+	1,21,87,000	+	10,20,576
Lucknow-Bareilly ..	Oct. 14	30,934	—	395	+	59,132	—	490
Madras and S. ..	" 28	8,50,000	+	38,340	+	34,66,000	+	2,10,061
Mahratta ..	" 28	98,516	—	25,367	+	446,969	—	22,191
Nizam's Gd. (Broad) ..	" 28	57,025	—	5,939	+	2,33,327	—	13,942
" (Metre) ..	" 28							
Robilkund and ..	" 14	31,497	—	2,418	+	63,056	—	110
Kumaon ..	" 28	5,22,933	—	21,757	+	22,63,188	+	47,407
South Indian ..								

a 13 days. † April 1. † October 1.

COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

		£		£		£		£
Beira...	Sept. *	27,898	—	10,848	3	100,689	—	7,577
Canadian Northern	Nov. 21	\$853,000	+	\$84,100	1	\$16,986,900	+	\$4209,900
Canadian Pacific	" 21	\$2,984,000	+	\$24,000	1	\$59,825,000	+	\$10420,000
Gr. Trk. Main Line	" 21	200,854	+	62,925	1	8,654,021	+	1,436,811
Gr. Trk. Western	" 21	34,973	+	5,630	1	1,707,112	+	395,382
Detroit G. H. & M.	" 21	11,219	+	2,554	1	604,869	+	95,454
Gr Trk Pac Prairie Sc	" 21	26,401	+	15,707	1	414,523	+	88,563
Mashonaland	Sept. *	54,414	+	1,436	4		+	
Mid. of Westn. Aus.	" *	6,464	+	811	3	17,169	+	444
New Cape Central.	Oct. 28	1,746	+	144	1	67,220	+	7,834
Rhodesia	Sept. *	87,187	+	8,740	4	350,971	+	27,197

a 9 days. * Months. † July 1. † Jan. 1. c From Oct. 1.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

		\$		\$		\$		\$
Chesapeake & Ohio	Nov. 14	941,000	+	38,000	+	18,334,000	+	1,012,000
Chicago G.W.	" 14	374,000	+	17,000	+	6,381,000	+	804,000
Colorado & South'n	" 14	—	+	14,000	+	—	+	547,000
Denver & Rio Gran.	" 14	558,000	+	44,000	+	10,590,000	+	324,000
Louisv'e & Nashv'e	" 14	1,389,000	+	195,000	+	24,613,000	+	3,236,000
Minn. S.P. (Soo)	Oct. 31	991,000	+	142,000	+	12,465,000	+	993,000
Missouri Kansas	Nov. 14	828,000	+	135,000	+	15,198,000	+	3,114,000
Southern	" 14	1,617,000	+	197,000	+	28,958,000	+	3,414,000

§ Includes Wisconsin Central. † From July 1.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—HOME.

		£	£	£	£			
Bristol	Nov. 24	9,351	—	283	†	474,995	+	23,826
Dublin United ..	" 24	5,829	+	478	†	286,534	+	715
Hastings and Dist..	" 24	727	+	53	†	49,258	+	3,174
Isle of Thanet ..	" 25	235	+	24	*	2,269	+	23
Lancashire United..	" 22	1,667	+	166	†	86,192	+	4,976
Provincial	" 25	1,866	—	11	†	16,864	+	325
Yorks. (Wst. Rdng.)	" 26	1,675	+	255	†	84,513	+	8,754

* From Oct. 1. † From Jan. 1.

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
	Week ending	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	W'ks.	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.
Alcoy and Gandia ..	Nov. 25	Ps. 19,500	+ Ps. 4,500	+	Ps. 600,300	+ Ps. 32,100
Antofagasta (Chili) ..	" 26	41,560	+ 11,225	+	1,634,375	+ 46,400
Arauco ..	Oct. 25	12,000	+ 2,775	+	185,238	+ 30,491
Argentina N.E. ..	Nov. 25	6,000	+ 300	+	140,302	+ 5,064
Bilbao R. and Canta ..	Oct. *	5,337	— 558	10	46,807	— 3,541
Bolivar ..	" *	6,750	— 1,574	+	30,250	— 458
Brazil ..	Sept. *	M3,863,000	+ M365,734	+	M2,209,000	+ M268,942
Brazil Gt. Southern ..	Aug. *	Mis. 36,50	+ M2,500	+	M282,070	+ M9,470
B. Ayres & Pacific ..	Nov. 25	79,000	+ 7,000	+	1,763,000	+ 82,000
Do. Central ..	Oct. 25	27,415	— 202	4	102,558	— 3,631
Do. Gt. South'n ..	Nov. 26	117,000	— 1,000	+	2,159,254	+ 228,346
Do. Western ..	" 26	56,000	—	+	1,109,000	+ 125,000
Central Argentine ..	" 25	110,000	+ 3,000	+	2,366,700	+ 45,300
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte V. ..	" 25	15,456	+ 1,383	+	253,347	+ 8,486
Do. East'n Ex. ..	" 25	5,612	+ 1,358	+	85,393	+ 7,370
Do. North'n Ex. ..	" 25	3,322	+ 359	+	41,269	+ 204
Do. West'n Ex. ..	" 25	2,543	+ 32	+	38,085	+ 89
Colombian National ..	Oct. *	12,400	+ 2,200	10	115,850	+ 11,608
Cordoba Central ..	Nov. 25	25,000	+ 575	+	653,475	+ 2,360
Costa Rica ..	Oct. 7	4,517	— 357	7	73,536	— 4,297
Cuban Central ..	Nov. 25	7,995	+ 1,401	+	191,575	+ 22,695
Dorada Extension ..	Oct. *	9,800	+ 2,700	+	82,300	+ 4,500
Egyptian Delta ..	" 31a	10,086	+ 3,162	+	116,240	+ 22,357
Entre Rios ..	Nov. 25	10,800	+ 900	+	245,200	+ 38,300
French Sante Fé ..	Sept. *	99,264	+ 21,541	9	818,311	+ 133,999
Gr. South'n of Spain ..	Nov. 18	Pa. 68,487	+ Ps. 5,129	+	P 3,469,998	+ Ps 712,247
Gt. West. of Brazil ..	" 25	20,500	+ 6,700	+	491,100	+ 20,000
Havana Central ..	" 25	7,007	+ 1,380	+	132,582	+ 15,720
Inter. of C. Amer. ..	Oct. c*	33,082	+ 5,424	+	479,670	+ 78,953
La Guaira and Car. ..	" 25	6,500	— 250	+	78,250	— 10,500
Leopoldina ..	Nov. 25	27,187	+ 5,311	+	1,177,045	+ 228,159
Manila (Nr. & Sth.) ..	" 25	9,546	+ 1,843	+	436,114	+ 26,414
Midland Uruguay ..	Oct. *	14,043	+ 4,557	4	44,639	+ 2,133
Mogiana ..	Sept. *	M2,300,000	+ M131,436	+	M166,000	+ M174,162
N. W. of Uruguay ..	Oct. *	26,000	+ 84,616	+	892,536	+ 81,345
Nitrate ..	Nov. 15b	30,207	+ 9,799	+	589,425	+ 287,722
Paraguay Central ..	" 18	3,240	+ 560	+	51,820	+ 4,470
Paulista ..	Sept. *	M3,500,000	+ M393,404	+	M227,500	+ M175,742
Peruvian Corp'n ..	Oct. *	5945,596	+ M38,690	+	53,588,830	+ 548,773
Salvador ..	Nov. 25	821,300	+ 81,900	+	842,305	+ 83,250
S. Paulo (Brazilian) ..	" 19	34,336	+ 468	+	1,304,152	+ 92,345
Sorocabana ..	Sept. *	M1,856,000	+ M137,383	+	M136,900	+ M918,634
Taital ..	Oct. *	22,395	+ 4,687	4	78,660	+ 13,206
United of Havana ..	Nov. 25	35,160	+ 7,377	+	650,655	+ 117,667
West'n of Havana ..	" 25	5,501	+ 476	+	121,307	+ 17,998
Zafra and Huelva ..	Oct. *	12,013	+ 657	10	116,21	+ 31,402

* Months. † From Jan. 1. † From July 1. c Nett. b 15 days. a 10 days.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.

		£		£	Ms.	£		£
Anglo-Argentine ..	Nov. 25	52,241	—	166	a	2,401,981	+	4,896
Auckland Electric ..	" 20b	21,428	+	597	10	84,286	+	1,160
Brazilian Traction ..	Oct. 1	M3,821,000	+	M86,000	M	38,194,000	+	M931,580
Brisbane Elec. Inv.	" 1	32,760	+	850	10	330,420	+	23,466
British Columbia ..	" 1	993,418	+	34,643	4	293,803	+	148,636
B.A. Lacroze ..	" 1	39,760	—	2,846	4	151,613	—	13,184
Burmah Electric ..	Sept. 16b	Rs. 23,749	+	Rn. 1,586	+	—	+	Rs. 839
Calcutta ..	Nov. 25	Rs. 71,206	+	Rn. 1,515	*	Rs. 30,34,360	+	171,557
Cordoba Light ..	" 1		+				+	
P. & T. ..	Sept. *	13,389	+	179	5	84,554	+	648
Hongkong ..	Oct. 28	12,398	+	1,594	5	623,225	+	149,607
La Plata ..	" 5	4,435	+	30	10	42,057	—	226
Lima ..	Sept. *	33,348	+	2,818	9	304,058	+	288,281
Madras Electric ..	Nov. 15c	Rs. 31,596	+	Rn. 2,155	5	Rs. 65,506	+	Rs. 47,182
Mexico ..	" 1	215,256	+	108,669	11	3,193,106	—	197,227
Rangoon ..	Oct. 1	5,043	+	157	7	41,522	—	1,844
Singapore Electric ..	" 21	12,463	+	245	5	489,975	+	54,820
Toronto ..	" 1	460,556	+	10,649	15	3,918,111	+	402,548
United of Monte V. ..	Oct. 1	28,729	+	1,545	12	347,772	+	17,171
Vera Cruz ..	May *	85,206	+	35,400	10	372,600	+	178,200
Winnipeg ..	Oct. 1	96,243	+	8,727	11	975,126	+	23,556

b 28 days. * From Jan. 1. † Nett. a From July 1. c Two weeks.

MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

NAME.		NETT EARNINGS FOR MONTH.			No of M'ths.	NETT EARNINGS TO DATE.		
		Month.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year		Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year	
		Dols.				Dols.	Dols.	
Atchison T. & S. Fé	Sept.	4,784,000	+ 1,145,000	3	13,993,000	+ 3,403,000		
Atlantic Coast Line	"	626,000	+ 184,000	3	1,602,000	+ 833,000		
Baltimore & Ohio ..	"	3,313,000	+ 119,000	3	9,668,000	+ 3,000		
Canadian Northern	Oct.	1,220,300	— 36,700	4	4,222,300	+ 1,111,300		
Canadian Pacific ..	"	5,675,000	— 904,000	4	20,290,000	+ 2,723,000		
Chesapeake & Ohio	Sept.	1,509,000	— 12,000	3	4,672,000	+ 418,000		
Chicago & N.W. ..	"	3,059,000	+ 298,000	3	8,301,000	+ 2,270,000		
Chicago Burl. & Q.	"	4,341,000	+ 921,000	3	10,979,000	+ 2,923,000		
Chicago G.W. ..	"	459,000	+ 79,000	3	1,298,000	+ 345,000		
Chicago Mil. & S.P.	"	3,121,000	+ 244,000	3	9,616,000	+ 930,000		
Chicago, Rock I. & P.	"	2,299,000	+ 898,000	3	6,304,000	+ 2,983,000		
Colorado & Southern	"	585,000	+ 104,000	3	1,592,000	+ 446,000		
Cuba	"	183,000	+ 14,000	3	705,000	+ 129,000		
Delaware & Hud. ..	"	671,000	— 156,000	9	5,886,000	+ 160,000		
Denver & Rio Grand	"	923,000	— 85,000	3	2,554,000	+ 272,000		
Erie	"	1,557,000	— 864,000	9	13,971,000	+ 991,000		
Gr. Tr. Main Line. .	Oct.	£ 577,000	+ £ 58,400	10	£ 2,320,400	+ £ 232,550		
Grand Trunk Westn	"	£ 24,050	— £ 21,050	10	£ 384,150	+ £ 208,100		
Detroit G. H. & Mil.	"	£ 1,450	— 554,000	10	£ 31,100	+ £ 5,500		
Gr. Northern .. .	Sept.	3,486,000	+ 554,000	3	9,977,000	+ 948,000		
Illinois Central ..	"	1,614,000	+ 287,000	3	4,708,000	+ 1,126,000		
Kansas City Southn.	"	330,000	+ 12,000	3	1,022,000	+ 96,000		
Lehigh Valley ..	"	1,085,000	+ 65,000	3	3,514,000	+ 245,000		
Louisville & Nashvl.	"	1,502,000	+ 688,000	3	4,803,000	+ 806,000		
Minn. S.P. (Soo) ..	"	1,121,000	+ 147,000	3	3,067,000	+ 1,017,080		
Miss. K. & Texas ..	"	758,000	+ 173,000	3	2,081,000	+ 347,000		
Missouri Pacific ..	"	1,621,000	+ 404,000	3	4,395,000	+ 1,086,000		
New York Cent. & H.	"	6,176,000	+ 597,000	9	48,025,000	+ 1,4902,000		
N. Y. N. Haven & H.	"	2,187,000	+ 26,000	3	6,931,000	+ 460,000		
New York Ont. & W.	"	188,000	+ 1,000	3	970,000	+ 54,000		
Norfolk & Western.	"	1,986,000	+ 90,000	3	5,949,000	+ 551,000		
Northern Pacific ..	"	3,344,000	+ 293,000	3	8,505,000	+ 1,629,000		
Pennsylvania East	"							
and West Lines. .	"	10,786,000	— 435,000	9	94,995,000	+ 24408,000		
St. Louis & San F.	"	1,689,000	+ 495,000	3	4,416,000	+ 896,000		
Seaboard Air Line.	"	496,000	+ 66,000	3	1,231,000	+ 74,000		
Southern	"	1,855,000	+ 176,000	3	5,082,000	+ 607,000		
Southern Pacific ..	Oct.	5,915,000	+ 632,000	4	22,376,000	+ 3,167,000		
Union Pacific ..	"	5,797,000	+ 1,128,000	4	18,703,000	+ 3,854,000		
Wabash	"	1,236,000	+ 317,000	10	9,493,000	+ 4,859,000		

SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1824.

FUNDS OVER £10,500,000.

FIRE (INCLUDING LOSS OF PROFITS), LIFE, ACCIDENT, ILLNESS, ANNUITIES, PENSIONS, LEASEHOLD, BURGLARY, CLASS BREAKAGE, TRANSIT OF SECURITIES, FIDELITY, PROPERTY OWNERS' LIABILITIES, HORSE DRIVING ACCIDENTS, MOTOR CAR RISKS, THIRD PARTY, EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY AND MARINE INSURANCES EFFECTED ON THE MOST FAVOURABLE TERMS.

Edinburgh: 35, St. Andrew Square.

London: 5, Walbrook, E.C., and 5, Pall Mall, S.

PHENIX

ASSURANCE COMPANY
LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1782.

Head Office: PHENIX HOUSE, KING WILLIAM STREET, LONDON, E.C.

Total Assets Exceed £16,000,000.

Claims Paid Exceed £94,000,000.

Chairman—RT. HON. LORD GEORGE HAMILTON, P.C., G.C.S.I.

FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT. MARINE.

Loss of Profits following Fire, Workmen's Compensation, Fidelity Guarantee, Burglary, Trustee and Executor, &c.

Prospectuses and Proposal Forms may be obtained on application to any of Branch Offices or Agencies, or to the Head Office.

General Manager - SIR GERALD H. RYAN.

The Investors' Review.

Money and Credit Notes.

BANK RATE 6 PER CENT. (Increased from 5 per cent. on Thursday, July 13.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

No change of importance has occurred this week in the Money market. Sometimes there is a little more credit offering than at others, but on the whole the supply is always adequate to meet the wants, and the rate for call loans has generally been about 5 per cent. or $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 5, seven-day money being steady at 5. Yesterday the market became easier, and call money was lent at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. towards the afternoon, so that the buying of December Treasury bills by the banks was stimulated. It is probable that interest and dividend disbursements of one kind or another, but principally Government, will rather glut the short credit market next week, if the estimate that something like £30,000,000 will be disbursed is accurate. Russian borrowings continue to affect the supplies of credit, and more Russian bills were paid for this week. There was a rather better supply of remitted bills, but business remains quiet and rates unchanged, as shown in our table. Even the keenest dealers only worked at $\frac{1}{8}$ below the quotations given out by the large discount companies.

As for the Bank return, it, as usual, tells us nothing, but we can at least understand how rates keep at an undisturbed level of comfortableness, for the supply of other deposits keeps on the average increasing. The total rose last week by £3,851,000 to £109,269,000, and consequently, although the reserve fell off £1,102,000, owing to an increase of £737,000 in the note circulation and a decrease of £365,000 in the gold, the effect upon rates was nil. Other securities also showed a large increase of £5,637,000, and that sufficed not only to refresh the other deposits and to add £656,000 to the Government or public deposits, but cover, likewise, the draft upon the reserve. Owing to the increase in liabilities in these ways brought about, and the decrease in the reserve, the proportion declined by $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to $22\frac{1}{2}$.

It is no wonder that Mr. McKenna's statement on the double taxation grievance has disappointed business people in the City. As far as we can understand, it was not a particularly wise answer, for to minimise a real grievance and airily postpone its settlement until after the end of the war, is calculated to bring about a state of things which may sensibly lessen our power to collect revenue then. The Times says that last year

Dalgety and Co., the well-known and powerful Australian land, mortgage, and trading company, had to pay an extra £41,000 in income-tax, and will this time have to add £20,000 to that. It looks like a hardship to add burdens like these on to the load imposed by the Australian Government. Surely it would be simpler and, in the end, more prolific of revenue as well as much less irritating, to fix the maximum dividend payable by these companies during the war and to order all earnings over and above to be divisible between the Australian and Home Exchequers. It does not really matter very much into which purse the money goes, for it is all absorbed in one direction, in providing for the costs of the war.

Those people who believe that German influences have induced the Federal Reserve Board to try and stop the sale of British Treasury bills in New York are probably in the right. The most influential member of that board was a partner in the firm of Kuhn, Loeb and Co., and although his sympathies may not be strongly anti-British, they are certainly not too favourable to us. But perhaps in issuing its notice cautioning the Federal Reserve Banks against locking up funds in long or short term obligations of Foreign Governments, the board may unwittingly have done us a good turn. We certainly have not been enthusiastic over the prospect of a traffic in our Treasury promissory notes in America. Their rates of interest would be subject to fluctuations, and might sometimes be moved about by enemy influences to our hurt. It would be better, therefore, to try and arrange a straight, clean loan offered partly on the security of our credit if it must be that we have to go on borrowing abroad. Even the pro-German Federal Board could not object to that since, with a droll inconsistency, it recommends the banks it controls to purchase long-dated American and Foreign securities instead of British Treasury bills.

An example has been furnished already by Russia which has succeeded in negotiating a loan of \$50,000,000 on the security of the country's credit with sundry leading bankers in New York. It is to bear $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. interest and will be redeemable in five years. As usual with Russia, it will be exempt from all Russian taxes, and will be offered to the public at $94\frac{3}{4}$ plus accrued interest. It will therefore yield the investor about $6\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., and it is probable that we shall not be able to borrow money at a much lower figure.

According to a circular issued by the syndicate of banks, Messrs. J. P. Morgan and Co., the National City Co., the Guaranty Trust Co., Lee, Higginson and Co., and Harris, Forbes and Co., the Customs revenues of Russia in the normal year 1913 came to about £39,000,000, which compares with an average of £32,140,000 for the five years 1908-12 inclusive. It is

THE MANCHESTER AND LIVERPOOL DISTRICT BANKING COMPANY

LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1829.

Head Office: Spring Gardens, Manchester.

London Office: 75, Cornhill.

Deposits	-	-	-	£30,630,010
Cash, etc, Bills, Investments	-	-	-	20,475,555
Advances	-	-	-	13,454,332

30th June 1916.

Foreign Banking Business transacted.
Bank acts as Trustee or Executor.

also stated that the volume of American exports to Russia has been steadily increasing, and that the object of the loan is to facilitate the continuance of this growing export. The whole of the loan is not to be offered at once, but only half, the banks taking an option on the other half.

Still another £500,000 of the 4½ per cent. sterling loans of the Imperial Japanese Government has been bought by the Yokohama Specie Bank for cancellation. The purchase consists of £250,000 each of the first and second series, and completes the redemption of £3,000,000 since April 1, for which provision was made in the Japanese Budget. Further purchases, however, may be expected, as the Government has succeeded in placing its internal 5 per cent. loan, of which £2,000,000 is to be devoted to the redemption of sterling debt.

SILVER.

China has again been a large buyer of silver in San Francisco, and the supplies coming into this market from the United States have been correspondingly reduced. At the same time there has been a big demand for the metal from India due to bear covering, and the price has steadily advanced from 34½d. to 35½d. per oz. Messrs. Mocatta and Goldsmid say that after a rise of over 1d. per oz. some reaction would seem due, and may well be expected, but the undertone and the statistical position of the market are good, and likely to remain so till nearer the China New Year, when the demand for that quarter will probably be less keen.

Applications for the Rs. 50,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 5,44,50,000. Of these, Rs. 62,000 were allotted in bills, Rs. 7,02,000 in deferred transfers, and Rs. 42,36,000 in immediate transfers. Tenders for bills and deferred transfers at 1s. 4 3/32d., and for immediate transfers at 1s. 4 1/2d., will receive about 8 per cent. Special sales have also been made of Rs. 31,08,000 in deferred transfers at 1s. 4 1/2d., Rs. 99,00,000 in immediate transfers at 1s. 4 5/32d. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is again Rs. 50,00,000. Since April 1 the total sales have been Rs. 23,45,33,944, realising £15,755,073.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, November 29, 1916.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued	72,734,180	Government Debt ..	11,015,100
		Other Securities ..	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	54,284,180
		Silver Bullion ..	—
	£72,734,180		£72,734,180

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital ..	14,553,000	Government Securities ..	42,188,117
Real	3,217,403	Other Securities ..	104,270,976
Public Deposits (including		Notes	35,077,895
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,758,862
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	56,236,730		
Other Deposits	109,268,585		
Seven Day and other Bills	20,132		
	£183,295,850		£183,295,850

Dated Nov. 30, 1916.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year.

Last year. Dec. 1.		Nov. 22, 1916.	Nov. 29, 1916.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,270,501	Rest	3,188,932	3,217,403	28,471	—
50,360,517	Pub. Deposits ..	55,580,473	56,236,730	656,257	—
93,523,478	Other do. ..	105,417,901	109,268,585	3,850,685	—
16,434	7 Day Bills ..	20,142	20,132	—	10
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
29,840,118	Gov. Securities.	42,187,582	42,188,117	—	535
96,481,248	Other do. ..	98,634,422	104,270,976	—	5,636,554
35,413,564	Total Reserve ..	37,938,443	36,836,757	1,101,686	—
				5,637,099	5,637,099
£		£	£	Increase	Decrease.
34,275,105	Note Circulation	36,919,590	37,656,285	736,695	—
51,238,669	Coin and Bullion	56,408,333	56,043,042	—	364,991
24.6 p.c.	Proportion ..	23.6 p.c.	22.3 p.c.	—	1.3 p.c.
5	Bank Rate ..	6	6	—	—

ON MONDAY,

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The Times

IMPERIAL AND FOREIGN

TRADE SUPPLEMENT

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AT ALL THE BOOKSTALLS, ONE PENNY.

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CURRENCY NOTES.

Return of Currency Notes for the week ended November 29, 1916.

	Issued.	Cancelled.	Outstanding.
£1 notes	4,029,742	3,339,167	93,634,305
10s. notes	1,301,048	1,217,480	28,387,912
Note certificates	50,000	50,000	14,560,000
Previous total	475,626,650	339,812,376	—
	481,001,440	344,119,220	136,582,217

Ratio of gold held against notes: this week, 23.39 p.c.; last week, 23.59 p.c.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.
(For 7 days ended Nov. 25.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE
Customs	National Debt Service
Excise	Interest, &c., on War Debt
Estate, &c., Duties	Development & Road Impvt.
Stamps	Payments to Local Taxation
Land Tax and House Duty	Other Consolidated Fund
Property and Income Tax	Charges
Excess Profits Tax	Supply Services
Land Values	Bullion Advances
Post Office	For Advance for Interest
Crown Lands	on Exchequer Bonds under
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	Capital Expenditure
Miscellaneous	(Money) Act, 1904
Bullion advances repaid	For Treasury Bills
For Treasury Bills	For Exchequer Bonds issued
War Loan, 1925-8	under the War Loan Re-
War Loan, 1925-45	demption Act, 1910
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919	Issues under Section 61 of
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920	Finance Act, 1916
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1921	Under Telegraph (Money)
6% Exchequer Bonds, 1920	Act, 1913
War Expenditure Certificates	Under Post Office (Lon-
War Savings Certificates	don) Railway Act, 1913
Other Debts created under	Under Housing Act
War Loan Act, 1915 and	Public Buildings Expendi-
Finance Act, 1916	ture Act, 1903
Telegraph Money Act, 1913	Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8
Under Post Office Rly. Act,	Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11
1913	For Redemption of Ex-
Under Military Works Acts,	chequer Bonds, 1904
1897-1903	Exchequer Bonds, 1916
Under Housing Act	Cunard Loan repayment is-
Redemption of Exchequer	suad to reduce debt under
Bonds, 1904	the Cunard Agreement
Cunard Loan—repayment on	Deficiency advances repaid
account of principal	Ways and Means Advances
Suez Canal Drawn Shares	repaid
Ways and Means Advances	Increase in Exchequer
Decrease in Exchequer	balances
balances	
£124,060,630	£124,060,630

SHORT TERM GOVERNMENT LOANS.

	Nett Sales Last Week.	Nett Sales This Week.	Total Outstanding.
Treasury Bills	10,277,000	11,368,000	1,124,474,000
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919	—	—	34,222,000
Do. 1920	—	—	237,805,969
Do. 1921	—	—	62,464,000
6% Exchequer Bonds	12,508,000	10,192,000	112,042,000
War Expenditure Certificates	247,000	534,000	28,690,500
War Savings Certificates	1,250,000	700,000	36,500,000

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1916.	1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
January	1,071,948,000	918,685,000	153,263,000	—
February	1,107,655,000	960,743,000	146,912,000	—
March	1,364,599,000	1,231,392,000	133,207,000	—
April	1,090,356,000	976,264,000	114,092,000	—
May	1,447,416,000	1,164,194,000	283,222,000	—
June	1,147,630,000	960,209,000	187,421,000	—
July	1,239,193,000	1,316,695,000	—	77,502,000
August	1,364,782,000	1,352,519,000	12,263,000	—
September	1,136,590,000	1,000,008,000	136,582,000	—
October	1,304,880,000	1,090,919,000	213,961,000	—
Nov. 1	315,087,000	273,423,000	41,664,000	—
" 8	312,043,000	269,284,000	42,759,000	—
" 15	322,327,000	264,398,000	59,929,000	—
" 22	323,713,000	261,627,000	62,086,000	—
" 29	322,618,000	263,784,000	58,834,000	—
Total	13,870,837,000	12,302,144,000	1,568,693,000	—

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	Nov. 25, 1916	Nov. 18, 1916	Nov. 11, 1916	Nov. 27, 1915
Loans	689,312,000	691,672,000	680,378,000	627,642,000
Reserve held in own Vaults	81,240,000	88,042,000	93,632,000	103,416,000
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk.	35,610,000	36,126,000	34,634,000	33,090,000
Reserve held in Other Depos.	11,226,000	11,158,000	10,830,000	10,626,000
Nett Demand Deposits	677,514,000	686,502,000	678,988,000	643,136,000
Nett Time Deposits	33,372,000	33,678,000	33,854,000	29,082,000
Circulation	6,030,000	6,124,000	6,248,000	7,018,000
Excess Lawful Reserve	11,394,000	16,954,000	21,946,000	35,986,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits.

NEW YORK STATE BANKS & TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.).

	Nov. 25, 1916.	Nov. 18, 1916.	Nov. 11, 1916.	Nov. 27, 1915.
Loans	150,140,000	149,048,000	147,274,000	123,118,000
Specie	12,321,000	12,162,000	12,074,000	10,518,000
Deposits	160,676,000	159,302,000	157,610,000	128,471,000
Legal Tenders	2,070,000	2,022,000	2,018,000	1,006,000

FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	Nov. 10, 1916.	Nov. 3, 1916.	Nov. 12, 1915.
Gold coin and certificates	53,179,400	55,631,400	46,666,000
Gold Redemption Fund	273,600	278,800	245,400
Gold Settlement Fund	27,914,200	25,528,200	12,558,000
Legal tender notes, silver, &c.	1,462,400	1,376,800	6,361,200
Total reserves	82,829,600	82,815,200	65,850,600
5% redemption fund against	—	—	—
F.R. bank notes	90,000	84,000	—
10-day bills and loans	2,361,400	2,406,000	984,800
30-day bills and loans	4,663,000	4,655,600	2,233,000
60-day bills and loans	9,102,200	8,294,600	2,932,600
90-day bills and loans	5,614,600	5,343,800	1,994,200
Maturities over 90 days	317,400	252,600	575,000
Total	22,058,600	20,952,600	8,049,600
Investments—	—	—	—
U.S. Bonds	7,770,600	8,108,000	2,400,600
One year U.S. Treasury	—	—	—
notes	2,269,400	2,273,400	—
Municipal Warrants	4,138,800	4,820,000	4,560,200
Federal Reserve notes—nett.	3,522,600	3,549,800	3,907,400
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—	—	—	—
nett.	7,013,000	6,055,600	3,235,000
All other assets	406,600	614,200	655,000
Total assets	130,189,200	130,172,800	89,238,400
Paid-up capital	11,142,800	11,141,800	12,649,200
Government Deposits	4,667,800	5,177,200	3,000,000
Reserve deposits—nett.	111,202,400	110,477,200	71,863,400
Note circulation—nett.	2,777,200	2,525,400	2,601,400
Fed. Res. notes in circulation	205,000	205,000	—
All other liabilities	103,800	85,000	804,400
Total liabilities	130,189,200	130,172,800	89,238,400
Gold reserve against nett	—	—	—
liabilities	72.8 %	72.9 %	81.1 %
Cash reserve against nett	—	—	—
liabilities	74.1 %	74.1 %	88.7 %

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £.).

	Nov. 30, 1916.	Nov. 23, 1916.	Nov. 16, 1916.	Dec. 2, 1915.
Gold in hand	201,821,880	201,443,560	200,920,160	195,100,600
Silver in hand	12,553,520	12,650,320	12,767,480	14,144,360
Bills discounted	25,804,640	24,079,120	24,734,240	12,955,200
Advances	53,311,000	53,877,440	54,164,440	23,309,480
Note circulation	644,779,840	635,095,840	635,271,280	571,639,760
Public deposits	2,201,320	3,448,800	2,895,600	4,072,080
Private deposits	75,673,520	74,099,600	69,204,800	107,607,360
Foreign Bills	255,480	112,480	111,500	89,500

Proportion between bullion and circulation 33.24 per cent., against 33.55 per cent. last week. Advances to the State £260,000,000 unchanged. The adjourned payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium. £24,672,200, decrease £159,000, and at the branches £29,605,080, decrease £65,920.

IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (100 roubles to the £.).

	Nov. 24, 1916.	Nov. 14, 1916.	Nov. 4, 1916.	Nov. 20, 1915.
Notes in reserve	12,430,000	11,660,000	9,010,000	7,051,600
Gold	155,880,000	156,050,000	155,670,000	160,518,450
Gold in reserve abroad	205,510,000	205,510,000	205,500,000	13,372,700
Loans and Discounts,	—	—	—	—
including Treasury	—	—	—	—
Bonds	693,190,000	896,710,000	668,550,000	—
Circulation note issue	817,570,000	808,340,000	793,490,000	518,400,000
Deposits, including	—	—	—	—
Treasury deposits	23,499,000	22,617,000	23,123,000	25,061,600

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £.).

	Nov. 23, 1916.	Nov. 15, 1916.	Nov. 7, 1916.	Nov. 23, 1915.
Total Coin & Bullion	126,724,850	126,650,000	126,394,750	121,672,450
Treasury Notes	14,092,450	15,028,750	12,647,150	27,837,250
Bills discounted	419,178,450	411,540,650	389,769,750	233,339,700
Advances	536,100	688,650	371,650	632,650
Note circulation	333,267,350	358,933,950	362,312,700	288,243,400
Deposits	208,693,300	196,654,350	170,183,250	86,167,340

Clearing House returns during Oct., £309,547,600 against £282,125,250 in Sept.

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £.).

	Nov. 18, 1916	Nov. 11, 1916	Nov. 4, 1916	Nov. 20, 1915
Gold	48,038,188	47,898,225	47,532,110	33,330,147
Silver	29,704,802	29,641,134	29,648,902	29,764,481
Foreign Bills	3,901,819	3,965,652	3,897,489	4,171,697
Discounts and Short Bills	25,864,839	25,872,745	25,707,127	26,269,872
Treasury Account, &c.	29,635,803	29,800,302	30,337,504	28,266,877
Notes in Circulation	93,148,248	93,824,974	98,715,496	82,756,385
Current Accounts, Deposits	28,763,172	28,741,579	28,364,397	26,801,936
Dividends, Interests, &c.	2,288,623	1,569,533	1,630,406	1,515,216
Government Securities	3,145,264	3,395,515	3,939,027	1,962,912

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £.).

	Oct. 31, 1916	Oct. 20, 1916	Oct. 10, 1916	Oct. 31, 1915.
Total cash	45,904,760	43,769,000	42,670,600	54,089,720
Inland Bills	20,072,960	20,314,280	21,304,000	20,419,000
Foreign Bills	834,080	833,480	833,600	844,160
Advances	8,128,720	7,668,920	7,624,110	8,649,560
Government securities	8,800,680	8,765,320	8,785,680	8,188,360
Circulation	147,662,080	146,149,360	146,949,960	115,929,760
Deposits at notice	15,142,560	15,391,040	15,469,800	11,920,360
Current accounts	15,398,280	15,187,560	13,727,360	17,435,960

BANK OF NORWAY.

	Nov. 22, 1916.	Nov. 15, 1916.	Nov. 7, 1916.	Nov. 22, 1915.
Gold	6,069,000	6,105,000	6,114,000	3,693,000
Balance abroad and	—	—	—	—
Foreign Bills	5,348,000	5,386,000	5,611,000	3,630,000
Gov't Securities	767,000	767,000	767,000	781,000
Discounts & Loans	7,152,000	7,033,000	7,368,000	4,337,000
Notes in Circulation	13,085,000	13,135,000	13,323,000	8,280,000
Deposits at notice	3,745,000	3,696,000	4,669,000	1,564,000

BANK OF SWEDEN.

	Nov. 18, 1916.	Nov. 11, 1916.	Nov. 4, 1916.	Nov. 20, 1915.
Gold ..	10,131,000	9,882,000	9,885,000	6,295,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills	7,862,000	8,346,000	8,528,000	7,217,000
Swedish and Foreign Govt. Securities ..	3,776,000	3,789,000	3,799,000	2,929,000
Discounts and Loans	4,562,000	4,859,000	4,932,000	4,747,000
Notes in circulation	20,240,000	20,706,000	21,025,000	16,327,000
Deposits at notice ..	5,146,000	5,094,000	5,176,000	4,760,000

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.
Paris	ohqs	27.79	27.80	Antwerp	sb or	—	—
Brussels ..	ohqs.	—	—	Italy	sb, ht	31.94½	32.10
Amsterdam ..	sight	11.66½	11.66½	Constantinople	3 mths	—	—
Christiania ..	—	17.28½	17.20½	Rio de Janeiro,	90 dys	12½d.	11½d.
Stockholm ..	—	16.83½	16.70½	Buenos Aires ..	90 dys	50½d.	50½d.
Copenhagen ..	—	16.64½	17.62½	Calcutta	T.T.	1/4½d.	1/4½d.
Petrograd ..	3 mths	155½	162	Bombay	T.T.	24½d.	1/4½d.
New York ..	cable	4.76½	4.76½	Hong Kong	T.T.	2/3½d.	2/3½d.
Lisbon	sight	31½d.	31½d.	Shanghai	T.T.	3/4½d.	3/5½d.
Madrid	sight	23.02½	22.99½	Singapore	T.T.	2/4½d.	2/4½d.
Switzerland ..	—	24.67½	24.59½	Yokohama	4 mths	2/1½d.	2/1½d.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Nov. 28, 1916.		Nov. 30, 1916.	
		Buyers.	Sellers.	Buyers.	Sellers.
Amsterdam ..	Cable transfers ..	11.67	11.70	11.66	11.69
" ..	Three months' bills ..	11.83	11.88	11.82	11.87
Paris ..	Cable transfers ..	27.78	27.82	27.78	27.82
" ..	Three months' bills ..	28.15	28.25	28.15	28.25
Marseilles ..	Cable transfers ..	28.15	28.25	28.15	28.25
Switzerland ..	Cable transfers ..	24.53	24.63	24.48	24.58
" ..	Three months' bills ..	24.90	25	24.85	24.95
Petrograd ..	Cable transfers ..	158	161	160	163
Genoa, &c. ..	Cable transfers ..	31.98	32.08	32.03	32.13
" ..	Three months' bills ..	32.45	32.55	32.48	32.58
Spain ..	Cable transfers ..	23	23.10	23	23.10
" ..	Three months' bills ..	48½	49	48½	49
Lisbon and Oporto	Cable transfers ..	31	32	31	32
Copenhagen ..	Cable transfers ..	17.58	17.68	17.58	17.68
Christiania ..	Cable transfers ..	17.24	17.34	17.18	17.28
Stockholm ..	Cable transfers ..	16.75	16.85	16.70	16.80

TREASURY BILLS.

	Last week.	This week
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months ..	5½	5½
" ..	(£98 12 3½) (£98 12 10½)	
Six months ..	5½	5½
" ..	(£97 5 5½) (£97 5 5½)	
Twelve months ..	5½	5½
" ..	(£94 10 0) (£94 10 0)	

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Last week.	This week
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted ..	5½	5½
Three months ..	5½	5½
Four months ..	5½	5½
Six months ..	5½	5½
Three months fine inland bills ..	5½	5½
Four months ..	5½	5½
Six months ..	5½	5½

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Last week	This week
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate ..	5	5
" .. short loan rates ..	6½	6½
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	4	4
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call) ..	4½	4½
" .. 7 and 14 days' notice ..	4½	4½
Current rates for 7 day loans ..	5	5
" .. for call loans ..	5	4½

The Week's Stock Markets.

There has been nothing to stimulate business this week, and markets generally have been as cheerless as the weather. Pessimism with regard to the Rumanian situation tended to increase, and no particular news came from the Western fronts to counteract the effect. Consequently dealers were not inclined to put any stock that was offered on their books, preferring to discourage sellers by reducing prices. Towards the end, the distribution of the half-yearly dividends on the 4½ per cent. War Loan and the 5 per cent. Exchequer bonds requiring in all £25,000,000, gave a little encouragement to the gilt-edged section, although it is too early yet for any of the money to have found its way into the market. Home Railways have been quite dead, and, even in the American market, attention has been mainly confined to Steels and International Mercantile Marine. The market here was considerably annoyed at the "warning" of the Federal Reserve Board against foreign Treasury bills. Argentine railways showed up to more advantage on the report that the drought had been broken, and the hope that after all there may be a useful maize crop to com-

pensate for the shortage in other cereals. Nothing of much importance occurred in the miscellaneous markets, but coal shares were marked lower on the decision of the Government to take control of the Welsh mines.

There has again been very little business in Stock markets, and the tone, on the whole, has been somewhat cheerless. Consols have lost ¾, but the 4½ per cent. War Loan, after

	Last Week	This Week		Last Week	This Week
Consols	55½	55½	N.S.W. 4½% 1922-7	94	94
War Loan 3½%	8½	8½	" 5% 1921-3	96½	96½
" 4½%	6¼	6¼	" 5½% 1921-2	97½	97½
India 3%	57½	57	New Zealand 4%	94½	94½
Australian 4½% 1920-22 ..	66½	66½	Queensland 4%	82	82
Canada 4% 1940-60	99½	99½	Union of S. Africa 4½% ..	93½	93½
N.S.W. 4% 1920-5	83	83	1920-5	92	92
" 4½% 5 yr. bds.	95	95	Victoria 4½% 1920-5	92½	92½
Belgian 3%	62	61½	Westn. Aus. 4%	81½	81½
Brazil, 1913	62½	62	French War Loan, 5% ..	80½	80
" New Funding	75	75	Japan 4½% (rst)	95½	95½
Chinese 1896	88½	88½	" (2nd)	95	95½
" 1912	72	72	Russia 4%	66	66
Egypt Unified 4%	79	79	" 4½%	76	75
French War Loan, 5% ..	80½	80½	" 5%	82	81
Brighton defd.	63	62	London and S.W. dfd. ..	22½	23
Caledonian defd.	82	82	Do. new pf.	98	98
Chatham ord.	82	82	Metropolitan	24	23½
Gt. Central pfd.	142	134	Do. 5% New pf.	90	90
" dfd.	72	72	Met. District	16	16
Gt. Eastern	35	34½	Midland dfd.	56½	56
Gt. Northern dfd.	37½	37½	Nth. British dfd.	134	134
Gt. Western	89	89	Nth.-Eastern	100	100
Lancs. and Yorks.	68	67	Nth.-Western	97½	96½
Canadian Pacific	178½	173½	Sth.-Eastern dfd.	26½	25½
Do. 6% Notes	109½	109½	Chesapeake	71½	71½
E. Indian Guar. 4½% deb.	87	87	Erie	392	392
Grand Trunk ord.	10	10	Milwaukee	97½	97½
Do. 3rd pf.	24½	23½	N. Y. Central	112½	112
Do. 5½% 3-yr. Notes ..	96	96	Southern	29½	29
Do. 5½% 5-yr.	96	96	Southern Pacific	103½	103½
Atchison	109½	110½	Union Pacific	155½	154½
Baltimore	90½	90	U. S. Steel	138	141½
Antofagasta dfd.	126½	125½	Cent. Argentine ord.	65	66½
Brazil Common	52	5	Do. 5% Notes	94½	95
B. A. & Pacific	41½	41½	Do. 6% ..	98½	99
B. A. Gt. Southern	76	79	Leopoldina	33½	33
B. A. Western	76	78½	Mexican ord.	17	16½
Bank of Australasia	114	112	San Paulo (Brazilian) ..	183	182
Barclay & Co. "A"	72	72	United of Havana	82½	80½
Do. "B"	106	106	London City & Midland ..	78	78
Capital & Counties	23½	23½	London County & West. ..	142	142
Chartered of India	57	57	London Joint Stock	212	212
Hongkong & Shanghai ..	77½	77½	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (£10½ pd)	25½	25½
Lloyds	24	24	Do. (£12 pd) ..	31	31
London & Provincial ..	16½	16½	Parr's	28½	28½
London & S.W.	118	118	Standard of S.A.	10	10
Apollinaris ord.	3	3	Union & Smiths	23½	23½
Armstrong, Whitworth ..	401	39½	Forestral Land	52	52
Associated Cement	3	2½	Furness, Withy	54½	54½
Birmingham Small Arms	47½	47½	Hudson's Bay	6½	6½
Borax dfd.	34½	33½	Imperial Tobacco 'B' pf.	21	21
Bovril	20½	20½	Do. 'C' pf.	34	34
Brazil Traction	51	50	Kynochs	33½	32½
British Amer. Tobacco ..	5½	5½	Lever Bros. "C" pf.	20	20
Brown (John), & Co.	30½	35½	Lyons, J.	31½	31½
Brunner, Mond	42½	42½	Marconi	28½	28½
Cammell-Laird	7	7	Maypole Dairy dfd.	19½	19½
Castner-Kellner	32	32	Mond Nickel ord.	32	32
Coats	68	68½	National Steam Car	20	20½
Cunard	89	99½	Pears, A. & F.	18½	18½
Dennis Bros.	35½	34½	P. & O. dfd.	345½	345½
Dorman, Long	35½	35½	Royal Mail	120	119½
Eastmans	7½	7½	South Durham Steel	33½	32½
English Sewing Cotton ..	46½	48½	Underground Inc. Bds.	91½	91
Fine Cotton Spinners ..	31	30½	Vickers	38½	38½
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	12½	11½	Mexican Eagle pf.	38½	38½
Baku (ros.)	3	2½	North Caucasian	25½	25½
Burmah	48½	48½	Roumanian Cons.	11	10½
Lobitos	41½	42½	Royal Dutch (100 gulden)	44½	43½
Maikop Combine (ros.) ..	3	3	Shell	58½	58
Maikop Pipeline	3½	3½	Spies (10/-)	12½	12½
Mexican Eagle	37½	37½	Ural Caspian	29	29½
Anglo-Java Rub. (2/-) ..	54½	57½	Malayalam £1	35½	36½
Anglo-Malay 2/-	117½	119	Merlimau 2/-	5¼	5¼
Ayer Kuning £1	34½	35½	Pataling 2/-	31	32½
Bukit Mertajam 2/-	47½	41½	Port Dickson 2/-	3½	3½
Bukit Sembawang 2/- ..	37	37	Rubber Trust &	25½	24½
Carey United £1	41½	41½	Sapumalkande £1	22½	22½
Grand Central £1	25½	25½	Sialang £1	69	68½
Gula Kalumpung £1	31½	31½	Singapore Para 2/-	39½	39½
Highlands £1	54½	55½	Singapore United 2/- ..	3	3
Java Para £1	29½	29½	Taiping 2/-	3½	3½
Johore Rubber Lands £1 ..	30½	30½	Tanjong £1	88½	85½
Langen Java £1	43	44½	Tanjong Malim £1	29½	30
Lingit 2/-	22½	23	Tebrau £1	76½	73½
London Asiatic 2/-	71½	71½	United Serdang 2/-	12	12
Malacca £1	85½	85½	Vallambrosa 2/-	18½	18½
Abbotiakoon (10/-)	5½	5½	De Beers dfd. (£2 10s.) ..	13½	13½
Brakpan	42½	42½	East Rand	15½	15½
Broken Hill Prop. (8/-) ..	52½	50½	Gt. Boulder (2/-)	11½	12
Cam & Motor	11	10½	Meyer & Charlton	5½	5½
Central Mining (£12) ..	7	6½	Modder "B"	7½	7½
Chartered	117½	116	Do. Deep	18½	18½
City Deep	42½	42	New Modder (£4)	18½	18½
Cons. Gold Fields	18½	18½	Rand Mines (5/-)	37½	37½
Cons. Langlaagte	1½	1½	Rio Tinto (£5)	63	63
Crown Mines (10/-)	34	34	Van Ryn Deep	37½	37½

rising to 95½, closed unchanged at 95½. Local Loans stock dropped ½, Irish Land ½, and India stocks were ½ to ¾ down. In the Foreign Bond section, French War Loan, after dropping in the beginning of the week to 80 for both issues, has since remained steady at that figure. Several Russian stocks have been marked down 1, and Greek Renties have also gone back. Japanese loans were firm. Amongst Central and South Ameri-

loans, Brazil 4 per cent. 1911 and several Chilean loans showed gains of 1, but Mexican Irrigation loan was marked down 5. Peruvian Corporation preference relapsed to 24½, and the debentures to 78, and there has also been a sharp reaction in Cuban Ports.

The Home Railway market has been in a very unsatisfactory condition, and although dealings have been few, there have been more sellers than buyers. North-Western declined ¼, Great Western and Midland deferred ½ each, and Lancashire and Yorkshire 1. Brighton deferred relapsed to 62, Chatham was ½ lower, and South-Eastern deferred ¾ down. Metropolitan fell back to 23½, and Underground income bonds also reacted to that extent. Canadian Pacific shares receded to 173½ xd., and Grand Trunk stocks were heavy, the first and third preferences and 4 per cent. guaranteed all losing ½. American Railroad shares, after an early weakness, rallied in sympathy with the improvement in New York. United States Steel, after touching 139½ xd., fell back to 138, and then jumped to 141, but the early gains in International Mercantile Marine common and preference were wiped out. Argentine Railway stocks rallied sharply on the news that rain had fallen over a wide area, and Buenos Ayres Great Southern in particular, which touched 75, closed 3 better on the week at 79. Buenos Ayres Western put on 2, Central Argentine 1½, and B.A. and Pacific ½. International of Central America common and preference were marked down 1, and San Paulo and Leopoldina were both lower, while Mexican ordinary fell ½, and the first preference 1½.

Hardly any business has been done in Bank shares, and except for a gain of ½ in Capital and Counties, the movements were downward. London and Provincial and London Joint Stock dropped ¼ each, and London County and Westminster and London and South-Western ¾. Bank of Australasia fell 2, London and Brazilian 1, and British Bank of South America ½. Amongst Shipping shares there has been a strong demand for Cunard, and the price touched £5, but finished with a gain of 10s. at 99s. Court Line were also wanted, and improved to 40s. 9d., but Royal Mail fell ½, and Prince Line were ¾ down. A fair amount of business was done in Armament shares. Fraser and Chalmers were wanted, and rose to 38s. on the share-splitting scheme, and Pease and Partners improved on the dividend announcement. Thornycroft, after dropping to 34s., recovered 1s. on the dividend, but Weardale deferred and Curtis's and Harvey were both lower. Lake Superior touched 33½, and finished with a gain of 2 at 32, while the income bonds improved to 53. Spanish River Pulp and Paper, however, were sold, and the common and preferred lost 4½ and 3 respectively. Steel Co. of Canada declined 3, and Dominion Steel 1. Otis Steel improved to 90 on a report that \$1,400,000 6 per cent. notes were to be paid off. Colliery shares were dull on the Government's action in South Wales. Brazilian Traction issues were heavy, and both common and preferred dropped 1, but Cities Service were marked up 10, while Gas Light and Coke and South Metropolitan Gas stock were both easier, and Imperial Continental Gas fell 3. Hudson's Bay shares were supported, and improved to 67½, but Nigers were a trifle easier. Salt Union were wanted, and jumped to 63s. 6d., and United Alkali hardened to 35s. British Aluminium were offered, and Associated Cement also gave way, but the 4½ per cent. debentures improved 2½ to 77. Meat shares were dull, and Smithfield and Argentine relapsed to 24s. 6d. on the announcement of an issue of 300,000 shares to existing shareholders. Lyons were weak, and ½ down at 3½ xd., and Aerated Bread were ½ easier. Textiles were firm, except for a fall of ¾ in Coats, but Courtaulds were offered, and ¾ lower at 6½.

Oil shares have been quiet, and fluctuations in the price have been small. Shell were a shade easier, and Royal Dutch declined to 43½. Anglo-Egyptian "B" were offered down to 11s. 9d., but closed firm at that. Roumanian Consols rose to 12s. earlier in the week, but reacted on the war news, and finished with a small loss at 10s. 9d., while Russian things were easier. The Rubber share market has been inclined to be dull, and interest has been mainly confined to a few favourites. Kuala Lumpur came into prominence with a jump to 9s. xd., and Golconda hardened to 66s., but Sialang were offered, and declined to 68s., as the interim dividend was considered disappointing. Amongst Javas, Djaboong came into favour on a report that the company had been able to find a market for its stock of coca leaves, which was taken into the last balance-sheet at a purely nominal figure, and there was good support for Telogoredjo up to 39s. Rubber Trust shares were quiet.

LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

SUGAR.—Quotations were kept at recent level, and a sustained inquiry predominated for all descriptions.

COFFEE.—There is no new feature to record in this market, and a moderate quantity submitted to auction was partially disposed of at recent rates. Moderate sales resulted in the terminal market, at slightly irregular rates. December sold, 46s. 4½d.-46s. 6d.; March, 47s. 3d.; May, 48s. 3d. to 48s. 7½d.

Cocoa.—There was a quiet tone about this market, and the moderate supply of 5,460 bags included 3,000 bags of colonial import. With the exception of Cameroon, which sold well at 1s. 2s. advance, not much support was accorded. Good bold red Ceylon sold, 83s. 8½d.; good to fine Samoa, 79s.-81s. 1,600 bags Cameroon sold fine, 69s.-70s.

TEA.—There was a subdued tone in force this week with regard to the cheaper qualities, and a slightly lower price-level was registered. 43,000 packages Indian, 22,200 packages Ceylon, and 4,000 packages Java were catalogued.

SPICE.—Pepper, though quiet, was held firmly. Singapore black, January-March shipment, sold, 9½d.; white, ditto, 10½d.; and Muntok, afloat, 10½d. Fair Zanzibar cloves, spot, 7½d. Tapioca firm, quiet. Fair flake, spot, sold, 3½d. Sago commanded full prices.

Rice quieter this week, but firm, on sellers showing reserve. Japan, on spot, sold, 23s. Bran strong, but trade checked. Rangoon, November-December, Liverpool, sold, 310s. to 315s., ex ship terms. Beans strong. Rangoon, spot, sold, £39 to £39 5s. Madagascar butter beans, on spot, 42s., and whites 43s.

FRUIT.—At public sales of Valencia raisins, 225 tons were offered, and only about 85 tons found buyers at previous rates.

CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 1, 1916

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
Sugar —per cwt. duty 14½, 98% polarisation	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Wool —per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Pate's Cubes No. 1	2 7 1½	2 7 1½	Australian	2 2 4 5	2 2 4 5
Ditto, H.T.S.	2 6 7½	2 6 7½	Scoured Merino	1 10 3 7	10 3 7
Fine granulated	nom.	nom.	Scoured Cr'ssabr	1 7 2 3	1 7 2 3
Lytle's granulated	41 7½ 42 1½	41 7½ 42 1½	Greasy Merino	1 3 1 10	1 3 1 10
Foreign granulated, first mark	nom.	nom.	New Zealand	6 3 10 3	6 3 10 3
f.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	2 2 0 1	2 2 0 1
German Cubes f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Cape snow white	2 4 3 0	2 4 3 0
French Cube	nom.	nom.	Indian rubber p. l.	0 2 9½	0 2 10½
Crystallised, West	nom.	nom.	Crepe	0 2 9½	0 2 10½
India	nom.	nom.	Coal —per ton	nom.	nom.
Best, 88% f.o.t.	nom.	nom.	Durham, best	nom.	nom.
Tea —per lb., duty	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	seconds	nom.	nom.
1½ lb.	0 11 1 1½	0 10½ 1 3	East Hartlepool	nom.	nom.
Indian Pekoe ..	0 11½ 1 2½	0 10½ 1 6½	seconds	nom.	nom.
Broken ..	1 0 1 1 7	1 1 1 4	seconds	28 0 30 0	30 0
Orange ..	1 0 1 1 11½	1 1 1 9	seconds	25 0	25 0
Broken ..	0 10½ 1 0½	0 10½ 1 0	Lead —per ton	£ 5 4	£ s. d.
Pekoe Souchong	0 10½ 1 0½	0 10½ 1 0	English Pig ..	32 5 0	32 5 0
Ceylon Pekoe ..	0 10½ 1 2½	0 10½ 1 1½	Foreign soft ..	30 10 0	30 10 0
Broken ..	0 11 1 2½	0 11 1 2	Quicksilver —per	£ 17½	£ 18½
Orange ..	0 11 1 2	0 11 1 3	bottle first-hand	£ 17½	£ 18½
Broken ..	1 1½ 1 5	1 0 1 9½	Pin —per ton	£ 191	£ 191
Pekoe Souchong	10½ 1 0	10½ 1 0½	English Ingots	£ 191	£ 191
Cocoa —per cwt.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Do. bars	£ 94 5 0	£ 94 5 0
only 6½ lb. per lb.	76 0 82	76 0 82	standard cash	£ 92 5 0	£ 92 5 0
Trinidad—per cwt.	76 0 82	76 0 82	tin plates, per box	nom.	nom.
Grenada ..	76 0 82	76 0 82	Copper —per ton	nom.	nom.
West Africa ..	76 0 82	76 0 82	English, rough	nom.	nom.
Ceylon Plantation	76 0 82	76 0 82	per ton	£ 168	£ 168
Guayaquil Arriba	76 0 82	76 0 82	best Selected	£ 168	£ 168
Coffee —per cwt.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	sheets	£ 184	£ 187
duty 42½ per cwt.	67 0 95	67 0 95	Standard ..	£ 141 10	£ 151 152
East India ..	67 0 95	67 0 95	Jute —per ton	£ 40 0 0	£ 41 0 0
Jamaica ..	62 0 120	62 0 120	native firsts for	£ 40 0 0	£ 41 0 0
Costa Rica ..	62 0 84	62 0 84	shipment Nov-Dec	£ 40 0 0	£ 41 0 0
Provisions —			Wheat —per ton	£ 51 10	£ 52 10
Butter, per cwt.	204/-208/-	204/-208/-	Linseed, per ton	£ 51 10	£ 52 10
Australian finest	204/-214/-	204/-214/-	Cape, ref. English	£ 54	£ 56
Irish Creameries	2 1/2-208/-	206/-208/-	barrels	£ 54	£ 56
Dutch do ..	nom.	nom.	new English	£ 50	£ 51
Russian finest	nom.	nom.	unsked	£ 48	£ 49
Normandy basket	2 8 220/-	218/-222/-	soft'n Seed, grain	£ 48	£ 49
Danish finest	2 8 220/-	218/-222/-	oil, refined	£ 55	£ 59
Brittany rolls	18/6-21/6	2 16 22/6	Petroleum Oil, per	1 1½	1 1½
doz. lb. ..			5 lbs.	1 2½	1 2½
Bacon —per cwt.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Water White	1 2½	1 2½
Irish ..	111 0 120 0	111 0 120 0	oil Seeds, Linseed	—	—
Continental ..	104 0 120 0	104 0 120 0	about .. per 4	5 6 0	5 11 6
Canadian ..	105 0 112 0	100 0 112 0	lbs. .. Dec-Jan	85/-	91/-
American ..	92 0 105	92 0 108	Wheat —per ton	nom.	nom.
Hams —per cwt.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Cleveland Cash	nom.	nom.
Irish ..	138/-164	148/-166/-	Lard —per cwt.	£ 50	£ 51
Canadian ..	120/-122	115 0 120 0	unmanufactured	5/6 to 6/24 per lb.	5/6 to 6/24 per lb.
American ..	75 0 116	75 0 114 0	Malayan & On	6 0 10	6 0 10
Cheese —per cwt.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	per lb. bond	8 1 6	8 1 6
Dutch ..	84 0 120 0	86 0 120 0	virginia leaf	6 1 10	6 1 10
Canadian ..	1 4 0 128	126 0 130 0	new leaf	0 3 0	0 3 0
English Cheddar	120 0 132 0	130 0 140 0	Malaya ..	0 6	0 6
White loaf ..	nom.	nom.	Malaya ..	6	6
New Zealand	nom.	nom.	Cigars , duty 10/6	2/ upds.	2/ upds.
Rice —per cwt.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	per lb.	2/ upds.	2/ upds.
Garden Siam	19 0	19 0	Timber —Wood	25 11-27 0	25 11-27 0
spot	19 3	19 3	ritch pine ..	40 11-40 11	40 11-40 11
Rangoon 2 stars ..	19 3	19 3	Curpentine —	2 9 3	2 9 3
Beans —per 120.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	American Spot ..	2 9 3	2 9 3
English ..	35 0 36 0	35 6 37 6	Copra —	nom.	nom.
Irish ..	33 0 35 0	33 0 35 6	Malabar, London	40 12 6	41 5 0
Danish ..	35 0 38 0	36 0 38 0	Oct-Dec ..	39 12 6	39 15 0
Spelter —	£ 58-£ 55	£ 59½-£ 58	South Sea ..	39 17 6	39 15 0
G.O.B. as to position	£ 58-£ 55	£ 59½-£ 58	F.M.S. ..	39 17 6	39 15 0
Flour —per sack.	59/	59/			
Straight Run War	59/	59/			
Grade	61/6-64/6	61/6 upds			
American First	61/6-64/6	61/6 upds			
Patents	61/6-64/6	61/6 upds			

Half-boxes 51s., quarters 53s. to 74s., eighths 67s. to 73s. Muscatels realised higher prices. Currants, also sultanas, steady, quiet.

FIBRES.—Increased firmness was apparent, and business proved of fair dimensions. Ot jute, native first marks, November-December, sold, £40 10s.; afloat, Dundee, £40 10s.; heart marks assortment, afloat, £35 10s. Hemp, fair graded, October-December, sold, £57 to £57 10s.; medium, £56 to £56 10s.; coarse, December, £55 to £55 10s.; coarse brown, £54 to £54 10s.

SHELLAC very quiet, with only retail spot sales on the basis of 139s. to 136s. for fair second orange. Futures dull. December sold, 137s. to 132s. 6d.; March, 141s. to 137s.

RUBBER generally firm and prices dearer on the week, with a fair business. Crepe, spot, sold, 23s. 9½d., 23s. 10½d., and 23s. 10d.; January-June, 28s. 10½d., 28s. 11½d., and 28s. 10½d. Ribbed smoked

sheet, spot, sold, 2s. 9½d., 2s. 10½d., and 2s. 10d. Fine hard Para, spot, done, 3s. 4½d.

COPRA.—After being firm to rather dearer, the market assumed a dull and inactive state of affairs.

CORN (Mark Lane).—Events at the Exchange were devoid of significance since last Monday, the tendency almost without exception being firm, and trade moderate. The statistical position remains sound. Wheat: English whites and reds delivered up range at 74s. to 80s. per qr., 504 lbs. Imported grades, nominal. Flour: American first spring patents, 61s. 6d. upwards, and Canadian patents 61s. upwards, both landed. Grinding barley: Kara hi, 64s. upwards, landed. Oats: Plate, 47s. upwards, landed. Maize: Sound Plate, 64s. 6d. ex ship, and 65s. 6d. landed.

METALS.—Copper: The standard market exhibited a further hardening tendency last Monday, when cash delivery closed at £148 and three months £142, sellers. A reaction occurred on the following day on moderate offers, while values of the e dates settled down at £145 10s. and £139 10s. respectively. During the middle of the week a smart rally set in, with rather more inquiry, but sellers scarce, cash reaching £150 and three months £142 10s. Fresh record characterised Thursday's events, the closing value of cash being £151 10s. and three months £143 10s. Electros quoted £169 to £166. Tin: The standard market opened firmer, but prices, after irregular movements, fell away until the middle of the week on fairly liberal offerings, when cash closed at £189 and three months £190 15s. An improvement marked dealing at Thursday's session, cash closing at £189 5s., three months £191 5s. Dealings have been on a good scale. Lead dull, but steady: Foreign, £30 10s. to £29 10s., as to position. Spelter dearer, chiefly forward. G.O.B., £59 10s. to £58, according to position. Quicksilver raised to £18 15s.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—The market has not been particularly active during the past week, but a steady and persistent demand has been experienced, and many producers have by no means done badly. The ups and downs in raw cotton rates have had a rather disturbing influence upon traders, but the opinion appears to be gaining ground that there is little probability of yarn and cloth being cheaper in the near future. With prices in the raw material on such a high level, rather wider fluctuations than usual must be expected. The wages dispute between the Master Spinners' Federation and the Cardroom Operatives' Amalgamation has not yet been settled. The workpeople have handed in notices to cease work at the end of next week, but it is fully believed that the Government Committee on Production will intervene and prevent a strike taking place. There has been no lack of inquiry in piece goods for export, and it is quite evident certain of our customers abroad are in want of fresh supplies. Some improvement has shown itself in the offers in shirtings for Calcutta, and fair transactions have been arranged. Owing to delays in telegraphic communications, much difficulty has been experienced in fixing up transactions. Dhooties and jacanets have been quieter. Grey shirtings, however, have been sold for Madras. Very little activity has shown itself for China, and although stocks in Shanghai are small, and the grain crops are said to be encouraging, business in cloth is still restricted. For Egypt a steady demand has again come through, but some falling off is now taking place in the turnover for South America. All kinds of printed and dyed goods have commanded very full figures. Certain producers of T-cloths and Mexicans have recently strengthened their position somewhat. Bleaching cloths are well sold, and much longer time is now required for all finishing processes. American yarns for home use have not been purchased very freely, but the tone continues very firm, and for anything wanted, especially in medium twists, full rates have had to be paid. Spinners continue to enjoy a healthy margin of profit, and it is expected that the stocktaking results at the end of the year will be encouraging. Miscellaneous sales have occurred in bundles for India and in cops for the Continent, without the turnover in the export section being at all important. Bolton spinnings have not attracted very much attention, users being disposed to purchase from hand to mouth.

The Week in Mines.

The news from Rumania has checked business in the Mining as in other markets, but the tendency apart from Eastern Rand and Russian shares has been fairly firm. Even Russian shares recovered from the lowest points touched, and in the Broken Hill group weakness was followed by a sharp recovery. Burina Corporations have fluctuated rather wildly; but copper shares have not responded, to the degree expected, to the further rise in the price of the metal, owing to heavy liquidation of American descriptions in Wall Street.

SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

The South African market has suffered from a lack of support, and the trend of prices has consequently been downward. About the middle of the week, however, the tone began to harden in sympathy with a recovery in the Consolidated Mines Selection group. But on balance changes are mostly adverse to holders. Rand Mines have been weak, and are 5-32 lower at 3 23-32, and Crowns at 3½ and Central Minings at 6½ show a fall of ½. Selling of New Kleinfonteins caused the price to fall 1s. 6d. to 26s. 6d., and Sub-Nigels at 1¼, New Modders at 18¾, Ferreira Deeps at 1 5-32, Gold Fields at 1 10-32, and Bantjes at 12s. 6d., all show fractional losses. Modder Leases declined 1s. 3d. to 51s. 6d., in spite of a dividend next year being foreshadowed at the Johnnies meeting. Modder B's have been supported, and are 3-32 to the good at 7 5-32, while Witbank Collierys have further risen ½ to 2½. Among Rhodesian

shares Tanganyikas and Zambesias have relapsed to 2½ and 18s. 6d. respectively, and Falcons are 6d. lower at 15s. Shamvas fell ½ to par, but recovered to 1 1-32 on a report from Mr. Piper, the consulting engineer. Profit-taking has caused diamond shares to react, Jagersfontein falling ½ to 4½, and De Beers deferreds ¾ to 13¼. West Africans have been, as usual, a stagnant market; Abbontiaoons have fallen 6d. to 5s., but Presteas, after declining to 6s. 6d., have rallied to 7s.

COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Although the metal has risen to the fresh high level of £150¼, copper shares have moved irregularly. Rio Tintos have advanced ¾ to 63½, and Poderosas have risen ½ to 2½ on the announcement of a dividend of 5s. per share. The only previous dividend was of the same amount seven years ago. Other shares, however, show relapses. Anacondas have fallen 58 to 21, Utahs ¾ to 25½, Capes ¾ to 4½, Mount Lyells 1s. to 25s. 6d., and Mount Elliotts ¾ to 5¾. Tin shares have been affected by the reaction in the market for the metal, but Jantars advanced 2s. to 17s. on the report declaring a maiden dividend, and Renongs rose ½ to 2¼. The Broken Hill group made a sharp recovery about the middle of the week on hopes of a speedy settlement of the coal strike. British Props. have advanced ¾ to 1 9-32, and South Silvers ¾ to 8½, but Broken Hill Proprietarys have declined 2s. 6d. to 50s. 3d., owing to a strike of firemen and enginemen. Burma Corporations, after falling to 67s. 6d., recovered to 72s. 6d., at which level a decline of 3s. 6d. is shown on the week. Russian shares are mostly lower. Tanalyks declined 3-32 to 2 15-32 on the report. Troitzks were unaffected by the announcement that the company is to be wound up, the property having been sold for Rs. 250,000 (£25,000). Mexican mines have been weak, like other Mexican securities, and Indian shares have been on offer. Among Westralians Ivanhoes at 2½, Great Boulders at 12s., and Kalgurlis at 10s., are a shade higher, the last-named in anticipation of the report. Briseis rose to 5s. on the declaration of another 6d. dividend.

MINING NEWS.

RHODESIAN MINERAL OUTPUT.—The production of gold in Southern Rhodesia in October amounted to £325,608, a decrease of £14,359 on October, 1915. The following table shows the production since January, 1912:—

MONTH.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915	1916
	£	£	£	£	£
January	214,918	220,776	249,032	293,133	318,586
February	209,744	218,744	259,888	286,789	313,769
March	215,102	257,797	271,236	299,686	331,368
April	221,476	241,088	295,907	315,541	359,386
May	234,407	242,452	290,062	318,898	323,783
June	226,867	241,303	306,421	321,473	3 3,070
July	240,514	249,301	320,670	336,565	321,365
August	239,077	250,576	316,172	344,493	338,001
September	230,573	250,429	309,598	321,085	312,935
October	230,072	247,068	337,241	339,967	325,608
November	225,957	239,036	311,711	313,160	—
December	218,661	254,687	309,669	331,376	—
Totals	2,707,368	2,993,267	3,580,207	3,823, 66	3,271,971

The number of producers was 221, or 4 less than in September; and the output of other metals was 16,538 ounces of silver, 46,826 tons of coal, 290 tons of copper, 11,902 tons of chrome ore, 615 tons of asbestos, and 140 carats of diamonds.

TANALYK CORPORATION.—The report for the year ended January 13 states that the receipts amounted to £16,026. After deducting expenses and debenture interest, a credit balance of £132 is carried forward. The accounts of the South Urals Mining and Smelting Co., which is the Russian operating concern, show a trading profit of Rs. 685,057, which is below expectations. This profit has been dealt with as follows:—Depreciation, Rs. 422,396; statutory reserve, Rs. 34,253; ordinary reserve, Rs. 13,701; carried forward, subject to Russian taxes, Rs. 214,707. It is estimated that the taxes will amount to Rs. 32,318. Ore reserves have been increased to 126,000 tons of sulphide ore, representing five years' supply for the smelter on the 1915 basis, and to 164,000 tons of oxidised ore.

SELUKWE COLUMBIA GOLD.—During the year ended June 30 the gold produced amounted to £31,813, the working profit being £4,153, and the nett profit £4,458 against £2,056. The amount brought in, less the dividend, No. 3, of 6½ per cent. paid last December, was £869, and the total balance of £5,328

PRUDENTIAL

ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED,

HOLBORN BARS, LONDON.

Invested Funds exceed - £94,000,000.

CLAIMS PAID £126,000,000.

is carried forward. Reserves of ore have been reduced by 3,892 tons to 22,214 tons, valued at 10.57 dwts. per ton.

JANTAR-NIGERIA.—This company reports a nett profit, after allowing for depreciation, of £10,262, an increase of £7,900. A maiden dividend of 2s. 6d. per share, less tax, is declared, leaving £3,907 against £1,145 to be carried forward. The output was 261 tons, as compared with 162 tons, and the average price realised was £118 1s. per ton against £105 14s. for 1915. At the same time the all-in cost declined from £87 7s. 4d. to £78 16s. 3d. per ton.

MESSINA (TRANVAAL) DEVELOPMENT.—The report for the year ended June 30 states that the production of hand-picked ore and shipping concentrates was 11,056 tons, averaging 42.89 per cent. of copper, and of matte 1,737 tons, averaging 56.93 per cent. of copper, making a total of 12,794 tons, assaying 44.8 per cent., and containing 5,732 tons of copper. Reserves of ore are estimated at 151,409 tons, practically proved of 5.2 per cent. copper and 56,652 tons of possible ore of 3.4 per cent. copper. Last year the practically proved ore amounted to 131,700 tons of 6.6 per cent. copper. The gross profit, which last year rose from £63,781 to £130,526, has further increased to £270,433. This enables a final dividend of 1s. per share, less tax, to be paid, making 2s. per share for the year. This is the company's first distribution; £140,000 is placed to reserve pending the determination of the company's liability for excess profits duty, and the amount carried forward is reduced from £9,517 to £6,655.

EL ORO MINING AND RAILWAY.—The directors announce that they have not received any accounts from the mine since those down to June 30, 1915, and they do not expect to receive any before the close of the year. The reduction works, which were closed down on February 27, 1915, were restarted on October 20 last owing to a decree issued by the Carranza Government that mines which did not resume operations before November 14 would be subject to confiscation by the State. Seventy stamps out of 100 are now at work. The general manager says he is not under any illusion with regard to the inadvisability of this step, and the directors share this opinion, but it was decided that the resumption of milling was the most judicious course to pursue.

UTAH COPPER.—The report of this company for the third quarter of the year shows that 3,404,300 tons of ore were treated, being 645,800 tons more than in the previous high record of the preceding quarter, when 2,758,500 tons were milled. The average grade of ore was 1.4 per cent. copper, as compared with 1.3 per cent., and the average extraction was 61.94 per cent. The low extraction was due to the fact that the mills were operated at nearly twice their normal capacity. A nett surplus of \$7,175,990 was made. The regular dividend paid on September 30 was at the rate of \$6 per annum, plus an extra dividend of \$1½ per share, making a total of \$3 per share for the quarter.

NEVADA CONSOLIDATED COPPER.—The operations of the other American copper companies, belonging to the Utah group, were equally successful. The Nevada production amounted to 24,585,393 lbs. of copper, against 24,091,021 lbs. for the preceding quarter. There was a surplus of \$1,001,740 after paying the twenty-seventh dividend of 50 cents per share, and an extra dividend, No. 6, of 50 cents. per share. There was set aside \$173,186 for plant and equipment depreciation, and \$103,205 for ore extinguishment, leaving a nett credit to earned surplus for the quarter of \$1,625,348, and a balance surplus of \$11,091,045.

CHINO COPPER.—Gross production of copper contained in concentrates for the September quarter was 20,606,723 lbs. The total amount of ore treated was 801,500 tons, being an average of 8,712 tons per day. This is the highest average tonnage treated since operations began, and is 47 tons more per day than for the previous quarter. The average copper contents of the ore treated was 1.89 per cent., as against 1.79 per cent. Nett surplus over dividend requirements was \$1,487,836. In addition to the regular quarterly dividend of \$1.25 per share, an extra dividend of \$1 per share, making a total of \$2.25, was paid on September 30.

RAY CONSOLIDATED.—The total output of copper in the three months to September 30 amounted to 19,682,461 lbs. There were milled 849,000 tons, averaging 1.5 per cent. copper, as compared with 865,300 tons, averaging 1.5 per cent. copper. The nett surplus over dividend requirements was \$2,116,515. The eleventh quarterly dividend of 75 cents. per share absorbed \$1,182,884.

ARNISTON COAL.—This undertaking tells the same story as all other collieries of profitable business in its year ended September 30. After writing off an extra £1,000 at £8,000 for depreciation and setting aside £20,000, as against nothing, to meet cost of repairs postponed in consequence of the war, the trading profits were £18,236 better at £44,866. With a larger balance brought forward, the amount available was £27,985 up at £58,497, out of which the dividend on the ordinary shares is increased from 3s. to 4s. per share, tax free, and £42,729, or £29,103 more, is carried forward, subject to excess profits duty. Except that the company has put £46,000 into Treasury bills, against the reserve for repairs and the large balance of undivided profits in hand, there is nothing in the balance-sheet which calls for comment.

The African Banking Corporation has opened a branch at Wellington, Cape Province.

Insurance News.

At the beginning of the month it was announced that the City Life Assurance Co. had made an offer for the purchase of the shares of the North and South Insurance Corporation, of Liverpool, and it is now announced that the City Life is about to absorb another Liverpool undertaking—namely, the Law Integrity Insurance Co. The last-named company's shares have been purchased at par, which may be understood to mean the amount paid up on the individual shares, which is a varying figure. The Law Integrity, which transacts ordinary and industrial life, fire, fidelity guarantee, and other branches of insurance business was established about ten years ago, with a nominal capital of £100,000, of which there has been subscribed £16,524, and paid up £15,696. A premium income of over £70,000 per annum has been built up, chiefly from industrial business, and small dividends, ranging from 2½ to 5 per cent., were paid for several years. The City Life by its latest acquisition will materially strengthen its organisation in the industrial assurance world.

The Western Australian Insurance Co. is about to transact reinsurance business in London, and has opened new offices in the City. The company will be prepared to accept direct business, and in view of the large volume of reinsurance which before the war was sent to Germany, the directors regard the present time as favourable for extending the company's activities. During the past two years the leading British offices have been reinsuring among themselves to a much greater extent than previously, and there is the possibility that before long they may find themselves with heavier risks than they care to retain. A large amount in premiums now goes to companies of neutral origin, who have replaced the German concerns, and much of this might be transferred to Colonial offices with the object of conserving the financial resources of the Empire.

It appears that as the result of losses sustained in the Black Tom Island fire, in which, as already announced, great supplies of munitions for the Allies were destroyed, the German re-insurance companies are among the hardest hit. According to *Montreal Journal of Commerce*, a number of the foreign re-insurance companies doing business in the United States will find it necessary to replenish their reserves in order to comply with the requirements of the authorities. The idea that German re-insurance companies will have to share the losses sustained upon munitions destined for the Allies will appeal to the humour of those American offices who have shifted the risks they assumed to the re-insurance companies.

Tea, Oil and Rubber.

With commodity prices advancing in all directions, it could hardly be expected that rubber would long remain out of the fashion. Copper has doubled or trebled its price, and why should not rubber do the same? It has hovered around 2s. 10½d., which is far from the top-most rung of the ladder, but anything may happen while the war lasts, and a further advance is quite possible, especially as the statistical position is rather more favourable. At any rate, the rise has stimulated interest in the older-established companies, which have so far been little affected by the excess profits tax, but little stock has come on offer, and business continues very restricted. The Mahawale Rubber and Tea Co. has issued a long circular showing how unfairly the excess duty works in its case, the exactions being equal to 40 per cent. on the capital, in addition to which, of course, shareholders have to pay 25 per cent. income-tax on what remains of the profits earned. But we are afraid there is no help for it at present.

A year ago the directors of the Singapore United Rubber Plantations estimated the crop for the twelve months ended June 30 at 525,000 lbs., but later they appear to have decided upon an entirely different and more prudent policy, which effectually prevented this

figure from being realised. In order to ensure a proper bark renewal, a more conservative system of tapping was adopted, and at the same time a good deal of thinning out was done, with the result that the output was only 60,900 lbs. up at 463,174 lbs. The all-in cost was naturally affected, and, exclusive of .29d., or .10d. less, for war-risk insurance, showed an increase of 1.56d. at 1s. 0.84d., but even at that it was decidedly moderate, and as the price improved by 5.81d. to 2s. 8.24d., the nett profits were £10,547 better at £32,163. With £19,229 brought in, the divisible total amounted to £51,392, or £11,530 more, and the dividend is increased from 10 per cent. to 15, leaving £2,637 more at £22,070 to be carried forward, subject to income-tax and excess profits duty. During the year £7,097 was spent on development, making the total cost £227,667, exclusive of buildings and machinery, valued at £11,866. A further £9,980 was received on capital account, increasing the amount paid up to £224,960, and cash balances are £9,889 higher at £17,936. The changes noted above have affected the estimate for the current year, and the expected crop is put at 515,000 lbs.

The United Temiang (F.M.S.) Rubber Estates is now reaping the benefit of its earlier plantations, and in the year ended July 31 brought another 797 acres into bearing, making a total of 1,520 acres. Owing to the inclusion of such a large new area the approximate yield per acre was a trifle smaller at 347 lbs., and the all-in cost was 2.35d. up at 1s. 5.63d., but on the other hand the crop showed an increase of 134,384 lbs. at 398,603 lbs., while the gross price realised was 4.45d. better at 2s. 7.39d. Nett profits, after writing off £1,660, or £597 more, for depreciation, were consequently £10,190 up at £23,137, and with £4,079 brought in, gave £11,552 more at £27,216 available. Owing, however, to the incidence of excess profits duty and the necessity, due to Treasury restrictions, for providing out of profits funds against capital overspent and to bring the immature areas into bearing it is impossible to distribute any of this gain, and the dividend is consequently restricted to 5 per cent., or the same as for the previous year. Out of the balance £10,000, or double last year's amount, is transferred to reserve, and the sum carried forward is increased by £6,550 to £10,630. During the year £6,267 was spent on development, but as £359 was received from the sale of 144 acres of unplanted land and £1,190 from the realisation of shares held in trust, the nett increase in the cost of the property was £4,718 at £135,784. In addition, £5,615 was spent on buildings and machinery, against £1,660 written off, leaving this item £3,955 up at £9,471. As the trees recently brought in mature the yield naturally increases, and for the current year a crop of 645,000 lbs. is expected.

In its year ended June 30 the Sennah Rubber Co. brought some 58,000 additional trees into tapping, and obtained a crop of 1,377,600 lbs., or an increase of 397,347 lbs. compared with the previous 12 months. The gross price realised was 6.81d. better at 2s. 9.61d., and although the all-in cost was slightly heavier at 1s. 3.26d., the nett profits were more than doubled at £106,986. With £12,404, or £13,138 less, brought forward, the available surplus was £41,736 up at £119,390, out of which an extra £10,000 at £30,000 is transferred to reserve, and the dividend is increased from 10 per cent. to 15 per cent., tax free (equal to £18 3s. 7d. per cent., less tax 3s. 6d.), leaving £21,515, or £9,110 more, to be carried forward, subject to excess profits duty. The planted area was only increased by 15 acres to a total of 7,198 acres during the year, but £35,844 was spent on development, together with £15,405 nett on buildings, plant, &c., making the total cost £520,573, or just over £72 per planted acre. Balances in hands of agents have been reduced by £29,045 to £24,984, but on the other hand the indebtedness to them of £23,442 shown a year ago has disappeared, and cash is £26,421 up at £42,306, while £9,971 is held in Treasury bills. Stocks of rubber and sundry debtors both show small decreases at £43,692 and £2,846 respectively, against

which £30,160, or £4,802 more, is due to sundry creditors. The crop for the current year is estimated at 1,600,000 lbs.

Satisfactory results were obtained by the Bried Rubber Estate in the year ended July 31. Tapping on one of the sections only began on April 1, and the yield for the four months was trifling at 3,196 lbs., but the total output exceeded the estimate by nearly 22,000 lbs., and was 35,033 lbs. larger than the previous year's crop at 131,683 lbs. A gross price of 2s. 5.53d., or 2.86d. more, was obtained, and there was a further slight reduction of 1.08d. in the "all-in" cost, but with one of the properties only now coming into bearing the figure was still high at 1s. 6.11d. Nett profits, however, showed an increase of £3,247 at £6,270, and, with £850 brought forward, gave £7,120, or £3,805 more, available. Of this, £1,000 is transferred to estate development account, as against nothing last time, and the dividend is then doubled at 10 per cent., leaving £1,191, or £341 more, to be carried forward, subject to excess profits duty, if any. The crop for the current year is estimated at 120,000 lbs. from the Bried section, and 19,000 lbs. from the Hurst section, and forward sales have been made of 24 tons at 2s. 3½d. per lb. f.o.b. Penang, a figure which should give satisfactory results.

Steady progress is shown by the Killinghall (Rubber) Development Syndicate in its report for the year ended June 30. The crop of 220,879 lbs. was 27,197 lbs.

METROPOLITAN LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY

APPLY FOR PARTICULARS OF THE SOCIETY'S

DISCOUNTED ABATEMENT SYSTEM.

ANNUAL PREMIUM, FOR FIRST FIVE YEARS *reduced*
in anticipation of future distribution of surplus, for
Whole-Life Policies or Endowment Assurances of £100.

AGE NEXT BIRTHDAY.	ASSURANCE PAYABLE		
	At Death	At Death or Age 55	At Death or Age 65
25 ...	£1 12 3	£2 10 7	£2 3 1
30 ...	1 16 9	3 3 7	2 12 8
35 ...	2 2 9	4 3 2	3 5 11
40 ...	2 9 10	5 16 0	4 6 0

After 5 years the Premiums under this scheme are
subject to FURTHER REDUCTION in respect of any
abatement declared in excess of 33 per cent.

NO COMMISSION.

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OFFICES :

13, Moorgate Street, London, E.C.

larger than the estimate, and exceeded the previous year's output by 85,202 lbs., while the nett price realised was 5.34d. better at 2s. 6.60d. Like the rest of the "Addinsell group," the company gives no details of the all-in cost, but the nett profits were up by no less than £10,881 to £17,177, and with £2,598 brought in gave £19,775, or £10,134 more, to be dealt with. The dividend on the ordinary shares is increased from 7 per cent. to 20, which entitles the participating preference shares to a further payment of 13 per cent. in addition to their fixed dividend of 7 per cent., but nothing is written off compared with £1,040 for preliminary expenses, and the appropriation to reserve is reduced by £493 to £3,507, leaving £10,018, or £7,330 more, to be carried forward, subject to directors' extra remuneration, staff bonus, and excess profits duty. During the year 2,000 ordinary shares were issued, and a further 5s. per share was called up on the preference shares, making the paid-up capital £32,500, while with the present addition the reserve will stand at £9,000, against which £2,164 was spent on development and £1,218 nett on buildings, machinery, &c., bringing the total cost up to £49,016. The loan from the Selangor Government was reduced by £4,323 to £3,833, and the directors state that this balance has now been paid off. The crop for the current year is estimated at 266,000 lbs., of which 96,969 lbs. were harvested in the first four months. Government sanction has been received for an application of 307 acres adjacent to the existing area, and 130 acres are to be opened and planted this year, which will bring the total area under rubber to 1,155 acres.

The Rajawella Produce Co. has had many vicissitudes, and in 1910-11 had to issue funding certificates for arrears of preference dividend amounting to 69 per cent. Matters, however, so far improved that in the next four years the company was able to meet its preference dividend, and in 1914-15 the funding certificates were converted into ordinary shares at 50 per cent. of their face value, while but for the uncertainty regarding the excess profits duty, a dividend of 6 per cent. could have been paid on the ordinary shares for that year. Tea has been the company's main standby, but the crop in the year ended June 30 was only 7,306 lbs. up at 2,476,384 lbs., and the average price was a shade lower at 10.79d. The cultivation of cocoa, on the other hand, made rapid strides, and yielded 1,687 cwt. more at 7,945 cwt., which realised 85s. 7d., as against 75s. 9d. Progress was also made with rubber, the output being 15,399 lbs. larger at 206,198 lbs., and the price 7½d. better at 2s. 9½d. Receipts from all sources rose by £8,638 to £142,744, but the revenue expenditure increased by £13,295, and after providing for administration expenses, the nett profits showed a decrease of £3,944 at £44,561. Of this £3,000 is provided for redemption of loan, but the general reserve gets £1,000 less at £4,500, and nothing is set aside compared with £1,500 for coast advances, and after providing for debenture interest, &c., the available surplus is £4,128 down at £24,475. Last year's appropriation of £10,917 for special redemption of debentures, however, is not repeated, and the ordinary shares, for the first time since the company was reconstructed, receive a dividend of 6 per cent., tax free, leaving a balance of £7,515, or £1,073 less, which is carried to suspense account.

Ever since the disgraceful collapse of Chaplin, Milne, Grenfell and Co. (a dividend of 1d. in the £ has just been announced) it has been practically certain that the Emba Caspian Oil Co., Ltd., would have to be reconstructed. It had no less than £481,000 deposited without security in the allied Canadian Agency, as well as £11,000 on current account with the firm which sponsored its flotation. Practically the whole of this amount vanished, and the company's balance-sheet was further cumbered with a trifle of £120,000 for preliminary expenses and underwriting commission. After making allowance for sundry credits there is a dead loss of £567,000, and the reorganisation scheme now submitted provides for the cutting down of the capital to the extent of £1,105,000 by writing 10s. off

the 2,210,000 £1 shares issued. Of the 1,000,000 unissued shares, 750,000 will be converted into 1,500,000 shares of 10s. each, and it is proposed to issue the remaining 250,000 as £1 non-cumulative 8 per cent. preference shares entitled to rank equally with the ordinary in any surplus profits after 8 per cent. has been paid on the latter. These preference shares will be subscribed for by Russian banks for a commission of 7½ per cent., and it is expected that the proceeds will be sufficient to meet the requirements of the Russian undertaking. In spite of the difficulties caused by the war, the development of the property has proceeded satisfactorily, and a substantial output of oil has been obtained, while a further drilling programme has also been taken in hand. We may take it therefore that the prospects are fairly encouraging, and although the loss of half the shareholders' capital is serious, the scheme submitted is probably the best way out of a difficult situation.

LONDON AND MAIKOP OIL CORPORATION.—This company naturally in a state of suspended animation, and its report for the year ended July 13 (June 30, O.S.) deals mainly with the general position on the Maikop Oil Field. Operations were retarded or entirely arrested by the general mobilisation throughout Russia, but an output of about 52,000 tons was nevertheless obtained, making a total of over 500,000 tons since 1909. These figures, the directors say, support the opinion of experts that stronger and more permanent sources still await discovery, but under present conditions there were no new developments during the year to alter the position. The company's staff has been assisting the Maikop Orient Oil Co., in which this company has a large interest, and work was concentrated upon an additional well on plot 435A, which has reached a depth of 1,120 ft.

What Balance Sheets Tell.

WHITE PASS AND YUKON RAILWAY CO., LTD.

The local undertakings through which this company works suffered from a further shrinkage in business in 1915, partly because traffic was affected by the war, and partly because one of the mines served was shut down. In this company's own financial year, which ended on June 30, the nett outcome, after charging all expenses and interest on debenture stock and debentures paid in income debenture stock, was a loss of £14,107. This was £12,075 less than a year ago, owing to substantial reductions in the interest paid and income-tax, but a loss of £10,568 was brought forward, compared with a credit of £15,615, and the debit balance is increased to £24,675. A further £14,000 of 6 per cent. secured notes was paid off, leaving £42,000 outstanding, and the bank loan was reduced by £5,000 to £25,000, but there was a small increase of £3,375 to £794,802 in first mortgage debenture stock, and creditors for accrued interest amount to £42,107, while sundry creditors have risen by £8,318 to £16,570. On the other hand, the local companies owe £138,411, or £33,143 more, but the indebtedness of the American Yukon Navigation Co. is £12,894 down at £36,608. The outlook for the current year appears to be more promising. Several mining districts have displayed increasing activity, and there are also prospects of new business being obtained from the development of deposits of antimony and molybdenum ore, which are now being investigated by American firms.

MILLOM AND ASKAM HEMATITE IRON CO., LTD.

During the 12 months ended September 30 this company's Millom furnaces produced more iron of the special qualities for which they are noted than in any previous year, and in other ways also the company prospered. Having been a controlled establishment since November, 1915, provision has had to be made for Munitions levy and excess profits duty, and so much has been stowed away for these purposes that, in spite of the much larger business done, the gross profits shown are only £3,256 up at £89,149. Adding £2,893 more brought in and deducting debenture interest, the nett surplus is £6,149 better at £91,639, and out of this an extra £5,000 at £30,000 is written off for depreciation. The reserve again gets £25,000, and the dividend of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares is repeated, leaving £11,139, or £1,149 more, to be carried forward. There is nothing in the accounts to indicate how much it has been considered necessary to set aside for the special taxes, but that the amount is large is evident from the fact that sundry creditors, which include this provision, have risen by £173,425 to £233,412. Property account, less depreciation, is £30,943 up at £332,962, and investments and loans are £111,284 higher at £237,988, partly because the company has acquired from the Duke of Devonshire his large holding in the Barrow Hematite Steel Company. Stocks are £29,287 larger at £58,372, debtors owe £13,277 more at £154,496, and cash is £14,783 up at £24,083.

JAMES NIMMO AND CO., LTD.

This Glasgow business of coalmasters has rearranged its accounts for the year ended September 30 in such a way as to make close comparison with those of the previous 12 months impos-

sible. Trading profits are this time given after deducting charges, provision for excess profits duty, and an undisclosed allowance for depreciation, whereas a year ago the provision for depreciation was written off out of the nett surplus, and was clearly stated at £25,000. Including £33,457, or £12,872 more, brought forward, the available balance is £96,667, or £35,085 more than a year ago. Of this £30,000 is added to reserve, as against £12,500, and the dividend on the ordinary shares is doubled at 20 per cent., tax free, leaving £5,085 more at £38,542 to be carried forward. During the year capital was spent on the benzol and toluol plant at Auchengeich, but the amount is not disclosed, and the property account shows a reduction of £14,472 at £312,500, against which there is a decrease of £14,035 to £98,655 in the debenture debt. Current liabilities have risen by £49,120 to £105,110, and against this debtors owe £88,898, or £12,846 more, and cash and investments have risen by £84,295 to £216,042.

RICHARD HORNSBY AND SONS, LTD.

After making provision for war taxation, the profits for the year ended September 30 showed an increase of £15,848 at £69,502, and the balance brought forward was £13,689 larger at £27,547, giving a total of £97,049, or £29,527 more, to be dealt with. The dividend paid on the ordinary shares is again at the rate of 6½ per cent., to which it was raised a year ago, but in addition the directors now give a bonus of 3¼ per cent., and still have £43,754, or £16,197 more, to carry forward. Property account has been reduced by £34,756 to £442,386. Stocks, including those at depots, are £27,399 smaller at £325,530, and debtors show a reduction of £23,201 at £163,132, but cash and bills come to £145,301, or £115,525 more. Although current liabilities include the provision for war taxation, the total is only £633 up at £110,663, so that the indebtedness to business creditors must have been very substantially reduced.

HENRY TATE AND SONS, LTD.

For the year to September 30, 1914, the profits of this great sugar refinery showed an increase of £198,000, but in the following year they dropped back £180,000, and in the past 12 months they have recovered £52,000 to £217,945. Income-tax absorbed £27,910 against £880 recovered last year, and after paying debenture interest and placing £20,000, or double the amount, to reserve the nett profit is £13,000 up at £144,035. On the other hand, £10,500 less at £22,800 was brought forward, so that the available balance is only a trifle larger. The dividend of 25 per cent. is repeated, leaving £25,330, or £2,530 more, to be carried forward. Stocks of sugar are £5,000 lower at £353,000, but sundry debtors are up £28,000 at £452,000, while sundry creditors have been reduced £137,000 to £658,000. Cash in hand is up £45,000 at £163,350, and the reserve fund stands at £170,000. It is a fine business, and has been wonderfully successful considering how keen the competition in the sugar trade was before the war.

BRITISH AND CHINESE CORPORATION, LTD.

No fresh business was entered into with the Chinese Government during the year ended June 30, but the Corporation continued to make advances to the Nanking-Hunan Railway Administration to enable the survey of this line to be carried on. The survey is now completed, and further work is in abeyance until such time as the loan can be issued. Interest on the whole of the advances has been paid by the Chinese Government up to October 31. Profits for the 12 months under review were £2,088 smaller at £28,880, but £7,896 less at £6,833 was required for depreciation of investments, and after providing for administration expenses the nett surplus was £5,213 up at £12,885. Out of this a dividend of 5 per cent. is again paid, and the balance carried forward is increased by £6,635 to £19,177. In addition to the amount written off out of revenue, the investments were reduced by £9,431 through realisations, and now stand in the books at £189,260. The amount due from debtors is £11,202 down at £388,053, but cash has risen by £10,699 to £11,060, while liabilities to sundry creditors, and on bills payable, show a decrease of £23,402 at £328,846.

LONDON AND COLONIAL INVESTMENT CORPORATION, LTD.

This company was formed in 1910 as the Colonial Rubber and Produce Investment Corporation, chiefly to deal in rubber shares. Of course, it came to grief in the collapse that followed the boom, and had to reduce its capital by £62,500. Since then it has widened the scope of its activities, and general investments now represent 81 per cent. of the total, while in the past year to September 30 rubber securities have been reduced from 31 per cent. to 19 per cent. Nett revenue showed a small increase at £11,116, and after placing £3,000, against £1,500, to reserve it is possible to pay a maiden dividend of 3 per cent. on the deferred stock and increase the carry forward by £330 to £2,300. The directors have sold most of their American investments in response to the Government's request. The total of investments (of which a complete list is given) is £250,850, and there are loans against security for £13,450, an increase of £5,600, while the company has got rid of a debt of £11,000. Reserve funds amount to £14,500, of which £7,000 was derived from profit on realisation of securities, and the company seems to have definitely started on a more prosperous career.

THIRD EDINBURGH INVESTMENT TRUST, LTD.

After providing for interest and expenses of management, the nett revenue for the twelve months ended November 5 showed an improvement of £2,337 at £20,053. A year ago, however, £6,715 was written off debenture issue expenses, whereas this time the only provision considered necessary is £827 for depreciation of investments. The directors, therefore, are able to increase the dividend on the deferred stock from 4 per cent.

to 6, and to carry forward £12,686, or £7,350 more. In addition to the amount written off for revenue, the investments were reduced by £1,172 from profit on sale of securities. No list is given, but the directors say that the funds are distributed over 160 investments, while the British Government securities held amounted to £192,000. The total book value of the securities is £11,203 up at £613,790.

WESTERN CANADA INVESTMENT CO., LTD.

Owing partly to the financial conditions in Canada and to heavier expenses due to the increase in the income-tax and the additional consideration required for the renewal of maturing debentures, the nett revenue for the year ended June 30 showed a reduction of £1,578 at £10,131. At the same time the balance brought forward was £555 smaller at £5,809, giving £2,133 less at £15,941 to be dealt with. The directors, however, transfer £2,000 to reserve, as against £5,000 a year ago, and after again writing £1,000 off preliminary expenses, they increase the dividend on the ordinary shares from 3½ per cent. to 5, and carry forward £668 more at £6,477. Mortgages on real estate and other securities in Canada have been reduced by £8,903 to £235,392, and the property account, apparently as the result of foreclosures, has risen by £858 to £4,627. Debtors for interest have risen by £1,374 to £15,181, but the directors say that more than ample provision has been made to meet any contingencies that may arise in this connection. Cash is £1,948 higher at £5,115, but a loan of £3,500 has been called in, while, on the other hand, the indebtedness of £1,000 to the bankers has been paid off. With the present addition the reserve will stand at £11,000, against which £10,390 has been invested in Treasury bills.

ILFORD, LTD.

The substantial increase in the prices of photographic materials does not seem to have had the effect of checking sales, and in the year ended October 31 this well-known company showed a further improvement of £31,119 to £85,453 in its gross profits. Of this, £15,314, or £12,295 more, was set aside for income-tax and excess profits duty, but even so, the nett balance, including £5,257, or £623 less, brought forward, was £20,145 up at £53,302. Advantage is taken of the prosperity to write off £25,000, as against £7,000, for depreciation of goodwill, investments, and plant, after which the dividend on the ordinary shares is raised by another 1 per cent. to 6, and a slightly larger balance of £5,502 is carried forward. Before making the present adjustments, property account shows a decrease of £10,957 at £60,088, but investments are £14,498 up at £115,101, a figure which is some £15,000 in excess of the present market value. Stocks are £10,111 larger at £44,598, debtors owe £17,189 more at £50,571, and cash is £6,850 up at £17,006, while, on the other hand, sundry creditors are £17,520 higher at £30,545. Goodwill, patents, trade-marks, &c., stand at £196,000, or some £6,000 more than the ordinary share capital, so that there is ample scope for liberal treatment of this item.

GUATRACHE LAND CO., LTD.

In the year ended June 30 the district in which this company's properties are situated suffered from climatic conditions, which seriously depreciated the wheat crop, both in quality and quantity, and the company's percentage only realised £5,485, as against £11,558. Better results, however, were obtained from cattle, in spite of the recent droughts, and the profit improved by £2,876 to £11,707, but the receipts from all sources were nevertheless £1,970 smaller at £23,108, and the nett profit showed a decrease of £1,748 at £21,346. A balance of £1,665 was brought forward, as against a debit of £3,929, and after again setting aside £17,500 for the debenture stock service, the balance carried forward was increased by £3,846 to £5,512. During the year there were very few opportunities to sell land, but 1,663 hectares, or 888 hectares more, were sold at a profit of £1,141, which has been credited to land sales account, making a total of £6,016. Property account has been reduced by £8,490 to £549,530, but live stock is £3,699 up at £29,552. Cash is £21,316 down at

THE LONDON BANK OF AUSTRALIA, LIMITED.

Head Office—71 Old Broad Street, E.C.

Subscribed Capital	£1,276,747	10	0
Paid up Capital	669,665	0	0
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits	354,791	5	8
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	606,962	10	0

REMITTANCES made by CABLE.

DRAFTS, LETTERS OF CREDIT and CIRCULAR NOTES issued upon Branches and Agents.

BILLS on Australasia NEGOTIATED or sent for collection.

DEPOSITS RECEIVED for periods and at rates which may be ascertained on application, and Banking Business of every description conducted with Australia.

THE UNION BANK OF AUSTRALIA

ESTABLISHED 1837. LIMITED. INCORPORATED 1880.

Authorised and Issued Capital, £6,000,000.

Paid-up Capital, £2,000,000; Reserve Fund, £1,960,000; together £3,960,000

Reserve Liability of Proprietors 4,000,000

Total Capital and Reserves £7,960,000

HEAD OFFICE - - - 71, CORNHILL, LONDON, E.

DRAFTS are granted on the Bank's Branches throughout the Australian States and Dominion of New Zealand.

TELEGRAPHIC REMITTANCES are also made.

BILLS are purchased or sent for Collection.

DEPOSITS are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application.

£31,314, but debtors have risen by £10,562 to £31,751, and loans and investments are £24,710 higher at £147,775. For the current year the company has let 47,111 acres at a percentage of the crop, and 11,154 acres at a fixed rental, as against a total of 52,740 acres last year, but the directors say that the latest reports unfortunately indicate that the growing crop is suffering from lack of rain.

WILLIAM PATON, LTD.

In the year ended September 30 this business of bootlace manufacturers, &c., increased its profits by £7,794 to £24,693, but it has been considered necessary to set aside £12,000 of this for excess profits duty, and as management expenses took nearly £1,000 more, the net profit was £5,199 down at £8,481. Adding £7,037 brought forward, the divisible total is £4,896 smaller at £15,518, but the ordinary shares again get a dividend of 7 per cent., while the appropriation to general reserve is reduced from £6,000 to £1,500, and nothing is written off investments, compared with £438, leaving the balance carried forward practically the same at £7,078. Stocks show an increase of £15,754 at £67,453, but debtors owe £2,546 less at £27,811, and cash is £1,566 down at £1,585, against which there is a small increase to £20,515 in the amount due to sundry creditors.

STEPNEY SPARE MOTOR WHEEL, LTD.

Business picked up in the 13 months ended September 30, and the net profits, after providing for all charges, amounted to £14,163 as against £8,962 for the previous year. The balance brought in was £14,890 smaller at £13,526, but nothing is set aside compared with £15,484 to meet possible losses in connection with the foreign companies. A dividend of 10 per cent. per annum is paid for the 13 months, or double the distribution for 1914-15, and £10,000 is transferred to reserve, compared with £4,000 written off goodwill, leaving £8,005, or £5,321 less, to be carried forward. Investments stand in the books at £78,361, an increase of £4,552, but the market value is only £63,976, and the present appropriation to reserve is made to cover this depreciation. Stocks are £8,745 larger at £18,232, but otherwise there is nothing in the accounts requiring mention.

W. BUTLER AND CO., LTD.

In spite of the various handicaps to which the trade was subjected, this Wolverhampton brewery managed to increase its profits for the year ended September 30 by £4,254 to £86,950, and, after providing for the usual charges, together with £1,827, or £1,839 less, for compensation levy, the net surplus was £6,047 up at £59,368. A much larger balance was brought forward, giving a total of £184,734, or £23,713 more available, out of which the arrears of dividend for three half-years are paid on the preference shares, bringing the payment up to September 30, 1912, and the balance carried forward is increased by £17,968 to £143,333. Property account has been reduced by £12,775 to £941,907, and, on the other hand, loans show a decrease of £14,550 at £2,200. Stocks have risen by £23,257 to £90,627, and cash is £4,604 higher at £40,483, but debtors and loans have been reduced by £5,505 to £29,187, against which sundry creditors are a trifle higher at £57,021.

LADY'S PICTORIAL AND SPORTING AND DRAMATIC PUBLISHING CO., LTD.

Thanks to an improvement in the revenue from advertisements, this company did decidedly better in its year ended September 30, and the directors say that but for the very serious increase in the cost of paper the year's working would have resulted in a profit. As it was, the loss upon publications was reduced by £1,275 to £1,172, and as the directors took £1,188 less in fees, the net result was a debit of only £844. A year ago the preference dividend and the debit balance of £600 was met out of reserve, but this time the directors have decided not to pay even the preference dividend. Except that a loan of £3,000 has been obtained from the bank on the security of the reserve fund investments, and that loans by the company have been reduced by £1,600 to £535, while cash is £1,087 down at £4,839, the changes in the balance-sheet are small. The reserve fund investments stand in the books at £23,756, but the auditors point out that the approximate value of these is only £16,550.

BALANCE SHEET FACTS.

ARGENTINE SOUTHERN LAND CO., LTD.—In the year ended June 30 sales of both cattle and sheep were made at satisfactory prices, and the receipts from this source rose by £12,787 to £30,310. The wool clip was also better, amounting to 766,544 lbs., or an average of 8.83 lbs. per head, compared with 698,728 lbs., or 7.67 lbs. a year ago, and the total income, including interest, &c., was £22,405 up at £62,330. Net profits were £19,217 better at £31,572, but as £12,845 less was brought forward the divisible surplus of £50,588 is £6,372 up, out of which the dividend is raised from 9 per cent. to 10; and £22,588, or £3,572 more, is carried forward. Lands, stocks, &c., have been reduced by £9,617 to £311,763, and machinery, tools, stores, &c., by £9,643 to £25,780. Consignments in transit valued in the previous balance-sheet at £16,866 have disappeared, but cash and Treasury bills have risen by £44,543 to £69,021.

BARRY GRAVING DOCK AND ENGINEERING CO., LTD.—On the figures disclosed, the net profits for the year ended September 30 were £3,225 down at £20,216, but the decrease is due to the fact that the total has been arrived at after making provision for war profits tax. With £29,814 brought in, the available balance was £2,744 smaller at £50,030, but nothing of this is set aside, compared with £7,500 to reserve contin-

gency account a year ago. The ordinary shares get their usual dividend of 10 per cent., but this time, instead of paying it less tax and adding a bonus of 2s. per share, the distribution is made free of income-tax, and a balance of £34,030, or £4,216, is left to be carried forward. Current liabilities, which presumably include the war-tax provision, are £20,568 higher at £28,743, and against this cash is £21,417 up at £31,617.

J. B. BROOKS AND CO., LTD.—Profits for the year ended August 31 showed a shrinkage of £8,145 at £23,141, and as £2,295 less at £1,140 was brought forward, after providing for excess profits duty, the available balance is £10,440 smaller at £24,281. Of this £10,000 is again transferred to reserve, making that fund £150,000, and the dividend of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares is repeated, but this time there is no bonus, compared with 1s. per share a year ago, and the balance carried forward is reduced by £4,994 to £2,146. Property and goodwill account is £6,496 up at £211,018, and investments have been increased by £7,084 to £80,107. Stocks are a trifle smaller at £66,837, while debtors owe £17,517 less at £22,712, and cash has been reduced by £3,587 to £8,979, against a decrease of £8,224 to £29,622 in sundry creditors.

QUEEN'S CLUB GARDENS ESTATES, LTD.—After payment of the debenture interest, the net profit for the year ended September 30 was £233 smaller at £5,677. The balance brought in, however, was £1,710 up at 10,047, so that, after paying the usual dividend of 4 per cent., less tax, the amount carried forward was further increased by £1,477 to £11,524. No change has been made in the value of the property, which stands at £395,000 as against a share capital of £105,000 and a debenture debt of £290,000. Changes generally in the balance-sheet are unimportant, but it may be noted that cash is £2,068 up at £8,958.

RICHARD HILL (1899), LTD.—This company became a controlled establishment on January 1, 1916, and its net profits for the year ended September 30 amounted to £38,979, as against £30,255 for the previous fifteen months. Adding £5,326, or £4,532 more, brought forward and receipts from interest, the available total was £45,142, out of which £25,000, or £17,748 more, is set aside for excess profits duty, &c. After providing for administration charges and depreciation, the ordinary shares again get a dividend of 8 per cent., and £5,493 is carried forward. Stocks are £19,072 larger at £50,390, and debtors owe £4,596 more at £29,662, against an increase of £13,258 to £23,701 in current liabilities, and although cash is £13,355 down at £10,970, the decrease is more than balanced by a holding of £19,704 in Treasury bills.

ROYAL BANK OF AUSTRALIA, LTD.—Profits for the half-year ended September 30 improved by £4,549 to £38,975, but expenses were heavier, and the net balance, including £7,901, or £240 more, brought forward, was only £2,575 up at £27,491. Out of this the usual dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum is paid, and the appropriation to reserve is increased by £2,500 to £7,500, leaving £90, or £165 less, to be added to the balance brought in, making it £7,991. Government deposits, which are mostly interest-bearing, have risen by £124,411 to £567,283, but other deposits show a decrease of £29,228 at £1,949,240. Bills in circulation are £138,775 down at £131,865, but balances due to other banks have risen by £23,842 to £29,654. Cash assets are £396,768 lower at £943,661, coin and bullion being £118,137 down, investments £258,027 down, and bills and remittances in transit £25,737 down. Bills discounted, advances, &c., however, have been increased by £301,296 to £2,231,438.

WALPOLE BROS.—Net profits for the year ended August 31, including a slightly smaller balance of £2,340 brought in, were £6,358 higher at £21,097. The directors, however, content themselves with restoring the dividend on the ordinary shares, which was reduced to 4 per cent. a year ago, to the old level of 5 per cent. This only requires £600 out of the substantial increase shown, and £3,000 of the surplus is stowed away by writing off an extra £1,000 off premises and transferring £2,000 more to reserve, making £3,000 in each case, and leaving £2,758 more at £5,097 to be carried forward. Stocks are £5,354 smaller at £102,715, but debtors have risen by £9,597 to £64,211, and cash is £6,486 up at £12,645, while sundry creditors are only £1,731 higher at £25,946.

The British, Foreign and Colonial Corporation, Ltd., announces that the balance-sheet of the Banco Popular Argentino to September 30 last shows paid-up capital £925,248; increase over corresponding period last year. £541; deposits, £1,868,165; decrease, £18,384; reserve funds, £466,147; increase, £1,862.

Messrs. Speyer Bros. announce that the reorganisation of the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad Co. has been completed, and temporary certificates for the securities are now ready for delivery in New York. Arrangements have been made by the firm to accept deposit of the old bonds, and certificates here, and to pay the cash to which holders may be entitled.

A cabled summary of the Bank of Montreal's position at October 31 states that the total assets have been increased by £12,400,000 to the record level of £73,023,108. Liquid assets represent £49,396,536, or 75 per cent. of the total liabilities to the public, as compared with £34,001,513, or 64 per cent., a year ago. Balances due by banks and banking correspondents elsewhere than in Canada have increased to £6,326,247, while call and short loans in Great Britain and the United States now stand at £22,600,419, as compared with £14,191,505. There is a gain of over £10,000,000 in interest-bearing deposits, which now amount to £42,087,806.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND.

The annual general court of proprietors of the Royal Bank of Scotland was held on Wednesday, Mr. E. A. Davidson, chairman of the directors, presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the approval of the report of the directors for the year ending October 14, 1916, which has already been published, and which shows the bank to be in a thoroughly sound and strong position, drew attention to the increase of nearly three million pounds in the deposits during the year, this following upon an increase of upwards of two million pounds in the previous year, making an increase of upwards of five million pounds in the last two years. He also mentioned that there had been an increase of nearly £45,000 in the net profits of the year. Since last year there had been a considerable fall in the prices of Stock Exchange securities of the gilt-edged class held by the Bank, owing mainly to the high rates for Government borrowing, and the removal of minimum prices, and the directors had deemed it advisable to apply the whole of the balance of profit, after providing for the dividend of 10 per cent., to writing down the value of the investments. This provision they considered ample in the circumstances. The report was approved, and a dividend was declared for the half-year at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, subject to deduction of income-tax. The Chairman expressed the gratification of the board that the Right Hon. Lord Inchcape had accepted office as an extraordinary director.

The governor, the deputy-governor, the extraordinary directors, and the ordinary directors retiring at this time were re-elected.

MESSINA (TRANSVAAL) DEVELOPMENT CO. LIMITED.

"A RECORD OF GOOD WORK."

The annual ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Messina (Transvaal) Development Co., Ltd., was held on Wednesday at Salisbury House, London Wall, under the presidency of Mr. C. F. H. Leslie, the chairman of the company.

The Secretary (Mr. A. A. Kelsey, F.C.I.S.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—With your permission we will take the report as read, and I will at once proceed to say a few words on what I regard as the salient features which have occurred since the last annual general meeting.

MR. HOOVER'S RETIREMENT FROM THE BOARD.

Of these features there is only one that is personal, and that is the resignation of Mr. H. C. Hoover from the directorate of this company. The reason of this resignation has been stated in the fewest possible words in the directors' report, and I think perhaps I should remind you that Mr. Hoover's duties in respect of his chairmanship of the Belgian Relief Committee involve an immense amount of labour and responsibility, as well as frequent absences from this country. I can only admire the courage and other great qualities of character which have enabled him to carry out this difficult work, and hope that when the necessity for this work has passed he will once more join the directorate of this company. (Hear, hear.) I take this opportunity of acknowledging the great services he has rendered to the company since he and I joined the board at a somewhat critical time, and the great assistance he has given to me in the many difficult questions which at that time demanded, and have since received, as I believe, a satisfactory solution.

The next matter is of more cheerful import—namely, the settlement of the account in connection with the Canadian Agency debentures. We have received an amount of £32,500 in respect of this claim, and there is a further amount to be received in respect of interest which we hope will come in at some future date.

THE ACCOUNTS: DEPRECIATION AND TAXATION.

To turn now to the balance-sheet, we have dealt with the depreciation, as you will see, on a liberal scale. It has seemed to the board that this is particularly necessary in the case of a mine such as this, with an uncertain "life," and I do not think any shareholder will criticise our policy in this matter. I need not allude further to the balance-sheet, except to point out that we are slowly and surely arriving at quite a strong financial position. With regard to the profit and loss account, taxation is a most formidable item, and the excess profits duty is as yet an undetermined amount. We have stated the accounts to the best of our ability pending an appeal to the authorities on this item. As the accounts are stated, it appears that we have to pay to the South African Government £42,600; to the British Government, in respect of excess profits tax for 1916, £105,000; and in respect of income-tax for 1916, £13,000; making a total of £160,600, while shareholders receive a nett return, after deduction of income-tax, of £60,000. In other words, out of, say, £221,000 available nett profit the British and South African Governments take rather less than three-quarters and

the shareholders rather more than one-quarter, while the mine which produces these profits is, by reason of the annual extraction of ore, being exhausted.

From these figures you will see that this company is paying both income-tax and profit tax in South Africa, and is the only company, so far as I am aware, operating in South Africa which is under this double burden. We continue to make representations to the authorities in South Africa on this anomaly, as yet without success. We are aware that the present times are unfavourable to those whose duty it is to request remissions of taxation. We do not, however, despair that these representations will eventually receive the favourable consideration from the South African Government to which, as we believe, they are justly entitled. You will also see how inequitably the excess profits tax falls on this particular company. We are putting our case before the Special Commissioners with the confident expectation that their decision will enable us to adjust in favour of the shareholders a considerable portion of the amount we have reserved in respect of this item. With reference to the item of income-tax in South Africa, there will be some return to be made to the company as rebate on income-tax here, on which point we will see that the shareholders' interests are protected; but this consideration is only applicable as from April 6, 1916, and is not dealt with in the present accounts.

THE MINE: IMPROVED ORE RESERVE POSITION.

I now come to the position of the mine itself, and I find that Mr. Emery's wholly admirable report has left me little to say. The first 12 paragraphs of this report give the position concisely and accurately, and answer, as far as I am aware, every question that could conceivably be raised. There are, however, some features of the operations at the mine to which attention may be drawn, and to which I will briefly refer. The development results have, on the whole, been very satisfactory, and are reflected in the improved ore reserve position shown. Whereas at the end of June, 1915, there were 131,700 tons of proved ore, containing 6.63 per cent. of copper, we have at the end of the period under review 151,409 tons, containing 5.23 per cent. of copper. The possible ore—that is, ore regarded as not fully developed—shows corresponding figures of 43,700 tons containing 3.74 per cent. of copper and 56,652 tons containing 3.43 per cent. of copper. The position is well summed up in your manager's statement to the effect that the copper contents of the total reserves of proven and possible ore are only 5 per cent. less than that of last year's reserves, and this notwithstanding the fact that the ore production for the year was the greatest in the history of the mine.

THE NEW GRINGO SHOOT.

The most important development accomplished is the discovery on the 7th level, and the subsequent opening up on the 6th and 8th levels of what the manager terms the new Gringo Shoot. It would appear to be another ore occurrence in the Bonanza vein system, very similar to those encountered in this section on the 4th and 5th levels. On the 7th level the length and width so far exposed indicate that this shoot of ore may be expected to furnish a very considerable tonnage of ore of a grade above that of our present reserves. The work so far carried out on the 6th level, while proving the upward continuation of the shoot, is not yet sufficient to indicate the extent of it, though the results, so far, are very promising. On the 8th level, however, the development of this shoot since the end of the financial year has been attended by very satisfactory results. In a crosscut from the footwall lode the first 15½ ft. of ore exposed gave an average of over 13 per cent. of copper. The last advices from the mine indicate that the ore at this point has a width of at least 35 ft., though the value, as a whole, is not as good for this width as that just mentioned for the first 15 ft. exposed. That too much expectation must not be based on individual occurrences of rich ore in this mine is emphasized by a cable just received from the mine, from which we gather that the ore body so far as now opened out on the 8th level does not exceed in value that opened out on the 7th level. Beyond the cutting of the footwall lode on the 11th level, where to-day we have found 6 per cent. ore over a width of 60 ins., there is nothing at the moment in the deeper ground of the main workings calling for special mention.

As may be noted from Mr. Emery's report, some interesting work is being done on the "F" lode in the working of No. 11 shaft, and we are looking forward with some interest to the results when the crosscut on the second level reaches the vicinity of this shoot. In what are known as the Harper Workings on the Vogelzang Farm some ore of very good grade has been developed on No. 1 level since the date of this report. It is the intention of the board to continue to spend a moderate amount monthly in such exploration work as this, and in testing many of the numerous ore occurrences indicated by old native

workings. It is true that many of the extensions in good grade ore throughout the mine are very short, but this is characteristic of the ore deposits at Messina, and it serves again to demonstrate the difficulties under which development work has to be conducted.

THE PAST YEAR'S DEVELOPMENT RESULTS.

In referring, as I have done, to the satisfactory character of the development results for the past year, I must emphasize the necessity of your not regarding this as any criterion of what may be expected year by year. The ore in the main is an extremely difficult one to follow, and the values, occurring as they do in short disconnected bunches, make anything but simple the matter of their location.

The whole tenor of the manager's report on the development operations is indicative of our success last year as having been due more to a set of fortuitous circumstances rather than that it was something that might have been expected. It is the intention of your directors to have the further development of the mine pushed on as rapidly as possible, and while we look forward hopefully to meeting with the success such a policy would seem to deserve, I feel impelled to say that we should desire in some directions a more assured outlook. The No. 5 shaft was sunk 325 ft. during the year, and since the date of the report a further 96 ft. have been sunk, making a total depth of 1,736 ft. With the completion of the lift now in hand it is intended to suspend shaft sinking for the present and proceed vigorously with the lateral development of the mine down to the No. 16 level.

THE MESSINA ORE DEPOSITS: THE METALLURGICAL OPERATIONS.

I feel that the general manager is to be commended on the action he has taken in having secured assistance for the purpose of placing the study of the Messina ore deposits on a more scientific basis, and already the results obtained are most encouraging. Turning to the metallurgical side of the operations, we find every reason for regarding the work of the management as having been satisfactory. The tonnage milled—111,909 tons—is a record one, and the recovery in that section of the plant has been steadily improved, until for the last five months of the financial year it averaged almost 91 per cent. The latter is specially good when it is realised that the grade of ore treated has been below that of former years. In this department, as in the smelting and power plants, there has been effected a steady improvement in equipment—an improvement which has been reflected in better running time, and in the case of the two former in more efficient metallurgical work.

With reference to the copper output since the date of this report, I have before me the production figures for July, August, September, and October last. In these four months we have produced concentrates and matte containing 1,863 tons of copper—a figure which shows that we have been able to maintain last year's rate of production. The price, however, which we shall realise for this copper will probably exceed the average of last year by £30 to £40 per ton, so that the maintenance of our output to that date may from every point of view be regarded as entirely satisfactory. (Cheers.)

SUMMARY OF THE POSITION.

To give you a summary of my view and that of the board on the position as a whole, I feel that I ought to emphasise the fact that it is not possible to estimate the "life" of the mine. Our experts, quite rightly, will not say anything as to the "life" of the mine, except that which they can see and what their experience enables them to deduce therefrom. They will not guess—guesswork is no basis for a sound calculation of ore reserves; yet somehow I feel that the position has improved during the last 12 months, and that we are entitled to be hopeful. Possibilities have been shown to exist which were not manifest a year ago, and the present price of copper—namely, £167 per ton for best select, as compared with the realised price for the period under review—namely, £112 per ton, is a satisfactory feature, and if maintained will more than compensate for the increased costs which must result from causes with which every industrial concern the world over has now to reckon.

In conclusion, I desire to point out that the various reports which have been put before you constitute a record of good work performed at the mine during the past year, and I feel sure you will wish to join me in sending our thanks and appreciation to those who are responsible for it—namely, our general manager, our officials, and staff at Messina. (Cheers.) I now move: "That the directors' report, together with the balance-sheet and accounts for the year ended June 30, 1916, be and are hereby received and adopted." I will ask Mr. Frecheville to second the motion, and afterwards I shall be glad to reply to any questions which the shareholders may wish to ask.

Mr. R. J. Frecheville, M.Inst.C.E., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously, after the Chairman had replied to a few questions, and resolutions were also passed for the payment to-morrow of a final dividend of 1s. per share, re-electing the retiring directors, Mr. J. A. Agnew and Mr. Leslie, and re-appointing Messrs. Allen, Attfield, and Co., chartered accountants, auditors to the company for the ensuing year.

Mr. Francis Moore said that before the meeting separated he desired, on the part of his fellow-shareholders and himself, to record how much they appreciated the services which had been rendered to the company by Mr. Hoover, and how much they regretted that he had felt compelled to retire from the board. (Hear, hear.)

A cordial vote of thanks was afterwards passed to the chairman and the directors.

The Chairman, in acknowledging the vote, stated that his colleagues and he had done their utmost to make the company prosperous in the past, and that they would continue to do so in the future.

The proceedings then terminated.

TANALYK CORPORATION.

The fourth ordinary annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Tanalyk Corporation, Limited, was held on Friday at Winchester House, Old Broad-street, E.C., Mr. Leslie Urquhart (the chairman of the company) presiding.

The Acting-Secretary (Mr. W. Self) having read the notice convening the meeting, and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that they referred to the year 1915. The shareholders would readily understand that with depleted staffs, both in Russia and London, there had been delay, but the directors had endeavoured to bring the shareholders up to date in their report by showing the allocation of the company's capital at the present time, while Mr. Gilman Brown's report, which was also in their hands, commented on the position at the time of his last visit to the properties in June. The accounts necessarily only showed the position nearly a year ago, and so lacked interest, but they had shown in the report the Russian company's surplus of receipts over expenditure on revenue account for the year ended January 13, 1916. Bearing in mind that production only began in May, 1914, and that during that year it was largely experimental, the surplus of 685,057 roubles for 1915 was satisfactory. After writing off the depreciation and reserve, and after making provision for Russian taxes, the South Urals Mining and Smelting Company, whose issued share capital their corporation held, carried forward 182,389 roubles. As to their own accounts, he might say that the financial position in Petrograd was very satisfactory. The debit balance of their Corporation *vis-à-vis* Petrograd, which in January, 1915, amounted to £91,856, had been reduced in the accounts before them to £62,930, and he hoped that to a great extent that position as between the Corporation and the South Urals Company would be cleared up in the next accounts. The difficulties which had hampered the Russian Company in all its operations had increased rather than diminished, and, having regard to the state of affairs prevailing, he thought they must congratulate themselves on having made real progress in production, in development, and in new discoveries since they last met. He did not pretend that the results obtained were anything like those which might have been expected in normal times, but notwithstanding the drawbacks of high working costs, retarded development, and slow and expensive new construction, they could point to improving returns, a longer life as indicated by the ore reserves, and the continuance of discoveries of promising ore deposits. In 1914 they produced 252 tons of blister copper, in 1915 605 tons, and it was estimated that the total production for 1916 would be about 700 tons, or nearly 100 tons more than for 1915. Development of their mines had been very much hampered by want of labour, but, all things considered, the results as shown by the calculations of ore reserves at June 1 last were remarkable. The total ore of all natures in all their mines developed to the point of reliability had amounted in April, 1915, to 231,000 tons, and in June, 1916, to 290,000 tons. He had made a rough calculation of the gross value of the metal contents of those reserves, and found that the copper had nearly doubled during those 14 months, and the precious metals had also nearly doubled. The total figures in 1915 were about £800,000, and in 1916 about £1,500,000. Those figures, however, were for rough comparison only—they had nothing to do with profit. Working cost, smelting losses, future variations in the price of copper—none of those factors had been taken into consideration. That increase of reserves had taken place, too, despite the extraction during the year of a very material quantity of ore. As to the actual development in the several mines, he would refer to the Tuba Mine alone. From a very promising prospect that had become a producing mine with handsome reserves of ore. It was impossible to form an opinion as to the likelihood of extension, but even now they had in the Tuba Mine a very important asset. During the year they had been able to secure a plant for treating the Tuba gold ore separately by amalgamation, and they might expect their future rate of total gold production from the smelter, the cyanide plant and the new mill together to be, perhaps, three times as great as at present. In

the working of their plant the fuel question was important, but a saving in the cost of coke had been made since September by a reduction in the length of road haul, and an economy in coke of greater importance might shortly be expected, as they were advised that the materials now available would constitute a smelting charge for the blast furnaces, in which the proportion of coke would be about 50 per cent. less than at present. A large reduction in working costs would thereby be brought about, while a constructional alteration in the blast furnace plant would increase its capacity by 20 per cent., and reduce the labour costs. The prospects on which work was now being done were mentioned in Mr. Gilman Brown's report, and he would refer to the Bai Kara only because although there had been little work done upon it, the management was able to make a more definite statement with regard to it than about the other prospects. Bai Kara had many points of similarity to the Tuba deposit. Whilst taking care not to be led into unduly optimistic anticipations, they could say that they had exposed with small expenditure an asset of definite and material value. He hoped the shareholders would not press the question of dividend prospects on him, but he would say this, that, so far as they could judge, the results of the current year's working would show a material profit, and that, therefore, when they next met it was probable, if the interest of the company permitted, they would be in a position to declare a dividend.

Mr. T. Blair Reynolds seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WELSBACH LIGHT.

By order of the Court, a meeting of the 4½ per cent. debenture-stock holders of the Welsbach Light Co., Ltd., was held on Tuesday, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., to consider the proposed scheme of arrangement and also the provisional agreement entered into under the authority of the Board of Trade with the Deutsche Gasglühlicht Aktiengesellschaft for the complete purchase of their share and debenture stock interest, and for the sale of the Welsbach Co.'s large asset in Austria. Mr. J. R. Yates (chairman of the company) presided by direction of the court.

The Chairman said he supposed that few, if any, boards of directors had had, since the commencement of the war, more difficulties to tackle, more knots to untie or cut, than had confronted those responsible for the administration of the Welsbach Co. But whenever recurring problems as to raw materials, labour, finance, and a hundred other details which had arisen had been met there had always remained what he might call two nightmares—the precarious and unwieldy Austrian investment, on the one hand, and the share and stockholding in their company acquired by the German company, known as the Deutsche Gasglühlicht Aktiengesellschaft on the other hand. The Austrian investment, the biggest individual asset which they possessed, was a legacy from their predecessor, the old Welsbach Co. Then they had to consider the holding of the D.G.A. in the Welsbach Co. in shares and debenture stock. Early in the year the board approached the Government Departments concerned, and from that time to the present they had acted in close touch with them in all they had done. Eventually the Board of Trade authorised their negotiating, through neutral channels, with the D.G.A., and their colleague, Mr. Charles Lock, undertook the extremely arduous task of proceeding to Berne and conducting there oral negotiations on their behalf. The Chairman then dealt with the salient provisions of the scheme, and pointed out the manner in which future balance-sheets would be affected by it. They would, he said, looking at the balance-sheet, get rid, on the one side, of a large block of share capital, the issued capital being reduced to £175,000, while the debenture stock would be brought down to £139,000, and they hoped soon to £100,000. On the other side, they would eliminate the huge Austrian investment and bring in a large amount of new cash assets, of which he gave details.

Mr. Charles Lock said they had to come to a very important decision that day. He explained at some length the reasons for carrying through the scheme, and pointed out its bearing on the future financial position of the company. He remarked that the profits had been on the up grade during the last few years. With the interest from the proposed investment in Exchange bonds and revenue from other sources, they might have next year, say, £31,855, subject to income-tax and excess profits duty. Against that, assuming the debentures were not reduced below £139,000, they would have to provide £6,283 for interest, redemption fund would take £4,000, and a 5 per cent. dividend on £175,000 of share capital would require £8,750, making a total of £19,033, against £31,855 on the other side. From that point of view the position looked fairly encouraging. Their business was being well maintained and was under very capable management. He commended the scheme to their acceptance, because not only did it extricate them from a precarious position, but it made the debenture-stock holders absolutely secure, and it provided assets, according to the balance-sheet, of nearly 20s. in the £ for the shareholders, and freed the company entirely from foreign influence.

After some discussion the voting took place, the Chairman stating that the result would be reported to the Court.

A meeting of the shareholders was afterwards held, at which the Chairman explained briefly the main provisions of the scheme. No announcement of the result of the voting was made, but it was stated that a report would be made to the Court in due course.

It is understood that the scheme was carried unanimously, except for the vote of a holder of some £20 debenture stock.

AUSTRALIAN MERCANTILE LAND AND FINANCE.

The fifty-second annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Australian Mercantile Land and Finance Co., Ltd., was held on Thursday, at the Terminus Hotel, Cannon Street, Mr. R. Henryson Caird (managing director) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. H. R. B. Lilley) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said that he was very hopeful that the end of the cycle of dry years in Australia had been reached, as recent advices said that there had been splendid rains practically all over Australia, and the season promised to be a very good one. The recent drought was very similar in character to that which ended in 1902, but the losses, though severe, had been very much less, and he attributed that to the large amount of capital that had been expended on improvements and water supply. In December, 1902, there were only 54,000,000 sheep left in Australia, and it was estimated that there were now 66,000,000. From 1902 it took seven years to get up to the 90 million level, but he expected that the recovery would be much more rapid now, if the politicians would only leave the industry alone and not drive capital away from it. The pastoral industry was the backbone of Australian prosperity, and all who had the welfare of the Commonwealth at heart regretted that the trend of legislation in recent years had been conspicuously adverse. Men would not risk their industry and their capital in attempts to improve the productivity of the land when the results of their labour and enterprise might be confiscated by taxation or commandeered to satisfy some political cry for subdivision of the land. If capital were withdrawn the capacity of the country to produce wool and meat would inevitably diminish. The census of wealth in Australia showed that the people had an annual income of £200,000,000, and of that sum under £5,000,000 was possessed by some 880 people with incomes of £3,000, and he had great hopes that where property was so widely distributed the people would awake to their true interests before it was too late, and would give their confidence to political leaders who would study the welfare of the whole community. He had told them of the great losses of sheep caused by the two long droughts ended respectively in 1902 and 1916, and he called their attention to the position of the company at the close of each of those periods of anxiety and trouble. At December 31, 1902, the general reserve fund stood at £250,000, they had £39,951 in cash, the profit for the year was £875 2s. 1d., and no dividend was paid. At June 30, 1916, the general reserve fund stood at £400,000, they were able to take £200,000 to reserves from profit and loss account, to distribute in dividend £52,000, and they had £584,736 in cash at bankers and short-dated bills, and carried forward to credit of profit and loss £11,830 13s. 7d. The contrast was more remarkable, as this year the company had had to contend with the effects of the great war, and had had to provide for income-tax £46,182 16s. 10d., against £588 8s. 10d. in 1902. The chairman then went through the figures in the balance-sheet and pointed out that they showed the result of the policy of extreme caution which had been followed since the outbreak of the war, and said that the board had great confidence in Mr. Falconer's management of the company in Australia, where he had the able assistance of Mr. James Kidd in Sydney and Mr. Devereux in Brisbane, and though there might be financial and political difficulties, at any rate he could hope that there would be no adverse season to contend with, as all advices on that subject were very reassuring. He regretted that he could not speak so confidently of the season in Argentina, where the conditions had been adverse, but Mr. Franks and Mr. Bailey, who represented the company there, would be able to conduct the business satisfactorily. Taking the general condition of business into consideration, he thought that the net profit earned, £58,051 2s., was very satisfactory.

Sir Frederick Green seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

SOCIEDAD ANONIMA MERCADO CIUDAD DE BUENOS AIRES (CITY OF BUENOS AIRES MARKET CO., LD.) ISSUE OF £120,000 SIX PER CENT. FIRST MORTGAGE DEBENTURES OF £100 EACH.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undermentioned Debentures, amounting to £3,100, have been drawn by lot in the presence of Ernest Ruffer, Esq., and Edwin Courtney Walker, Notary Public, for payment on January 1st, 1917:—

141	154	168	203	236	320	361	372
388	392	438	450	466	522	563	590
621	636	659	753	866	886	912	950
956	978	980	1017	1046	1100	1193	

The above Bonds (which must be left three clear days for examination) will be payable at Messrs. A. Ruffer & Sons, 39, Lombard Street, E.C.

London, December 1st, 1916.

Copies of THE INVESTORS' REVIEW can be obtained in Paris at

Messrs. W. H. Smith & Son's,
248, Rue de Rivoli.

BONDS CANCELLED.

IMPERIAL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT 4½
PER CENT. STERLING LOANS OF 1905.

The Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited, London, announces that £250,000 4½ per CENT. STERLING BONDS of the 1st SERIES, and £250,000 4½ per CENT. STERLING BONDS of the 2nd SERIES have been purchased on behalf of the Imperial Japanese Government for the purpose of cancellation, and the said Bonds are now CANCELLED.

The NUMBERS of the BONDS so CANCELLED are the following:—

IMPERIAL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT 4½
PER CENT. LOAN.

(FIRST SERIES.)

15 BONDS OF £500.

210182 210374 210550 210791 210911 211038 211342 211392
211451 211602/3 211718 211862 211950/1.

515 BONDS OF £200.

130265/6 130640 130935 131131 131234 131693 132201 132331
132799/7 133546 133707/14 133877 134439/46 135076/7 135149
135253/5 135261/2 135538 135935 135955 136121/2 136389 137031
137424 137662/70 137883 138236 138584/7 138594 138712/3
138776 138832/3 139071 139244 139299/31 139479 139644/5
140138/9 140579 140643/52 140897 140899 141007 141180/1 141191
141283/4 141876 142242/3 142752 142919 143608/9 143670
143834/7 143902/3 144079 144002 144529 144634 144752 145201
145504 145679/80 145768 145835 146006/7 146105 146169 147070
147084 147914 147925/6 147995 148046 148271/4 148295/7
148391 148483 148520/1 149001 149040 149070 149396/7 150092/3
150562 150665 152845 153317 153350 153664 154003 156568
156780 156782 156871 157478/81 157703 157851 157951/3 157977
158345 158926 159001/2 159076 159125/6 159170/9 160115 160606
160890 161448/9 162411 163331/5 163824 164196 165556/7 166607
165700 165748 165998 166351 166578 166660 166760/1 166781/2
167961 167970 168720 168767 169147 169258 169987 170054 170056
170108 170112 170132 170251/2 170352/4 170485 170498 170908
171123/5 171176/9 171396/8 171724 171782 171994 172035/43
172374 172639/43 173167 173880 173989 174106 174185 174599/62
174538/9 174595 174961 174974/8 175449/50 175638/9 175677
175835 175838 176155 176190/2 176215 177137/8 177220 177443
177079 178274 178509/10 178545 179261 179403 180335 181069/72
181122/3 181420 181456 181809/11 181874/5 182042 182050 182089
182483 182529 182779 183118/9 184190 184319/21 184334/5 184425
184705/6 185074 185169 186169 186179 186289 186487 186741/5
187393/40 187741 187796 187813 187989 188739 188836/7
188929/31 189058 189234 189340 189495 189536/7 190000/4
190225/7 190229 190234/8 190256 190346 190557 190892 190948
191092 191558 191930 192478 192940 193391 193403 194646/8
195118 195203/4 195376 195495/8 196007 196229 196232 196263/8
196656 196770 196830/7 197283 197300 197343 197347 197853
198431/2 199013 199282/3 199374 200404 200707/8 200820/7
200934/8 201456 201531 201808 202112/3 202271 202419/20 203110
203141 203197/204 203671/2 204222/3 204493/4 204549/50 204750
204987 205045/50 206585 206811 207062/4 207399/405 208190
208394/5 208559/63 208622 208705 208776 208944 209194 209260/1
209633 209830/1.

1,395 BONDS OF £100.

65 409 414 697 763 1634 1957/64 2327 2771/3 3021/3 3352/6 3603
4100 4154 4264/6 4359/60 4603 4693/7 4883 4885 5240/1 5243/52
5565 5563 5836 5950 5954 6062 6101/5 6387 6445 6506/9 7198/9
7363 7775 7778 8032 9508/10 9539 9764 9826 9904 9971 10045/53
10315 11143 11316/8 11642/3 11688 12005 12155 12545/6 12738
13255 13297 13385/8 13626 13885/92 13934/6 14055 15208/300
15340 15380 15728 15884/5 16012/3 16200/4 16323 16349/50
16368/9 16698 16792/4 16851 17001 17033/4 17132 18010/1 18081
18224 18402/6 19152 19235 19305 19606/8 20175 20200 20295/9
20464 21218/22 21330 21737/41 21776 21851/4 21984 22154/5 22158
22585 22603/15 22877/8 23492/3 24078 24240 24481/2 24574 24580
24835 25403 25407 25582 25602 25873 26166/7 26186 26207 26491/2
26606/50 26870/5 27123 27589 27783 28248/52 28289 28334 28447
28898 29452/6 30148 30254 30264 30565 30584/6 30661 30706
30773/8 30811/2 31163 31282 31425 31495 31803 31857 31868 31918
32279 32362/5 32494/5 32511 32561 32626 32634 32687/9 32787/10
33012 33264 33354/5 33414 33470/4 33794 33818/20 33915 33922
34273 34558 34575/9 34977 35082/3 35097 35298/9 35360/4 35002
36104 36458/67 36514 36584/5 36765/8 36776 37112 37230 38177
38187/90 38411/2 38452 38702 38790 38883 38913 39299 39592/5
39704 40223 40384/9 40625 40844/53 40927 41143/4 41263 41393
41398 41428 41461 41705 42055 42203 42336/45 42378/9 42544
42773 43866 44164 44344 44421 44820 45055 45369/70 45415 45506/8
45620 45744 45755 45849 46020 46126/8 46198 46560 47045 47611
47704 47839 47872/3 48286 48661 49009 49161 49210 49535/9
49550/1 49687/8 49943 50471/84 50749 51101/2 51183 51253
51303/8 51447/8 51482 51520 51532 51597 51635 51955 52550 52597
52585/6 52660/3 52686 53438 53816 54057/8 54344 54548/9 54607/8
54737/43 55304 55401 55480/3 55588 56115/20 56140 56183 56294
56296 56543/4 56560/2 56848 57009/48 57444 57481/6 57547/8
57506 57784 57995/8 58035 58037 58395 58640/50 59241 59967/70
60148 60928/32 60991/2 61267/9 61274 61318 61351 61363 62087
62144/8 62251 62298 62540/1 62725 62883 63424/6 63457 63593
63572 63899 63979 64075 64115 64686/95 64752/61 64805 64808
65012/23 65203 65258/9 65299 65310 65544 65547 65747 65854/5 66307
66801 66946 67107 67745 67749 68009 68135 68366/75 68443 68658
68959/64 69247 69308/29 69447 69472/3 69477/80 69566 70264
70338/40 70403/4 70558 70874/5 71193 71627/8 71858/60 72004
72146/9 72321/7 72348/51 72372/81 72421 72512/3 72527 72539
72626 72663 72784 73156 73457/8 73821 73939/43 73964/6 74166/70
74686 74906 74941/4 74997/8 75044 75052/3 75088/9 75175 75767
76219 76332 76613/4 77228 77444/6 77298/301 77364/5 77479/80

77955/6 77982 78379/81 78390/3 78485/91 78554 78563
78575/6 78634 78706 78793 78809 79074 79336/7 79468/1
79486 79769/72 79791/2 80148 80228 80332 80354 80524
80570 80664 80950 81123 81482 81571/4 81765 81812 81899/904
82033 82084 82558 82866 82976 83050 83145 83205
83242/56 83698 83700 83889 83966/70 84057 84155/6 84200
84285 84464 84522 84815 84970 85069/72 85157 85170 85401/11
85457 85564 85765/9 86266 86301 86444/5 86699 87757/8 87985
88067/72 88115 88184 88186/7 88392/3 88604 88770/7 88811 89250
89267/8 89274 89544/5 89851 89857 89894 89900 90153/200 90521
90592 90599 90751 90815/6 90870/1 90874/7 91218 91253/8 91594
91604/6 91707 91714 92027 92156 92276 92337 92388 92537 92883/4
93207/8 93219 93246 93272 93424/6 93754 93830 93842/3 94249 94297
94374 94879/80 95388 95437 95570 95952 96245/6 96397/9 96492
96543/4 96557 96776 96812 97080/3 97284/8 97758 97873 98112
98116 98226 98335 98454/7 98622 98681/5 99016/7 99026 99132
99166 99496 99808/12 99955/65 100222 100393 100481 100639
100878 100946/52 100974 101368/71 101496 101572 101654 101862/3
102110/3 102229/30 102239 102344/5 102451 102581/3 102742
102822 103035 103045 103279 103461 103619 104022/3 104068
104134 104202 104379 104803 104852 104929 105087/9 105280
105487 105586 105853 105944 106088 106620/1 106628 106717
107148 107356 107369 108252/3 108383/4 108582 108695 109224
109651/63 109790 109978 110266 111247 112103/4 112246 112418/22
112888 113186 113255 113581/4 114498 114578 114623 115497
115670 115705 115797 116355 116707 116744/5 116894 117436
118326 118605/6 118648/50 118746/7 118781/5 118979 119205
119209 119308/28 119443 119659 119668 119706 119882 119942/3
120012 120088 120610/13 120875/6 120951 121096 121469 121483
121663 122261 122639 122697 123030 123202 123234 124338 124404/5
124595 124634 124717 124779/80 124782 124884 125161 125427/8
125447/50 125830 125908 126871 126964/71 127288/9 127429
127545 127547 127679 128065 128301 128342 128441 129012 129129.

IMPERIAL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT 4½

P R CENT. LOAN.

(SECOND SERIES.)

748 BONDS OF £200.

325412 326638/9 326647 326660/3 326778 326785 327019/20
328033 328300 328452 328508/9 328519/23 328546/7 328736
328809/10 329131/2 329159/61 329254 329779 329832/48 330035
330103 330164 330180 330216 330261/2 330321 330780 330804
330943/7 330975/6 331250/1 331392 331443/5 331539 331562/5
331605/6 331814 332477/8 332588 332683 332953 332980 332986/7
333283/4 333288 333432/5 333750 334019 334184/7 334512
334525/6 334567 334597 334609/10 334895 335003/7 335126
335621/5 335647/9 336540 336631/3 336674 336842/3 337162
337406/7 337442/4 337474/5 337600/4 337653/7 337858/9 337924
338164 338951 339114 339186 339519 340768/9 340915 341053
341076/80 341206 341262 341566/9 341835/8 341854/68 342079
342605 342895 342907/10 342955 343294 343352 344101 344157
344564 344619 344633/4 344809 345137 345634 345679 345684
346026 346677 346736 346761/78 346954 346964/5 347070 347123
347417 348219 348270 348416 348581 348754 348823 348912
349129 349131/41 349812/3 350283/4 350301/5 350476/6 351024/5
351210 351323 351460 351581/3 351975 352551 352660/2 352769
353724/6 354425 354461 354545 354556/8 354623 355456 355588
355736/7 355740/1 356623 356977/8 357070 357083/4 357098
357239 357722/4 359079 359164/72 359184/5 359343/5 359599
359694 359710/11 360147 360407 360664 361192 361218/9
361768 361903 362395 362409 362870/1 362979/80 363135 363163/4
363519 364115 364292 364513 364824/5 364971 364973/5032
365034 365053/4 365472 365521 365569 365677/8 365762 365764/6
365850 365857 366451 366573/4 366584 366696/7 367049 367094
367931 367990/4 368004 368370/419 368814 368953 369045/9
369350 369553 369818 369822 370106 370364 370383 370532
370993/4 371696/7 371708/13 371716/22 371728/9 372203 372247
372519 372585 372766 372778 372784 373093 373109 373818 373923
374964 375056 375266 375536 375735/9 376371 376430 376528/32
376784/5 377659 377663 377694 377769 378253 378538 378549/54
378820/1 378888/902 378946/7 378970/1 379017 379092/3 379109
379155 379210 379493/4 379600 379794 379943/4 380569/71 380396
380791 381018/37 381144/5 381679 381900 382006 382013/4 382457
382566 382664 383056 383234/5 383458 383707 383784 384099
384113 384165/6 384211 385387 385550/4 385831/2 385920
386085 386092 386235/8 386375 386733 386776 386838/9 386994
387359 387384 387463 387805 388077/9 388154 388887 388995
389013 389034 389148 389295 389882 389906 391371 391457 391470
391615 391650 391744 392045 392455 392457 392623 392695 393027 393118
393412 393743 394321 394494 394512 394799/800 395257 395512
395571 396152 396336 396693 397076/7 397201/2 397227 397545
397571 397595 397634 397748 397847 398074 398211 398601 398908
399998/9 400378 400380 400485 400743 400859 400864 401063
401267 401574 402092 402021 402204/6 402248 402374.

757 BONDS OF £100.

225783/6 225899 226123 227708 227961/70 227980/2
227998/228007 228077 228232 228375/85 228437/8 228765/8 228785
228848/9 229407/16 229522 229981 230585/98 230742 230762
230817/8 230872 231069 232483 232802/3 232925 232998 233170
233191 233430 233575 233807 234322 234369 234402 234482/9
234572 234750/1 234774 234823/4 235040 235059/68 235335
235547/50 235552/63 236250 236529 236534 236607/9 236820/1
237004/39 237058 238178 238329/36 238523 239115 239190 239541/3
239623 239714/7 239987 240053/7 240177 240313/21 240439 241522
241570 241748/50 241776 241983 241989 242430 242484/7 242662
242842 242920/30 243314 243491 244217/9 245313/4 245659/61
246740 246993 247154 247180/1 247231 247313/4 247478/83 247654
247678 248495 248586 248822 248946 249003/5 249042 249083/4
249188 249254 249348 249453 249885 249983 250027 250239
250411/2 250416/9 250424/8 250474 250522 250597 250750/1

250801/2	251066/9	251312/6	251404	251495	252067	252238	252301
252315	252522	252607	252635/6	252638	253132	253449	253479
254935	255575	255661	255928	256157	256337	256342	256474
257069/71	257339/42	257925	258231/2	258732	258734	259074	259273
259972	260041	260271/2	260417	260545	260576/85	260863	260908/13
260966	261120	261210/57	261261	261332/3	261386/7	261390	
261398/401	261487/9	261509	261751	262025	262444	262506/7	263240
263448/52	263552	263664/5	264260	264395	264623	264748/9	264888
265117	265180/3	265278	265583/5	265812	265860	265996	266008/9
266055	266261	266294	266306	266418/9	266513	266564	266844
267665/6	267791/2	267967	267978	268491/2	269431/2	269586	269654
270031	270068/70	270083	270153	270911/12	271018	271141/4	271575
271798	272655	272673/6	272850	272900/1	273688/90	273749	
273801/4	273862/7	273951	274122/6	274452	274476	274521	274530/1
274547	274791/3	274899	274996	275032	275102	275330	275507
275578	275586	275652	276181/2	276281	276587	276959	277261
277520	277856	278712	278759	278976	279278	279356/7	279594/5
279803/6	279808	280041/2	280214	280342	280392	280554	280663
281101/2	281619	282087/8	282093/6	282154	282690	283037	283390
283536	283624	283904	284013	284089	284125	284127	285306
285555	285887	285928	286094/7	286475	286543/4	286589	286793/5
287273	287280	287509/12	287653	288060	288494	288505	289156
289273	289364	289569	290141	290161	290341/3	291394/400	291583
291716	291919	292103/4	292354	292682/5	292752	292760	293045/6
293157	293275	293400/1	293599	293954/6	294015	294512	294804
295258	296526	296952/6	297043	297440	297991	298043	298303
298432	298981	299704	299882	301179	301237/8	301680	301951
303035	303518	303577	304122	304302	304535	304545	306102
306474	306723	306988	307286	307313	308060	308675/7	308945
308953	309143	309283	310368	310696	310921/2	311187	311592
311789	311838	313971	314094	314258	314463	314535	315252
315465	316551	318258	318385	318463	318651/7	318815	318952
319333	319617/8	319667	319751	319802	319855	320522	321033
322094	322481	323041	323357	323365	323523	323643	323931
324115	324268	324535					

1,235 BONDS of £20.

52/3	771/2	899	996	2063	3552	3720	4890/1	5030	5560/5	5878
5902	6886	6954/5	7599/673	7716/8	8036/40	8437	8684/93	9159/60		
9170	10420/4	10590	11243/7	12401	12572	12890/3	12956/7	12903/4		
14136/9	14289	15484/503	15506/15	16084/8	17178/82	18485/90				
18492	18561/3	19132	19586/8	19756/8	19816	19871	20043	20266		
20802	20850	20914	21183/6	21274/6	21957/65	22868	23436	23490/4		
23836/8	24127	24232	24372	24814/8	24848	24890/24000	25342			
25447/50	25574/7	25851/3	26406	26932	27057/86	27103	27216			
27533/4	27628	27847/8	27852/3	28660/1	28728	29011	29484			
29995	30324	30574/5	30626/8	30800	31050/4	31744	31840	32258/9		
32635	32727/37	32765	32847	33125	33292/6	34438	34641/2	34811/5		
34925/7	35221/2	35416	35934/8	36337/41	36575/7	36580	36582			
36830/1	36978	37085/9	37138/9	37242/8	37301/2	37607	38280/1			
38337/9	38840	39706	39783/807	39835	39848	39905/10	40238			
40375/9	40398	40466	40617/8	40686/7	41030/3	41180	41576/8			

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1916, and Nov. 25, 1916:—

	Estimate for the Year 1916-1917. (See note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1916, to Nov. 25, 1916.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1915, to Nov. 27, 1915.
Balances in Exchequer on April 1—			
Bank of England	—	25,111,065	81,898,728
Bank of Ireland	—	463,941	1,552,224
REVENUE.		25,575,006	83,450,952
Customs	71,000,000	43,576,000	31,834,000
Excise	65,000,000	35,900,000	39,140,000
Estate, &c., Duties	30,000,000	19,400,000	20,987,000
Stamps	7,000,000	4,632,000	4,183,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,650,000	330,000	340,000
Property and Income Tax and Super Tax	195,000,000	41,789,000	20,766,000
Excess Profits Duty (including Munitions Levy)	86,000,000	59,201,000	—
Land Value Duties	475,000	131,000	62,000
Post Office	36,100,000	20,600,000	20,200,000
Crown Lands	550,000	420,000	350,000
Receipts from Suez Canal Shares and Sundry Loans ..	5,000,000	4,820,767	772,960
Miscellaneous	3,500,000	11,395,406	3,664,089
Revenue	502,275,000	242,195,173	142,299,049
Total, including Balance		267,770,179	225,750,001
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion		2,660,000	1,530,000
For Treasury Bills (for supply) ..		1,460,185,000	254,729,000
For Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		3,087,600	—
For War Loan, 1925-1928		—	35,798,408
For 3% Exchequer Bonds, 1920 ..		—	242,345
For War Loan, 1925-1945		424	585,850,000
For American Loan		—	12,748,000
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919 ..		34,222,000	—
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920 ..		84,140,469	—
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1921 ..		62,464,000	—
For 6% Exchequer Bonds, 1920 ..		112,042,000	—
For War Expenditure Certificates ..		28,690,500	—
For War Savings Certificates		36,500,000	—
For other Debt created under the War Loan Act, 1915, and Finance Act, 1916 ..		146,106,208	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 ..		—	1,230,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 ..		—	160,000
Under Housing Act, 1914		—	45,200
East Africa Protectorate Loan Repayments on account of Principal and Interest ..		—	3,825
Temporary Advances—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £345,000,000 in 1916-1917 and £231,150,000 in 1915-1916)		458,396,500	272,196,400
Total		2,696,650,080	1,390,888,079

41671/3	42154/63	42387	42725	42731	43546/7	43911	44276/9
44440/2	44018/22	44028	45020	45324/5	45023/4	45801/2	45811
46054	46295	46757/8	46901	47162	47527/30	48866	49450/1
50216/20	50484	50910	51003	51175/84	51224	51554/5	52257
53463	53761	53785	54476/80	54858/9	54970	54978	55075/7
55453	56189/91	56478	56482	56581	56593/4	57274/9	57452
58771	59189	59461/2	59968	59990	60603/4	60762/7	60838
61854/5	62032/5	62253	62839/40	62943/6	62980	63356	64081/2
64155/9	64265	64449	64686	65208	65581	65649	65792/821
66250/9	66805/6	66968/72	67029	67067/70	68411	68439/43	68469
68503/5	68522/3	68880/9	68932	69628/9	69788/92	70331/5	70395/6
70448/9	71298/301	71466/7	71567	71682/5	72485	72492	72620
72700/1	72898/902	72908	72912	72943/4	73041	73245	73325
73858/9	74093	74118/9	74148	74166	74637	74639	74646/50
75067/8	75077	75477	75745	75747/9	75769	75783	75929
77505	77916	77981/3	79147/9	79239/41	79490	79766	80109
80635	81333/4	84228	85880	86238	86351/3	86355	86568
87190	87380	88169/71	88378/9	88390	89118	89206	89236
89633	90205/6	90234	90452	91745	91751/2	92650	94085/6
95132	95229	96937	98773/5	98818	101208/9	101248	101565
103711/12	104074/5	104081/4	105480	105954/6	106426	106875	106875
111866/93	111598	112573/4	113337	115229	115722	115978/82	116010
116181/5	116248/50	116286/90	116557/8	117350	117725	117885/6	
117892	118737	119083	119466	119706	119817	120419/23	120451
121357/8	122005/6	123533/5	123749/50	123991/2	124494	124509	
124537	124629	125412	125375	125505	126392	127219/21	127821
129104	130340/2	130500	131056	131386	131715/6	131719/20	
131821/2	132666	133694	133825	134526	134862	134871	136507/10
136906	137199	137242/3	137946/7	138194	138522	138631	138802
138905	139118	139384	141138	141224	141620/1	141887	142024/5
142104/5	142447/8	142650	142892/3	143260	144110	145912	146013/4
147558	147860	148190/1	148862	148956	149171	149198	150577
150798/9	150946/7	151507	151834	152031	152221	152722	153065
153712	154828	154883	154925/6	155337	156122/3	156674	156794
159999	159488	161408/9	162000	163373	163411	163437	163891
163918	164250	165832	166415	166570	167546/7	168741	168743
168865/6	168927	169451/3	169564	170648/9	170680	171613	171916
172245/8	172778/80	173172	174509	174953	177656	180627	180790
180805/6	181075	181120	182557	182563/6	182763	182927	183034
183913	184240	184465/9	184654	185734	185976	186379	186742
186816	186822/5	186827/8	187279	187440	187662/4	188597	189264
189834	190002/3	190464/7	191337	191340	191646/8	191753	191820
192197	192234	192423/4	192586/94	193361	193369	193404	193485/9
193491/7	194690/1	194693/5	195231/3	196831/5	197127	197867/8	
198059	198415	199880	200697/8	200905/6	201295	201645	204201/3
204572	204793	204868	205942/3	206074/6	206161	206231	206913
208615/6	209147/61	209410	209769	211274/5	212288/90	213228	
213966/8	214409/40	214478	214592	214603/5	215550	216071	216218
216227/30	216327	216676	217537	219210	219847	219886/7	220190
220271	220560	220573	221904	222040	222058	222179	222265/9
222537	222618/9	222715/6	223110/1	224142	224262	224808/9	
224813							

REPORT BY THE COURT OF DIRECTORS OF

The ROYAL BANK of SCOTLAND

To the ANNUAL GENERAL COURT OF PROPRIETORS, on Wednesday, 29th November, 1916.

The Directors now submit to the Proprietors the annexed Abstract Statement of the Affairs of the Bank at the Second Saturday of October, 1916, with relative Profit and Loss Account, certified by the Auditors.

The net Profits of the year, after providing for all bad and doubtful debts, amounted to	...	...	£338,420 7 0
The Midsummer Dividend, at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, less Income-tax, required	£82,500	0 0	
It is now proposed to pay a similar Dividend at Christmas, also less Income-tax	75,000	0 0	
There has been written off expenditure on Bank Buildings and Heritable Property	6,500	0 0	
And applied in writing down Stocks, the balance of	174,420	7 0	
			<u>£ 338,420 7 0</u>

The Rest remains at £800,986 8s. 4d.

In order to assist the Government in financing the War, the Directors, in the course of the year, have sold a number of the Bank's Investments and have invested the proceeds in British Government Securities. They have also, in response to the request of the Government, lent to the Treasury such of the other Investments as are specified in their schemes for regulating the Foreign Exchanges, and in association with other Banks have undertaken to open Foreign credits on behalf of the Government and the Allies.

The Directors have to record that in virtue of the powers conferred on them by the Royal Bank of Scotland Act, 1873, they elected the Right Hon. Lord Inchcape as an Extraordinary Director.

The Governor, the Deputy-Governor, the Extraordinary Directors, and the Senior Ordinary Director (Mr. Wright) all retire at this time, but are eligible for re-election.

Auditors also fall to be appointed for the ensuing year, and Mr. John M. Howden, C.A., and Mr. J. Maxtone Graham, C.A., offer themselves for re-election.

By Order of the Court of Directors, ADAM TAIT, Cashier.

ABSTRACT STATE OF AFFAIRS at 14th October, 1916.

To the Public:—		LIABILITIES.	
1. Deposits with accrued Interest...	£21,966,710 12 6
2. Notes in Circulation	2,091,083 0 0
3. Drafts Outstanding	522,894 2 10
4. Acceptances and Indorsement of Foreign Bills:			
On account of Banking Correspondents	£109,364 11 9
On account of Treasury, per Minute of 17th November, 1915	175,000 0 0
On account of other Customers	255,968 5 10
			<u>540,332 17 7</u>
Total Liabilities to the Public		...	<u>£25,121,020 12 5</u>
To the Proprietors:—		ASSETS.	
5. Capital	£2,000,000 0 0
6. Rest	800,986 8 4
7. Proposed Half-year's Dividend at Christmas	75,000 0 0
			<u>2,875,986 8 4</u>
Total Liabilities		...	<u>£27,997,007 0 9</u>
1. Gold and Silver Coin, Currency Notes, Notes of other Banks, and Cash with Bank of England and other London Bankers	£3,097,167 10 1
2. Money in London at Call and short notice, and Cheques, etc., payable on demand, in hand, and in transitu	3,882,936 19 0
3. British Government Securities (War Loan, Exchequer Bonds, and Local Loans Stock)	5,842,687 10 8
4. Indian and Colonial Government Securities, Bank of England Stock, and British Railway Debenture and Corporation Stocks	780,916 5 1
5. Foreign Government Stocks, Bank of Ireland Stock, Indian Railway Stocks, and other Marketable Securities	601,064 18 3
			<u>£14,204,773 3 1</u>
6. Bills discounted (of which £5,696,000 British Treasury Bills)	£7,187,369 15 5
7. Advances on Cash Credit and Current Accounts	4,280,245 14 5
8. Loans on Stocks and Securities	1,164,118 18 1
9. Banking Correspondents and other Customers for Acceptances and Indorsements, per contra	540,332 17 7
10. Bank Buildings (partly yielding rent)	296,920 19 5
11. Property yielding rent	198,245 12 9
12. Freehold Property in London (partly occupied by Bank, and partly yielding rent)	125,000 0 0
			<u>13,792,233 17 8</u>
Total Assets		...	<u>£27,997,007 0 9</u>

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

To Expenditure on Bank Buildings and Property written off	...	...	£6,500 0 0
.. Dividend for half-year, paid at Midsummer	...	£100,000 0 0	
Less Income Tax	...	17,500 0 0	
			<u>82,500 0 0</u>
.. Dividend to be paid at Christmas	...	100,000 0 0	
Less Income Tax	...	25,000 0 0	
			<u>75,000 0 0</u>
.. Applied in writing down Stocks	...	174,420 7 0	
.. Balance, being free Rest or undivided Profits, carried forward	...	800,986 8 4	
			<u>£1,139,406 15 4</u>
By Rest at 9th October, 1915	...	...	£800,986 8 4
.. Gross Profits, after deducting rebate on Bills Current, and Income-tax, and providing for all bad and doubtful debts...	...	£558,547 12 10	
Less Charges of Management at Head Office, and 167 Branch Establishments (including £8,370 Bonus paid to Staff in December last)	...	£220,127 5 10	
			<u>Net Profits</u>
			338,420 7 0
			<u>£1,139,406 15 4</u>

D. S. LUNAN, Accountant.

AUDITORS' REPORT.—As Auditors appointed by the Proprietors of THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, we have checked the cash on hand at Head Office, Glasgow, and London, verified the cash with London Bankers, the Securities for money at call and short notice, the Government Securities and other Investments, and examined the details of the other Liabilities and Assets set forth in the foregoing Abstract State of Affairs: and we now certify that in our opinion said Abstract State is a full and fair Balance Sheet, properly drawn up, and exhibits a true and correct view of the state of the Bank's Affairs, as shown by the books, at 14th October, 1916.

JOHN M. HOWDEN, C.A., Auditor.
J. MAXTONE GRAHAM, C.A., Auditor.

EDINBURGH, 21st November, 1916.

The Investors' Review

FOUNDED BY A. J. WILSON, FEBRUARY, 1892.

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THE BANK OF TAIWAN, LTD.

Incorporated by the Special Charter of the Imperial Japanese Government, 1899.

HEAD OFFICE - - TAIPEH, FORMOSA.

BRANCHES—Tokio, Kobe, Osaka, Amoy, Canton, Foochow, Hongkong, Hankow, Shanghai, Singapore, Swatow, Soerabaya, and principal towns in Formosa (Taiwan), &c.

The Bank has Correspondents in the Commercial Centres of Russia, Manchuria, Indo-China, India, Philippine Islands, Java, Australia, America, and elsewhere.

LONDON OFFICE - 58, OLD BROAD STREET, E.C.

THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.

(Registered in Japan.)
ESTABLISHED 1880.

Subscribed Capital	.. ..	Yen 48,000,000
Capital Paid Up	.. ..	Yen 30,000,000
Reserve Fund	.. ..	Yen 20,800,000

Head Office: YOKOHAMA.

Branches and Agencies at

Antung-Hsien.	Harbin.	Nagasaki.	Shanghai.
Bombay.	Honolulu.	Newchang.	Singapore.
Calcutta.	Hong Kong.	New York.	Sydney.
Changchun.	Kobe.	Osaka.	Tientsin.
Dairen (Dalny).	Liaoyang.	Peking.	Tokyo.
Fengtien (Mukden).	Los Angeles.	Ryojun (Port Arthur).	Tsinanfu.
Hankow.	Lyons.	San Francisco.	Tsingtau.

The Bank buys and receives for collection Bills of Exchange, issues Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit on above places and elsewhere, and transacts General Banking Business.

Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be obtained on application.

London Office: 7, BISHOPSGATE, E.C.

K. TATSUMI, Manager.

BANK OF MONTREAL.

ESTABLISHED IN 1817.

Capital Paid-up, \$16,000,000. Reserve Fund, \$16,000,000.

Undivided Profits, \$1,321,193.

President Sir VINCENT MEREDITH, BART.

General Manager Sir FREDERICK WILLIAMS-TAYLOR, LL.D.

Assistant General Manager A. D. BRAITHWAITE.

Branches and Agencies throughout Canada and Newfoundland; also at New York, Chicago and Spokane in the United States.

London Offices: 47, Threadneedle Street, E.C., and 9, WATERLOO PLACE, Pall Mall, S.W.

Committee: Sir THOMAS SKINNER, Bart. A. MACNIDER, Esq. GEORGE CYRIL CASSELS, Manager.

Financial Agents of the Government of the Dominion of Canada.

The Bank undertakes Monetary Business with all Allied and Neutral countries, and with its numerous branches offers exceptional facilities for the transaction of a general banking business in Canada, Newfoundland and the United States.

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA, AND CHINA,

38, Bishopsgate, London, E.C.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.

Capital, £1,200,000. Reserve Fund, £1,800,000.

Court of Directors.

SIR MONTAGU CORNISH TURNER, Chairman.	WILLIAM HENRY NEVILLE GOSCHEN, Esq.
SIR HENRY S. CUNNINGHAM, K.C.I.E.	THE RIGHT HON. LORD GEORGE HAMILTON, G.C.S.I.
THOMAS CUTHBERTSON, Esq.	WILLIAM FOOT MITCHELL, Esq.
SIR ALFRED DENT, K.C.M.G.	LEWIS ALEXANDER WALLACE, Esq.

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Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits ..	354,791	5 3
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	606,962	10 0

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Passing Events.

In the matter of direct war expenditure last week was more reasonable looking than the one preceding it. Supply services absorbed only £31,127,000, and had it not been that war debt interest took another £24,067,000 the week's disbursements would have looked quite modest. As it was, including £275,000 of miscellaneous outgoings, the total came to £55,470,000, whereas the actual revenue collected was only £12,348,000. That was a very good week in the circumstances, and the borrowing vigorous and easy as usual, but the war debt interest so drew upon the resources that they were £7,641,000 less than the current expenditure. And yet the Government had increased the Treasury bill floating debt by a nett amount of £23,414,000, bringing up the aggregate afloat to £1,147,888,000. It also sold 6 per cent. Exchequer bonds to the value of £12,212,000, raising the total of that form of debt to £124,254,000, and still the Exchequer balances had to be drawn upon for above-named amount in order to balance the account. For, including the gross issue of Treasury bills issued for supply, which was £37,936,000, and the temporary advances repaid, another £5,125,000, together with a few smaller disbursements, the entire expenditure for the week was £98,649,000. Up to now, it may be added, the excess profits duty, including the munitions levy, has brought in £62,488,000, last week's receipts from this source having been £3,287,000 as against £1,745,000 received under Customs and £695,000 under Excise. Estate duties also gave £678,000. Besides the Exchequer bonds, War Savings certificates brought in £1,050,000 last week, but War Expenditure certificates produced only £263,000. The Vote of Credit statement has been put back by the Ministerial crisis, and we need not speculate about it. Its total is rumoured at £400,000,000, and even that will not carry us to the end of March next, we fear.

Through the British Committee of the Indian National Congress we have received a copy of a memorandum submitted to his Excellency the Viceroy by 19 citizens of India, all men of distinction, many of them men of wealth, and, although of different faiths, all united in their request for an extension of

liberty in their own land. The present state of things makes the Indians feel that "though theoretically they are equal subjects of the King, they hold a very inferior position in the British Empire." Other Asiatic races also hold the same, if not a worse, view about India and her status in the Empire. The memorialists point out that the Indian soldiers were "eager" to go to the battlefields of Europe, "not as mercenary troops, but as free citizens of the British Empire which required their services," and her civilian population was animated by one desire, namely, "to stand by England in the hour of her need." That is true, and something for which we have every reason to be grateful, more grateful than proud. Are we going then to treat the peoples of India, who are thus loyal, who have thus come to our help, as the Habsburgs have treated for centuries the Croats, Czechs and Slavs over whom they have unfortunately had unbridled power? Our fashion of dealing with India has in days past resembled the Habsburgs' to a much greater extent than we like to think of. Promises have been made at crises, fair words spoken again and again, and the good words and promises have alike been broken or forgotten, the fair words too often followed by acts of tyranny and repression quite on the Prussian model, though less brutal. Look at the treatment of the Indian Press by our bureaucracy at this very hour. It is perhaps more contemptible in its meanness than shocking in its tyranny, but it is stupid tyranny all the same, and unworthy of a free people.

What, then, do these memorialists demand? Nothing unreasonable or extravagant. They do not wish to oust the European element from the government of India, but ask that in all executive councils, provincial and Imperial, half the number of members should be Indian, and the European element nominated "as far as possible from the ranks of men trained and educated in the public life of England, so that India may have a wider outlook and larger experience of the outside world." They point out how successfully eminent natives have filled high office in the Imperial Executive Council, and what excellent administrators trained and cultured Indians have been in many native States. They ask that all legislative councils in India should have a substantial majority of elected repre-

representatives. They demand that the total number of members of the Supreme Council should not be less than 150, and of the Provincial Councils less than 100 for the major provinces and not less than 60 to 75 for the minor provinces. That the Budget should be passed in the shape of money bills, fiscal autonomy being conceded to India. That the Imperial Council should have power to legislate on and discuss and pass resolutions relating to all matters of Indian administration, with restrictive faculties of a similar kind for the Provincial Councils in regard to their local affairs, except that military affairs, foreign relations, questions of peace and war, the entering into treaties, other than commercial, should be vested in the Government of India. They also desire that the Council of the Secretary of State should be abolished, and that the Secretary of State here should, as far as possible, hold in relation to the Government of India a position similar to that which the Secretary of State for the Colonies holds in relation to the colonies, and that in any scheme of Imperial federation India should be given, through her chosen representatives, a place similar to that of the self-governing dominions. Further, they mention autonomous government for the provinces, the appointment of a British Governor for the United Provinces, and "full measure of local self-government." The right to carry arms, they claim, should be the same for Indians as for our Europeans under identical conditions. Indians should be allowed to enlist as Volunteers and units in a Territorial Army established in India. Commissions ought to be given to Indian youths under conditions similar to those applicable to Europeans. Is there anything so very unreasonable or in the slightest degree suggestive of seditious designs in these demands? There is not, and we hope that concentration upon our own immediate affairs and vexations will not have the usual consequence in making us forget what India has done for us in this war and in the years antecedent to the war, and what we are honourably pledged to give her in return for a loyalty that has been priceless to us at a crisis in our history. When almost denuded of British soldiers India held fast by her allegiance. That fact alone should embolden the least believing to trust her.

Several items of interesting information are, as usual, embodied in the monthly circular of the British Bank of South America. In regard to Argentina, where fair general rains have recently, we hope, done something to improve the crop prospects, the most interesting fact—apart from the assumption of the Presidency of the Republic for the first time by the head of the Radical party, Dr. Hipolito Irigoyen—is the intimation that a project is being entertained for a reform in the currency of the Republic. At present it is a double currency in gold and paper. Some contracts, especially mortgages, are generally drawn to secure that interest and principal shall be repayable in gold, but most current business, and the larger part of the Government business also, is transacted in the paper currency. It is valued against gold at 44 cents to the \$, and that ratio has been fairly constantly maintained for a good many years now, thanks to the ability and probity with which the Conversion Office, which holds the gold stock, has been managed. It, on November 30 last, held \$256,534,000 in gold, and also controlled \$60,294,000 lodged abroad for account of the Argentine Government, making a total of \$316,828,000. Against this there is a paper circulation of \$1,013,083,000, so that the amount uncovered, for the whole of which the Government is responsible because all the notes outstanding are redeemable in gold, amounts to about £293,000,000 paper, computed at 44 cents to the gold dollar. All this mass of paper money it is now proposed to sweep away. Gold is to be established as the standard coin of the republic on the basis of one Argentine gold dollar, equal to \$0.9649 U.S. and 47.619d. English. The gold would be received at the Conversion Office for minting, and convertible notes issued by that office would be given in exchange in fixed sums varying from \$5 to \$1,000, less

cost of minting, &c. Unlimited gold will be received for coining, but silver, nickel, and other metals for the manufacture of token money would only be accepted in conformity with the country's necessities. The project is simple enough in theory, but we are not clear as to how it could be made workable, or in what way the country is to benefit by the change, at any rate until the existing excess amount of uncovered paper money can be called in and cancelled. That is the real difficulty ahead of the reformers, and until it can be provided for in an effective fashion there is danger that we may have a repetition of the old system of much-depreciated unsecured paper money, and paper money in part covered by gold, with no gold available, but only the two kinds of paper money in actual circulation, and jostling each other towards exchange zero. That was the situation when the depreciated rubbish paper money of the Province of Buenos Aires was used in business transactions within that Province alongside the less-depreciated but still fluctuating and unstable paper money of the National Government. Would not the most simple course be to leave things as they are, and by gradually piling up the gold reserve, and redeeming the excess paper currency, or both, bring about a stability of exchange on a gold basis?

A *Times* correspondent reports that M. R. E. Masson, of the Brussels Court of Appeal, estimates the extent of the losses inflicted upon Belgium during the first four months of war at £250,000,000 at least. Since then, he adds, £50,000,000 has been contributed by the State towards the maintenance of the Army in occupation, and several more millions have been raised from towns and individuals. At least 10,000 machines and engines of various kinds have been seized and sent to Germany—Liège alone has lost 5,000—and 8,000 workmen have been thrown out of employment, the aim of the Germans being first to reduce the brave, industrious little nation to a state of poverty, and then to force the people into a condition of slavery. To help towards this despicable end the Belgian Government is now compelled to find £2,000,000 a month to quicken the process of enslavement, and levies of money are also made on the cities of Brussels and Antwerp, as well as on the other principal towns. It is the case of the robber in possession, in short, and now to these levies of money and goods is added deportations of men and women by the hundreds and thousands. They are hauled out of their homes and taken into Germany to be made to work there in replacement of the Germans killed in the war, or at present engaged in the war. It is a revelation of inhuman brutality unparalleled in the history of the world, for previous inroads of Teutonic savages had not the advantage of *kultur*, and were unable to introduce that diabolical ingenuity into their tortures which we now behold displayed wherever the Teuton is master even for a day. May the day of reckoning come soon.

We are officially informed that Mr. Francis Augustin Bevan will retire from the chairmanship of Barclay and Co., Limited, on December 31 next. The board of directors have elected Mr. Frederick Craufurd Goodenough to succeed Mr. Bevan as chairman. Mr. Cosmo Bevan and Mr. Edmund Henry Parker have been elected vice-chairmen in the place of Mr. Hugh Gurney Barclay. Mr. F. A. Bevan and Mr. H. G. Barclay retain their seats on the board. Mr. William Favill Tuke, the assistant general manager, will succeed Mr. Goodenough as general manager.

Molson's Bank is one of the large Canadian banks whose reports have hitherto been unnoticed because not sent to us. We have received, however, the report and accounts for the 12 months ended September 30 last, and find them both interesting and satisfactory. In the year the bank made a nett profit of \$582,356, and out of that it has paid four quarterly dividends, making 11 per cent. for the year, added \$21,037 to the officers' pension fund, given \$15,000 to patriotic and relief funds, and paid \$40,000 in war

taxation on circulation, leaving \$66,319 to add to the amount carried forward, raising it to \$127,619. The note circulation has gone up by \$1,250,000 and the deposits by nearly \$7,000,000, in fact the liability on deposits bearing interest, including interest accrued, has now risen to \$39,288,000, and there is also \$6,456,000 due on deposits not bearing interest. The note circulation, too, has now gone up to \$4,805,000, and the total of the balance-sheet is \$60,142,000. To make up that total there is \$4,000,000 of paid-up capital and \$4,800,000 of reserve fund, so that the bank is quite solidly based, and a large mass of its money is in current loans and discounts in Canada which are entered at \$33,008,000. It also holds \$5,978,000 to various Canadian, British and foreign and colonial securities, besides \$1,207,000 of railway and other debentures. At the annual shareholders' meeting the president of the bank, Mr. William Molson Macpherson, stated that deposits by the public in Canada in chartered banks increased last year \$218,000,000, and at the end of September totalled \$1,270,522,000. At the same time the note circulation of the banks increased by \$29,000,000, raising it to \$135,285,000. Thus the same process is going on in Canada as here. The creation of credit for war purposes is swelling out the deposits of the banks and increasing their capacity to grant loans, at the same time that the larger business done is making greater demands for currency. It was also stated by the president that the pulp and paper industries developed largely during the year, all the mills working their full capacity to meet the demands from Europe and the United States. In the States, indeed, the scarcity of paper is apparently becoming as acute as it is here. As illustrating the value of credit, Mr. Macpherson also gave the history of Canada's war borrowings, already dealt with in our columns. The Government of the Dominion asked for \$50,000,000, got \$100,000,000, half of which it used directly, assisting the Imperial Government to finance war purchases here. During the year the Canadian banks, indeed, have lent the Imperial Government \$100,000,000 for a like purpose, and out of the \$100,000,000 loan recently issued it is the intention of the Government to still further assist the Munitions Board. Only by creating credit in this way can the furnishing of war materials be persevered with, and we are therefore glad to see the readiness with which these loans are subscribed. Their ready provision assures us of victory.

We feel inclined to be sorry for the other Australian banks (some of them sound and excellently managed) after running over the figures of the Commonwealth Bank at June 30. Progress since last year has been stupendous, and the balance-sheet now totals at £41,772,000, an increase of £25,000,000 compared with a year ago. There is only one item down in the whole list—a decrease of £78,000 in cash at £4,340,000, but, on the other hand, the gold coin held for the Treasurer of the Commonwealth (apart from the banking department) is £3,500,000 higher at £9,203,000. Ordinary deposits have increased £21,000,000 to £29,746,000, and Savings Bank deposits £2,050,000 to £9,478,000. Bills payable are up £1,610,000, and the Australian notes held amount to £15,304,000 against £568,000. Money at short call in London has increased £2,660,000, bills receivable are up £1,000,000, loans and advances £3,600,000 to £5,720,000, and investments £1,870,000 to £8,250,000. Unfortunately, we are not told at what cost this wonderful display has been obtained, and the profit for the half-year was only £94,000, but that goes against £26,000 last time. It does not look very attractive from a business point of view, but the end may justify the means. The reserve and redemption funds, between which profits are equally divided, now amount to £73,530 each.

Some valuable explanations were given by Mr. C. J. Stewart, the Public Trustee, to the members of the City of London Tradesmen's Club on the position of

his office in relation to the war and to German business in this country. He stated that about £32,000,000 of enemy capital was in British companies, and about another £71,000,000 was property belonging to the enemy, held and managed on behalf of said enemy. Furthermore, about £19,000,000 of debts of over £50 and bank balances was due to the enemy, making a total of £122,000,000 of enemy property in the custody of the Public Trustee. Mr. Stewart emphasised the importance of prompt action on the part of those having claims against the enemy or possessed of any property in enemy countries. All creditors should register their claims. His office had already received 30,000 claims, and they were coming in at the rate of about 150 a day. Some of these seem to be of a preposterous kind. One man had claimed £1,000,000, but was quite ready to reduce it to £2,500. A lady claimed £5,000 for an "unfinished manuscript of a novel" which she was writing when she had to quit enemy country, and so on, but there must be great numbers of genuine creditors, who should lose no time in specifying their demands, and so get put in a position to receive money when the day of reckoning arrives, as it may before so very long. With regard to the enemy banks, Mr. Stewart also had some facts to state which indicated that good progress had been made in the liquidation of their branches in London. Most of their liabilities to the Bank of England under the advances made by it to meet the outstanding acceptances of the five banks, viz., the Deutsche, the Dresdner, and the Disconto-Gesellschaft of Germany and the Austrian Laender Bank and the Anglo-Austrian Bank in the dependent Habsburg Empire, had been discharged or provided for in full, except in the case of the Laender Bank, where the cash resources had only permitted a recent distribution of 30 per cent. to its unsecured creditors. The Deutsche Bank had entirely repaid the money advanced by the Bank of England, but a considerable part of such advances was still owing by the other banks. They were being reduced as funds permitted. Any surplus assets remaining after all claims had been satisfied are deposited in the Bank of England, and the Deutsche Bank has already about £376,000 lying there, besides securities of a book value of £168,000. Each of the banks, he went on to explain, held large blocks of securities on behalf of enemy customers or of its own head office and foreign branches. Altogether, these securities are estimated to be worth roughly £20,000,000 in the case of the three German banks alone, and it has been found impossible to determine whether any particular part of the mass did belong in fact to the banks or whether it was owned by customers. In Mr. Stewart's opinion, however, the banks owned the great bulk, if not the whole, of this mass of paper. At any rate, the whole of it is now vested in the Public Trustee, and there it will remain until the end comes, or until individuals establish their claim to the ownership of any part of it. The general position is thus shown to be quite as good as was to be expected. But it is doubtful whether the enemy banks as a whole will be able to pay all claims here. The Austrian banks look the weakest.

Fine results are shown in the interim report of the Bleachers' Association, Ltd., for the half-year to September 30. After allowing for maintenance and other charges amounting to £211,000 (an increase of £28,000), the nett profits are £87,000 higher at £278,650. As usual, £30,000 is set aside for depreciation, and after paying the preference dividend it is proposed to repeat the interim dividend of 2½ per cent. (actual) on the ordinary shares. Two years ago nothing was distributed at this time, and in 1913 only 1½ per cent. The amount brought forward at March 31 was £74,000 higher at £190,340, and after providing for the ordinary dividend (£58,750) there remains £312,250, or £160,000 more, to be carried to the credit of the current half-year. Although this is the lean half, there ought to be a substantial distribution six months hence.

In the 12 months ended March 31, gross receipts of the Bengal Nagpur Railway Co. amounted to Rs. 4,43,65,000, an increase of Rs. 35,29,000, and the expenses were Rs. 11,95,000 higher at Rs. 2,17,44,000, but the ratio to receipts fell 1.3 per cent. to 49 per cent. Nett earnings amounted to Rs. 2,26,21,000, an increase of Rs. 23,340,000. Passenger traffic showed a slight falling off, but goods increased $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in weight and $13\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in receipts. The largest gain was from coal, owing to the increased long-distance coal traffic, but there were also substantial increases from manufactured cotton, hemp, jute, grain, and miscellaneous traffic. On the other hand there were large decreases in raw cotton and railway plant. Working expenses were higher under the heads of maintenance, locomotives, and miscellaneous expenditure. Interest on capital expenditure was Rs. 4,08,500 higher at Rs. 1,53,00,000, and the excess of nett earnings over interest amounted to Rs. 73,21,460, of which the company's share is Rs. 2,09,000 higher at Rs. 10,29,600. This amount, remitted to England, produced £68,910, an increase of £14,600, and including £201,800, or £13,300 more, brought in the total available after minor adjustments, is £21,400 higher at £266,490. This allows the payment of a bonus of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., against nil last year, and 1 per cent. for 1913-14, the total distribution being thus raised to $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., against 5 per cent. That involves a reduction in the carry forward to £187,600, but it is still a very handsome margin to go on with.

It is satisfactory to find that progress continues to be made by the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Co., Ltd., and in spite of all its past troubles and mistakes we hope it will reach a position in which a recurrence of bad times would not bowl it over. For the year to June 30 the revenue was £528,680, an increase of £66,000, which follows a gain of £24,000 last time. Unfortunately, administration expenses have jumped up £30,000 to the generous total of £245,000, taxes (including provision for excess profits duty) are more than doubled at £72,000, £10,000 is written off premises account, and £20,000 is again placed to reserve. After providing for debenture interest the nett revenue is £10,000 less at £112,130. Last year £55,280 was brought forward, and after paying a dividend of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares, the balance of £81,400 was carried to general revenue or surplus account. This time the dividend is raised to 6 per cent., and only a meagre balance of £7,610 is added to surplus account. Apparently the directors are afraid of becoming over-prudent too suddenly. However, they have strengthened the position considerably in the past two years. A year ago £166,570 was received from the liquidator of the New Zealand Land Association, Ltd., and of this about £60,000 was written off premises account, reducing it to £330,000, and the balance was placed to reserve, raising it to £410,000. This time a final payment of £6,350 came from the liquidator of the association, but £84,180 was realised from properties handed over by the old company, and premises account has been reduced to £295,880, while the reserve has been raised to £500,000. All that is very commendable, and we hope the directors will not be discouraged in well-doing. Creditors have increased £175,000 to £518,000, while cash balances are £80,000 up at £559,000, sundry debtors are £126,000 higher at £761,000, and advances on wool, &c., have increased nearly £100,000 at £2,040,000. The rise in prices ought to help to liquidate that heavy item. Thanks to the Government scheme the American securities have been disposed of, but investments have increased £16,000 to £406,000, all in British and Colonial stocks. Conditions in Australasia have become more favourable of late, and the prospects are encouraging, so that the company ought to have another good year to help it along.

At first glance it might look as though the very prosperous business of Loders and Nucoline, Ltd., had

not done so well in the year to August 31, but a closer examination of the figures removes that impression. Profits this time are struck after providing for excess duty and munitions levy, and they come out at £27,690, or £20,500 less, but £4,800 more was brought forward, and the available balance of £33,570 is £15,700 lower. By reducing the appropriation to reserve from £20,000 to £5,000 it is possible to maintain the dividend at 20 per cent., and the carry forward is only £850 less at £5,020. During the year the company was assessed £20,960 for excess profits duty up to February 28, 1915, and the amount due in respect of the period to March 27 last (when the mills became a controlled establishment) has not been agreed with the revenue authorities, nor has the Munitions Levy since then been fixed yet. But we should judge that ample provision has been made for any demands likely to be made on the company, as we notice that the reserves for this and other purposes have been increased by £60,000 to £150,000. Creditors are £73,000 higher, but stocks have increased £94,000, and £36,000 has been spent on premises and plant, so that cash is nearly £20,000 lower at £5,600. The company has always been well managed and prosperous, and we hope the shareholders will come through the present trying times without undue curtailment of the profits to which they have become accustomed.

Even in these days when we find all sorts of businesses showing unexpectedly good results, the report of Wall Paper Manufacturers, Limited, for the year to August 31, comes as a pleasant surprise. In the first 12 months of the war its nett profits suffered a terrible slump, falling from £106,000 to £33,000, and, with the enforced restrictions on new buildings, only moderately good results could reasonably have been expected. But probably an unprecedented number of removals have been caused by the war, and they generally involve re-papering to a greater or less extent. At any rate, the trading profit, after providing for depreciation, is £220,000 higher at £303,150, and after paying £21,000 more income-tax, and £5,000 more interest, and appropriating £100,000 for possible losses on the Continent, the available balance of £224,760 is £77,000 higher, although £16,600 less was brought in. The latter figure represents the amount by which the profits fell short of the preference dividend. Now it is possible to resume payment of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares, which has been suspended for two years, and the balance forward is increased by £5,000 to £102,940. Creditors have increased £80,000, stocks £260,000, and debtors £160,000, but investments are £25,000 lower, and cash has dropped from £127,000 to £9,500.

All this is quite satisfactory, but the most interesting part of the report relates to the absorption of various businesses briefly referred to a year ago. The names of nine firms brought into the combine as from September 1, 1915, are duly set out, and we gather that the purchase price is represented by £58,460 debenture stock, £158,260 preference shares, and £186,450 each of ordinary and deferred shares, making a total of £589,620. But the New Issue Committee of the Treasury could not allow such an occasion to pass without displaying its sense of humour. No money is to pass, and no new capital is to be raised; the transactions merely represent the exchange of various scraps of paper for certain others. The company has made three applications to the Treasury for consent to issue the aforementioned shares and stock, but the Committee, on the principle, we suppose, that "it's dogged as does it," cannot so far see any reason to depart from the general instructions "to refuse consent to the issue of new capital." It was the Mad Hatter, we think, who claimed that what he said three times was true, but in the case of Barclays and the United Counties Bank the same Committee thought better of its decision at the second time of asking, and the sooner it changes its mind on this occasion the better for what little credit it has left—rather bedraggled after the Bleriot

Manufacturing episode. Meantime, except for some inconvenience to the vendors in not being able to deal with their securities, the withholding of the Treasury sanction seems to make little material difference, as interest and dividends are being paid just as though the stock and shares had been distributed. The situation is made all the more grotesque by reason of the fact that in addition to the purchase of the nine firms mentioned the directors have acquired for cash an interest in three other concerns which it was considered desirable to secure, and the company is evidently strengthening its position in various directions.

The restriction of imports of paper and raw materials has given us a good object-lesson on the blessings which may be expected if the Protectionists ever get their way. Prices, as consumers know from experience, have been considerably more than doubled in the past year, and the results shown by paper-making companies would seem to prove that a good part of the increase was totally unjustified. The Carron Grove Paper Co. did a fairly steady business before the war, and was able to pay a dividend of 10 per cent. for each of the four years to 1910-11, 15 per cent. for 1911-12, and 10 per cent. for 1912-13, with a bonus of nearly 70 per cent. in shares from the reserve. In 1913-14 and 1914-15 the company was apparently caught unawares by the rise in the cost of materials and freights, and only managed to meet its preference dividends, but in the 12 months ended October 31 it was able to adjust matters more to its satisfaction. After providing for depreciation and excess profits duty the profits amounted to £51,700, or an increase of no less than £44,100, of which £40,000 is transferred to reserve, making that fund £63,000. Payments on the ordinary shares are then resumed with a dividend of 10 per cent. and a bonus of 5 per cent., tax free, leaving £3,820 to be carried forward compared with £11,925 brought in. The directors say that the appropriation to reserve has enabled them to arrange for the repayment of the heritable debt affecting the property, which stands in the balance-sheet at £18,200. Ordinary liabilities are £12,800 up at £42,700, but the bank loan of £4,600 has been paid off. On the other hand property account has been reduced by £7,300 to £139,100, and stocks are a little smaller at £50,300, but debtors owe £9,000 more at £38,500, and in addition to an increase of £24,600 to £26,900 in investments the company now has £24,200 in cash.

Mr. Frederick W. Tattersall, of Manchester, has prepared an analysis of the stocktaking results of Lancashire cotton spinning companies for the twelve months ending November 30, 1916. The list contains particulars of 62 concerns, with a total paid-up share capital of £2,230,639 and a loan capital of £1,192,616. Of the 62 companies 60 have made a profit for the year and two a loss. After paying interest on loans and allowing for depreciation the total profit for the twelve months amounts to £250,188, and the profit on share capital works out at 11.22 per cent. per annum, against less than 1 per cent. per annum in 1915. The total value of the plant of these mills, including machinery, is £2,702,989. The year opened with spinners of yarn in a fairly healthy position, but business has gradually become still more profitable, and at the moment the production of the mills is deeply sold at remunerative rates, the margin of profit being healthier than at any time since the beginning of the war. Employers have been harassed by the shortage of labour, and the output of machinery is much less than in pre-war days. The 62 mills contain 1,821,574 mule spindles, 3,351,453 weft spindles, and 374,972 ring spindles.

The result of the tenders received by the Union Government for the two areas on the Far Eastern Rand, the Brakpan and East Modderfontein farms, was made known this week. Of the five tenders made for the East Modderfontein area, consisting of 651 claims, an offer made by the Central Mining and Investment Corporation has been successful. This tender pro-

vides that the area shall be worked by a new company, to be formed to take over also the adjoining properties of the Cloverfield and Rand Klip companies. The capital of the company is to be £1,200,000, and in addition to the profits tax, the Government are to receive another 10 per cent. of the company's profits. The successful applicant for the Brakpan area is the Consolidated Mines Selection group, which put in a tender on behalf of the Brakpan Mines. This company, it is understood, recently acquired the adjoining Schapenrust farm, formerly owned by the East Rand Control Mines. This area, together with the Brakpan farm, will make the Brakpan Mine one of the largest on the Eastern Rand. It will consist of 3,386 claims instead of 1,150 as at present, and the life of the mine will be increased by 20 or 25 years. The success of the Brakpan tender is to be attributed to the company being able to offer better terms than other tenderers. Its property adjoining the Government ground, it will be able to develop the latter much cheaper than an outside party. It is expected that only one more shaft need be sunk by the Brakpan, whereas at least two would have had to be put down by an independent party at the cost of many thousands of pounds more. The Brakpan has undertaken to spend £850,000, and to make a large increase in its plant. In addition to the profits tax, it will pay a further 5 per cent. on profits in the first five years, and thereafter the payment to the Government will be on a sliding scale, with a minimum of 12½ per cent. During the war, of course, the Treasury is unlikely to sanction the raising of capital here for the exploitation of the new areas, but it is understood that the respective groups will meanwhile find the requisite funds.

The scheme for reorganising the capital of the Gold Fields Rhodesian Development Co., foreshadowed in the report of the parent concern, has now been promulgated. It is proposed to write off one half of the issued capital, by reducing the shares from £1 to 10s. each. The nominal capital will then be reduced from £3,000,000 to £1,742,890. The amount written off is calculated to represent the depreciation in the value of the company's assets. As a result of criticisms and suggestions made by shareholders, the Consolidated Gold Fields Co. has agreed to reduce the management fee from £10,000 to £6,000 per annum, for the unexpired portion of the management term, that is, down to December 31, 1921. The directors, too, have agreed to waive their right to a participation in profits, and to reduce their fees from £5,000 to £3,200 per annum. Other administrative expenses are also to be reduced. Exception having also been taken to the articles of association under which the Consolidated Gold Fields retained complete control

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of the directorate until 1921, the parent company has now agreed that, in future, in re-electing directors, will give effect to the wishes of the majority of the shareholders. It is a vicious financial system by which companies which are formed as apparently independent companies are tied hand and foot to another concern. In these cases it should be the practice for the shares of the "independent" company to be held by the controlling house entirely, and not by the public at all. Under the present practice the shareholders of the "independent" company are entirely at the mercy of the parent concern. If the public only held shares in the controlling company, then it could make its wishes much more effective. The scheme is certainly in the right direction. It will enable profits to be distributed instead of being absorbed in depreciation.

After one of the longest trials in the history of the Chancery Division, the Court this week gave a decision in favour of the Globe and Phoenix Gold Mining Co. in the action brought against it by the Amalgamated Properties of Rhodesia. The result of the action, really a test case, is important as determining mineral rights in Rhodesia under her rather unusual law conferring upon mine discoverers extra lateral rights. Under these rights a mining company can claim absolute ownership of a body of ore outside the vertical limits of its own property, so far as the ore body remains within the limits of the lateral extension. Thus a mining company can continue to work its own reef even after it has passed out of its own ground into the ground belonging to someone else. Some time ago the Globe and Phoenix Co., the premier mine of Rhodesia, bought the adjoining John Bull claims from the Amalgamated Co. for £1,000 and one-half of the mineral contents of the claims. The ground was purchased to enable the company to sink a new shaft to facilitate the working of its Discovery Reef. The Amalgamated Co. contended that the reefs worked by the Globe and Phoenix in the John Bull ground were new bodies of ore, and that under the agreement it was entitled to one-half of the gold found. Mr. Justice Eve, however, upheld the Globe Co.'s contention that the reefs worked form part of the Phoenix Discovery Reef, of which the Globe Co. has the exclusive ownership under its lateral extension rights. The Judge granted costs on the higher scale. This is important, for the Globe's costs are estimated at about £100,000. In last year's report £48,679 was written off litigation expenses, and £72,000 was added to the litigation fund, making £120,000, representing more than 50 per cent. of the capital. The day following the decision the Globe and Phoenix declared a dividend of 3s. per share, representing £120,000, and bringing this year's distribution up to 4s. per 5s. share against 2s. per share for the whole of 1915.

It is understood that the last of the Broken Hill companies to resume work after the disorganisation caused by the war, the British Broken Hill Proprietary, will shortly restart operations. The delay in resuming work has been due to the difficulty of making satisfactory arrangements regarding the smelting of its lead and zinc concentrates. It declined to enter the Broken Hill Associated Smelters combine on the ground that its capacity was insufficient to treat the whole output of lead concentrates, as well as those of the companies already in the combine, and that it would in any case be cheaper to smelt in Great Britain than in Australia. Now, however, the combine has extended its works to treat the whole of the output, and it is confidently expected that the company will shortly join the combine. As regards the zinc smelting, satisfactory arrangements have now been made to secure outlets for the whole production of the Barrier Mines, including facilities for shipping of concentrates to Japanese smelters. It will be recalled that before the war the company secured a new lease of life by the unexpected discovery of a large body of ore, which has already been proved to the extent of one million tons. Shortly before the outbreak of war, the whole plant was modified and

brought up to date, and therefore the company will be able to resume work under favourable circumstances as regards the mine itself. What the future prices of the metals will be is another matter. The report of the company is expected to be issued in the course of the next week or so.

Wanted, a Government of Action.

Provided only that the war gets on to some purpose the nation is by this time probably almost indifferent what Government may be in office. It has been brought to that mood by its many disappointments, and much weary hoping against hope. The Government of Mr. Asquith seems now to have failed, as Coalition Governments always do, and at many points. In domestic affairs it has betrayed Ireland, and failed to arrange a new franchise scheme that would render a fairly contested general election possible. It has muddled recruiting for the Army and pensions for the used up men of it who survive, to mention but the more prominent of the popular griefs. And, almost most of all, it has allowed the war to assume an intermittent "week-ends-off" aspect in the eyes of the multitude, which leads it to suppose that our rulers are only half in earnest. It has known the truth, too, on many points, but has not had the courage to act upon the knowledge. Therefore, we have had these recurring crises ever since the Coalition came into existence. The present is, we hope, the last of them. The country wants a Ministry which not only knows its own mind, but is capable of putting its knowledge to practical use. A Government hampered and tied down by the irresponsible and invisible influences of Landlordism, of the Germanised Court, also of worn-out usages of all sorts, must be feeble, irresolute, timid often, because it lives in fear of offending its unwilling supporters drawn from opposition camps.

It is not a question merely of Lloyd George *v.* Asquith. It may be one of life or death for the Empire. Mr. Asquith is a man of great gifts of intellect, but seemingly of unstable will and judgment on many things, and with a habit of easy-going irresolution which makes him behave weakly in critical moments, as when he broke faith with the Irish Nationalists. He seems also to have Mr. Gladstone's great defect in an accentuated form, and to be a poor judge of character, while yet lovably tenacious of his predilections. So things have tended to drift along in his hands, and at the present moment no contrast could be greater than that afforded by the masterful Hindenburg's driving force and our languor. The senility and decadent enthusiasm of golf seem to have invaded the entire public services, and are as conspicuous in the Army as at the various civilian offices.

Therefore, although regretting Mr. Asquith, the nation is fully disposed to support the new Ministry of whom Mr. Lloyd George is to be the head. If composed of a tolerably homogeneous body it should at least "get a move on" promptly, and soon improve the impression of us now current abroad. The Unionist party will probably be ready to do things in domestic affairs the Coalition assortment could not get done at any price. To take over the land, for instance, apportion it out for cultivation, allot it, and assign Boche prisoners and others to till it, a work of prime necessity, may now be feasible. Under the Coalition Government it was apparently impossible to get further than the surgeon could, who should apply a mustard plaster to reduce the swelling caused by a broken leg. For essentially the new Government must be more democratic than the one it replaces. Its dominating spirit, Mr. George, is a man of the people, who has never pretended to be anything else, and whatever lords and ladies he may gather around him, a man of the people he must continue to be. That is at once a strength and a weakness, but he has also shown a capacity to make up his mind, and to act swiftly when decision is reached, which may make him an invaluable pilot for the nation and the empire through the raging seas and hidden dangers of the war. We at least shall not bark at his heels meanwhile, for

any man, the weak man as much as, nay, perhaps more than, the strong, deserves, and is entitled to, all the support his fellow-citizens can give him in prosecuting this civilisation-devouring conflict to a successful finish. We may not, we do not, like some of the names put forward by the newspapers as candidates for office, and hope that it may be possible to refuse them the places they covet. But should they, indeed, come into the public service as Ministers or sub-Ministers, it will be our duty to accept them, and be prepared to give Mr. George and his Cabinet every possible support—until they fail us.

As we write, Mr. Lloyd George is busy getting his new team together. The order of procedure was first to put up Mr. Bonar Law to try and form a Government. That gentleman, as was designed, soon gave up the task, and then the true master of strategy, Mr. Lloyd George, at once came forward and has accepted the position of Prime Minister. Anticipatory lists of his new Cabinet are published in some of the papers, and should sundry of the men mentioned there be really included in it, and get high office, its chief may expect much criticism at starting. But it would be wrong to cavil, and unpatriotic as well. No member of the Liberal party will, we trust, descend in any degree to the depths of Billingsgate abuse which has been poured out upon Mr. Asquith's Government, with a rancour and unscrupulousness rarely if ever equalled, almost from the beginning of the war. Nations are never grateful to their political guides until after said guides have died, but our duty is at present to repress all manifestations of disgust or disappointment, to abstain from abuse of anybody and resolve to back up whatever Minister or Ministry is in power in order to give strength to its efforts to carry the war to a successful conclusion. It is a war of ruin which only a barbarian people, itself already ruined, would continue. All the more reason why we should meet the scourge like men with resolution, self-denial, and energy. This journal at least is prepared to welcome Mr. George and his "organisers of victory" with no reserve. But the manner of its accession to power, as well as its composition, will make watchful criticism both inevitable and necessary.

Our Foreign Trade.

Figures of our overseas commerce in November are again astonishingly good, and although there has been a rather disquieting increase in the excess of imports over exports, the whole of the advance is in foodstuffs and raw materials, and we must derive what comfort we can from that fact. It may be recalled that in October the increase in imports was £13,320,000 and in exports £13,350,000, so that the position as regards the visible balance of trade has become £11,600,000 worse in the past month, but on the eleven months we are fully £25,000,000 to the good, and we must be content with that. Here are the figures contrasted with the two previous years:—

	Nov., 1916.	Compar'd with 1915	Compar'd with 1914
	£	£	£
Imports	88,922,506	+ 17,300,232	+ 33,404,376
Exports	42,488,254	+ 6,849,088	+ 17,886,635
Re-exports..	7,136,780	— 1,175,923	+ 1,493,803

ELEVEN MONTHS.			
Imports	873,812,712	+ 90,913,339	+ 244,559,160
Exports ...	466,532,440	+ 115,832,623	+ 62,580,643
Re-exports..	91,675,181	+ 579,959	+ 2,056,141

Of course, it must be remembered that the advance in prices is very largely responsible for the recent big increases in the totals, but in many directions quantities also have gone up to a substantial extent. Imports of foodstuffs last month showed an increase of £7,194,000 in value, but we find that we received 60,000 cwts. more beef, 105,000 cwts. more bacon, 63,000 cwts. more cheese, and 900,000 more raw sugar. On the other hand, refined sugar fell 520,000 cwts., wheat 380,000 cwts., maize 1,070,000 cwts., and tea 20,670,000 lbs. But the smaller quantity of wheat cost 30 per cent. more, and of maize 29 per cent. more, while prices of the other leading foodstuffs were also higher, although some relief might have been expected from the in-

creased quantities received. Raw materials show an increase of £11,250,000 in the aggregate. Imports of raw cotton were 913,350 centals higher, an increase of 49½ per cent. in quantity and of no less than 137 per cent. in value. Sheep's wool increased 4,150,000 lbs., or 17 per cent., but the value rose 90 per cent. Hemp advanced 68 per cent. in quantity and 184 per cent. in value, and petroleum 17 per cent. and 114 per cent. respectively, but the record figures are furnished by the comparatively insignificant item nitrate of soda, which rose 4,000 per cent. in quantity and 7,340 per cent. in value. Iron and steel fell 40 per cent. in quantity, but only 8¾ per cent. in value. Manufactured articles dropped £1,269,000, but the total is still £14,500,000, and a good deal of them might surely be dispensed with.

Exports of raw materials amounted to £5,385,000, an increase of £916,000. Coal fell off 245,000 tons, or 7 per cent., but the value was 37 per cent. higher. It was in manufactured articles that the principal gain was registered, the increase being £5,842,000. Cotton accounted for nearly half the gain in value, although quantities were lower. Yarn and twist fell 14½ per cent., but fetched 40 per cent. more, and piece goods dropped 2¼ per cent., but brought us 35 per cent. more money. Woollens gained £835,000, apparel £550,000, chemicals £500,000, and machinery £287,000. Jute piece goods increased 105 per cent. in quantity and 138 per cent. in value. As we are so near the end of the year it is unnecessary to say much about the figures for the eleven months, but we may mention that imports of foodstuffs have increased £36,000,000, raw materials £44,250,000, and manufactured articles £10,425,000. Exports of raw materials (practically all coal) increased £11,920,000, and manufactured articles £94,170,000. All things considered, the figures are better than could have been expected.

The Standard Bank of South Africa, Ltd., has opened a branch at Dar-es-Salaam, in the occupied territory of German East Africa.



BEHIND THE SCENES ON THE L.G.O.C.

No. 7.—THE DRIVER—TRAINING.

The omnibus driver is almost alone among drivers of motor vehicles in the Metropolis in having to demonstrate his efficiency before being licensed to drive. He has, furthermore, to undergo a strict medical examination, special attention being given to sight and hearing.

The "General" driver is trained at the L.G.O.C. Training school at Chelsea, which is equipped with practice ground, lecture rooms and cinematograph hall, and has a staff of experienced instructors. Here the novice is initiated into the mechanism of the engine and chassis, and receives practical lessons in gear changing, brake operation, and the general control of the motor-bus, working models being used for the purpose.

His first instruction in driving is given on the practice ground, which has various gradients, and where-on obstacles are set up, to impart something of street conditions. Later, as he progresses, he is taken out on the learners' buses into quiet byways, and then gradually into busier streets, until, eventually, his proficiency warrants him going into the main arteries of traffic.

A final test by a Chief Inspector, and the would-be "General" Driver is ready for the severest test of all, that of Scotland Yard. The normal period of training is about a month, during which time the learner receives 4s. per day.

The London General Omnibus Co., Ltd.
Electric Railway House,
Broadway, Westminster, S.W.

P. and O. Report.

In these days we would be surprised to take up a shipping report and not find that it had been making exceedingly handsome profits, but there are several circumstances that would have led us to think that the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co. might prove an exception. We are very glad to see, therefore, that if it has not enjoyed the abounding prosperity of most of the "tramp" lines, it has benefited to a moderate extent from the high freights prevailing. As already announced, the dividend on the deferred stock is raised from 15 to 18 per cent. for the year to September 30, but in the circumstances that is a modest enough achievement, and it must always be borne in mind that the dividend, generous enough as it looks, is largely derived from the conservative and prudent policy which has been adopted in the past in the way of making more than ample provision for depreciation and contingencies. It would be wrong to grudge the proprietors their extra dividend on this occasion, because it would have been quite easy to squeeze out an additional 1 or 2 per cent. in most recent years if the management had succumbed to the temptation of helping the market valuation of the shares at the expense of the solidity—we might almost say impregnability—of the business.

Accounts this year are presented in a more condensed form than ever, but there are good reasons for this course, and the stockholders are not likely to complain. Nett trading results are given as £654,460, an increase of £160,300 after providing for depreciation and adding £126,000 to the reserve fund, which is thus raised to £1,500,000. Nothing is said about liability for excess profits duty, but no doubt it has been amply provided for. A year ago, it may be mentioned, £100,000 was set aside for additional liability in connection with pensions. With £9,500 more brought forward, there is a disposable balance of £732,645, and after meeting debenture interest and the dividends on the preference and deferred stocks, there is a balance of £85,330, or £7,150 more, to be carried forward. These results must be regarded as eminently satisfactory even when allowance is made for the fact that some property not now required by the company has been sold at a profit, and that several outstanding unadjusted accounts for which provision had been made in previous years have been closed with credit balances which have been brought into the nett results. On the other hand, the acquisition of practically the whole of the ordinary shares of the New Zealand Shipping Co., Ltd., in exchange for £905,820 P. and O. deferred stock has not yet proved profitable. The P. and O. received the final dividend on the New Zealand shares for the year to June 30, amounting to £36,000, but it had to pay £108,700 on the new deferred stock issued, so that it is substantially out of pocket at present, but we do not suppose for a moment that immediate results were anticipated when the deal was entered into. Assets now total £12,400,000, an increase of £1,184,000, and apart from the issue of deferred stock already mentioned, the only changes in the balance-sheet are a decrease of £100,000 in debentures to £1,700,000, and an increase of a similar amount in sundry creditors to £2,371,500. The company's own fleet now consists of 471,400 tons, a decrease of 50,000 tons, but with the British India and the New Zealand fleet the total tonnage controlled has been raised to just over 1,500,000 tons.

We get indications in the report of some of the difficulties under which the business must have been conducted. The expense of loading and discharging steamers, owing to the rise in wages, has greatly increased, and the cost of victualling, running, and working the ships has also been much higher, while London Dock dues and Suez Canal charges have both been raised. Half of the fleet has been in the service of the Government during the year at pre-war rates, and the mail services have been maintained at greatly enhanced cost because owing to the war the mails have increased to such an extent that in many cases there has been little, and in some cases no room whatever for cargo in the mail steamers. Worse than all that, however, is the fact that the company's fleet has been reduced by nine

steamers during the year, four having been requisitioned by the Government, and five having been lost—three by enemy submarines or mines. It is unnecessary to elaborate the loss which the company must have suffered by the deprivation of the services of these vessels, but this is a relentless war, and the material losses are a trifle to the risks run by those who go down to the sea in ships in these days. Two mail steamers and two large refrigerator vessels have been under construction for some time, but progress has been greatly delayed by Admiralty requirements. The directors state, however, that as soon as the building yards are in a position to construct mercantile tonnage with a prospect of assured delivery, several new ships will be ordered. We may feel assured, therefore, that the P. and O. does not intend to rest on its laurels, or go to sleep, and as long as that spirit lasts we need have little fear of the supremacy of the British Mercantile Marine. Under all the circumstances the company has done remarkably well, and we can only hope that some of its chief difficulties will have been removed before the next account of its stewardship is presented to the proprietors.

Sir Wm. Armstrong, Whitworth and Co.

Nothing resembling the great leaps in earnings shown by many shipping companies is to be found in the report and accounts of Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth and Co., Ltd., for the twelve months ended December 31, 1915. It is a belated exhibit, in appearance at least, but the report itself is dated November 18 last. It confesses to, and the accounts amply prove, the enormous amount of work done, but the company has not been paid for it at excessive war rates. To be sure the accounts do not tell us how much has been written off for depreciation, the report merely says that the directors have considerably increased it, but the increase is not likely to have been large enough to disguise any important expansion in profits, and the company only places £100,000 to general reserve, raising that accumulation to £1,400,000. Moreover, the board pays much the same dividend as before on the ordinary shares. A year ago the total distributed was 2s. 6d., subject to deduction of income-tax. This time the interim dividend was 1s. per share, less tax, and the final 1s. 8d. per share, tax free, which represents an insignificant increase—how much we cannot exactly calculate.

The nett profits of the year were £955,381, to which £334,038 brought forward were added, making £1,289,419 in all available, or £363,897 more than for 1914, but the company received £100,239, or £38,149 less, as dividends on investments, consequently the final profit of £1,389,659 is only £325,748 better, and after paying the above-mentioned dividends there is £461,387, or £127,349 more than a year ago, remaining to be carried to the new accounts. This larger balance is not kept in hand to meet excess profits duty, for the report states that it has not been settled with the Government departments concerned whether the company is liable for excess profits duty or for the munitions levy in respect of the year covered by the figures. The directors, however, do not think it necessary to make any special provision on this account, another indirect but sufficiently distinct intimation that the company is not one of those who would strive to snatch excessive profits out of the nation's straits. The balance-sheet, moreover, indicates that much money is needed to provide the means to fulfil the Government contracts, for no less than £1,284,205 is entered as "capital in suspense subject to adjustment with the Government." The value of the freehold and leasehold land, buildings, machinery, and plant has been reduced to £255,657 compared with the previous year to £6,252,348, but debtors, including Armstrong, Pozzuoli and Co., Ltd., have increased their leanings upon the company by £1,012,189 to £2,615,837, and probably this is debt incurred partly on Italian account through the Italian branch of the business. The in-

investments in stocks, shares, and debentures in other companies, &c., have gone up £176,355 to £2,233,097, and work in progress, stocks, stores, materials, &c., of a nett value of £2,778,851, shows an expansion of £322,027.

Owing to the amount entered as capital in suspense, and doubtless representing current expenditure incurred to meet Government requirements, and to the larger debts owing on current account, the company has had to increase its liabilities by £2,206,868, making the total entered as due to "creditors" £4,648,941. That is the only change of importance on the liabilities side of the balance-sheet. Employees' deposits have £64,448 more to their credit, bringing up the total of their lodgment of money with the company to £356,453, otherwise there is no change at all barring the £100,000 added to the general reserve. Everything is heaped up under debt owing to "creditors." But because of the heavy amounts the board has had to borrow miscellaneously, that is to say not on the usual debenture stocks, an entry appears in the profit and loss account of £141,267, as the charge for "general interest" borne by the company's earnings last year. It is noticeable likewise that the allowance to officials and dependents of workmen on national service increased in 1915 by £21,069, making the total £35,260 for last year. In the current year now dying we fear the charge in this direction upon the company will be considerably higher. In their report the directors speak in fitting appreciative terms of their late chairman, Sir Andrew Noble, whose connection with Elswick lasted for more than 55 years, and who had been chairman of the board since 1901. The board records its appreciation of his distinguished career as well as of the great service which his devotion and energy rendered to the country and to the company. Various new members have joined the directorate, including Sir Percy Girouard, Colonel Hadcock, and Sir Philip Watts. Lord Sydenham did join the board, but soon withdrew in order to undertake important Government work.

By-the-Way War Notes.

Not in any direction has this week been a pleasant one for those who labour and endure, hoping the best during this arduous time. It is impossible to be other than grieved and deeply chagrined at the fate which seems to have overtaken Rumania, but do not let us be over much cast down by the present situation there. No doubt the Germans have abundant cause for boasting, which they are careful not to overlook, and the Kaiser's commanded ringing of joy bells was natural in the circumstances, for inside Germany there is not much scope for joy, any more than elsewhere. But according to the rumours circulating in diplomatic and Press Bureau quarters the brilliant strategy of Hindenburg's commanders and that forceful Hanoverian's own ruthless driving force have been helped to their present triumphs by the misbehaviour of the late Russian Premier with the German name. He, an official named Stuermer, was thrust into office by the Teutonic bureaucracy, which is still nearly all-powerful in the country and high official circles of Russia, and, in defiance of the will of the Duma, did his best to prevent adequate measures from being taken to stem the Teutonic brigand's sallies into Rumania.

As Hun presented, the position is briefly this. The combined forces of Germany, Austro-Hungary, Bulgaria, and Turkey have been hurried from everywhere to concentrate against the doomed kingdom, and have forced their way both through the western gaps in the Transylvanian Alps and across the Danube from Bulgaria. They have closed round and entered Bukarest, having first of all, in characteristic fashion, made a dash for the centre of the oil-bearing region lying to the north and north-west of the capital. They claim to have captured the grain stored for us, which is probably a lie. They claim also to have complete mastery of the Danube, at any rate as far as Tchernavoda, whose railway bridge across the river is, however, said to be under the guns of the Russians. Assuming, then, that the

Russians are unable to make progress there—and they are said to be desisting from assaults and "deeply entrenching" themselves—or to break down the defences in the Carpathians and to get on Falkenhayn's left wing, and so to penetrate into Rumania from the north; assume also that no Russian and Rumanian river flotilla proves able to regain the upper hand in the Lower Danube, then there does not seem much between unhappy Rumania and a complete ravaging. The grain and oil, the cattle also, will then be carried off and prove of immense help to the hungry Central Empires, enabling them to maintain the struggle, and success in the great scoop may put a corresponding strain upon us in "sticking it." Must we, therefore, give way to despair? By no means. There is another side to the story, and even should the Austro-Germans succeed in temporarily gobbling up Rumania, we shall have time to prepare to meet the onslaught of their armies coming across from the held-down country north of the Danube, to be thrown against the Allies in Bulgaria, in Serbia, in Macedonia. We cannot overlook the danger of such an onslaught, whatever our confidence may be that, just as last year, time given, Russia will pull herself together and be able to account for the savage marauders. And on the general course of the war, provided the Allies continue to hold all the seas by their fleets, this distressful Rumanian episode can have little or no influence. Russia has proclaimed the fact that the Allies have agreed to her possession of Constantinople, and she will not now abate any of her determination to reach that goal, the centuries' old dream of her people, no matter what the fury-driven Germans may attempt to do. But we must not any longer base our conduct on assumptions. The wild boar is at bay, and must be everywhere fought to the death.

But the very exuberance of German rejoicings bids us take hope. Never was such trumpeting as the Kaiser and his executants in savagery are indulging in over this "conquest" of Wallachia. His telegram to his wife, in imitation of his grandfather's similar messages to his "dear Augusta," in the war of 45 years ago, betrays nervous apprehension rather than well-grounded exultation over assured victory, and the bulletins put forth by the war authorities in Berlin are obviously designed to mislead and intimidate the enemy, and to that end exaggerate with the utmost abandon the nature and extent of the successes. One tale was that "100,000 prisoners" had already been captured. If that were true it would simply mean that Rumanian peasants were being hauled away into Germany, like the Belgian, the French, and the Polish, to replace workers killed or still in the army. The German Staff, though, is careful to hide the fact that the Rumanian army has no more been defeated or broken up than the Russian armies were last year or than the French and British in 1914. The "turning movement," the one great strategic feat at which German leaders are expert, has again failed, thanks to the heroic defence of the Rumanian troops, and although the small army left behind at Orsova has had at last to surrender, it has done so only after a long fight, in which it harassed the enemy, and must have caused him many losses unacknowledged. Nor does the German Staff ever hint at the utter failure of Mackensen to grab grain stocks in Northern Rumania. These were the first booty he was clutching at when he invaded the Dobrudja, and the Russians and Rumanians baffled him and turned him back. So precious little of the grain hitherto captured will help the hungry people at home. They will have to send the bread to the troops, that's all. The Rumanians are undefeated still, Bukarest has not fallen to assault, has not even surrendered, as to a conqueror, but has allowed itself to be occupied as an undefended town, and in the meantime Russian hosts are gathering in the north to help the Rumanians to defend Moldavia, and other armies are operating in the mountain passes and threatening German lines of communication from that quarter. Russians also contain the Germans in the Dobrudja. The jaws of the trap, in short, are still open. But the ever-bragging foe ignores all that, and seeks to dazzle the world with his hawling. It seems he does. And the political up-

heavals in all the Entente States shows that he has in a way succeeded, as braggarts generally do for a time. We hope he will make the attempt he boasts about in the Balkans, for the mountains there will probably consume his own troops and his Turks and Bulgars—what is left of them—as fully as the plains and swamps of North-Western Russia have swallowed up the hosts of Germans gathered there last year to conquer the empire of the Tsar. All is not gold that glitters, therefore, in this Teutonic victory, and meantime the Poles have turned a deaf ear to Prussian blandishments, and no new horde of pawns can be raised in Russian Poland with which to renew and sustain the conflict.

We have indicated above the darkest possibilities that may arise from the inroad and occupation of so much of Rumania, because it is well to look at the worst with eyes open and to make ready to resist it. To accomplish what has been done the German war lords must have denuded the Western front of many of their best troops, and it creates a feeling of disappointment that on that West front we should have been able to do nothing, except indulge in petty-looking trench raids and ammunition expenditure, to lessen the force of the blow on brave Rumania. Our quietude suggests all sorts of gloomy thoughts about our Army organisation, and causes one to wonder whether the heavy expenditure involved in the holidaying system now in vogue can be money well spent. After every "push" the complaint of those who took part is, "We had no reserves. If we had had, we could have done much more." Were our "reserves" at home on holiday? War is really a serious undertaking, it should be explained.

But there is always this consolation to cling to in the darkest hour:—If the Allies hold loyally together, as they have done, the German scoop in Rumania means no conquest, can have no permanent result in bringing a German peace nearer. We have to remember what took place last year when Hindenburg and Mackensen, with the same astuteness in strategy and the same man-wasting, restless fury as is now displayed in Rumania, drove the Russians out of Poland, forced Russia to surrender all her fortresses west of the River Dvina, pushed her back almost to the city of Riga, and obtained great triumphs everywhere. But these triumphs were perfectly barren of substantial results. They brought peace no nearer, rather they drove it further away, and this year the tables have been turned. Russia has advanced, and cannot now be prevented from regaining all the lost territory and much more, for she means to set Poland free, in spite of her Germanised bureaucracy. Why should it be different with this Rumanian campaign? It cannot be different if we stand loyally together, and the very swiftness of the present success must in the end assist in making the Allied triumph more complete; for the wastage of human lives, of draft animals, and of material of war must have been stupendous. The troops alone wasted in the Transylvanian mountains, in the Dobrudja, and amongst the river valleys and hills of the Wallachian plain cannot be replaced. Germany is staking the last of her manhood, as she has long ago staked and lost all her money on a sensational campaign of plunder and land harrying that will only make the peace terms to be ultimately granted to her the harder.

What to say about the Greek danger we know not. Constantine seems to have faithfully imitated the Prussian manner of regarding treaties, and clings to, nay glories in, his disloyal betrayal of Serbia, but our disheartening failure to take him by the throat in time, and make him see reason, must not be laid wholly at the door of our Government or that of France. It is probable that the German party at the Russian Court has been, next to the Kaiser, the most powerful influence in leading Constantine astray. Whatever the origin of his conduct, however, he cannot any more be allowed to utilise guns bought with money borrowed on false pretences from France and England to shoot their citizens, nor can he be allowed to defy those who united to guarantee his throne. Russia will stand by

her Allies, whatever they decide to do, and Constantine must be removed. The safety of the allied troops demands that as a first step.

Doubtless the man has been carried away by the success of the Germans in Rumania, just as Bulgaria and Turkey were by previous similar displays of the brigands' much-advertised prowess in war. He must, therefore, be handled with a resolute thoroughness now, before he has opportunity to do further mischief. Obviously a large body of the Greek people in the capital have been beguiled into supporting him, and his "loyal" troops are said to be committing all sorts of atrocities in Athens. They must be cornered and disarmed, else our armies in Macedonia may be put in danger by treacherous rear attacks. The day of diplomatic palavar is past. Kings are but common humanity in this war.

Of the Western front, what more is to be said? Nothing this week. But the restrictions of hotel menus at home may perhaps keep more troops at the front. The sweeping away of nepotism and privilege may also help. We heard, authentically, the other day of a young captain whose promotion was due and was postponed in order that somebody's favourite, a man of no experience in the war, should be made major. The new officer failed completely to lead his men at the first fight, and the captain whom he had supplanted had to be summoned in hot haste to the rescue. He restored the fight triumphantly, but he is a captain still, and his incompetent major may soon perhaps be a general. No wonder murmurs are heard suggestive of a profound and increasing discontent. But our *junkers* will not find the people so meek as the German sausages on legs are.

How splendidly the Serbians continue to fight their way into Bulgaria. Surely they will never again be left in the lurch.

Italy also continues to do gloriously amid stupendous difficulties, and the official announcement about her future place in the Adriatic proves that people and Government are at one in their determination to free the enslaved nationalists from oppression. For Serbia and Montenegro cannot be delivered, and their territories enlarged in a way to make them contented with their lot and permanently at peace with their neighbours unless all the populations of Dalmatia and the countries behind are permitted to govern themselves and given free access to the sea. By giving freedom to all the enslaved of the Austrians, Italy's supremacy in the Adriatic will be made secure.

Royal Exchange Assurance.—It is announced that after 44 years' service the secretary, Mr. W. N. Whymper, has tendered his resignation in consequence of ill-health, and that the directors have accepted it with great regret. To fill the vacancy they have appointed Mr. Percy F. Hodge (at present the accountant) to the position of secretary, and in order to fill the position vacated by Mr. Hodge, they have appointed Mr. H. D. Street as accountant. They have also appointed Mr. E. de M. Rudolf as "joint assistant secretary," with Mr. K. E. Duke. All these appointments will take effect as from January 1, 1917.

THE CAPE COPPER COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Twenty-ninth ordinary General Meeting of the Shareholders of this Company will be held at the Offices of the Company, No. 9, Queen Street Place, in the City of London, on Wednesday, the 13th day of December, 1916, at 12.30 o'clock p.m.:—

To receive the Reports and Accounts for the year ending August 31st, 1916;

To elect a Director and Auditors in the places of those retiring;

And for other General Business.

The Transfer Books will be closed from the 6th to the 13th December, 1916, both days inclusive.

Holders of Share Warrants wishing to attend this meeting must deposit same at the Offices of the Company or at the office of the *Crédit Mobilier Français*, 30 and 32, Rue Taitbout, Paris, three clear days before such meeting.

Dated this 4th day of December, 1916.

By order of the Board,

P. J. FRANKS,
Secretary.

Registered Offices:
9, Queen Street Place,
London, E.C.

IRISH RAILWAYS.

		£	+	£	+	£	+	£
Belfast and County Down ..	Dec. 1	3,043	+	156	+	177,565	+	7,500
Grand Canal ..	" 1	1,188	+	64	+	23,377	+	2,321
Great Northern ..	" 1	25,840	+	2,990	+	1,160,613	+	45,913
Gt. Southern and Western ..	" 1	35,900	+	3,165	+	1,614,917	+	1,178
Midland Great Western ..	" 1	13,435	+	392	+	635,786	+	13,897

* From Jan. 1. † From July 1.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

		Rs.	+	Rs.	+	Rs.	+	Rs.
Assam Bengal ..	Oct. 28	1,49,000	+	9,975	+	5,47,000	+	41,472
Bengal & N.W. ..	" 28	3,25,300	+	9,425	+	12,85,710	+	87,030
Bengal Nagpur ..	Nov. 4	3,46,000	+	13,000	+	2,87,53,638	+	44,40,720
Bombay, Baroda ..	" 25	13,93,000	+	84,000	+	95,01,000	+	2,83,000
Burma ..	Oct. 28	4,55,753	+	75,412	+	1,17,59,007	+	8,06,032
Delhi Umballa ..	Dec. 2	75,900	+	14,000	+	7,42,800	+	1,39,050
East Indian ..	Nov. 25	22,22,000	+	9,000	+	1,93,05,000	+	7,34,000
Gt. Indian Penin. ..	Dec. 2	23,41,300	+	71,500	+	1,68,29,800	+	13,48,022
Lucknow-Bareilly ..	Oct. 28	29,630	+	4,687	+	1,20,352	+	4,207
Madras and S. ..	Nov. 4	7,80,000	+	7,709	+	42,46,000	+	2,17,771
Nizam's Gd. (Broad) ..	" 4	1,00,895	+	6,114	+	5,47,801	+	36,906
" (Metre) ..	" 4	73,320	+	10,291	+	3,06,647	+	6,433
Robilkund and ..	Oct. 28	31,315	+	7,466	+	1,31,158	+	6,395
Kumaon ..	Nov. 4	5,51,542	+	18,583	+	28,14,730	+	65,990
South Indian ..	" 28							

a 13 days. † April 1. ‡ October 1.

COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

		£	+	£	+	£	+	£
Beira ..	Sept. *	27,898	+	10,848	+	100,689	+	7,577
Canadian Northern ..	Nov. 21	\$853,000	+	\$84,100	+	\$16,986,900	+	\$4209,900
Canadian Pacific ..	" 30a	\$4,086,000	+	\$8,000	+	\$64,046,000	+	\$1028,000
Gr. Trk. Main Line ..	" 30a	267,423	+	8,000	+	8,921,444	+	1,511,674
Gr. Trk. Western ..	" 30a	46,851	+	6,254	+	1,753,963	+	299,28
Detroit G. H. & M. ..	" 30a	17,062	+	3,679	+	621,931	+	91,775
Gr Trk Pac Prairie Sc ..	" 21	26,401	+	15,707	+	414,523	+	88,563
Mashonaland ..	Sept. *	54,414	+	1,436	+		+	
Mid. of Westn. Aus. ..	" *	6,464	+	811	+	17,169	+	444
New Cape Central ..	Oct. 28	1,746	+	144	+	67,220	+	7,834
Rhodesia ..	Sept. *	87,187	+	8,740	+	350,971	+	27,197

a 9 days. * Months. † July 1. ‡ Jan. 1. c From Oct. 1.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

		\$	+	\$	+	\$	+	\$
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	Nov. 21	948,000	+	24,000	+	19,182,000	+	1,036,000
Chicago G.W. ..	" 21	389,000	+	33,000	+	6,832,000	+	897,000
Colorado & South'n ..	" 21	381,000	+	6,000	+	6,111,000	+	602,000
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	" 14	558,000	+	44,000	+	10,590,000	+	324,000
Louisv'e & Nashv'e ..	" 21	1,402,000	+	237,000	+	26,015,000	+	3,473,000
Minn. S.P. (Soo) ..	" 7	663,000	+	270,000	+	13,128,000	+	723,000
Missouri Kansas ..	" 21	773,000	+	45,000	+	15,971,000	+	3,159,000
Southern ..	" 21	1,611,000	+	265,000	+	31,650,000	+	3,851,000

§ Includes Wisconsin Central. † From July 1.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—HOME.

		£	+	£	+	£	+	£
Bristol ..	Dec. 1	9,831	+	55	+	484,826	+	23,881
Dublin United ..	" 1	6,052	+	427	+	292,600	+	1,280
Hastings and Dist. ..	" 1	850	+	183	+	50,109	+	3,358
Isle of Thanet ..	" 2	236	+	34	+	2,505	+	57
Lancashire United ..	Nov. 29	1,724	+	273	+	88,122	+	5,166
Provincial ..	Dec. 2	1,892	+	25	+	18,756	+	338
Yorks. (Wst. Rdng.) ..	" 3	1,767	+	396	+	86,281	+	9,148

* From Oct. 1. † From Jan. 1.

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.		GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
		Week ending	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	Wks.	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.
Alooy and Gandia ..	Dec. 2	Ps. 14,500	—	Ps. 3,500	Ps. 614,800	+	Ps. 28,600
Antofagasta (Chili) ..	" 3	37,535	+	7,575	1,671,910	+	477,075
Arauco ..	Oct. 2	12,000	+	2,775	185,238	+	30,491
Argentine N.E. ..	Dec. 2	7,100	+	1,913	147,402	+	3,151
Bilbao R. and Canta ..	Nov. 2	5,417	+	221	52,244	+	3,321
Bolivar ..	Oct. *	6,750	+	1,574	3,250	+	458
Brazil ..	Sept. *	M3,865,000	+	M365,714	M 3202,900	+	M268,942
Brazil Gt. Southern ..	Aug. *	M13,36,250	+	M2,500	M282,071	+	M9,470
B. Ayres & Pacific ..	Dec. 2	83,000	+	5,000	1,846,000	+	87,000
Do. Central ..	" 2	27,415	+	202	104,558	+	3,631
Do. Gt. South'n ..	Dec. 3	119,000	+	1,000	2,270,254	+	22,346
Do. Western ..	" 3	50,000	+	4,000	1,159,000	+	121,000
Central Argentine ..	" 3	108,000	+	1,400	2,474,700	+	43,900
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte V. ..	" 3	16,204	+	1,120	269,551	+	9,606
Do. East'n Ex. ..	" 2	5,262	+	717	9,675	+	8,087
Do. N. rth'n Ex. ..	" 2	2,256	+	349	4,325	+	553
Do. West'n Ex. ..	" 2	2,833	+	241	40,944	+	1,52
Colombian National ..	Oct. *	12,400	+	2,200	1,583,000	+	11,608
Cordoba Central ..	Dec. 2	25,100	+	2,810	67,575	+	5,70
Costa Rica ..	Oct. 21	4,113	+	2,123	81,405	+	496
Cuban Central ..	Dec. 2	9,073	+	717	20,648	+	21,978
Dorada Extension ..	Oct. *	9,800	+	2,700	84,300	+	4,500
Egyptian Delta ..	Nov. 10a	9,176	+	2,515	123,416	+	24,892
Entre Rios ..	Dec. 2	10,500	+	100	255,700	+	38,400
French Santa Fé ..	Sept. *	99,464	+	21,521	810,311	+	13,999
Gt. South. of Spain ..	Nov. 25	Ps. 7,426	—	Ps. 1,603	Ps. 3,540,424	+	Ps. 97,644
Gt. West. of Brazil ..	Dec. 2	19,400	+	5,000	510,500	+	30,100
Havana Central ..	Nov. 25	7,007	+	1,380	112,882	+	15,720
Inter. of C. Amer. ..	Oct. *	33,082	+	5,424	479,670	+	78,953
La Guaira and Car. ..	" *	6,500	—	25	78,250	+	10,500
Leopoldina ..	Dec. 3	29,67	+	321	1,206,112	+	227,818
Manila (N. & Sth.) ..	" 2	8,975	+	1,833	44,089	+	28,247
Midland Uruguay ..	Oct. *	14,043	+	4,557	44,639	+	2,133
Mogiana ..	Sept. *	M2,300,000	—	M131,406	M166,000	—	M174,162
N.W. of Uruguay ..	Oct. *	826,000	+	4,610	92,533	+	1,345
Nitrate ..	Nov. 30b	32,000	+	7,720	621,825	+	295,42
Paraguay Central ..	Dec. 3	2,770	+	350	57,440	+	5,180
Paulista ..	Sept. *	M3,500,000	+	M39,404	M 227,500,000	+	M175,744
Peruvian Corp'n ..	Nov. *	592,826	+	57,100	5,514,640	+	565,873
Salvador ..	Dec. 2	825,20	+	88,380	847,505	+	839,036
S. Paulo (Brazilian) ..	Nov. 26	38,890	+	1,029	1,313,040	+	90,716
Sorocabana ..	Sept. *	M1,856,000	+	M137,83	M 133,600	+	M918,64
Taitai ..	Oct. *	22,395	+	4,8	78,600	+	13,206
United of Havana ..	Dec. 2	33,889	+	6,844	654,514	+	124,51
West'n of Havana ..	Nov. 25	5,501	+	76	121,397	+	17,998
Zafra ..	Oct. *	12,000	+	67	6,211	+	31,2

* Months. † From Jan. 1. § From July 1. c Net. d 5 days. a 10 days

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.

		£	+	£	Ms.	£	+	£
Anglo-Argentine ..	Dec 2	52,450	+	496	+	2,454,431	+	5,392
Auckland Electric ..	Nov. 20 ^b	21,428	+	597	+	81,286	+	1,160
Br-zilian Traction ..	Oct. §	M3,821,000	—	M86,000	10	M 38,194,000	+	M931,580
Brisbane Elec. Inv. ..	Nov. §	26,740	+	4,380	11	357,160	+	10,086
British Columbia ..	Oct. §	93,418	+	34,643	4	293,803	+	148,636
B.A. Lacroze ..	Nov. §	39,173	+	3,430	5	190,778	+	16,624
Burmah Electric ..	Sept 6 ^b	Rs. 23,749	+	Rs. 1,586	—	—	+	Rs. 839
Calcutta ..	Dec. 2	Rs. 72,607	+	Rs. 6,458	—	Rs 31,06,967	+	178,015
Carolaba Light ..								
P. & T. ..	Oct.	13,533	+	92	6	98,087	+	740
Hongkong ..	" 28	12,398	+	1,594	9	623,225	+	149,607
La Plata ..	Nov. 5	4,34	+	202	11	46,399	—	429
Lima ..	Oct.	33,292	+	1,081	10	337,150	+	16,858
Madras Electric ..	Nov. 30 ^c	Rs. 29,664	+	Rs. 3,827	—	Rs 65,95,170	+	Rs. 51,009
Mexico ..	"	215,256	+	108,669	—	3,193,106	+	197,227
Rangoon ..	"	5,033	+	5	5	46,555	—	1,839
Singapore Electric ..	Oct. 21	12,463	+	245	5	88,975	+	54,820
Toronto ..	" §	437,623	+	4,579	10	4,355,714	+	407,127
United of Monte V. ..	"	28,729	+	1,545	12	347,772	+	17,171
Vera Cruz ..	May	85,200	+	35,400	6	372,600	+	178,200
Winnipeg ..	Oct. §	96,243	+	8,727	10	897,126	+	23,556

b 28 days. * From Jan. 1. § Net. a From July 1. c Two weeks.

MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

NAME.		NETT EARNINGS FOR MONTH.			NETT EARNINGS TO DATE.		
		Month.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year	No. of Mths.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year
		Dols.	Dols.		Dols	Dols.	
Atchison T. & S. Fé	Oct.	5,516,000	+ 1,761,000	4	19,509,000	+ 5,164,000	
Atlantic Coast Line	Sept.	626,000	+ 184,000	3	1,602,000	+ 833,000	
Baltimore & Ohio ..	Oct.	3,061,000	— 100,000	4	12,729,000	— 97,000	
Canadian Northern	"	1,220,300	— 36,700	4	4,224,300	+ 1,111,300	
Canadian Pacific ..	"	5,675,000	— 904,000	4	20,290,000	+ 2,723,000	
Chesapeake & Ohio	Sept.	1,509,000	— 12,000	3	4,672,000	+ 418,000	
Chicago & N.W. ..	"	3,059,000	+ 298,000	3	8,301,000	+ 2,270,000	
Chicago Burl. & Q. ..	"	4,341,000	+ 921,000	3	10,979,000	+ 2,923,000	
Chicago G.W. ..	Oct.	503,000	+ 134,000	4	1,800,000	+ 478,000	
Chicago Mil. & S. P.	Sept.	3,121,000	+ 244,000	3	9,616,000	+ 930,000	
Chicago, Rock I. & P.	"	2,299,000	+ 898,000	3	8,030,000	+ 2,983,000	
Colorado & Southern	Oct.	649,000	+ 90,000	4	2,060,000	+ 535,000	
Cuba ..	Sept.	183,000	+ 14,000	3	706,000	+ 129,000	
Delaware & Hud. ..	"	671,000	— 156,000	9	5,886,000	+ 160,000	
Denver & Rio Gran.	"	923,000	— 85,000	3	2,554,000	+ 272,000	
Erie ..	Oct.	1,638,000	— 953,000	10	15,610,000	+ 38,000	
Gr. Tr. Main Line ..	"	6,277,000	+ 1,384,000	10	62,320,400	+ 3,524,500	
Grand Trunk Westn	"	2,240,000	— 1,210,500	10	13,844,100	+ 620,100	
Detroit G. H. & Mil.	"	24,250	— 550,000	10	631,100	+ 1,500	
Gr. Northern ..	S'pt.	3,486,000	+ 550,000	3	9,977,000	+ 948,000	
Illinois Central ..	Oct.	1,718,000	+ 509,000	4	5,826,000	+ 1,635,000	
Kansas City Southn.	"	428,000	+ 47,000	4	1,451,000	+ 143,000	
Lehigh Valley ..	"	1,211,000	+ 159,000	4	4,785,000	+ 86,000	
Louisville & Nashvl.	Sept.	1,562,000	+ 688,000	3	4,803,000	+ 806,000	
Minn. S. P. (Soo) ..	"	1,121,000	+ 147,000	3	3,867,000	+ 1,017,000	
Miss. K. & Texas ..	"	758,000	+ 173,000	3	2,081,000	+ 347,000	
Missouri Pacific ..	"	1,621,000	+ 404,000	3	4,395,000	+ 1,086,000	
New York Cent. & H.	"	6,176,000	+ 597,000	9	48,025,000	+ 1,490,000	
N. Y. N. Haven & H.	"	2,187,000	+ 26,000	3	6,931,000	+ 460,000	
New York Ont. & W.	Oct.	81,000	— 116,000	4	1,051,000	— 62,000	
Norfolk & Western.	"	2,124,000	+ 80,000	4	8,073,000	+ 631,000	
Northern Pacific ..	Sept.	3,344,000	+ 293,000	3	8,505,000	+ 1,629,000	
Pennsylvania East and West Lines..	"	10,786,000	— 435,000	9	94,995,000	+ 2,440,000	
St. Louis & San F.	"	1,689,000	+ 495,000	3	4,416,000	+ 896,000	
Seaboard Air Line..	"	496,000	+ 66,000	3	1,231,000	+ 74,000	
Southern ..	Oct.	2,433,000	+ 554,000	4	7,575,000	+ 1,101,000	
Southern Pacific ..	"	5,915,000	+ 632,000	4	22,370,000	+ 3,166,000	
Union Pacific ..	"	5,797,000	+ 1,128,000	4	18,703,000	+ 3,854,000	
Wabash ..	"	1,236,000	+ 317,000	10	9,493,000	+ 4,859,000	

C. M. & G.

NEW BONUS REPORT AND FULL DETAILED BALANCE-SHEET.

Apply to A. D. BESANT (General Manager),
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THE LIVERPOOL & LONDON & GLOBE INSURANCE CO., LTD.

FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT. MARINE.
ASSETS EXCEED £14,400,000

Head Office:
1, Dale Street, Liverpool.

London Chief Office:
1, Cornhill, E.C.

The Investors' Review.

Money and Credit Notes.

BANK RATE 6 PER CENT. (Increased from 5 per cent. on
Thursday, July 13.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

Until quite the end of the week money has been abundant. The large balances released in payment of the War Loan interest could not be immediately absorbed in meeting fresh war costs, and loans were therefore obtainable at something less than 5 per cent. for a week, although the clearing banks continued to charge that rate. Day to day money was lent at $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., and naturally at the end of the day unabsorbed balances could be had till next morning at a lower figure. Towards the end of the week, however, the market tended to stiffen up a little, and therefore our quotations for loans and discounts alike are left where they were a week ago. Sixty-day bank bills even were not taken by the keenest traders under $5\frac{3}{8}$ per cent., and generally the quotation was $5\frac{3}{8}$ - $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Banks were disinclined to take any except short bills, but there was a good demand for Treasury bills at $5\frac{1}{8}$ - $\frac{5}{16}$ for January and $5\frac{5}{16}$ - $\frac{3}{8}$ per cent. for February.

The Bank return need not detain us this week for the changes are slight. The reserve has again gone down £300,000, and as the liabilities on deposits are upwards of £2,000,000 up, the proportion of reserve to liabilities is $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. lower at $21\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. Public deposits have gone up £2,480,000 to £58,717,000, but other deposits are down £322,000 to £108,947,000. All the money placed to the credit of the Government in public deposits was raised upon other securities, which are up £2,479,000. Most of the decrease in the reserve came from the expansion in the note circulation, and only £100,000 was gold withdrawn.

It is pleasant to record the success of the British loan in Japan. On the Tokio market £10,000,000 of British Government yen bonds was subscribed almost at once. The subscription list was accordingly closed on Tuesday, three days earlier than the date originally fixed. A Reuter's telegram tells us that all Japanese newspapers, regardless of their political views, unanimously welcomed the issue and gave it their heartiest support. They regard it as the clearest proof which the Japanese people have given to the whole world of a sincere friendship for Great Britain by co-operating in the policy of the British Treasury in reference to the American exchange and also as the expression of Japan's full determination to assist the Allies. Every-

thing, indeed, that Japan has done is deserving of grateful acknowledgment at the hands of the Allies. Look how she has helped our London market by her continuous purchases of her own stock on our exchange. Thanks to that Japan is continually giving us back a sensible portion of the money which has been earned by her in supplying artillery and munitions to the Allies, to Russia most of all. Not only is the financial policy thus indicated enlightened, but the friendliness it shows is emphatically opportune and admirable, deserving of hearty acknowledgment.

Altogether the accumulations of gold in the United States are now computed to be £540,000,000, which is an increase of £143,000,000 in the space of 16 months. That is the estimate of Mr. McAdoo, the Secretary to the Washington Treasury. There is more real cash available, in fact, than the United States knows what to do with, and paper currencies based upon gold are jostling each other, not improbably preparing the way for such an outburst of speculation as will dazzle the world when the coming of peace gives the chance.

The Court of Appeal has given an interesting, and we think a just, decision affecting the responsibility of bankers. The Bank of Montreal was sued by Captain Banbury for damages sustained by him as an investor in a Canadian security, in consequence of alleged negligent advice. The Court has decided unanimously that there was no duty on the part of the bank to give advice nor authority on the part of the bank's local manager at Victoria, B.C., to bind the bank, and therefore no negligence; and, further, that representations of the character alleged must, to give a cause of action, be in writing, as required by Lord Tenterden's Act, and the Court directed judgment, with costs, in favour of the defendant bank, setting aside the jury's verdict of £25,000, and costs.

SILVER.

The silver market has been remarkably steady this week, and the price has again moved upwards. Profit-taking on Chinese account caused a temporary reaction to $35\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz., but this was followed by speculative buying, induced by the further drop of over 2 crores of rupees in the Indian Treasury holding of the metal. A little general demand also came into the market, and as supplies continue very small, the quotation advanced to $36\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz., but it finished $\frac{3}{16}$ d. below the best.

Applications for the Rs. 50,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 6,00,70,000. Of these, Rs. 17,000 were allotted in bills, Rs. 6,41,000 in deferred transfers, and Rs. 42,42,000 in immediate transfers. Tenders for bills and deferred transfers at rs. 4 3-32d., and for immediate transfers at rs. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., received about 7 per cent. Special sales have also been made of Rs. 93,000 in bills and Rs. 35,00,000 in deferred transfers at rs. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and Rs. 2,49,00,000 in immediate transfers at rs. 4 5-32d. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is again Rs. 50,00,000. Since April 1 the total sales have been Rs. 27,17,02,480, realising £18,255,547.

THE MANCHESTER AND LIVERPOOL DISTRICT BANKING COMPANY LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1829.

Head Office: Spring Gardens, Manchester.
London Office: 75, Cornhill.

Deposits	-	-	-	£30,630,010
Cash, etc, Bills, Investments	-	-	-	20,487,555
Advances	-	-	-	13,454,332

30th June, 1916.

Foreign Banking Business transacted.
Bank acts as Trustee or Executor.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT, pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, December 6, 1916.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued	£	Government Debt..	£
72,683,105		11,015,100	
		Other Securities ..	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion	54,233,105
		Silver Bullion ..	—
£72,683,105		£72,683,105	

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital	£	Government Securities ..	£
14,553,000		42,188,117	
Reserve ..	3,235,919	Other Securities ..	106,749,646
Public Deposits (including		Notes ..	34,824,770
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin	1,709,625
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	58,716,597		
Other Deposits ..	108,946,191		
Seven Day and other Bills	20,027		
£185,471,734		£185,471,734	

Dated Dec. 7, 1916.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year.

Last year, Dec. 8.		Nov. 29, 1916.	Dec. 6, 1916.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,285,537	Rest ..	3,217,403	2,351,919	18,516	—
52,443,879	Pub. Deposits ..	56,236,730	58,716,597	2,479,867	—
90,018,941	Other do.	109,268,585	108,946,791	—	322,394
16,469	7 Day Bills ..	20,132	20,027	—	105
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
32,840,075	Gov. Securities.	42,188,117	42,187,603	—	424
92,910,363	Other do.	104,270,976	106,749,646	—	2,478,670
34,567,388	Total Reserve	36,836,757	36,534,395	302,362	—
				2,801,169	2,801,169
£		£	£	Increase.	Decrease.
34,155,360	Note Circulation	37,656,285	37,858,335	202,050	—
50,474,748	Coin and Bullion	56,043,042	55,942,730	—	100,312
24.3 p.c.	Proportion ..	22.3 p.c.	21.8 p.c.	—	5 p.c.
5 "	Bank Rate ..	6 "	6 "	—	—

CURRENCY NOTES.

Return of Currency Notes for the week ended December 6, 1916.

	Issued.	Cancelled.	Outstanding.
£1 notes ..	4,216,683	2,599,897	95,251,091
10s. notes ..	1,396,516	977,392	28,807,036
Note certificates ..	150,000	200,000	14,510,000
Previous total ..	481,001,440	344,419,220	—
	486,764,639	348,196,512	138,568,127

Ratio of gold held against notes: this week, 22.97 p.c.; last week, 23.39 p.c.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For 7 days ended Dec. 2.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE
Customs ..	National Debt Service ..
Excise ..	Interest, &c., on War Debt ..
Estate, &c., Duties ..	Development & Road Improv
Stamps ..	Payments to Local Taxation
Land Tax and House Duty	Other Consolidated Fund
Property and Income Tax ..	Charges ..
Excess Profits Tax ..	Supply Services ..
Note certificates ..	Bullion Advances ..
Post Office ..	For Advance for Interest
Crown Lands ..	on Exchequer Bonds under
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	Capital Expenditure
Miscellaneous ..	(Money) Act, 1904 ..
Bullion advances repaid ..	For Treasury Bills ..
For Treasury Bills ..	For Exchequer Bonds issued
War Loan, 1925-8 ..	under the War Loan Red-
War Loan, 1925-45 ..	emption Act, 1910 ..
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919..	Issues under Section 61 of
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920..	Finance Act, 1916 ..
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1921..	Under Telegraph (Money)
6% Exchequer Bonds, 1920..	Act, 1913 ..
War Expenditure Certificates	Under Post Office (Lon-
War Savings Certificates ..	don) Railway Act, 1913 ..
Other Debts created under	Under Housing Act ..
War Loan Act, 1915, and	Public Buildings Expendi-
Finance Act, 1916 ..	ture Act, 1903 ..
Telegraph Money Act, 1913	Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8..
Under Post Office Rly. Act,	Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11..
1913 ..	For Redemption of Ex-
Under Military Works Acts,	chequer Bonds, 1904 ..
1897-1903 ..	Exchequer Bonds, 1916 ..
Under Housing Act ..	Cunard Loan repayment is-
Redemption of Exchequer	sued to reduce debt under
Bonds, 1904 ..	the Cunard Agreement ..
Cunard Loan—r. payment on	Deficiency advances repaid
account of principal ..	Ways and Means Advances
Suez Canal Drawn Shares..	repaid ..
Ways and Means Advances	Increase in Exchequer
Decrease in Exchequer	balances ..
balances ..	
£98,648,600	£98,648,600

SHORT TERM GOVERNMENT LOANS.

	Nett Sales Last Week.	Nett Sales This Week.	Total Outstanding.
Treasury Bills ..	£	£	£
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919 ..	11,368,000	23,414,000	1,147,888,000
Do. 1920 ..	—	—	34,242,000
Do. 1921 ..	—	—	237,805,969
6% Exchequer Bonds ..	10,194,000	12,213,000	62,464,000
War Expenditure Certificates	534,000	263,300	124,251,000
War Savings Certificates ..	700,000	1,050,000	28,953,800
			37,550,000

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1916.	1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
January	£	£	£	£
February	1,071,948,000	918,685,000	153,263,000	—
March	1,107,655,000	960,743,000	146,912,000	—
April	1,364,599,000	1,231,392,000	133,207,000	—
May	1,091,356,000	976,264,000	114,092,000	—
June	1,447,416,000	1,164,194,000	283,222,000	—
July	1,147,630,000	960,209,000	187,421,000	—
August	1,239,193,000	1,316,695,000	—	77,502,000
September	1,364,782,000	1,352,519,000	12,263,000	—
October	1,136,590,000	1,000,008,000	136,582,000	—
November	1,304,881,000	1,090,919,000	213,961,000	—
December	315,087,000	273,423,000	41,664,000	—
Total	14,233,840,000	12,573,585,000	1,660,255,000	—

FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	Nov. 17, 1916.	Nov. 10, 1916.	Nov. 19, 1915.
Gold coin and certificates ..	£	£	£
Gold Redemption Fund ..	58,638,200	53,179,400	49,080,000
Gold Settlement Fund ..	276,600	273,600	240,400
Legal tender notes, silver, &c.	28,164,200	27,914,200	13,869,000
Total reserves ..	3,416,000	1,462,400	6,431,600
5% redemption fund against	50,445,000	82,829,600	69,630,000
F.R. bank notes ..	94,000	90,000	—
10-day bills and loans ..	2,236,000	2,361,400	920,600
30-day bills and loans ..	5,848,400	4,663,000	2,461,000
60-day bills and loans ..	9,106,400	9,102,200	3,167,000
90-day bills and loans ..	5,932,200	5,614,600	1,803,600
Maturities over 90 days	374,600	317,400	674,600
Total ..	23,498,600	22,088,600	9,019,800
Investments—			
U.S. Bonds ..	7,823,000	7,770,600	2,534,800
One year U.S. Treasury			
notes ..	2,233,400	2,269,400	—
Municipal Warrants ..	3,719,400	4,118,800	5,503,800
Federal Reserve notes—nett.	2,851,200	3,522,600	3,758,400
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—			
nett. ..	11,954,600	7,013,000	3,165,400
All other assets ..	1,242,200	406,600	732,400
Total assets ..	143,843,400	130,189,200	91,354,600
Paid-up capital ..	11,142,000	11,142,000	10,970,800
Government Deposits ..	5,034,200	4,667,800	3,000,000
Reserve deposits nett. ..	124,458,800	111,202,400	76,099,400
Note circulation nett. ..	28,807,036	27,777,200	2,584,600
Fed. Res. notes in circulation	206,000	206,000	—
All other liabilities ..	118,000	103,800	790,800
Total liabilities ..	143,843,400	130,189,200	94,354,600
Gold reserve against nett			
liabilities ..	72.3%	72.8%	79.6%
Cash reserve against nett			
liabilities ..	75.1%	74.1%	87.7%

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	Dec. 2, 1916.	Nov. 25, 1916.	Nov. 18, 1916.	Dec. 4, 1915.
Loans ..	£	£	£	£
Reserve held in own vaults ..	678,822,000	689,312,000	691,672,000	626,550,000
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk.	77,512,000	81,270,000	88,042,000	1,111,660,000
Reserve held in Other Depos.	33,986,000	35,610,000	36,126,000	—
Nett Demand Deposits ..	10,841,000	11,226,000	11,158,000	—
Nett Time Deposits ..	660,616,000	677,514,000	686,592,000	—
Circulation ..	34,160,000	33,372,000	33,674,000	—
Excess Lawful Reserve ..	5,906,000	6,030,000	6,124,000	—

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits

NEW YORK STATE BANKS & TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.).

	Dec. 2, 1916.	Nov. 25, 1916.	Nov. 18, 1916.	Dec. 4, 1915.
Loans ..	£	£	£	£
Specie ..	152,416,000	150,140,000	149,048,000	123,512,000
Deposits ..	12,340,000	12,342,000	12,162,000	10,532,000
Legal Tenders ..	162,216,000	160,676,000	159,302,000	128,412,000
	2,096,000	2,070,000	2,022,000	1,974,000

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Dec. 7, 1916.	Nov. 30, 1916.	Nov. 23, 1916.	Dec. 9, 1915.
Gold in hand ..	£	£	£	£
Silver in hand ..	202,197,920	201,811,880	201,413,560	197,601,000
Bills discounted ..	12,440,360	12,553,520	12,650,320	14,260,000
Advances ..	22,319,320	25,804,640	24,779,120	12,881,160
Note circulation ..	53,493,500	53,317,000	53,877,440	25,200,840
Public deposits ..	651,924,280	644,779,840	631,095,840	562,817,240
Private deposits ..	2,734,840	2,201,320	3,448,800	31,476,000
Foreign Bills ..	78,116,560	76,673,520	74,099,900	117,618,200
	247,480	251,780	112,480	52,000

Proportion between bullion and circulation 32.92 per cent., against 31.42 per cent. last week. Advances to the State £276,000,000, increase £16,000,000. The adjourned payments of drafts in Pa. is on account of the moratorium. £24,514,600 decrease £157,600, and at the branches £29,532,640, decrease £73,440.

IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Nov. 29, 1916.	Nov. 24, 1916.	Nov. 14, 1916.	Nov. 29, 1915.
Notes in reserve	£11,480,000	£12,430,000	£11,660,000	£7,437,800
Gold	146,600,000	153,880,000	56,050,000	160,828,700
Gold in reserve abroad	214,970,000	203,510,000	205,510,000	22,851,400
Loans and Discounts, including Treasury Bonds	686,250,000	693,190,000	896,710,000	—
Circulation note issue	823,520,000	817,570,000	838,340,000	523,900,000
Deposits, including Treasury deposit	23,039,000	23,490,000	22,617,000	23,805,703

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Nov. 30, 1916.	Nov. 23, 1916.	Nov. 15, 1916.	Nov. 30, 1915.
Total Coin & Bullion	£126,746,250	£126,724,850	£126,650,000	£123,628,100
Treasury Notes	15,791,650	14,092,450	15,028,750	33,431,050
Bills discounted	403,784,350	419,178,450	411,540,650	233,589,500
Advances	620,200	516,100	688,650	767,350
Note circulation	343,599,550	333,267,350	358,933,950	299,970,600
Deposits	183,615,850	208,693,300	196,654,550	79,392,350

Clearing House returns during Nov. £285,269,765 against £309,547,600 in Oct.

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Nov. 25, 1916.	Nov. 18, 1916.	Nov. 11, 1916.	Nov. 27, 1915.
Gold	£48,050,222	£48,038,188	£47,898,225	£33,737,799
Silver	29,846,255	29,704,802	29,641,134	30,113,734
Foreign Bills	3,902,708	3,901,810	3,965,652	4,093,378
Discounts and Short Bills	25,708,631	25,864,839	25,872,745	26,359,467
Treasury Account, &c.	29,480,154	29,358,803	29,800,362	28,049,280
Notes in Circulation	92,660,277	93,148,248	93,824,974	82,380,394
Current Accounts, Deposits	28,940,390	28,768,172	28,741,579	27,137,127
Dividends, Interest, &c.	1,606,946	2,288,623	1,569,533	1,750,105
Government Securities	3,685,727	3,145,264	3,395,515	1,991,590

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	Oct. 31, 1916.	Oct. 20, 1916.	Oct. 10, 1916.	Oct. 31, 1915.
Total cash	£45,904,760	£43,769,000	£42,670,600	£54,089,720
Inland Bills	20,072,960	20,314,280	21,304,000	20,419,000
Foreign Bills	834,080	833,480	833,600	840,160
Advances	8,128,720	7,608,920	7,624,160	8,649,560
Government securities	8,800,680	8,765,320	8,785,680	8,188,360
Circulation	147,662,080	146,149,360	146,989,960	115,929,760
Deposits at notice	15,142,560	15,391,040	15,469,800	11,920,360
Current accounts	15,398,280	15,187,560	13,727,360	17,435,960

BANK OF NORWAY.

	Nov. 30, 1916.	Nov. 22, 1916.	Nov. 15, 1916.	Nov. 30, 1915.
Gold	£6,065,000	£6,069,000	£6,105,000	£3,659,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills	5,288,000	5,348,000	5,386,000	3,694,000
Gov't Securities	767,000	767,000	767,000	781,000
Discounts & Loans	7,356,000	7,152,000	7,033,000	4,200,000
Notes in Circulation	13,220,000	13,085,000	13,135,000	8,416,000
Deposits at notice	3,666,000	3,745,000	3,696,000	1,317,000

BANK OF SWEDEN.

	Nov. 25, 1916.	Nov. 18, 1916.	Nov. 11, 1916.	Nov. 27, 1915.
Gold	£10,133,000	£10,131,000	£9,882,000	£6,294,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills	7,873,000	7,862,000	5,346,000	7,581,000
Swedish and Foreign Gov't Securities	3,774,000	3,776,000	3,789,000	2,918,000
Discounts and Loans	4,377,000	4,562,000	4,859,000	4,604,000
Notes in circulation	19,958,000	20,240,000	20,706,000	15,971,000
Deposits at notice	5,105,000	5,146,000	5,094,000	5,296,000

SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	Nov. 30, 1916.	Nov. 23, 1916.	Nov. 15, 1916.	Nov. 30, 1915.
Gold and silver	£14,531,708	£13,596,400	£13,584,604	£12,113,840
Bills	7,054,792	6,535,136	7,406,136	5,605,816
Note circulation	19,167,040	18,451,980	18,832,736	17,098,420
Current and deposit accounts	4,531,476	3,209,692	4,100,996	2,982,956

NETHERLANDS BANK (12 Florins to the £).

	Dec. 2, 1916.	Nov. 25, 1916.	Nov. 18, 1916.	Dec. 4, 1915.
Gold and Silver	£49,313,916	£49,276,333	£49,055,083	£35,047,145
Loans and Advances	12,783,591	12,703,500	13,028,750	13,969,281
Note circulation	62,483,333	61,603,500	61,877,000	47,382,130
Deposits	3,062,166	3,832,666	3,818,666	3,046,307

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.
Paris	ohq	27.80	27.80	Antwerp	si or	—	—
Brussels ..	ohq	—	—	Italy	si ht	32.10	32.16
Amsterdam ..	si ht	11.66	11.66	Constantinople	si ht	—	—
Christiania ..	—	17.20	16.95	Rio de Janeiro	90 dy	11.89	12d.
Stockholm ..	—	16.70	16.25	Buenos Aires	90 dy	50.18	50.18
Copenhagen ..	—	17.62	17.55	Calcutta	T.T.	1/4.48	1/4.48
Petrograd ..	q mth.	62	16	Bombay	T.T.	1/4.48	1/4.48
New York ..	cable	4.76	4.76	Hong Kong ..	T.T.	2.38	2.38
Lisbon	q mth.	31.14	31.14	Shanghai ..	T.T.	3/5.48	3/6d.
Madrid	q mth.	22.99	22.20	Singapore ..	T.T.	2/4.48	2/4.48
Switzerland ..	—	24.59	24.07	Yokohama ..	4 mths	2/1.18	2/1.18

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Dec. 5, 1916.		Dec. 7, 1916.	
		Sellers.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Buyers.
Amsterdam ..	Cable transfers ..	11.66	11.69	11.65	11.67
"	Three months' bills ..	11.82	11.87	11.80	11.85
Paris	Cable transfers ..	27.79	27.82	27.79	27.82
"	Three months' bills ..	28.15	28.25	28.15	28.20
Marseilles ..	Three months' bills ..	28.15	28.25	28.15	28.20
Switzerland ..	Cable transfers ..	24.40	24.50	24.15	24.25
"	Three months' bills ..	24.75	24.85	24.50	24.60
Petrograd ..	Cable transfers ..	16.14	16	16.3	16.5
"	Three months' bills ..	16.32	16.5	16.4	16.74
Genoa, &c. ..	Cable transfers ..	32.12	32.22	32.15	32.25
"	Three months' bills ..	32.57	32.67	32.63	32.73
Spain	Cable transfers ..	21.97	22.12	22.12	22.22
"	Three months' bills ..	50	51	50	50.6
Lisbon and Oporto	Cable transfers ..	31.4	32.1	31	32
Copenhagen ..	Cable transfers ..	17.58	17.68	17.50	17.60
Christiania ..	Cable transfers ..	17.10	17.20	16.87	16.97
Stockholm ..	Cable transfers ..	16.55	16.6	16.30	16.40

TREASURY BILLS.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months ..	5 1/2	5 1/2
Six months ..	(£98 12 10) (£98 12 10)	5 1/2
Twelve months ..	(£97 5 5) (£97 5 1/2)	5 1/2
	(£94 10 0) (£94 10 0)	

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted	5 1/2	5 1/2
Three months ..	5 1/2	5 1/2
Four months ..	5 1/2	5 1/2
Six months ..	5 1/2	5 1/2
Three months fine inland bills	5 1/2	5 1/2
Four months ..	6 1/2	6 1/2
Six months ..	6 1/2	6 1/2

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Last week.	This week.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	6	6
" short loan rates	6 1/2	6 1/2
Bankers' rate on deposits	4	4
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	4 1/2	4 1/2
" 7 and 14 days' notice	4 1/2	4 1/2
Current rates for 7 day loans	4 1/2	4 1/2
" for call loans	4 1/2	4 1/2

The Week's Stock Markets.

Although many members of the Stock Exchange have been howling, with a sufficient lack of intelligence, for a change of Government, they have rather jibbed at accepting Northcliffe as king-maker, and instead of getting a boomlet on the collapse of the Coalition, the House probably never spent a more miserable week, even in times of financial panic. Stock Exchange memories are proverbially short, but they are not so short as to forget the burning of a heap of *Daily Mails* in the House in connection with the notoriously spiteful attack on Lord Kitchener. From the market point of view everything has gone wrong this week, the Cabinet crisis being preceded by the treachery in Athens and followed by the fall of Bucharest. And this particular juncture has been chosen by the clerk of the weather to compel the suspension of any large offensive on the Western front. Business has consequently been brought as near a standstill as it can be, while deceased and other accounts have to be liquidated through the medium of the Stock Exchange, and although the American market has shown some vitality, it brings precious little grist to the dealers on this side. Japanese issues have been strong, both for sentimental and other reasons, and Peruvian Corporation stocks improved on the announcement that the Government has paid £60,000 on account of annuity arrears. This leaves a balance of £40,000 still owing, apart from the £80,000 for the current year, which is partly due, but the payment has created a very favourable impression, and gives rise to the hope that the guano dispute will shortly be settled on equitable terms. Among miscellaneous securities shipping shares had a rather sharp relapse on fears that the submarine menace was increasing, but more particularly because there has been talk of more stringent Government control. The rapid advance in the price of rubber has not benefited the share market to any great extent, except in the way of keeping it steady, which is something to the good in these distressful days.

Stock markets have naturally been dull on the political upheaval, and on the news from Greece and Rumania, but busi-

ness has been small, and prices have, perhaps, suffered less than might have been expected. Consols fluctuated between 54½ and 54½, and closed at the lowest, while the 4½ per cent. War Loan, after touching 94½, recovered to 94½; but the 3½ per cent. issue finished ½ down at 83½. Irish Land stock gave way, and India 3½ per cents. were also lower. In the Foreign Government market, the French War Loan improved at one time to 80½, but the gain was wiped out later. Russian things

Home Railway stocks remained in a neglected condition, and prices where changed showed further declines. North-Western dropped 2½ to 94½, Great Northern preferred and deferred 1½ and ½ respectively, and Great Western ½. Canadian Pacific shares recovered in the beginning of the week to 175, and after a relapse to 174½, rallied again to the higher figure. The only changes in Grand Trunk stocks were gains of 1 in the first preference and ½ in the third. American Railroad shares have fluctuated sharply, but finished with substantial gains on balance.

United States Steel common, however, after touching 144 xd., relapsed sharply to 141½, but International Mercantile Marine ordinary and preferred were substantially better. Argentine Railways reacted after their improvement last week, and Buenos Ayres Great Southern finished 1½ down at 77½, Buenos Ayres Western and Buenos Ayres and Pacific lost 1½ each, and Central Argentine ordinary 1½. Amongst other South American things, Leopoldina declined 2 and San Paulo 3. Mexican Railway stocks were flat and ½ to 1½ down.

The market for Bank shares has again been idle, but Capital and Counties and Lloyds both improve ½, while Barclay "B" fell that fraction, and Union of London and London Joint Stock were respectively ½ and ½ down. Hongkong and Shanghai fell 1½, and Union of Australia dropped 1. A fair amount of activity developed in Shipping shares, but the market later developed weakness on talk of greater control by the Government. P. and O. deferred improved to 348½ on the report, Court Line were bought at first and touched 45s. 3d., but reacted to 41s. 6d. on profit-taking, and Union of New Zealand, after being bought up to 58s. 6d., dropped to 50s., on the denial of the amalgamation rumours, while Cunard, Furness Withy and Prince Line were all lower on balance. Engineering things were quiet, but there was a little demand for Nobel's Explosives, and the price rose to 48s. xd., while Thornycroft recovered to 36s. Otis Steel touched 103, but finished at 101, and Steel Company of Canada improved to 90. Lake Superior Corporation common dropped to 31, but Spanish River Pulp and Paper improved to 23. Brazilian Traction common were flat and 3½ down at 46½, but rallied to 48 on the improvement in the exchange. Motor shares were quiet, but Straker-Squire hardened on the dividend, and Sunbeam were marked up to 4½, but Rolls-Royce dropped to 2½. An inquiry sprang up for Victoria Falls ordinary, which lifted them to 13s. 9d. Gas Light and Coke was further marked down to 70, and Imperial Continental Gas dropped another 3 to 74½. Meat shares were dull, and Catering things quiet, with declines of ½ in Lyons and ½ in Aerated Bread. Salt Union were offered, and fell to 62s. 6d., and Borax Consolidated deferred gave way slightly. Textile things generally were quiet. Courtaulds relapsed to 6½ on a little selling pressure.

Oil shares have been exceedingly quiet, with interest mainly in Roumanian Consolidated. These, after touching 9s. 6d., recovered to 10s., but then went flat, and dropped to 6s. 4½d. on the German occupation of Ploesti. "Shell" were easier. Royal Dutch dropped to 42½, and most Russian things were lower. Mexican Eagle shares, however, met with a good inquiry, but reacted, and finished with gains of 9d. to 1s. 3d. The rise in the price of the commodity had very little effect on the Rubber share market, but a number of the higher-priced things were firm. Bukit Rajah, Kapar Para, Ayer Kuning, Highlands and Cicely were all substantially better, but Tandjong relapsed to 82s. xd., and Sialang were also lower at 65s. Java descriptions were dull, with a fall of 1s. 3d. to 38s. in Telogoredjo.

LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

SUGAR.—Supplies of all descriptions clear to a ready demand, and no alteration was made in quotations.

COFFEE.—The general tone of the market is very steady, though progress of business was not fast. In auction, Nairobi and Uganda found a ready market at rather better rates, but other kinds only partly sold. The terminal market proved quiet and slightly easier. March sold, 47s. 6d.; May, 48s. 3d.

COCA.—Market slow, at about previous quotations, and no auctions were held this week.

TEA.—All the finer liquoring parcels experienced a steady market, but increased weakness prevailed with regard to inferior kinds. During the week 49,600 packages Indian, 16,000 packages Ceylon, and 8,000 packages Java were offered.

SPICE.—Business in pepper was again kept down, though sellers offered sparingly and required full rates. Fair Zanzibar cloves, spot, sold, 7½d. Tapioca and also sago firm, despite quietness of demand.

FRUIT.—Currants and sultanas moved off quietly on former terms. Only 138 tons Valencia raisins were offered, and a small proportion disposed of at late values.

RICE firm, but without much activity. Bran further moved upward. Beans again dearer. Rangoon, spot, sold, £39 10s., and Japanese peas, afloat, £43.

FIBRES reservedly held and firm, while stronger in the case of jute. Native first marks assortment, afloat, Dundee, sold, £40 15s.; November-December, £41 5s. to £42 5s.; Daisee No. 2, December-January, £41. Hemp: Medium, November-January, sold, £56 15s.; coarse, October-December, £56; brown, ditto, £55.

SHELLAC disclosed slightly irregular movements this week. T.N., December, sold, 142s., 138s., 139s.; March, 145s. 6d. to 143s.

RUBBER dearer, a steady demand being reservedly met. Crepe, spot, sold, 2s 11d. to 3s. 3½d. Ribbed smoked sheet, 2s 11d. to 3s. 3½d. Fine hard Para, spot, 3s. 4½d. to 3s. 5d.

COPRA.—Only a moderate trade was in force, but with few sellers. the market ruled firm, while dearer to Marseilles.

	Last Week	This Week		Last Week	This Week
Consols.	55½	54½	N.S.W. 4½% 1922-7	94	93½
War Loan 3½%	83½	82½	" 5% 1921-3	96½	95½
" 4½%	91½	91½	" 5% 1921-2	97½	97½
India 3%	57	55½	New Zealand 4%	94½	94½
" 3½%	66½	64½	Queensland 4%	8	82
Australian 5½% 1920-22	99½	99½	" 4½% new	93	93½
Canada 4% 1910-60	83	83	Union of S. Africa 4½%		
N.S.W. 4½% 1920-5	91	94	1920-5	92	90½
" 4½% 5 yr. bds.	83	82½	Victoria 4½% 1920-5	92½	92½
Belgian 3%	61½	61	Westn. Aus. 4%	81½	80½
Brazil, 1913	62	62	French War Loan, 5%		
" New Funding	75	75	New	80	80
Chinese 1896	83½	90	Japan 4½% (rst)	95½	95½
" 1912	72	74	" (2 d)	95½	95½
Egypt (Unif'd) 4%	79	79	Russia 4%	66	64
French W. Loan, 5%	80	80	" 4½%	75	74
Brighton defd.	62	61½	" 5%	81	81
Calcedon defd.	88	88½	London and S.W. dfd.	71½	71½
Chatham ord.	84	84	Do, new pf.	98	98
Gt. Central pf.	132	128	Metrop litan	13½	23½
" dfd.	78	68	Do, 5% New pf.	90	90
Gt. Eastern	34½	33½	Met. District	16	16
Gt. N. rthern dfd.	37½	36½	Midland dfd.	56	55½
Gt. Western	89	88½	Nth. British dfd.	13½	13½
Lancs. and Yorks.	67	66½	Nth.-Eastern	100	99½
			Nth.-Western	96½	94½
			Sth.-Eastern dfd.	25½	25½
Canadian Pacific	173½	175	Chesapeake	71½	71½
Do. 6% Not. s.	109½	109½	Erie	39½	40½
E. Indian Guar. 4½% debs.	87	87	Wilmington	97½	98½
Grand Trunk ord.	10	10	N. Y. Central	112	113½
Do, 3rd pf.	23½	24	Southern	29	31½
Do. 5½% 3-yr. Notes	96	96	Southern Pacific	103½	104½
Do. 5½% 5-yr.	96	96	Union Pacific	154½	154½
Atchison	110½	111½	U. S. Steel	141½	141½
Baltimore	90	90½	Cent. Argentine ord.	66½	65
Antioagasta dfd.	125½	125	Do. 5% Notes	95	94½
Brazil C. mmon.	5	4	Do. 6%	99	98½
B. A. & Pacific	41½	40	Leopoldina	33	31
B. A. Gt. Southern	79	77½	Mexican ord.	16½	15½
B. A. Western	78½	77	San Paulo (Brazilian)	182	179
			United of Havana	80½	80½
Bank of Australasia	112	112	London City & Midland	78	78
Barclay & Co. "A"	72	72½	London County & West.	148	148
Do. "B"	10½	10½	London Joint Stock	21½	21½
Capital & Counties	23½	24	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (£10½ pd)	25½	25½
Chartered of India	57	57	Do. (£12 pd)	31	31
Hongkong & Shanghai	77½	76	Parr's	28½	28½
Lloyds	24	24½	Standard of S.A.	10	10½
London & Provincial	164	164	Union & Smiths	23½	23½
London & S.W.	11½	11½			
Apollinaris ord.	3	3	Forestral Land	52½	53½
Armstrong, Whitworth	39½	39½	Furness, Withy	54½	51½
Associated Cement	24	24	Hudson's Bay	6½	6½
Birmingham Small Arms	47½	47½	Imperial Tobacco "B" pf.	21½	21½
Borax dfd.	13½	33½	Do. "C" pf.	34½	34½
Bovril	20½	20½	Kynochs	32½	32½
Brazil Traction	50	48	Lever Bros. "C" pf.	20½	20½
Briti-h Amer. Tobacco	51	51½	Lyons, J.	3½	3½
Brwn (John) & Co.	35½	34½	Marconi	21½	21½
Brunner, Mond	4½	4½	Maypole Dairy dfd.	19½	18½
Cammell-Laird	7	7	Mond Nickel ord.	32	32
Casner-Kellner	32	32	National Steam Car	20½	21½
Coats	64½	64½	Pears, A. & F.	18½	18½
Cunard	99½	96½	P. & O. dfd.	34½	34½
Dennis Bros.	34½	34½	Royal Mail	119½	119½
Dorman, Long	35½	35½	South Durham Steel	32½	32½
Eastmans	7½	7½	Underground Inc. Bds.	91	91
Engl-h Sewing Cotton	48½	47½	Vickers	38½	37½
Fine Cotton Spinners	30½	30½			
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	11½	11½	Mexican Eagle pf.	38½	39½
Baku (ros.)	210½	210½	North Caucasian	25½	24½
Burmah	4½	4½	Roumanian Cons.	10½	6½
Lobitos	42½	43½	Royal Dutch (100 gulden)	43½	42½
Maikop Combine (ros.)	3½	3½	Shell	58	58½
Maikop Pipeline	3½	3½	Spies (10½)	12½	12½
Mexican Eagle	37½	39½	Ural Caspian	29½	29½
Anglo-Java Rub. (2½)	57½	61	Malayalam £1	36½	36½
Anglo-Malay 2	11½	12½	Merlimau 2½	54	52½
Ayer Kuning £1	35½	35½	Pataling 2½	32½	32½
Bukit Mertajam 2½	41½	41½	Port Dickson 2½	32½	32½
Bukit Sembawang 2½	37½	36½	Rubber Trust £1	24½	24½
Carey Uni £1	41½	41½	Sapumalkande £1	22½	22½
Grand Central £1	25½	26½	Sialang £1	68½	67½
Gula k. lumpung £1	31½	30½	Singapore Para 2½	39½	310½
Highlands £1	55½	57½	Singapore United 2½	3½	3½
Java Para £1	29½	29½	Tapioca 2½	3½	3½
Johore Rubber Lands £1	30½	30½	Tanjong £1	85½	82½
Langen Java £1	44½	44½	Tanjong Malim £1	30½	30½
Linggi 2½	23½	23½	Tebrau £1	73½	73½
London Asiatic 2½	710½	81	United Serdang 2½	12½	12½
Malacca £1	85½	85½	Vallambrosa 2½	18½	18½
Abbottakoon (10½)	5½	5½	De Beers d.d. (£2 10s.)	13½	13½
Brakpan	4½	4½	East Rand	14½	14½
Brok n Hill Prop. (8½)	50½	52½	Gt. Boulder (2½)	12½	12½
Cam & Motor	10½	11½	Meyer & Charlton	5½	5½
Central Mining (£12)	6½	7	Modder "B"	7½	7½
Charter'd	11½	11½	Do. Deep	78	78
City Deep	4½	4½	N. W. M. der (£4)	18½	18½
Cons. Gold Fields	18½	18½	Rand Mines (5½)	31½	31½
Cns Langlaagte	1½	1½	Rio Tinto (£5)	63½	64
Crown Mine (10½)	3½	3	Van Ryn Derp	37½	38½

were weak, and Greek Monopoly and 4 per cent. Renten were marked down. Japanese loans were steady, and a number of Chinese improved from 1 to 2. Brazilian loans were dull, the various 4 per cents. losing 1 to 1½, and Mexican Irrigation was marked down 2 to 44. Peruvian Corporation issues improved on the payment of £60,000 on account of the annuities, and the preference, after touching 25½, finished with a gain of 1 at 25½, while the debentures were 1 better at 79. Spanish 4 per cent. was lifted 2½ to 90½ on the decline in the exchange.

METALS.—Copper: The standard market manifested a subdued but stronger tone since last Monday, with sellers again showing no little reserve. Cash delivery last Monday settled down at £151, and three months at £140, steadily advancing until the middle of the week to £153 10s. and £144 10s. respectively. At Thursday's session values ruled easier, final figures being £152 to £153 cash, and £143 to £144 three months. Tin continued irregular and easier until the middle of the week, on freer offerings, standard, cash fluctuating down to £187, three months £189. Rates ruled lower at Thursday's meeting, closing figures in these positions being £186 10s. and £188 10s. respectively. Business fair. Shipments from the Straits for past month reached 5,580 tons. Lead slow. Foreign, £30 10s. to £29 10s., as to position. Spelter easier. G.O.B., £58 to £55, according to position. Quicksilver, £18 15s. (being the recent advance).

CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 8, 1916

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
Sugar —per cwt., duty 14, 98% polarisation	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Wool —per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tate's Cuban No. 1	2 7 1/2	2 7 1/2	Australian		
Ditto, H.T.S.	2 6 7/8	2 6 7/8	Scoured Merino	2 2-4 5	2 2-4 5
Fine granulated	nom.	nom.	Scoured Cr'sabr's	1 10-3 7	1 10-3 7
Lyle's granulated	41 7/2-42 1/2	41 7/2-42 1/2	Greasy Merino	1 7-2 3	1 7-2 3
Foreign granulated, first marks	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	1 3-1 10	1 3-1 10
f.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	New Zealand		
German Cubel. o.b.	nom.	nom.	(scoured) Merino	3 6-3 10 1/2	3 6-3 10 1/2
French Cube	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	1 2-2 0 1/2	1 2-2 0 1/2
Crytallised, West India	nom.	nom.	Cape snow white	2 4 1/2-3 0	2 4 1/2-3 0
Best, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Indian rubber p.t.		
Tea —per lb., duty 1/2 lb.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Plantation, Spot		
Indian Pekoe	0 10 1/2-1 3	0 10 1/2-1 0 1/2	Crepes	0 2 10 1/2	0 3 3 1/2
Broken	0 10 1/2 6 1/2	0 10 1/2 1 1/2	Coal —per ton		
Orange	11-1 4	0 10 1/2 1 3	Durham, best	nom.	nom.
Broken	11 1/2-1 9	0 11 1/2 1 3 1/2	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Pekoe Souchong	10 1/2-1 0	0 10-1 0	East Hartlepool	nom.	nom.
Ceylon Pekoe	10 1/2-1 1 1/2	0 10 1/2 1 2 1/2	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Broken	11 1/2-1 2	0 11 1/2 1 2 1/2	Steamers, best	30 0	30 0
Orange	11 0-1 3	0 11 1/2 1 2	Seconds	25 0	25 0-26 0
Broken	11 0-1 3	0 11 1/2 1 2 1/2	Lead —per ton.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Pekoe Souchong	10 1/2-1 0 1/2	0 10 1/2 1 0 1/2	English Pig	32 5 0	32 5 0
Cocoa —per cwt., duty 6d. per lb.			Foreign soft	30 10 0	30 10 0
Trinidad—per cwt.	76 0-82 0	76 0-82 0	Quicksilver —per bottle firsthand	£18 1/2	£18 1/2
Grenada	68 0-78 0	68 0-78 0	Lin —per ton		
West Africa	68 0-71 0	68 0-71 0	English lugots	£192-193	£188 1/2-189 1/2
Ceylon Plantation	70 0-90 0	70 0-90 0	Do, bars	£193 19 1/2	£189 1/2-190 1/2
Guayaquil Arriba	87 0-92 0	87 0-92 0	Standard cash	nom.	nom.
Coffee —per cwt., duty 42/- per cwt.			Lin Plates, per box	nom.	nom.
East India	67 0-95 0	67 0-95 0	Copper —per ton.		
Jamaica	62 0-120 6	62 0-120 6	English, Tongue	nom.	nom.
Costa Rica	62 0-84 0	62 0-84 0	per ton		
Provisions			Best Selected	£172-£168	£173 £169
Butter , per cwt.			Sheets	£187	£189
Australian finest	204/-108/-	206/-108/-	Standard	£151-152	£150 10 0
Irish Creameries	2 8/-214/-	208/-214/-	Jute —per ton.		
Dutch ditto	206/-208/-	2 6/-210/-	Native firsts to shipment Nov-Dec	£41 0 0	£42 10 0
Russian finest	nom.	nom.	Oil —		
Normandy baskets	nom.	nom.	Linseed, per ton.	£53 1/2-£54 1/2	£53 1/2-£54 1/2
Danish finest	218/-222/-	218/-222/-	Rape, rel, English	£54-£56	£55-£57
Brittany rolls—doz. lb.	20/6-22/6	20/6-22/6	Barrels	£52 0 0	£54 0 0
Bacon —per cwt.			Unsked.	£50 0 0	£50 0 0
Irish	111 0-120 0	110 0-120 0	Cott'n Seed, crude	£59-£60	£59-£60
Continental	104 0-20 0	106 0-120 0	Refined		
Canadian	100 0-112 0	100 0-112 0	Petroleum Oil, per 4 lbs.	1/1 1/2	1/1 1/2
American	92 0-108 0	92 0-108 0	Water White	1/2 1/2	—
Hams —per cwt.			Seeds, Linseed		
Irish	148/-166/-	148/-166/-	Sacutia—per 4 lbs.	5 11 6	5 12 6
Canadian	115 0-120 0	116 0-118 0	.. Dec-Jan.	91/	93/6
American	75 0-114 0	75 0-114 0	Rape, Tonia		
Cheese —per cwt.			Iron —per ton		
Dutch	86 0-120 0	86 0-126 0	Cleveland Cash	nom.	nom.
Canadian	126 0-130 0	128 0-132 0	Tobacco —duty, manufacture		
English Cheddar	130 0-140 0	132 0-140 0	5/6 to 6 1/2 per lb.		
Wilt's loaf	nom.	nom.	Maryland & On	0 6 0 1/2	0 6 0 1/2
New Zealand	nom.	nom.	per lb. bond	0 8 1/2 6	0 8 1/2 6
Rice —per cwt.			Virginia leaf	0 6 1/2 10	0 6 1/2 10
Garden Siam	19 0	19 6	Kentucky leaf	1 0 3 0	1 0 3 0
spot	19 3	19 9	Latania	1 0 0 0	1 0 0 0
Rangoon 2 stars			Clavana	0 6 0	0 6 0
Eggs —per 120.			slania	0 6 0	0 6 0
English	35 6-37 6	34 0-35 0	Cigars, duty 10/0 per lb.	2/ upds.	2/ upds.
Irish	33 0-35 6	32 0 34 0	Timber —Wood.		
Danish	36 0-38 0	34 0	Pitch pine	250/-270/-	250/-270/-
Spelter			Dial 1000	400/-600/-	400/-600/-
G.O.B. as to position	£59 1/2-£58	£58-£54 1/2	Turpentine		
Flour —per sack.			American Spot	2 9 0	2 11 6
G. R.	59/	59/	Copra		
American First	61/6 upds	62/ upds	Malabar. London	nom.	nom.
Patents			Oct-Dec.	£41 5 0	40 10 0
			Ceylon. London	£39 15 0	39 10 0
			South Sea	39 15 0	39 10 0
			F.M.S.		

CORN (Mark Lane).—Business has been on a smaller scale this week, but persistent scarcity of supplies continues to influence the tone, and quotations are maintained without difficulty, while in some respects again firmer. Wheat: English, both whites and reds, delivered up, range to 81s. per qr. (504 lbs.). Imported descriptions nominal. Flour: American spring patents, 61s. 6d., upwards, landed. Oats: Plate, 47s., upwards, landed. Grinding barley: Indian, 66s., upwards, ex quay. Maize: Sound Plate, 66s., landed.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—The general tone of the market throughout the past week has been firm, and buyers have found it difficult to obtain concessions in price from

sellers. Certain unsettling influences, however, have been at work which have resulted in a rather less confident tone as to the future, and compared with recent previous weeks the turnover has not been so important. Many ups and downs have occurred in raw cotton rates, but there is not much belief in any definite slump in values. As anticipated, the Government has intervened in connection with the cardroom wages dispute, and has forced arbitration upon the parties concerned. Any stoppage of machinery, of course, is now out of the question. The inquiry in piece goods has continued fairly extensive, but rather more difficulty has been experienced in arranging terms of fresh contracts. India has sent fair offers in grey shirtings and bleaching cloths, chiefly for Calcutta, and occasional sales have been put through without the turnover being large. Demand for China is slow in developing, and the comparatively small trade available for that part of the world continues to be commented upon. The opinion is growing that native productions are gradually taking the place of English goods. The business offering for Egypt continues encouraging, and further buying has occurred in sized cloths. Some of our colonies have recently provided an increased trade, but advices from Australia are less satisfactory, and cases have been mentioned of deliveries being stopped. All kinds of fabrics have been firm in quotation, and most manufacturers are not at all eager for fresh orders. American yarns for home use have not been particularly active, but the undercurrent of demand continues fairly healthy. Pretty full rates have had to be paid for anything wanted, and the scarcity of medium and fine numbers in twists continues to be a feature. Only sorting up lots have been reported in export yarns. Bolton spinings have continued rather quiet, but late rates are well held.

American Business Notes.

Congress met according to the constitutional routine on Monday, but nothing has developed as yet to require attention at our hands, although plenty of measures are talked about, and many changes threatened or projected in the near future. Whether anything serious will come of the legislative zeal or not must meantime remain unknown. One thing only seems to threaten danger to us in our present circumstances, and that is a proposal to put forward an embargo on the export of provisions. The grounds for this proposal are not, ostensibly at least, sympathy with Germany, but shortage of food for home consumption. Prices for commodities have risen in the States almost as violently as in Germany, thanks in part no doubt to the greater spending power the war has given the people, but much more to the short harvest. Nearly all the world is having a smaller crop to handle than last year, and the consequence is that the cost of living is everywhere higher. If, therefore, the United States Congress were to stop the exports of any surplus produce the country may have it would produce probably an exaggerated effect on prices here, and we have no need of that. It is, however, merely a threat, and there is little probability that President Wilson would sanction such a measure even were it passed into law. For all that we ought not to neglect precautionary measures even here. Let us cultivate our own lands.

The States is meanwhile getting more and more embarrassed by its sudden wealth. It does not know what to do with the money.

Owing to the artificial basis on which the foreign trade of the United States is founded people appear to think it more practicable, if not more profitable, to import gold than to buy the merchandise of other countries to bring home against their exports of merchandise. Or perhaps they cannot get that merchandise in the present state of the world. Whatever it be they are accumulating the metal at a rapid rate, as is shown by the return of the stock of money in the country. This shows that between November 1 this year and last the coin and bullion entered as "money in circulation" increased £53,015,000, and at the same time the gold certificates rose about £336,000,000. This reveals the extent to which the Allied countries, Russia, France, and ourselves, as also probably Italy, have been compelled to procure gold and send it to the States in payment of their debts, which gold America does not know what to do with. It is a consoling thing that we should have been able to find such a mass of metal, and at the same time to maintain our own Money markets in a state of comparative ease and equilibrium.

These increases in the gold in circulation in the United States, outside the Treasury that is, have not as yet led to any appreciable inflation of the paper currency,

for although the Federal Reserve notes are \$76,163,000 more than they were a year back at November 1, or \$86,000,000 more if we include the Reserve "bank notes in circulation," that increase is partly offset by a decline of \$42,336,000 in the National Bank notes outstanding, and the Federal Reserve notes are based upon gold, so that the real influence inflating currency in the United States, that is to say, depreciating its purchasing power, is the excess of gold itself. We hope the Allies will be in a position to relieve that excess when peace returns.

A preliminary report has been published in America giving a summary of the results of the automobile industry within the five years 1909 to 1914. From this it seems that the value of the annual product rose in that time from about £50,000,000 to nearly £127,000,000. Is there any other industry in the world that has jumped into such prominence and magnitude in so short a period? We doubt if even the returns of the Allgemeine Elektrizitäts Gesellschaft have exceeded this in brilliancy.

One of the first things that President Wilson will have to take in hand seriously is a settlement of Mexico. The blunders of his first administration are responsible beyond all other causes for the chaos which exists in that unhappy Republic, and it is his bounden duty to do his utmost to remedy the grievances his amateurish, doctrinaire handling of the Mexican imbroglio generated at the start of his public career. The brigand Villa is not dead even now. On the contrary, he seems to have gathered around him a new band of ruffians, doubtless subsidised by the country's enemies, not improbably by the covetous Germans, and after enduring some buffeting at the hands of Carranza's army, has succeeded in once more capturing Chihuahua. The question is, is Carranza strong enough unaided to put this ruffian down, to capture him and end his career in the only way it ought to end? President Wilson ought to put himself in a position to answer that question, and if he finds it a negative answer, he ought to be prepared, not at this late day to send his troops to Carranza's assistance, but to finance him and enable him to maintain a sufficient native army of his own to deal with objectionable ruffians of the Villa breed. And Villa is not the only brigand who will have to disappear from the scene before Mexico can begin to pull her energies together again. The country is now going to ruin, yet not wholly to ruin, for some 15,000,000 of human beings exist within it.

Fine results are recorded by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad for its fiscal year ended June 30 last, but most of the gross gain was absorbed by increased working expenses; that is to say, at \$111,669,000, the gross income was \$19,853,000 up. Expenses amounting to \$79,320,000, however, took away \$15,394,000 of this gain, so that the nett income from the mere working of the line was larger by only \$4,459,000 at \$32,349,000. After adding in the income from interest and dividends, joint facilities, rents, &c., and deducting taxes, which at \$3,674,000 were \$384,000 higher, the final clear income was only \$28,639,000, or \$4,057,000 larger, but this was enough to pay the preferred 4 per cent. dividend, to give the common stock 5 per cent., the same as a year ago, and to leave \$3,664,000 of a surplus to carry forward. This is the largest surplus held back for some time; and the company's management is showing prudence in not immediately returning to the 6 per cent. dividend paid on the common stock declared two years ago. Altogether the corporate surplus shows a decrease of \$8,955,000, there having been charged against it, amongst other things, \$10,892,000, representing the estimated and anticipated ultimate loss incident to the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton Railway Company, which is being divided up in bankruptcy. Its position has necessitated the Baltimore and Ohio coming to its assistance. The B. and O. has accordingly bought certain main line branches and a line from Dayton to Wellston, approximately 400 miles in all, an important part of the original Hamilton and Dayton Co. The plan of re-organisation provides that the Baltimore and Ohio Co.

will issue, to be distributed in exchange for the existing securities provided for under the plan and for other purposes, its own direct obligations to be known as its Toledo-Cincinnati Division bonds. These will be secured by the pledge of all the refunding mortgage bonds to be issued by the new company, and will bear 4 per cent. interest, the whole to be redeemable at 102½ with accrued interest in 1959. The total issue of these bonds is not to exceed \$35,000,000, and the nett ultimate investment of the Baltimore and Ohio in this acquired portion of the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton property will approximately be \$35,892,000. The value of the securities of the new subsidiary company to be received by the Baltimore and Ohio Co. is estimated at \$25,000,000, hence the draft above mentioned from the accumulated surplus of the B. and O. Co. which is utilised to fill the gap thus revealed and to keep the accounts clean.

The estimates of the American Chancellor of the Exchequer, otherwise the Secretary to the Treasury, Mr. McAdoo, of the national income and expenditure for the year closing June 30 next, is, revenue \$996,000,000, and expenditure \$1,278,000,000. That is to say, he looks for a deficit of \$282,000,000, or nearly £57,000,000, but there was a balance of \$178,000,000 in hand on June 30 last, and he estimates that on June 30 next, in spite of the enormous growth in expenditure, there will be a balance of \$115,000,000 in hand, "free of all encumbrances." As to the reason why the expenditure is so great the provision against war legislation of last Congress is sufficient to explain it. That provided for an outlay of \$126,000,000 on the Army and \$88,000,000 for the Navy in the current year, but for the next fiscal year the figures are to be, Army \$170,000,000 and Navy \$197,000,000, or together about £74,000,000. As regards revenue, Mr. McAdoo attributes to the war the failure of the Customs yield to meet expectations, and gives it as his opinion that the receipts have none the less been all that could be expected in present conditions, which is probably true.

Insurance News.

During the year ended June 30 the depletion of the Salvation Army Assurance Society's staff through the calling up of men of military age has been of considerable magnitude, but notwithstanding all the difficulties encountered, substantial progress is shown in the volume of the business done. The total premium income came to £416,421—an increase of £36,016, following an increase of £15,998 in the previous year. By an addition of £122,976, the largest in the history of the society, and £17,129 in excess of the increase of the preceding year, the total funds have been raised to £1,207,545. War claims paid during the year amounted to £18,299, the total amount paid from the beginning of the war to June 30 last being £27,335. There was an increase of £29,548 to £325,071 in the premium income in the industrial branch, while in the ordinary branch the premium income was £91,350, as compared with £84,882 for the previous year.

A large number of fires contributed to the rather formidable total of £415,000, the estimated cost of the principal fire losses in the United Kingdom during November. For the previous month the amount was £254,000, and for the corresponding month last year £386,000. Two of the most costly fires occurred in the City of London in St. Paul's Churchyard and Upper Thames Street, these two outbreaks accounting for about £140,000.

The Norwich Union Life Insurance Society has issued a pamphlet giving particulars of a scheme of insurance, without medical examination, for the young. The war has given an added importance to all questions that concern the children's welfare, and at this juncture this new early provident scheme should appeal to guardians and others. Quite a trifling premium will secure for a healthy child a substantial unconditional policy of an unique nature. The usual objection raised against policies of this description, namely, the contingency which might result from the death of the beneficiary before the age when the insurance begins to

take effect, is met by the provision that in the event of death all premiums are returned in full. Various options are attached to the policies, and it can also be arranged that premiums shall be waived until the child reaches a certain age in the event of the death of the guardian.

An amalgamation agreement has just been provisionally arranged between the Eagle Insurance Co. and the British Dominions General Insurance Co. The Eagle office dates back to 1807, whereas the British Dominions was established as recently as 1904. The older office is a life office, but a few months ago the directors decided to undertake fire business, while the younger institution has earned a big name for itself of late years by the enterprising manner in which it has brought into being a comprehensive policy covering all risks. In exchange for their existing shares Eagle shareholders will receive for every three shares of £5 (10s. paid) five preferred ordinary shares of the amalgamated company of £3 each (6s. paid), entitled to a cumulative preferential dividend of 8 per cent., and in addition a further 2 per cent. should the amalgamated company pay more than 15 per cent. on its ordinary capital. The title of the new company will be the Eagle and British Dominions Insurance Co., and the total funds of the two concerns amount to £3,700,000. The Eagle has a substantial connection of the old-fashioned type, and the fusion of its business with a pushing, up-to-date institution should prove mutually beneficial to all concerned.

Critical Index to New Investments

UNION COLD STORAGE CO., LTD.

As foreshadowed in the report with which we dealt fully three weeks ago, this company is issuing £350,000 in 4½ per cent. debenture stock at 90 and £400,000 in 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares at par, for which subscriptions are now invited through half-a-dozen different banks. The money is required to finance, on behalf of the Blue Star Line, the purchase of four large refrigerated steamers, now under construction, with a deadweight capacity of 31,000 tons, which will, on completion, be under the practical control of the Union Storage Co. for a term of years. Three of the vessels will be delivered in February, March and May, and the fourth in October next year, and the amount of the advances is limited to £750,000. It would look a very stiff price in normal times, but early delivery is worth a lot in these days, and the arrangement will greatly facilitate the business of the Storage Co. The loan to the Blue Star Co. will bear interest at 7 per cent. per annum, and will be repayable by instalments of £12,500 per steamer per annum. As the advances are refunded the vessels will become the property of the Blue Star Line, always leaving a good margin in favour of the Storage Co. It seems an excellent arrangement from the point of view of both parties. Apart from extraneous guarantees, the Union Storage Co. is perfectly able to meet the interest on the new issues under any circumstances likely to arise, and both the debentures and preference shares may be regarded as sound industrial investments. The whole amount has been underwritten on reasonable terms, and the directors will proceed to allotment as soon as the lists are closed.

SMITHFIELD AND ARGENTINE MEAT CO., LTD.

Owing to the constantly increasing calls of the British and Allied Governments for this company's products it has been found desirable to augment considerably the manufacturing capacity and facilities at the factory in the River Plate. More money is therefore required, and with the sanction of the Treasury the directors are offering 300,000 ordinary shares of £1 each to the shareholders at 23s. per share. The new shares will rank *pari passu* with the existing shares, and will participate in any final distribution which may be made about April next in respect of the year ending December 31. This dividend is estimated at about 2s. per share, and seeing that the present

market value of the shares is 24s. 6d., the right makes the shares look cheap. The issue has been underwritten for a commission of 5 per cent. and 1 per cent. over-riding.

Letters to the Editor.

EXCESS PROFITS DUTY AND RUBBER COMPANIES.

SIR,—A weekly contemporary of yours which somewhat specialises on rubber plantation matters has seen fit to describe the agitation or assault on the Excess Profits Duty Act as applying to rubber companies as an "unpatriotic demonstration."

Writing for myself, and also I am sure for any rubber director who has spoken against the Act at general meetings, I am confident that your contemporary must, in its inner mind, be aware that not one of us who may have assailed the duty has done so with the intention to endeavour to escape his or his company's contribution to the national exchequer; my and our sole intention has been to prove to Government and the public that the incidence of the duty as applied to rubber plantation companies is, owing to a variety of causes, chief of which are the "accident of date of creation," and the fictitious results ensuing from the effect of what is known as the "Vallambrosa Judgment," utterly lacking in logical sequence, and, while tainted with all the disadvantageous attributes, is possessed of none of the desirable attributes of temporary war taxation, inasmuch as it is—

(1) Causing enormous waste of energy in settlement of disputes.

(2) Falling with total lack of equity as regards specific companies.

(3) Applied to an industry which has nothing in common with ordinary industries as to circumstances, which are aggravated more than ever by fictitious results brought about by Vallambrosa Judgment.

And is not—

(1) Equitable.

(2) Easy of collection.

(3) Substantial revenue producing.

Which should be the main desiderata to be sought in war taxation.

I have on several occasions in the responsible financial Press made clear to the authorities the total illogicality of the incidence of the duty on different rubber companies, aggravated as it is by a circumstance absolutely peculiar to the rubber industry, same being the Vallambrosa Judgment; but not content with destructive criticism only, I have recorded alternative methods of procedure which would result in an equitable contribution to war revenue, which I am confident everyone connected with rubber plantation industry is ready and anxious to make.

If this constitutes what is referred to in the contemporary's columns as an unpatriotic demonstration, then some of us must return to school and re-learn the meaning of English words.

From my personal knowledge gained from companies which have sought my professional assistance, I can assure you and the authorities, and will, if desired by the latter, give details of specific instances of the following cases:—

(a) Several wealthy "1900 to 1906 main plantings" will incur *no liability* to duty, notwithstanding the fact that their post-war annual crops are 75 per cent. greater than their pre-war annual crops.

(b) Many companies in category (a) who had the pluck and foresight to continue considerable plantings in 1908 to 1910 are unduly "hit" by reason of the Vallambrosa expenditure in 1912, 1913, and 1914 on the 1908 to 1910 years' plantings having reduced their pre-war statutory revenue to a fictitious low level. (Note the Vallambrosa expenditure on 1908 to 1910 plantings ceases in 1915, and thus the post-war statutory profits remain at much the same level as the published profits.)

(c) The large majority of companies, *i.e.*, the boom companies whose main plantings are 1909 to 1911,

have no pre-war statutory profits, but instead, owing to the Vallambrosa Judgment, have considerable pre-war statutory losses. The effect of setting off these statutory losses against the post-war profits results in these companies escaping the duty for the first two post-war years, but, on the other hand, they will be terribly hit in the two (and further if any) following post-war years; and, with rubber at 2s. 6d. a lb., will be called upon to pay as much as 1s. and 1s. 3d. per lb. of their annual crop to the Exchequer.

The reason that companies in category (c) will incur such an enormous burden after the two first post-war years is because the assessors are attempting to reduce effective pre-war capital on which the standard percentage of 10 per cent. is calculated, by the total expenditure known as "Vallambrosa."

I claim and can prove that there is no logical sequence between:—

(a) Right of set-off of pre-war losses brought into being by the effect of Vallambrosa expenditure, and

(b) The reduction for the life of the Act of effective capital by the amount of the Vallambrosa expenditure.

I further contend that debentures which carry an option of conversion into fully-paid shares should be allowed as being capital, the interest paid on same annually to be excluded as a charge against statutory profits; this having regard to the fact that interest on these debentures is only 6 per cent. or 7 per cent., and our statutory allowance is 10 per cent.

Had no alternative mode of assessment been suggested by the "grouseers," one could perhaps understand the supineness and cynicism of the authorities and a portion of the Press, but alternatives ensuring equitable incidence have been put forward in several places, and either of the foregoing would be simple, automatic, and definite:—

(a) War cess of sliding rate per lb. of sale proceeds in excess of 2s. 3d. per lb.

(b) Render inoperative the effect of Vallambrosa Judgment, and as to those companies who come within the pre-war standard percentage provisions, provide that the effective capital for pre-war capital purposes and each post-war year shall be deemed to be the equivalent of £60 per acre applied to the average mature acreage for each specific year.

Yours faithfully,

J. S. M. RENNIE.

5, Queen Anne's Gardens, Bedford Park, W.,

December 6, 1916.

Tea, Oil and Rubber.

According to the Board of Trade returns, the imports of rubber last month amounted to 173,780 centals, valued at £2,225,000, showing increases of 25,300 centals and £450,000 over the corresponding period. For this year to date imports have been 1,530,000 centals, a decrease of 109,000, but the value is £3,000,000 higher at £21,920,000, which must be good news for shareholders, in spite of the tribulations caused by the inequitable incidence of excess profits duty. Exports for the month amounted to 137,650 centals, an increase of 18,150, but for the 11 months they are 303,000 lower at 1,018,000 centals. That is to say, the amount retained for home consumption has increased 194,000 centals. It is true that in the past week or two public stocks have been reduced by a few hundred tons, but that alone would not account for the rise in price, which has been going up by leaps and bounds. It is now 3s. 3½d., against 2s. 6¾d. a month ago, but the advance has not stimulated activity in the share market, except in the case of a few of the older established companies with small share capitals and a relatively large output. In these cases every advance of 1d. per lb. means a very appreciable increase in the dividend, and, moreover, they are not so hard hit by the excess profits tax as the younger estates. The rise in the commodity may be put down entirely to war conditions (with the help of speculation), and it begins

to look as though these would prevail for some time, so that it is by no means improbable that the price will go still higher.

A year ago the directors of the Tangkah Rubber Estate pointed out that the expenditure on the property had exceeded the paid-up capital by a considerable amount, and the shareholders agreed to a pretty drastic writing down. The preferred participating shares of £1 each were cut down to 10s., and then sub-divided into 2s. shares, and the ordinary shares, which all belonged to the vendors, were reduced from £1 to 1s. each. In this way the issued capital was brought down from £80,000 to £32,100, and the cost of the property showed a corresponding reduction of £40,300 at £109,600, while £7,500 of preliminary expenses were wiped out. During the 12 months ended September 30 fair progress was made, although the estimated output of 400,000 lbs. was not realised owing to a shortage of tappers. The crop exceeded that of the previous year by 81,817 lbs. at 371,733 lbs., but the price was only 2.84d. better at 2s. 6.33d., while the all-in cost was .26d. higher at 1s. 6d. Nett profits improved by £7,700 to £12,900, and after paying half of this amount to the second mortgage debenture holders in accordance with the terms of issue, the preferred participating shares get an initial dividend of 6 per cent., leaving £4,600 to be carried forward. For the current year a crop of 440,000 lbs. is expected.

Very satisfactory results were obtained by the Gan Kee Rubber Co. in the year ended June 30. The crop of 135,100 lbs. came up to the estimate, and was 39,450 lbs. larger than that of the previous year, while the nett price rose by 4.46d. to 2s. 6.25d. Including £500 less at £950 brought forward, the nett profits were £4,500 better at £9,800, and the dividend on the ordinary shares is increased from 7 per cent. to 12½, giving the preference shares a further 5½ per cent., in addition to their fixed dividend of 7 per cent. Out of the balance £2,200, or £400 more, is appropriated to extinguish the items of preliminary expenses and London office expenses to June 30, 1911, leaving £2,900 to be carried forward, subject to manager's commission and excess profits duty. A crop of 160,000 lbs. is expected in the current year, of which 56,457 lbs. were secured in the first four months.

It is difficult to say how the results of the New Schibaieff Petroleum Co. for the year to April 13 (n/s) compare with those of the previous 12 months as the relative figures are not available. A year ago the Russian company (S. M. Schibaieff) paid a dividend of 6 per cent., which required Rs. 390,000, and converted at Rs. 11.50 to the £ produced £33,910. This time it is stated that the gross profits before providing for depreciation and Russian taxes amounted to Rs. 1,117,885. If this could be converted at the normal rate of 9.46 it would represent £118,170, but at the actual rate of Rs. 16 to the £ it would produce only £69,870. It would appear, therefore, that the Russian company has had a very profitable year, but in order to avoid the heavy loss on remittances it has been decided to place Rs. 1,083,960 to depreciation reserve account and to carry forward Rs. 33,950. As regards the English company the revenue from interest on debentures, &c., amounted to £18,920, or about £3,000 more than last year, apart from the dividend from S. M. Schibaieff, and the nett profit is £12,420, to which £11,670 brought forward has to be added. On the other hand, loss in exchange on moneys deposited in Russia absorbs £51,745, leaving a deficit of £27,650. It must be remembered, however, that this is not a realised loss, and that as long as the funds are left in Russia it will automatically disappear in time. So far everything looks satisfactory enough, and the only discouraging feature is the further drop in production from the oil fields, which fell to 47,030 tons nett against 51,750 tons last year. That, however, may be largely accounted for by the difficulties and expense of developments, and we are not disposed to be unduly critical when there seems a good chance of the company doing better in the future. What we dislike most, and what we too frequently come across, is the effort to

make out that "all's well" when it is quite obvious that the position is perfectly hopeless.

SAGGA RUBBER.—During the year ended July 31 a further 279 acres were brought into tapping, making 1,178 acres in bearing out of a total of 1,485 acres. The yield per tree ranged from 3.92 lbs. in the case of the oldest trees to 1.89 lbs., and the total output amounted to 416,190 lbs., or 57,362 lbs. more than in the previous year, and 16,000 lbs. in excess of the estimate. Against an improvement of 5.51d. to 2s. 6.23d. in the nett price, the all-in cost, owing to heavier freight and insurance charges, was 1.53d. higher, but was still quite reasonable at 1s. 2.82d. Nett profits showed an increase of £8,297 at £26,401, and £2,398 more at £3,004 was brought in, making the available surplus £29,405, out of which £2,300 is again transferred to reserve and £3,000, or £300 less, is added to the development fund. A final dividend of 50 per cent., less tax, is then declared, making 75 per cent. for the year, against 40 per cent. last time, and the balance carried forward is increased by £3,851 to £6,855. For the current year the crop is estimated at 520,000 lbs.

MAJEDIE (JOHORE) RUBBER.—In the year ended June 30, an average yield of 2.41 lbs. per tree was obtained, and the crop was 34,945 lbs. up at 120,753 lbs. The gross price at the same time rose by 5.46d. to 2s. 8.33d., but the all-in cost, owing partly to an increase of £900 in the depreciation allowance, was decidedly heavy at 1s. 11.18d. Nett profits amounted to £4,600, or £4,400 more, and have been written off preliminary expenses, reducing that item to £5,200. Cash is £1,500 up at £1,800, and loans of £3,000 have been paid off, so that the company is making some progress. Probably because a certain amount of thinning out is being done, the estimated output for the current year is only slightly larger at 130,000 lbs.

Forward sales of rubber announced this week include the following:—Batu Caves, 72 tons in equal quantities monthly in 1917 at 2s. 8d. per lb. f.o.b. Eastern port; Mahawale, 36 tons on similar terms; and Seafeld a further 96 tons on terms which are not disclosed. The Johore Rubber Lands has sold 10 tons ribbed smoked sheet per month throughout the year at 2s. 6d., and the Segamat 6 tons per month at an average for all grades of 2s. 5½d. The Singapore Para has made contracts for 3 tons monthly, November, 1916, to October, 1917, at 2s. 2d. f.o.b., 3 tons monthly at 2s. 3½d., and a like amount at 2s. 3½d. January to June, and 3 tons monthly throughout the whole year at 2s. 5½d.

The Week in Mines.

Some excitement has been witnessed in the Mining markets in the past week. At first the Broken Hill group made a strong recovery from recent depression on news that the coal strike, which had threatened to bring industry in Australia to a standstill, had been settled; the upward movement was also stimulated by a rumour that the British Broken Hill Proprietary was about to restart operations, which indicated that a satisfactory arrangement had been made for the disposal of the whole Broken Hill output. The next event of importance was the announcement of the result of the tenders for the two Far-Eastern Rand areas, which caused a sharp advance in the shares of the Consolidated Mines Selection group. Then the next day the Rhodesian market was the centre of considerable activity on the Court's decision in the Globe and Phoenix and Amalgamated Properties case, which made the shares of the former rise sharply, and those of the latter to fall to practically zero.

SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

The success of the Brakpan tender for the largest of the two Government areas offered for sale brought in buyers of all shares of the Consolidated Mines Selection group, because the area will, it is expected, increase largely both the profits and life of the Brakpan mine. The highest prices reached, however, were not maintained owing to profit-taking. Brakpans are 7½ higher at 4½, Consolidated Mines Selections 1s. 6d. higher at 23s. 3d., and Rand Selections 7-32 higher at 3½. Likewise Central Minings improved ¾ to 7 on the acceptance of its tender for the East Modderfontein area, which will be amalgamated with the Cloverfield and Rand Klip mines. Cloverfield shares advanced 1s. to 10s., and Rand Klips 1s. 6d. to 10s. 3d. The latter is in a better financial position than the former. Sub-Nigels have been strong, and are 7½ up at 17½. Daggafonteins have improved to 15s. 3d., and Bantjes at 13s. 3d., City Deep at 4½, and Van Ryn Deep at 3½, have been supported. But Gold Fields at 1 17-32 and Rand Mines at 3½ have declined. In the Rhodesian market interest has centred in Globes, which advanced 7s. to 37s. 6d. on the success of the company in the action brought against it by the Amalgamated Props., followed by a declaration of a 3s. per share dividend, making 4s. per share for 1916, against 2s. per share for 1915. Amalgamated Props. fell 1s. to 3d. nominal, but subsequently rallied to 5d. British Central Africas have risen 1s. to 5s., and Cam and Motors are similarly higher at 11s. 6d. Diamond shares have been rather easier. De Beers prefs. declined ½ to 14½, in spite of the official announcement that the arrears of dividend will be paid after the turn of the year. West Africans were generally dull, except Ashanti Goldfields, which advanced 9d. to 19s. 3d. on the excellent report for the past year.

BROKEN HILLS AND MISCELLANEOUS.

The Broken Hill group has made a good recovery on the settlement of the Australian coal strike, which had threatened to bring all industrial work to a standstill in a very short time.

Sulphide Corporation preference and ordinary shares were also supported on the raising of the dividends on both classes from 20 per cent. to 30 per cent. for the year. The ordinary rose 2s. 6d. to 29s. 6d., and the prefs. 2s. 9d. to 39s. 9d. Proprietarys recovered 2s. to 52s. 3d., Norths rose 1s. 6d. to 48s. 3d., and Block Tens 1s. to 20s. 6d. British Props. rose 1s. further to 27s. in expectation of large profits being earned with the new plant, now that operations are being resumed. Burma Corporations have declined 7½ to 3½ on profit taking. Russian shares have weakened owing to the news from Rumania. Russo-Asiatics have declined 1½ to 4½, and most other descriptions are 1½ lower. Silver shares have recovered on the rise in the metal, but Mexican mines have declined on political reports. Indian shares have weakened in sympathy with Champion Reefs, which declined to 6s. 6d. on the reduction in the dividend from 56½ per cent. to 40 per cent. for the year, the lowest rate paid since 1909-1910. Mysore are 1½ lower at 3½, and Ooregums 9d. lower at 20s. 3d.

A further advance of £3 per ton in the price of the metal encouraged fresh buying of copper shares. Rio Tintos have risen ½ to 64, Utahs 1 to 26½, Mount Elliotts ½ to 6, and Cape Coppers ¾ to 4¾. The two last-named shares were favourably influenced by their annual reports. Tin shares have been held in check by a relapse of £2 in the metal. Dolcoaths, however, rose 9d. to 10s. 9d., Gopengs 1½ to 1½, and Ipohs 3-32 to 1½.

MINING NEWS.

WEST AFRICAN GOLD OUTPUT.—The production of gold in October amounted to £132,577, a decrease of £9,194 as compared with October last year. The following table shows the monthly production since January, 1912:—

MONTH.	1916.	1915.	1914.	1913.	1912.
Jan. ..	£ 140,579	£ 143,649	£ 128,862	£ 144,262	£ 107,262
Feb. ..	137,739	144,034	123,169	137,038	102,470
Mar. ..	150,987	153,770	131,392	150,060	111,376
April ..	135,976	149,978	131,697	140,220	114,796
May ..	132,976	142,123	145,227	142,617	115,678
June ..	127,107	135,289	147,289	125,764	114,697
July ..	128,574	140,290	151,923	132,936	127,800
Aug. ..	125,143	139,364	150,386	126,090	136,407
Sept. ..	127,138	135,744	154,316	132,394	142,397
Oct. ..	132,577	141,771	159,410	137,153	142,414
Nov. ..	—	122,138	154,674	132,694	137,700
Dec. ..	—	158,323	147,699	127,472	144,382
Totals	1,338,796	1,706,473	1,727,044	1,634,700	1,497,179

VAN RYN GOLD MINES.—This company, one of the most prosperous of the Albu group, sustained an appreciable decline in profits in the year ended June 30, resulting in a corresponding reduction in dividends. There were crushed 460,280 tons, a reduction of 2,640 tons, yielding £555,231, a decrease of £24,765. The yield declined by 11d. per ton to 24s. 1d. per ton, costs rose 1d. per ton to 14s. 11d. per ton, and the rate of profit was consequently 1s. per ton lower at 9s. 2d. per ton. The working profit was £25,461 lower at £210,236. The increase in working costs, notwithstanding a reduction in the charge for mine development from 1s. 9d. to 1s. per ton mined, is accounted for solely on the ground of the enhanced prices of mining supplies owing to the war. In the nett profit the decrease amounts to £38,094 at £224,049; the dividends, which for years had been at the rate of 45 per cent. per annum, are reduced to 35 per cent. for the year, but the carry forward is raised from £15,499 to £24,271. Reserves of ore, fully developed, show a decrease of 2,809 tons at 1,950,191 tons, but the average value has risen from 6.20 dwts. to 6.69 dwts. Shareholders, however, have no cause to be dissatisfied with their investment for £2,319,500, equal to 95s. 6d. per share, or 477½ per cent., of the capital existing from time to time has been paid in dividends. And the managing director states that there is every reason to anticipate a prosperous continuance of results for many years to come.

LUTPAARD'S VLEI ESTATE.—This company's operations in the year ended June 30 were not impeded by serious floods, as in the preceding year, and consequently there was a marked recovery in profits, which increased from £14,249 to £37,341, which compares with £32,249 in the year ended June 30, 1914. The sum brought forward was £108,057. From this is deducted £9,832 for depreciation, against £11,371, and the available balance is £123,766, against £125,758. The dividend is raised from 9d. to 1s. per share, and £111,966 is carried forward. This balance is largely represented by the additions which over a number of years have been made to the general equipment of the mine and property, and to that extent is not in liquid form. Debenture debt outstanding has been reduced by £7,555 to £72,000. During the year 256,005 tons were crushed, an increase of 37,552 tons, and is the largest tonnage treated by the mine. The yield per ton rose by 2s. 2d. to 22s., and the costs at 19s. show a slight reduction. Reserves of ore have been increased from 702,123 tons, of 5.30 dwts. per ton, to 826,138 tons, of 5.67 dwts. per ton.

DAGGAFONTEIN MINES.—The Daggafontein Mine, which is the company formed in the Transvaal to carry into effect the arrangement between the Daggafontein Gold Mining Co. and the Consolidated Mines Selection Co. for the provision of working capital by the latter, has just issued its first report, made up as at August 31. It shows that 498,033 shares have been issued so far, including 100,000 working capital shares, of which 35,500 are fully and 64,500 partly paid, and 500,000 shares to be created

are under option for periods ranging up to five years. Of the cash received to date, £14,500 has been spent in preliminary costs, and £29,000 has been spent on shaft sinking and equipment.

ASHANTI GOLDFIELDS CORPORATION.—A further expansion in the scale of operations and also in the nett results obtained therefrom, are reported by this concern in the year ended June 30. Ore treated amounted to 136,994 tons, against 131,236 tons, the yield in fine gold rising from 104,634 ozs. to 111,739 ozs. Income from all sources was £30,176 larger at £482,975, and the nett profit increased by £13,625 to £173,281. The dividend is raised from 68½ per cent. to 70 per cent., absorbing £154,428, against £151,670, and the sum carried forward is raised from £70,199 to £89,052. The ore reserve position again shows a substantial improvement, the tonnage in sight being estimated at September 30 at 436,600 tons, of a gross value of £2,313,000 and a profit value of £1,067,700. Compared with last year's estimate, these figures show increases of 2,700 tons, £327,000, and £238,000 respectively. The increased tonnage of high-grade ore in Obuasi chute and the reduced quantity of low-grade ore estimated for Ayelum and the old Ashanti workings explain why, with only a small addition to the tonnage, there is a large increase in the value of the ore reserves.

KALGURLI.—The decline and fall of this once prosperous West Australian mine continues. In the year ended July 31 119,180 tons were treated, against 127,870 tons, the value of the yield being £193,657, against £248,525. Costs averaged 20s. 10d. per ton, as compared with 20s. 2d. As a result, the profits declined from £98,084 to £45,947, and the dividend is reduced from 80 to 37½ per cent. The financial position, however, is strong, free cash assets amounting to £60,000, which represents 10s. per share.

WITBANK COLLIERY.—The shipments for the year ended August 31 increased by 59,525 tons to 850,848 tons, and the production amounted to 729,500 tons, against 691,200 tons. Profits realised amounted to £67,173, and other revenue brought the total up to £69,252, against £68,824 in the preceding year. The dividend is raised from 20 per cent. to 25 per cent., and after writing off £2,826 for capital expenditure, £89,535 against £83,698 is carried forward.

What Balance Sheets Tell.

BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY CO.

For the half-year to March 31 gross earnings amounted to Rs. 3,80,64,000, an increase of Rs. 56,64,200, while the expenditure was Rs. 3,74,000 less at Rs. 1,61,72,000, and the nett receipts were Rs. 60,38,000 higher at Rs. 2,18,91,000. Coaching traffic showed an increase of Rs. 5,82,000 and goods traffic an increase of Rs. 50,72,000, and in view of the conditions the results may be considered very satisfactory. The ratio of expenses fell over 8½ per cent. to the low level of 42½ per cent., but it is frankly enough explained that the unavoidable reduction in expenditure on renewals, &c., must involve a correspondingly increased outlay in future years. The only item of importance that shows an increase is locomotive power, which is, of course, inevitable, having regard to the larger traffic and higher prices of fuel. For the whole financial year to March 31, nett earnings amounted to Rs. 3,73,55,000, an increase of Rs. 75,14,000, out of which the stockholders have received dividends amounting to 5 per cent., against 4½ per cent. for 1914-15 and 4½ per cent. for 1913-14. Detailed results for the six months to September 30 are not available, but the gross earnings are cabled at Rs. 3,45,82,000, an increase of Rs. 31,82,000, while expenses are Rs. 12,40,000 less at Rs. 1,55,49,000. The directors therefore feel justified in declaring an interim dividend of ½ per cent., in addition to the guaranteed interest. It is stated that trade generally has been good, but part of the increase in receipts is due to famine traffic. We have not heard much about this sorry state of affairs, being too pre-occupied with the devastation going on nearer home, but we are glad to learn that the monsoon this year, after a bad start, has been very good, and that crop prospects are satisfactory.

MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY CO., LTD.

In addition to its own and the State lines, this company works the Mysore State lines and 190 miles of small railways, and in the half-year ended March 31 the gross earnings of the entire system were Rs. 25,41,300 larger at Rs. 2,33,81,000. Of this increase Rs. 15,21,000 came from general merchandise, chiefly grain and pulse, oil seeds and cotton, while passenger traffic contributed Rs. 9,14,000. Owing mainly to heavier charges for maintenance of locomotives and rolling stock, working expenses rose by Rs. 12,10,000 to Rs. 1,24,18,500, but the proportion to revenue was slightly lower at 53.11 per cent., and the nett earnings were Rs. 13,31,000 better at Rs. 1,09,62,000. For the whole year the earnings were Rs. 43,68,500 up at Rs. 4,67,76,000, and the expenses Rs. 7,86,000 up at Rs. 2,46,39,000, or 52.07 per cent. of the receipts, against 56.25 per cent. in the previous year. The company's share of the surplus profits when converted into sterling amounted to £173,700, or an increase of £65,600, and, in addition, £5,600 or £700 more was received from the Mysore State lines. The directors, however, point out that these figures were increased by £35,000 and £500 respectively through the postponement of renewals, as against £7,266 and £114 a year ago. The usual dividend of 2½ per cent. is paid, made up of 15s. per cent. from the stockholders' revenue account and £1 15s. per cent. paid by the Government under the contract. For the six

months ended September the nett earnings amounted to Rs. 1,26,03,000, or Rs. 17,66,500 more, of which the company's share is Rs. 19,07,000, compared with Rs. 14,37,000 for the corresponding half of 1915.

BURMA RAILWAYS CO., LTD.

The shortage of shipping to carry away the produce of the country caused a general stagnation in trade during the year ended March 31, which is reflected by a heavy drop in this company's earnings. Goods traffic fell off by Rs. 13,90,000, of which no less than Rs. 10,31,000 was due to paddy, while timber, grain, jawar and Dajra, ores and iron and steel also showed more or less substantial reductions. Coaching traffic yielded Rs. 1,27,000 less, in spite of an increase of 650,000 in the number of passengers carried, and the total income, converted into sterling, was £111,400 down at £1,332,400. Working expenses were £42,200 lower at £764,500, but the ratio to receipts rose by 1.50 per cent. to 57.38 per cent., and nett earnings showed a decrease of £69,200 at £567,900. The company's share was £24,300 smaller at £88,900, but the balance brought in and the subsequent nett receipts up to March 31 were both up, so that the available surplus was only £17,200 less at £175,300. As usual, two dividends of 1¼ per cent. each, and a bonus of 1 per cent. have been paid, making, with the guaranteed interest, a return of 6 per cent. These payments take £7,000 less, owing to deduction of income-tax, and as nothing is charged for income-tax compared with £15,400 a year ago, £5,200 more at £86,000 is carried forward. The directors, however, state that out of this sum income-tax will have to be paid in January for the assessed surplus profits of 1916-17, which will not be received until June, 1917, but that the amount so paid will be recoverable from the shareholders on the division of this surplus.

URUGUAY EAST COAST RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

In the year ended June 30, both passenger and goods traffic showed improvement, and the total income was \$27,900 larger at \$171,200. Working expenses rose by \$13,800, but the ratio to revenue was 6.01 per cent. down at 80.50 per cent. Converted into sterling, the nett traffic receipts were £3,000 up at £7,100, to which is added the Government guarantee and £900 from interest, &c., making a total of £28,000. Income-tax, French taxes, and general charges took rather less, but bond interest was heavier, and £3,000, as against nothing, is transferred to renewals fund, leaving a balance of £4,600. This permits of 3 per cent. being paid in cash on the 4 per cent. debenture stock, and the balance of the interest will be satisfied in deferred interest certificates in accordance with the scheme of arrangement made in April. Under this scheme the operation of a sinking fund for the redemption of the 5 per cent. bonds is suspended for the three years ending October 1, 1917; the liability to pay additional interest on the 5 per cent. bonds sufficient to cover the income-tax is in future limited to an average rate of 3s. 6d. in the £, and the interest on the 4 per cent. debenture stock is to be paid in cash only to the extent to which the nett profit for the year is sufficient to meet same after making the provisions allowed for in the scheme, any part of the interest not paid in cash being satisfied by the issue of certificates.

EGYPTIAN SALT AND SODA CO., LTD.

Although the gross profits to August 31 at £99,505 were £6,500 less than for the previous twelve months, the company had had a very good year, and the directors feel justified in raising the dividend from 8 to 12½ per cent., which may be taken as evidence that they regard the outlook very hopefully. Interest and other charges required a little less, and special appropriations are £14,850 lower at £36,320, while the amount brought forward was £9,500 higher, so that the balance available shows an increase of £18,680 at £118,640. After paying the dividend of 12½ per cent., there will remain £57,970, or £3,150 less, to be carried forward. Last year £21,000 was written off for depreciation, £7,000 was set aside for the renewal of steam plant at Alexandria, and £5,480 for machinery ordered in Germany. This time depreciation requires only £11,320, but £20,000 is ear-marked for the completion of works at Moharrem Bey for the exploitation of the new oil processes, from which good results are anticipated. Nothing in the balance-sheet calls for notice except that cash is up £74,000 at £247,150. It should be mentioned that we have used the £ sign instead of £s, which is of slightly higher value.

CASSEL CYANIDE CO., LIMITED.

The year ended September 30 was again a very prosperous one, although the profits as disclosed do not quite come up to the high level reached in the previous twelve months. For the second half of the year the company was a controlled establishment, so that, in addition to making provision for excess profits duty, it had to meet Munitions Exchequer payments, and this fact may account for the drop of £6,000 to £123,000 shown in gross profits. After providing for administration charges and writing off another £10,000 for depreciation, the nett balance, including £30,400, or £15,800 more, brought in, is £9,700 up at £137,100, and the dividend is increased from 55 per cent. to 60 per cent., or 3s. per 5s. share, leaving £900 more at £31,400 to be carried forward. Patent rights, buildings, machinery and stocks, an omnibus item which might be split up with advantage, is £33,750 up at £144,600, and debtors have risen by £6,600 to £91,500, against an increase of £13,600 to £147,000 in sundry creditors, but investments and cash have been reduced by £26,000 to £234,400.

SOUTH AMERICAN CATTLE FARMS, LTD.

This is a subsidiary of Liebig's Extract of Meat Co., owning estancias in Argentina and Paraguay, which are leased to the

parent undertaking for a fixed rent. Its revenue for the year ended September 30 showed a slight falling off, and with a smaller balance brought in the amount available was £400 down at £62,400. Income-tax took £3,600 more, but there was a reduction of £600 in debenture interest, and nothing is charged for premium on debentures purchased, so that after providing for general expenses the nett balance is only £2,900 down at £29,700. Of this £13,800, or £1,200 more, is transferred to the debenture sinking fund, being the nominal amount of debentures cancelled during the year, and a dividend of 5 per cent. is again paid, but this time it is subject to tax instead of being tax free, leaving £400 less at £4,700 to be carried forward. The debenture debt has been reduced to £439,100, and the sinking fund with the present addition will stand at £60,900.

NORTHERN AMERICAN TRUST CO., LTD.

In the 12 months ended November 1 the revenue was fairly well maintained at £125,600, but income-tax payments showed a further increase of £8,700, and in spite of savings effected in other directions, the profit was £4,200 down at £65,800. The usual dividend of 13 per cent. is paid on the ordinary stock, but requires less owing to income-tax, and with £4,300 more brought in the balance carried forward is £5,800 up at £29,300. Investments in the United States show a reduction of £296,700, of which £290,700 is in bonds held, and the directors state that they have deposited on loan under the American Dollar Securities Mobilisation scheme bonds and shares to the value of £913,700. Holdings in other countries are £289,900 up on balance. British Government securities having risen by £284,800, while French and Russian Government sterling Treasury bills for £18,900 have been bought. The securities stand in the balance-sheet at £2,586,100, but the valuation as at November 1 is £2,395,000, or a depreciation of £191,100. This, however, the directors point out, is under 35 per cent. of the reserve and balance carried forward, which together amount to £554,300, so that on the basis of the present value the surplus over the combined share and debenture capital is £363,200.

INVESTORS' MORTGAGE SECURITY CO., LTD.

In their report for the year ended September 30, the directors decided to give the gross income from investments instead of the total, less income-tax, as hitherto. The amount was £4,350 up at £136,400, but American and British income-tax apparently took £8,200 more, and after providing for management expenses, &c., the nett income was £1,000 smaller at £110,600. Interest on borrowed money, however, took £1,000 less at £31,600, and the dividend on the ordinary stock is increased from 10½ per cent. to 11, but, being paid less income-tax, the actual amount involved is smaller. A balance of £17,000 was brought in, giving an available surplus of £36,900, or £12,100 more, of which £22,000, or £14,300 more, is transferred to contingent fund, and the balance carried forward is reduced by £2,150 to £14,900. The profit on exchange, which was again exceptional, has been transferred to contingent fund as last year, together with the nett profit on investments realised. Mortgages and securities, after deducting the contingent fund, show a decrease of £173,000 at £1,923,150, but £160,000 has been invested in Treasury bills and War Loan.

MIDLAND IRON COMPANY, LIMITED.

Although this company has a paid up capital of only £50,000, half in preference and half in ordinary shares, and a debenture debt of £15,000, it evidently does a very large and profitable business. Its works were declared a "controlled establishment" in November, 1915, and in the year ended September 30 it made a nett profit of £27,300, of £18,550 more. Adding £4,000 brought forward, the available total of £31,200 was £21,300 larger, but the dividend on the ordinary shares is only maintained at last year's level of 10 per cent., tax free, and the balance carried forward is increased by £21,300 to £25,200 to provide for the liability in respect of excess profits under the Munitions of War and Finance Acts. Expenditure on capital account amounted to £2,300, but was written off out of revenue, leaving the cost of the property unchanged at £49,398. Stocks are £6,800 up at £35,200, debtors owe £8,200 more at £31,000, and cash has risen by £20,450 to £20,500, against an increase of £13,700 to £37,600 in sundry creditors.

P. PHIPPS AND CO., LIMITED.

Gross profits of this brewery business for the year ended September 30 showed a decrease of £10,200 at £216,200, but there was a substantial reduction in expenses, and with £27,200, or £5,700 more, brought forward, the available total was £4,700 up at £117,000. The dividend on the ordinary shares is again repeated at 10 per cent., together with the bonus of 3s. per share, tax free, but nothing is set aside compared with £15,000 to the depreciation reserve, and after the managing directors have taken their £2,500, the balance carried forward is increased by £19,700 to £46,900. Property and goodwill account is £5,900 up at £1,304,500, while machinery, plant, &c., have been reduced by £3,900 to £48,250. Stocks have risen by £19,100 to £94,700, against an increase of £13,300 to £94,000 in mortgages, loans, and sundry creditors, while the holding of War Loan stock, Treasury bills, &c., has been increased by £10,400 to £62,100.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1916, and Dec. 2, 1916:—

	Estimate for the Year 1916-1917. (See note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1916, to Dec. 2, 1916.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1915, to Dec. 4, 1915.
Balances in Exchequer on April 1—			
Bank of England	—	25,111,065	81,898,728
Bank of Ireland	—	463,941	1,552,224
REVENUE.		25,575,006	83,450,952
Customs	71,000,000	45,321,000	33,411,000
Excise	65,000,000	36,195,000	30,665,000
Estate, &c., Duties	30,000,000	20,078,000	21,633,000
Stamps	7,000,000	4,862,000	4,323,000
Land Tax and House Duty	2,650,000	3,400,000	340,000
Property and Income Tax and Super Tax	195,000,000	47,073,000	21,216,000
Excess Profits Duty (including Munitions &c.)	86,000,000	62,488,000	—
Land Value Duties	475,000	141,000	62,000
Post Office	36,100,000	20,950,000	20,450,000
Crown Lands	550,000	420,000	350,000
Receipts from Suez Canal	—	—	—
Shares and Sundry Loans ..	5,000,000	4,822,119	774,312
Miscellaneous	3,500,000	11,453,207	3,891,120
Revenue	502,275,000	254,543,326	146,115,432
Total, including Balance		280,118,332	229,566,384
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion	—	2,710,000	1,660,000
For Treasury Bills (for supply)	—	1,524,879,000	321,079,000
For Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	—	3,087,600	—
For War Loan, 1925-1928	—	—	35,798,408
For 3% Exchequer Bonds, 1920	—	—	242,345
For War Loan, 1925-1945	—	424	586,316,000
For American Loan	—	—	24,735,000
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919	—	34,222,000	—
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920	—	84,140,469	—
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1921	—	62,404,000	—
For 6% Exchequer Bonds, 1920	—	124,254,000	—
For War Expenditure Certificates	—	28,953,800	—
For War Savings Certificates	—	37,550,000	—
For other Debt created under the War Loan Act, 1915, and Finance Act, 1916	—	146,106,208	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913	—	180,000	1,230,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913	—	160,000	160,000
Under Housing Act, 1914	—	45,200	650,000
East Africa Protectorate Loan Repayments on account of Principal and Interest	—	—	3,825
Cunard Loan—Repayment on Account of Principal	—	130,000	130,000
Temporary Advances—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £345,000,000 in 1916-1917 and £231,150,000 in 1915-1916)	—	458,656,500	202,196,000
Total		2,787,657,533	1,433,700,462
EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.			
EXPENDITURE.			
Permanent Charge of Debt ..	12,818,000	14,736,416	16,867,507
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	114,436,000	92,134,524	26,033,012
Road Improvement Fund	—	—	694,395
Payments to Local Taxation	—	—	—
Accounts, &c.	9,500,000	6,163,328	6,287,053
Other Consolidated Fund	—	—	—
Services	1,700,000	1,292,752	1,203,208
Supply Services	1,697,529,000	1,274,063,582	925,169,948
Expenditure	1,825,983,000	1,388,390,602	976,255,123
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion	—	2,750,000	2,165,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	—	91,370	91,370
For Treasury Bill for Supply	—	986,082,000	96,547,000
For Exchequer Bonds under the War Loan (Re-empti) Act, 1910	—	—	16,395,500
For Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act 1904	£4,060,900	—	—
Less: paid off by the National Debt Commissioners	973,300	3,087,600	—
For Exchequer Bonds under Section 61 of the Finance Act, 1916	—	146,750	—
For Issues under Section 1 (5) of the War Loan Act, 1915	—	—	170,143,313
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913	—	190,000	1,300,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913	—	160,000	190,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..	—	8,000	—
Under Housing Act, 1914	—	44,500	744,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8, issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1903	—	69,000	60,000
Old Sinking Fund—1910-1911: Issued under the Finance Act, 1911—			
Section 16 (1) (b)	—	53,160	104,836
Old Sinking Fund, 1911-1912—Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Co. (Acquisition of Capital) Act 1914	—	250,000	250,000
East Africa Protectorate Loan Repayments—			
Issued to reduce Debt under the Finance Act, 1911	—	—	3,825
Temporary Advances repaid—Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £2,436,000 in 1916-17 and £197,635,000 in 1915-16)	—	386,332,500	197,635,000
Total		2,767,661,482	1,461,884,967
Balances in Exchequer—			
Bank of England	19,382,564	31,428,440	—
Bank of Ireland	613,487	454,055	—
Total		19,996,057	31,882,495
Total		2,787,657,533	1,461,884,967

MEMO.—Treasury Bills outstanding on Dec. 2 1916 ... £1,147,888,000

* Includes £565,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of this Account.

NOTE.—Estimate as in House of Commons Paper No. 50 of 1916, and Supplementary Grants.

Treasury, December 4, 1916.

Mississippi River Power.—The nett operating results for Oct., \$120,037; increase, \$4,508.

The National Bank of South Africa, Ltd., has opened branches at Barkly East, Engcobo, Stellenbosch, in Cape Province, South Africa.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

PEKIN SYNDICATE.

IMPORTANT BUSINESS UNDER NEGOTIATION.

The ordinary general meeting of the Peking Syndicate, Limited, was held on Monday at the Cannon Street Hotel, Cannon Street, E.C., Mr. Thomas A. Barson (the chairman) presiding. The Secretary (Mr. Thomas Gilbert) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: I took the chair at the last general meeting owing to the indisposition of Sir Richard Awdry. Our chairman had been in indifferent health for some time, and I deeply regret that since we last met he has passed away. Although he was unable to retain the chairmanship he remained on the Board to the last, and was always ready and willing to help us with his vast knowledge and experience. I am sure you will, equally with the Board, deplore his death and join in offering our condolences to Lady Awdry and family. (Hear, hear.) Passing to the business of the meeting, I presume you will adopt the usual practice of taking the report and accounts as read, so I shall proceed to further explain the individual items. Before doing so, however, I wish to point out that rates of exchange play an important part in the figures presented to you. It is, we believe, the proper course to value the assets and liabilities which are affected at the rate of exchange ruling on the date the balance is struck; at any rate, we have preferred to adopt this sound method, and I think you will agree that a conservative policy is the right one. To give you an illustration, we have written down the value of the Chinese Treasury bonds issued in franc value to the rate ruling on June 30. Normally the franc is worth one twenty-fifth of a sovereign, but on June 30 it was worth only one twenty-eighth, and this means a depreciation of about £26,000 on that item alone. It may be assumed, however, that after the termination of hostilities the rate will return to its normal level, and even if the Chinese Government redeem the bonds before the end of the war, we could leave the proceeds in francs until this purely bookkeeping loss is extinguished. On the other hand, we have benefited from the rise in the value of the tael, which was 3s. 0½d. on June 30, as against 2s. 4½d. a year ago. This affects the value of our floating assets and liabilities in China, which are accordingly written up about £13,500. We had no desire to take advantage of this position, but, as a matter of bookkeeping, it could not be avoided.

THE BALANCE-SHEET.

Returning to the balance-sheet, it is only necessary to refer in passing to the small increase of £2,000 in sundry creditors and credit balances. I shall pass over the item of profit and loss account for the moment, and I have already dealt with the principal part of "Depreciation on investments," which, I feel confident, is merely temporary. The reduction in the item "Liability on capital uncalled" is due to the alteration in the rate of exchange. Cash at bankers and in hand has increased by over £102,000, as against a reduction of £70,000 in the value of investments. The difference of £32,000 is mainly accounted for by the insurance money received for the steamer *Sir Richard Awdry*, less depreciation in value of investments. Shares in other companies, of which full particulars are given in the report, are practically the same as last year. Sundry debtors and debtor balances have increased by about £25,000. This is principally accounted for by an amount which is owing temporarily by the Fu Chung Corporation. Stocks of coal in hand have been taken on the same basis as last year—namely, the actual selling price to the Fu Chung Corporation, not on the old and objectionable system of "mining cost." Mining stores are taken at actual cost. The amount apportioned to the cost of the concession is the same as before. You will, however, observe with pleasure that this year no further sum has to be added for expenditure and loss, as against £63,000 a year ago, of which some £35,000 represented loss on working. On the contrary, there is a balance on the right side of nearly £5,000 after allowing for all expenditure on the mines, which sum amounted to nearly £18,000.

CREDITABLE BEGINNING.

I think you will agree with me, considering past results, that this is a creditable beginning. (Hear, hear.) Although I am loth to prophesy, I think I can safely say that unless events of an unforeseen nature occur, we have at last passed the days of making losses on working. The item of £5,000 includes the results of the Fu Chung Corporation's working as well as our own profit, but it is fair to put them together, as the Fu Chung Corporation has entire control of the sales. Both companies, however, have individually worked at a profit for the year. That the new arrangements have met with success is shown by the fact that our sales of coal increased from 335,880 tons to 412,348 tons. True, the profit per ton has been small, but it could hardly be otherwise in the process of organising and capturing new trade openings, which has frequently to be done in face of competition with traders already established. I may mention that we are now in a position to increase our output to any extent that the demand may necessitate, and that we confidently expect the sales will materially improve. This desirable state of affairs would naturally favourably affect our working costs and profit. We have had the advantage of a visit from our resident engineer, and after conferences between this gentleman and the Board and the consulting engineers, he has returned to China with a clear understanding of the definite programme which the Board has in view. Turning to the

profit and loss account, you may be disappointed that we have not been able to reduce London expenditure, but we continue to allow our employees who have joined the colours some portion of their salaries, and I feel sure that on patriotic grounds you will endorse this policy. (Hear, hear.) We have, however, given up part of our office accommodation, the result of which will be a sensible saving, but the benefit of this will not accrue until the next balance-sheet, on account of the unexpired agreement. Coming to the credit side of the account, you will see that our revenue has increased by £26,300. This is principally accounted for by the following items:—Profit on steamer, *Sir Richard Awdry*, £12,150, and difference on exchange, £13,463.

FU CHUNG CORPORATION JUSTIFIED.

With further reference to the colliery section of the syndicate's business, you will be glad to hear that even at this preliminary stage we are satisfied that the formation of the Fu Chung Corporation was a step in the right direction. Naturally, a complete organisation could not be formed all at once, and we still have to feel our way cautiously, but about 70 depots have already been started, covering a large area, and fresh outlets are constantly being sought for. All this, however, takes time, and even when a depot is opened it is not certain that it will prove to be remunerative. We can only find out by actual experience. You will understand, therefore, why we are not yet in a position to put a definite figure to the amount which it will probably be necessary to write off the past expenditure so as to bring it down to what may be regarded as a bed-rock commercial basis, but we have hopes of doing so in the near future. Progress is necessarily slow in a country like China, where time appears to be regarded as of no value, and delays are counted by years, not days; but we have had sufficient encouragement to persevere in the policy we have laid down. We have rather more than equal representation on the board of the Fu Chung Corporation, and the management of the business continues to engage this board's closest attention.

GENERAL OUTLOOK.

As to the general outlook, you will doubtless have noticed that other nations are taking an increasing interest in the development of Chinese resources. German influence is still at work, and competition from that source will no doubt be in evidence when the war is over. America has been making overtures for railway and other concessions. With our powerful associations and our established position in China, we ought to be able to hold our own against all competitors, and you can be perfectly assured that your board will spare no efforts to still further strengthen and forward the interests of the syndicate in every possible way. I should like to take you more fully into our confidence with regard to certain important business which is under negotiation, but, unfortunately, I am unable to do so until matters have advanced further. As you will see from the report, we have actually concluded certain business which we regard as valuable, but we are precluded for political reasons from giving any information at the present time. When Sir Richard Awdry resigned the chairmanship, I was unanimously appointed by my colleagues to succeed him. I am the representative of a group of shareholders which has a very substantial, and I may say an increasing, stake in the company. Since then I have also been appointed a director of the Banque Industrielle de Chine, and have regularly attended its board meetings in Paris, which have proved of the greatest interest, and I trust are also to the benefit of our joint enterprises. The position of this bank is proved by the results it has shown. For the first two years of its existence it has paid dividends at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, at the same time strengthening its resources. This concern is certain to play an important part in Chinese finance.

CHAIRMAN'S PROPOSED VISIT TO CHINA.

Long ago I came to the conclusion that it would be of still greater importance and advantage to visit our properties in China and examine actual conditions on the spot by personal observation. I am therefore leaving this week for an extended trip, via New York, and feel a certain amount of confidence that fruitful results will be obtained from this visit. That, however, is for the future to decide. Meantime, I can only hope to be able to meet you again next year and give you first-hand impressions of our position and prospects, besides, as I believe, considerable encouragement with regard to the part the Peking Syndicate will play in association with other powerful interests in the development of China. You have the engineer's report in front of you, and Mr. Hassam is here to answer any technical questions you may desire to put. Operations have been hampered and delayed by the difficulty of shipping materials. Even when a permit has been obtained, after much trouble, it does not follow that the goods will be forwarded, and in one instance, after we had obtained a consignment of steel parts it was commandeered by the Government, leaving us helpless. Unfortunately these difficulties are increasing instead of diminishing, and I fear there is little hope of better conditions until peace is restored. Naturally the nation's needs must have first consideration, therefore we must make the best of it. I shall be pleased to answer any questions not calculated to injure the syndicate's interests. I now beg to move:—"That the directors' report and accounts made up to June 30, 1916, be and the same are hereby received and adopted," and will call upon Mr. Berthelot to second same.

Mr. André Berthelot (managing director) seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously without comment.

The retiring directors (Mr. T. A. Barson and Comte de Séguier) were unanimously re-elected, and the auditors (Messrs. Cooper Brothers and Co.) were unanimously re-appointed.

Mr. Caesar Cohen moved a vote of thanks to the chairman and wished him a successful journey and a speedy return.

The vote was seconded and unanimously accorded and, the Chairman having briefly acknowledged the compliment, the proceedings terminated.

COMMERCIAL BANK OF LONDON.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Commercial Bank of London, Ltd., was held on Monday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, to consider a resolution to increase the capital. The Right Hon. Charles E. H. Hobhouse, P.C., M.P., presided.

The Secretary (Mr. Arthur H. King) read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman said: Before I move the resolution, with the terms of which you are all familiar, it would perhaps be well for me to deal briefly with the developments to which it is the sequel. About two months ago Sir Alexander Roger, the late chairman of this company, received from an influential group an offer to buy the very large block of shares held by himself and his friends at a price which was eventually agreed at £2 17s. 6d. per share. As matters then stood, this was undoubtedly a good offer, and before accepting it for his own shares Sir Alexander Roger made it a condition that the same offer should be extended to all the other shareholders. He then issued a circular stating that in his opinion the offer was one that should be accepted, and also pointed out that the change of ownership would entail changes in the *personnel* of the board, and in the policy of the company. I need scarcely tell you that, as might have been expected, the offer was accepted with practical unanimity. So much by way of explanation, and now turning to the resolution which I am about to propose. If this resolution is carried—and I may say that we are assured of the support of an overwhelming majority of the shareholders—the old shares will become cumulative 6 per cent. participating preference shares, and we have every reason to think that we shall be able to earn the 6 per cent. preferential dividend, and in this case we shall be able to give the shareholders something which they have never received under previous control. This meeting, as I have already said, is called for a specific purpose, and it is not the occasion for me to deal with other matters—such as the outlook for the future. But I will say just this, that, while we regard the 6 per cent. preferential dividend as reasonably secured, we have every hope that we shall in course of time be able to pay the preference shareholders a further dividend in respect of their participation in the surplus profits, and we hope that this surplus dividend will become a very substantial item. I wish to make it quite clear that not only any surplus profits, but also the preferential 6 per cent. dividend, will be due to the energies and abilities of the deferred shareholders, to the capital which these latter are able to influence, and to the profitable business which they are in a position to bring to the company, and if confirmation is needed—although I hardly think it is—I need only refer you to the speeches of your late chairman at the last two general meetings of the company, and to his circular of October 6, in which he spoke of the difficulties experienced in putting the company upon a paying basis, and the remoteness of dividends. I should add that the assets of the company, which had, as in the case of several other companies of a similar nature, depreciated in consequence of the war, will shortly be, if they are not already, again equal in value to the liability represented by share capital, and this, of course, will be due entirely to the reorganisation which the bank has recently undergone. On these grounds I am able to put the resolution before you as a fair and equitable proposition. The chairman concluded by moving the formal resolution for increasing the capital to £300,600 by the creation of 12,000 new shares of 1s. each, to be called deferred shares, with certain rights and privileges.

Mr. Peter H. Thomas seconded the resolution.

A short discussion followed, in the course of which an amendment to vary the rights of the deferred shares, by reducing the proposed proportion of profits and the voting power, was moved and seconded.

The amendment was lost, and the original resolution carried.

WESTERN CANADA INVESTMENT.

The ninth annual general meeting of the Western Canada Investment Co., Ltd., was held on Monday at 24, Coleman Street, E.C., Mr. J. G. Colmer, C.M.G. (the chairman), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. W. L. Waite) read the notice calling the meeting and the reports of the auditors.

The Chairman, after a sympathetic reference to the death from wounds received in action of Mr. Arthur Mervyn Jones, who had been a director of the company since 1908, said: The directors venture to think that the report and accounts will be considered satisfactory by the shareholders, especially having regard to the financial conditions which have been brought about by the war. Our accounts are in very fair shape considering the difficulties under which we have had to labour. It is true that our revenue has fallen off slightly for the reasons stated in the report, and that our "sundry debtors" in Canada show a small increase over last year. But as against this, our advisers and managers in Winnipeg are of the opinion that the company stands to lose very little of the arrears of principal

and interest, or to suffer loss in its real estate account. They are further of the opinion that when the war is ended affairs in the Dominion will rapidly assume their normal condition. You will notice that £2,000 is to be added to the reserve fund, making it £11,000; that we propose writing £1,000 off the item preliminary expenses; that we have invested in Government Treasury bills about £10,400, and that we had £5,114 cash in hand at the end of the financial year; while, after paying a final dividend on the ordinary shares, making the total dividend for the year 5 per cent., the amount carried forward is £6,477, as compared with £5,809 last year. All the information that reaches us seems to indicate that the industrial, commercial and financial conditions in Canada are steadily improving. The trade statistics show a considerable and continuous increase over previous years. The industrial position is looked upon as satisfactory, and has benefited greatly by the large contracts that are being carried out in the country for munitions of all kinds, and the position of the banks is very strong, according to the reports that have been published. It is satisfactory also to know that the loans issued in connection with the war in the Dominion have been largely over-subscribed locally. The agricultural returns for the last year are not, however, as satisfactory as those of the two previous years, but although the crops show a falling off, prices are much higher, and the condition of the agricultural community is reported generally to be good. All these things are very encouraging, and justify the confidence that is felt as to the prospects of companies like our own which have invested money in the Dominions. In conclusion, I wish to read a telegram received only this morning from our advisers in Winnipeg, which will be interesting alike to our shareholders and to the public generally:—"Bank balance, \$28,000. November collections, \$14,500, including \$2,600 arrears of interest. Crops—wheat, 160,000,000 bushels; oats, 280,000,000 bushels; barley, 42,000,000 bushels; flax, 6,000,000 bushels. Prices very high. While all farmers did not benefit by reason of damage by rust and hail, the general business situation in the west is good. Labour will be scarce for next year, but prospects very fair, as percentage of fall ploughing is up to average year. Situation improving in Winnipeg; rentals have advanced and prospects when peace restored excellent." I beg to formally move the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. G. W. Currie, M.P., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously; and the proposed final dividend on the ordinary shares at the rate of 3 per cent., less tax, making with 2 per cent. paid in March, 1916, a total dividend for the year of 5 per cent., was declared, payable forthwith.

KILLINGHALL (RUBBER) DEVELOPMENT.

The seventh annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Killinghall (Rubber) Development Syndicate, Ltd., was held on Wednesday, at the offices, 7, Martin's Lane, E.C., Mr. W. Arthur Addinsell (the chairman) presiding.

Mr. J. Lewis, on behalf of the secretaries (Messrs. Bright and Galbraith, Ltd.), having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: I move: "That the directors' report and accounts for the year ended June 30, 1916, as submitted to this meeting, be approved and adopted, and that a final dividend of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, together with an additional dividend at the rate of 13 per cent. per annum on the participating preference shares, making a total dividend of 20 per cent. in each class of share for the year, be declared and paid." Last year we entered the dividend-paying list with a distribution of 17 per cent., the nett profit being £6,296. This year our profit has risen to £17,176, which was equivalent to 55 per cent. on our issued capital. In the normal course of things the directors would, therefore, be in a position to recommend a substantial dividend. Unfortunately, however, by what may be termed an accident of birth, the company will be very heavily mulcted in excess profits taxation, and it is, therefore, deemed expedient to recommend a final dividend of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, which will make a total distribution of 20 per cent. only for the year. After transferring £3,507 to reserve (making the total of that account £9,000), your directors recommend that the balance of £10,017 be carried forward. This large proportion of the profits is subject to three items, viz.: Extra remuneration to the directors, which will absorb about £250; for bonus to the estate staff, £225, and in view of the fact that the board contemplates lodging an appeal against the surveyor's computation of our excess profits duty, I venture to ask you to excuse me from making any further comments on the matter, but I can assure you that our carry-forward is sufficient to meet all possible liability for the duty. There is still 5s. per share to call up on the 10,000 preference shares, which will be used for future development. The intimation in the report that the Selangor Government Loan has now been repaid in full indicates that the company is in a sound financial position. The erection and equipment of a factory, which I told you at the last meeting would cost some £2,000, have been completed, and are, of course, responsible for the total expenditure of £2,030 under the heading of buildings and machinery. This will mean cheaper working costs and will prove a sound investment. The board's progressive policy in continuing to plant up reserve land will, no doubt, have the approval of the shareholders. The cost of bringing additional areas into bearing is, of course, much less than when the estate was first opened, and the extra area under rubber will have the effect of reducing the capital cost per planted acre, which is already at a very low figure. Affairs at the estate continue to give entire satisfaction to all concerned, and reflects great credit on Mr. F. C. Cox, who

has held the position of manager since Mr. Keightley Smith came home to join His Majesty's Forces. I take it that it is your desire that I should communicate to the staff your appreciation of their services.

Mr. Harold C. Rendle seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously, without discussion.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

Adelaide Electric Supply.—Final of 5 per cent., making 10 per cent. for year, and a bonus of 2 per cent., both tax free, on the ordinary in respect of year ended Aug. 31, same as last year.

American Freehold Land Mortgage of London.—At the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for half-year ended Sept. 30, payable 15th inst., same as a year ago.

Bambrakelly (Ceylon) Tea and Rubber.—Interim of 6 per cent. (actual) in respect of year ending March 31 next, payable Jan. 15, equivalent to 1s. 2 2-5d. per share, less tax at 5s., same as a year ago.

Bartholomay Brewing.—4 per cent. on the preference, making 8 per cent. for year, also the full 8 per cent. on the funding certificates for year, also 6s. a share (3 per cent.) on the ordinary, all less tax, payable Dec. 30, same as last year.

Bent's Brewery.—The directors announce the payment of 12 months' dividend on the 6 per cent. preference, payable, less tax, Jan. 1, bringing the payments up to June 30 last.

Bidor Rubber.—Interim of 20 per cent. (actual), less 5s. tax, payable Jan. 16, in respect of year ending March 31 next, against 15 per cent.

Borjan Tea.—Interim of 4 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary, payable Dec. 16.

British Steamship Investment Trust.—Interim of 15 per cent. and a bonus of 10 per cent. on the deferred, payable Jan. 1, against 10 per cent.

British Tobacco Company (Australia).—Interim of 3 per cent. on the ordinary, payable 30th inst., same as last year.

Chicago Breweries.—At the rate of 5 per cent. less tax, for year ended Nov. 30.

Cicely Rubber.—Interim of 50 per cent. on the ordinary and 5 1/2 per cent. on the preference, payable Dec. 21, against 40 per cent. and 4 1/2 per cent. respectively.

East Indian Railway.—£1 7s. per cent. on the deferred annuity and deferred annuity class "D," in respect of share of surplus profits for half-year ended Sept. 30, in addition to the guaranteed interest of £2 per cent. for half-year ending Jan. 31. A year ago the additional dividend was 19s. per cent.

Eastern Extension, Australasia, and China Telegraph.—Interim for quarter ended Sept. 30 of 3s. per share, free tax, payable 15th prox., against 2s. 6d. a share.

Eastern Telegraph.—Third quarterly interim of 1 1/4 per cent. on the ordinary, free tax, in respect of year ending Dec. 31, same as a year ago.

Edward and John Burke.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the ordinary, less tax at 5s., payable Jan. 1. No interim was declared this time last year.

Globe and Phoenix Gold Mining.—Second interim of 3s. per share, less tax, in respect of 1916, payable Jan. 12.

Goldsbrough Mort.—Interim 5 per cent. (1s. a share), less tax, payable 20th inst., same as a year ago.

Gramophone Company.—The directors state that, owing to the time required for preparing the accounts and statements necessary to comply with the provisions of the Munitions of War Acts and Finance Act, it will not be possible to get the accounts and balance-sheet ready to present at the annual general meeting, which must be held during the present year.

Hevea (Johore) Rubber.—Final of 6 per cent., making 10 per cent. for year.

Lungla (Sylhet) Tea.—Interim of 5 per cent. on the ordinary, less tax 4s. 6d., for current season, payable Dec. 21, same as a year ago.

Marine Insurance.—Interim of £1 2s. 6d. per share, less tax, payable Jan. 10, same as a year ago.

Melbourne Electric Supply.—Final of 5 per cent., making 10 per cent. for the year, tax free, on the consolidated ordinary in respect of year ended Aug. 31, same as a year ago.

Namunakula Tea Estate.—7 per cent. (making 10 per cent., less tax) for year ended June 30; £500 to reserve; £737 forward.

Neddeem Tea.—Interim of 10 per cent. on the ordinary, less tax at 4s. 6d., for current season, payable Dec. 21, same as a year ago.

New Sylhet Tea.—Interim on the ordinary capital of 5 per cent., payable Dec. 14.

Richard Evans and Co.—Interim of 5 per cent.

Rio Claro Railway and Investment.—Final of 3 per cent., making 5 per cent. for year, against 4 1/2 per cent.

Riordon Pulp and Paper.—Usual quarterly of 1 1/2 per cent. (at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum) on the preference, payable Dec. 31.

Rubana Rubber.—Interim of 5 per cent. (actual), less tax at 5s., for year ending April 30 next, payable Dec. 20, same as a year ago.

Sephinjuri Bheel Tea.—Second quarterly of 10 per cent., less tax, on account of 1916, payable 20th inst., same as a year ago.

Straits Rubber.—Third interim of 10 per cent. (actual), less tax, in respect of year ending Dec. 31.

Straker-Squire (1913).—Further interim of 1s. per share, less tax, on account of period ending Dec. 31, payable Dec. 13.

Sun Insurance Office.—Interim of 7s. per share, less tax, payable Jan. 9, same as a year ago.

Sungei Krian Rubber.—Interim on account of year ending Dec. 31 on both the preference and ordinary of 7 1/2 per cent., less tax, payable Dec. 29.

Sun Life Assurance.—Half-year's of 3s. 9d. and bonus 5s. 3d., making 9s. per share, payable 1st prox., free tax, same as for the previous six months.

Tali Ayer Rubber.—Interim of 5 per cent. (actual), less tax at 5s., for year ending April 30 next, payable Dec. 20, same as a year ago.

Union Steamship of New Zealand.—Final of 5 per cent., and a bonus of 2 per cent. from the insurance fund, making 10 per cent. for year, against 6 per cent.

United Electric Tramways of Montevideo.—Interim on the preference for half-year to Sept. 30 last, at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, less tax at 5s., payable Dec. 15. No interim dividend has been declared on the ordinary in respect of half-year to Sept. 30, 1916. For 1915-16 no dividend was paid on the ordinary.

Utah Apex Mining.—25 cents, payable Jan. 1, against 12 1/2 cents.

Western Telegraph.—First quarterly interim of 3s. per share, free tax, for year ending June 30, 1917, being at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, payable 20th inst., same as a year ago.

Answers to Correspondents.

* A Key to these Answers will be posted early each week for a subscription of ONE GUINEA per annum, 11s. for six months, or 5s. 9d. for three months.

Deposits against future queries may be lodged with the Publisher.

H. H. J.—Your postcard has come, but not your letter. In the order given we say keep your M. N. and O. shares for the present. All three companies are doing better, and showing increased reserves of ore. Also your M.M. shares might be kept for the present, although the metal in which the company is now chiefly interested is liable to a sudden drop in price; therefore the quotations must be watched. The U.E. is a struggling company, but carefully managed, and gradually pulling into a better position. It, too, should be kept.

Hard Hit.—By taking the course you indicate, you would probably lose more than you now stand to do by sticking to what you have got. There are bargains to be picked up, perhaps, but there is no certainty about any security just now, and we have, therefore, ceased to attempt to give hints.

Tally.—(1) An excellent company, but the shares offered to you are too dear by at least 1s. (2) We do not think much of this share, although it might have a spurt. It is going up now, in fact, and the price named to you is not, perhaps, too dear, but the shares are treacherous to hold. (3) This should be an improving security, only you ought to get the shares about par.

Gurth the Swineherd.—(1) No, we cannot generally advise taking that course just at present. Probably the railways will have to become Government property, and in that case their shares may have a value higher than that at present shown, therefore leave these stocks undisturbed just now. (2) As regards your Electric debentures, it seems a pity to cut your loss upon them either. Their facilities are being more and more used, and they should recover by and by. That is the best advice we can give. There is 4s. to the credit of your deposit account. These answers will still leave 2s. of it, as we have treated the three railways as one question.

Boscombe.—Answered by letter.

Jacques.—We think you should keep your shares for the present. The company has a very large area under rubber, the greater part of which has not yet come into tapping.

United.—(1) A very good company. See note in last week's issue (p. 655). (2) Fair, but future seems fully discounted in present price. (3) This also seems dear. The pick of the three is undoubtedly No. 1.

N. W.—(1) A fairly good undertaking, but at the present price there does not seem much scope for appreciation. (2) This also is quite fully priced.

C. L. O.—We think there is no hurry. Wait until the outlook is a little clearer.

R. F. S.—We do not think they should be touched, as we have no faith in the people connected with it.

D. N.—The shares pay a good dividend, but they seem fairly fully priced now, and you might take your profit.

Moors.—The security is quite a good one, and we do not think you should sell unless you must realise, but recovery will be slow, we fear.

W. B. B.—Both are good, and if you can take bearer bonds why not divide the sum? Otherwise take the first.

SECOND INVESTORS' MORTGAGE SECURITY CO., LTD.—During the year ended September 30 a net revenue of £15,888 was received, compared with £15,153 for the period from July, 1914, to September 30, 1915. The ordinary stock and shares receive a dividend of 5 per cent., as against 4 per cent. on the amount of the paid-up capital for the previous period, and £1,841 is transferred to capital reserve, leaving a balance of £952, to which is added £1,299 brought forward. In addition to the amount taken from revenue, £2,493 for profit on exchange and net profit on investments realised was added to the capital reserve, making that fund £20,000. During the year a further £7,080 was received on capital account, making the total paid up £322,744, and in addition the company has borrowed £2,579, against which investments are £22,600 up at £357,696, but cash has been reduced by £8,400 to £1,800.

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THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.
(Registered in Japan.)
ESTABLISHED 1880.

Subscribed Capital	Yen 48,000,000
Capital Paid Up	Yen 30,000,000
Reserve Fund	Yen 20,800,000

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Bombay.	Honolulu.	Singapore.
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Dairen (Dalny).	Liaoyang.	Osaka.
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The Bank buys and receives for collection Bills of Exchange, issues Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit on above places and elsewhere, and transacts General Banking Business.
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K. TATSUMI, Manager.

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Capital Authorised	£1,500,000
Capital Issued	1,125,000
Capital Paid Up	562,500
Reserve Fund	550,000

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AUTHORISED CAPITAL	£5,500,000
SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	
Four per Cent. Guaranteed Stock	£529,988
"A" Preference Shares issued to New Zealand Government	.. .. .	500,000
"B" Preference Shares issued to New Zealand Government	.. .. .	250,000
Ordinary Shares	.. .. .	1,500,000
	.. .. .	£2,279,988
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits	2,118,005

Negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange.
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ALEXANDER KAY, Manager.

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THE LONDON & RIVER PLATE BANK (LIMITED).
ESTABLISHED 1862.

Authorised Capital	£4,000,000
Paid-up Capital	1,800,000
Reserve Fund	2,000,000

BRANCHES—
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Reserve - - - £4,000,000.

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PAID-UP CAPITAL	£1,548,525
RESERVE FUND	£2,000,000
UNCALLED CAPITAL	£4,645,575
	£8,194,100

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K.C.M.G.	Right Hon. Lord Sydenham, G.C.S.I.,
Robert E. Dickinson, Esq.	G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E.
James Fairbairn Finlay, Esq., C.S.I.	H. L. M. Tritton, Esq.

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FRANCIS SHIPTON, London Manager.

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(Incorporated by Act of Parliament, 1865.)

Authorised Capital - £1,000,000.	Subscribed Capital - - £225,000
Paid-up Capital	£500,000
Reserve Fund	510,000
	£1,010,000
Uncalled Capital	125,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	625,000
	£1,760,000

London Office—11, Leadenhall Street, E.C.

BILLS on Australasia purchased or collected.

DRAFTS issued and REMITTANCES cabled.

DEPOSITS received for fixed periods at rates to be ascertained on application.
PERCY ARNOLD, Manager.

THE LONDON BANK OF AUSTRALIA, LIMITED.

Head Office—71 Old Broad Street, E.C.

Subscribed Capital	£1,278,747 10 0
Paid-up Capital	669,665 0 0
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits	354,791 5 3
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	606,962 10 0

REMITTANCES made by CABLE.

DRAFTS, LETTERS OF CREDIT and CIRCULAR NOTES issued upon

Branches and Agents.

BILLS on Australasia NEGOTIATED or sent for collection.

DEPOSITS RECEIVED for periods and at rates which may be ascertained on application, and Banking Business of every description conducted with Australia

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Established 1841.

Paid-up Capital .. £250,000 0 0 (25,000 Shares of £10 each.)

Reserve Fund .. £680,000 0 0 | Reserve Profits .. £29,979

Reserve Liability of Shareholders £280,000.

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BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Established 1817.



Paid up Capital	£3,500,000
Reserve Fund	2,725,000
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	3,500,000
	£9,725,000

Head Office: SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES.

London Directors:

Sir FREDERICK GREEN, Chairman.

H. L. M. TRITTON, Esq. WALTER S. M. BURNS, Esq.

DAVID GEORGE, Manager.

J. S. CAMPBELL, Secretary.

HALKERSTONE MELDEUM, Assistant Manager.

DAVID GEDDIE, Accountant.

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ENGLISH, SCOTTISH, AND AUSTRALIAN BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office—38, Lombard Street, E.C.

Subscribed Capital	£1,078,875 0 0
Paid-up Capital	539,437 10 0
Further Liability of Proprietors	539,437 10 0
Reserve Fund	450,000 0 0

LETTERS OF CREDIT and DRAFTS on the Branches and Agencies of the Bank in Australia can be obtained at the Head Office, or through the Agents of the Bank, in the chief Provincial towns throughout the United Kingdom.

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E. M. JANION, Manager.

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ESTABLISHED 1837.

LIMITED.

INCORPORATED 1880.

Authorised and Issued Capital, £6,000,000.

Paid-up Capital, £4,000,000; Reserve Fund, £1,960,000; together £3,960,000

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Passing Events.

Modest, indeed, were the outgoings of the Treasury last week compared with what we have recently been accustomed to. The total expenditure was only £16,456,000, of which £13,060,000 went to supply. The previous week the total supply demands were almost double at £31,127,000. As usual, however, a large amount of floating debt came up for renewal, and accordingly £29,629,000 of Treasury bills were repaid, as also £5,115,000 of other temporary advances. These brought up the total outgoings of the week to £51,425,000, which compares with £98,649,000 disbursed the previous week. How much of all this money came from taxation? A fair proportion, as things go, viz., £9,827,000, which was £2,500,000 less than the previous week, but still a remarkably good display. More than half of it, however, came from the excess profits tax, which gave £5,055,000, so that up to date this tax has produced £67,543,000 out of the total £86,000,000, including the munitions levies, it was estimated to yield for the entire year. Although Exchequer bonds were sold to the amount of only £9,480,000, which was a small aggregate, the sales of Treasury bills produced £35,675,000, and consequently, in spite of the small amount of £196,000 brought in by the sale of war expenditure certificates, and the £900,000 only produced by War Savings certificates, the receipts exceeded the requirements of the week by £5,203,000, by which amount the Exchequer balances were increased. The total amount of Treasury bills outstanding is now £1,148,471,000, being an increase of £583,000 on the week. The total is formidable, and one of the first duties of the new Chancellor of the Exchequer, who is a very capable and experienced business man, will be to devise means for the consolidation of this enormous floating debt, and also to discover how to relieve the strain upon the open Money Market by smaller creations of Treasury bills for the future. Looking also at the dwindling yield of the War Savings and War Expenditure certificates, Mr. Bonar Law may be prompted to consider, in the light of his extended business experience, whether the time has not come to adopt the Continental method of beneficently conjuring money out of the pockets of the multitude of the wage-earners whose war wealth is now disappearing in all manner

of directions not profitable either to the spenders or to the community.

Maintaining the traditions of the P. and O., Lord Inchcape made an excellent and instructive speech at the meeting this week. His observations on some of the irresponsible chatter about excessive shipping profits were unanswerable, and his remarks about the future of British shipping deserve the closest attention. It must not be forgotten that neutral shipowners are making at least as big profits relatively as our own companies, and they are not penalised by war taxation, so that they are able to accumulate funds to increase their tonnage rapidly when a favourable opportunity arises, while the cost of building to replace war wastage is almost prohibitive for us at present. But Lord Inchcape was most interesting and impressive in dealing with the suggestion that the shipping industry should be nationalised. He pointed out that British supremacy in this field is the outcome of individual enterprise, initiative, and prudence; it has not been built up by Government aid. Except for special services rendered, not a farthing has been contributed by the State to the shipping industry of the British Empire, which has long been the envy of other nations. We do not suppose for a moment that the Government has any intention of going the length suggested in some quarters, but if it has, it ought to pause and consider the effect of killing private enterprise in a business which requires that incentive in the highest degree. If individual initiative were eliminated we might just as well say good-bye to our long-established supremacy.

At a courageous sacrifice—for it is that—one after another of the Scotch banks follow the good fashion of those in the South, and write down each year the value of their securities to current prices either at the expense of current revenue or of that of the reserve, or of both, in order to be always on the safe side. Last year, for instance, the Commercial Bank of Scotland, whose accounts are made up annually at October 31, again took £100,000 from the year's income, and this time also transferred £100,000 from the reserve to effect the necessary adjustment, and still the board was able to continue the dividend at the same rate as before—viz. 16 per cent. per annum, subject to

income-tax. Said income-tax altogether takes £13,333 more from the shareholders now than it did last year, or £33,333 in all, off £160,000. The reserve is now brought down to £700,000, and that looks a comparatively small figure in the presence of the former amount, but it must never be forgotten that these adjustments of accounts do not represent money actually lost. It is put aside, hidden away, as it were, amongst the assets, and if not wanted to make good actual losses on a liquidation of securities, it can emerge again. One day we hope it will do so, and that all our banks will reap the reward of their careful abstinence from a free-handed treatment of their profits in these times of strain. Last year's profits of this bank came to £6,984 more than those of the previous year at £247,907, so that, although the balance of £25,732 brought forward was £4,623 less, the available total of £273,639 was £2,361 up, and after paying the dividend, setting aside the above-mentioned £100,000 to depreciation, and again applying £5,000 to reduce the cost of bank premises, there was £16,241 more left to carry forward at £41,973. The balance-sheet shows that deposit liabilities have risen by £3,836,000 to £22,873,000, notes in circulation are also £354,859 larger at £2,110,000, and acceptances, &c., £408,000 up at £683,000, while drafts, circular notes, &c., have risen by £74,202 to £473,000. The larger means of credit in these ways dealt with are shown on the assets side by an increase of £548,246 in the mixed item, "specie, currency notes, and cash balances with the Bank of England and other banks," raising it to £2,293,000, and by an increase of £5,523,513 in the bills discounted, which figure at £7,932,000, including Treasury bills, but money on the London market is £399,000 down at £2,585,000, and the increase in the British Government securities is only £150,159, while loans on securities are down no less than £668,000 to £855,000, and advances have shrunk £218,000 to £3,589,000. Altogether the total of the balance-sheet is £27,941,000.

As summarised in the directors' report, the available nett profit made by the National Bank of Scotland, Ltd., in the year closed November 1 last shows a decline of £9,006, and a most commendable grant of a 10 per cent. bonus bestowed on all those exclusively in the service of the bank whose salaries do not exceed £500 per annum takes another £9,222 off, so that the £321,165 finally available is £18,228 below last year. But when we turn to the profit and loss account, we find that the gross profit of the year was £17,298 larger at £440,862, and that the whole of the decline in nett is due to the fact that £24,566 less at £63,847 was brought forward from the previous year. The actual working expenses of the year rose by no more than £1,737 to £174,321. The real position is thus better than the summary in the report would seem to indicate, and the board is able to maintain the 16 per cent. dividend which is paid, less income-tax. Said tax this time absorbs £33,200, or £13,746 less than last year, and as that is thrown upon the shareholders, the board is able to double the assignment in reduction of cost of property at £10,000, to continue the £10,000 annually added to the officers' pension fund, and again to place £120,000 to the investment account, with still only £9,482 less at £54,365 left to carry forward. In addition to the £120,000 drawn from the year's profits, the directors also took £100,000 from the reserve, reducing it to £700,000, as in the case of its neighbour, the Commercial Bank; but this is exclusive of £126,800 now set aside to meet the dividend and of the balance just mentioned carried forward. Thanks to this wise policy, the position of the bank is kept strong and liquid, but it is not revealed to us how liquid by the mixture, "gold and other coin, currency notes, notes of other banks and balance with the Bank of England and other London bankers," all rolled together and made to do for cash, which is £1,052,339 up at £3,520,895, and tells us nothing. Liabilities were

increased by £3,515,090 on deposit receipts, current account and other credit balances, thereby raising them to £23,957,115, which is, we are told, the highest total ever recorded by a Scots bank. The note circulation has also risen £319,552 to £1,851,085, and the cross entry, acceptances, has expanded by £386,737 to £1,150,510. Beyond the increase in the cash assets mentioned above, we find bills discounted, including £5,872,000 of Treasury bills, larger by £4,609,000 at £6,825,212, but loan on railway and other stocks and securities have gone down £1,000,000 to £1,672,000, and ordinary business advances are £786,494 less at £4,529,000. The bank, however, has about £386,000 more lent at short call and notice on the London market, making the aggregate £3,383,792, but it has reduced slightly its fixed investments in British, Indian and Colonial Government securities, Corporation and Railway stocks, &c., the British Government section being £178,000 down at £5,708,000, and the Indian and Colonial and miscellaneous £386,000 less at £1,494,000. The aggregate of the balance-sheet is now £28,885,000, or £4,099,000 more than it was a year ago. All the bank's securities except the 4½ per cent. War Loan and Exchequer bonds, which are taken at ordinary cost, are valued at the prices ruling on the date of the balance-sheet, which is very satisfactory.

The figures of the London and River Plate Bank, Ltd., representing its position at the end of its year, which closes on September 30, indicate a slightly reduced volume of business. The balance-sheet, in fact, foots up at £951,000 less than the previous year's, but £1,252,000 is a decrease in cash, bringing down the item, "cash on hand and at bankers," to £8,267,000, so that other assets have risen. The amount represented by bills receivable, bills discounted, advances, securities, &c., is, in fact, £483,000 larger at £21,242,000, and the decline in bills held for collection is only £179,000, making the total still £3,324,000. On the liabilities side, however, we have acceptances showing a reduction of £312,000 at £3,078,000, and current accounts, &c., £175,000 lower at £19,938,000. Merchandise credits, too, have shrunk £447,000 to £644,000, that and the cross entry, bills for collection, showing apparently that the volume of business has contracted. But the year was none the less fairly profitable, for although the available profit of £894,507 was £58,886 smaller than that of the previous year, £14,183 of that decline was due to the balance of £260,976 brought forward. Economies produced a saving of £13,332 in the current charges, and £990 less was required to meet depreciation of securities, so that had it not been for an increase of £8,353 in the charge imposed by income-tax, the decrease in the gross earnings would have been to some extent compensated for by the smaller outgoings. As it is the directors are able to continue a dividend at 15 per cent. per annum by a final payment of 9 per cent., all less tax, and have only £32,217 less left to carry to the new account at £228,758. The paid-up capital is £1,800,000, and the reserve of £2,000,000 is, of course, intact, for "the capital employed in South America suffers no depreciation at the rates of exchange now ruling," and the bank remains one of the most powerful in South America.

As indicated in the preliminary statement, the business of the Bank of Montreal has expanded greatly in the year to October 31. The balance-sheet now totals at \$365,215,000, an increase of \$62,235,000, and almost every item reflects the activity of trade which has been enjoyed. Current accounts have increased \$13,000,000, deposit accounts \$50,162,000, and notes in circulation \$4,500,000, but there are small declines in balances due to other banks and acceptances. Gold and silver coin current is up \$5,200,000, and \$6,000,000 more is deposited with the Central Gold Reserve. Call and short loans and other balances are \$47,000,000 higher, and investments have increased \$30,000,000, while discounts and other advances have been reduced

\$10,000,000. Profits, however, were only \$92,000 up at \$2,200,000, but a larger amount was brought in, and after paying the dividend and bonus of 12 per cent. there remains \$1,414,000, or \$120,000 more, to be carried forward. It looks a very comforting and comfortable display.

Another depressing year has been experienced by the British Columbia Electric Railway Co., Ltd., and the disappointment is all the greater because it had been generally believed that conditions were improving. Total receipts to June 30, however, show a further decrease of £111,000 at £258,400, and this follows a decline of £190,000 last year. Provision for renewals and maintenance is cut down £65,000, and the nett revenue comes out at £134,964, a decrease of £46,000. Last year £60,000 was taken from reserve and 2½ per cent. was paid on the preferred ordinary stock. This time £70,000 is taken from reserve in order to pay the preference dividend in full, the preferred ordinary gets nothing, and the balance forward is practically the same at £6,860. The company has been severely hit by the decrease in population, owing to men joining the Overseas Forces, some 25,000 soldiers having gone from the territory served by this company alone. Moreover, it is still feeling severely the competition of Jitney cars, which it is estimated deprive the company of earnings amounting to approximately \$350,000 a year. Some compensation has been derived from the development of the freight traffic, and for the first four months of the current year the nett earnings show an increase of over £30,000. The directors therefore hope that they will be able to pay debenture interest and preference dividend without trenching further on reserves, but they are unable to hold out any hope of dividends on the preferred and deferred stocks a year hence. Holders must exercise patience, and there is good reason to hope that the former prosperity will be recovered in course of time.

Ind, Coope and Co. (1912), Limited, had quite a successful year to September 30, all things considered. Trading profits, including £8,920 from interest on loans, &c., amounted to £152,900, an increase of £6,670, this figure being arrived at after providing for National Service allowance and such reserves as the board consider expedient. Compensation fund charge and income-tax required £4,300 less, but £1,700 more was allowed for depreciation, and against £40,000 applied to wiping off underwriting commission last year £50,000 is now placed to special reserve, leaving £2,480 (or £1,800 more) to be added to the amount brought forward, raising the total to £24,450. It is not, perhaps, a great achievement, but it shows progress in the right direction, and in a good year there ought to be a substantial amount for distribution on the reduced share capital of £400,000. Creditors are £14,700 higher at £305,000, while debtors are £50,000 lower at £236,000. Investments have increased £58,000, and stocks are £97,000 up at £288,000, but cash has been reduced £23,600 to £140,000.

It is in the nature of wonder-working to find the Amalgamated Press, Ltd., coming out year after year in these harrowing times with the same magnificent profits. For the past year, to October 31, these profits were £326,678, or just £158 less than those of the year before, and this amount has been reached after writing off for depreciation of plant and buildings an amount no doubt sufficient, but somewhat smaller than last year, so far as is disclosed; that is to say, off goodwill and premises the amount allowed is £10,000 less at £55,000, and off the freehold land and buildings, plant, machinery, &c., the £25,000 allowed is £11,393 less, so there is a certain adjustment, but even admitting all that, the strength of the business is remarkable. It enables the directors to make up the dividend to 40 per cent. for the year by a final payment of 5s., to again add £25,000 to the reserve fund, raising it to £275,000, and to defy all the hindrances in greater cost of raw material and labour. Moreover,

and it is highly to the credit of the management, the board has paid £29,109 during the past year as allowances to the members and their families of those of the staff that have entered the Government Services. The number of these is 882, so that the Amalgamated Press, Limited, would seem to have done its bit, anyway. Sales and advertisements brought in £46,584 less during the year at £1,224,010, but against this £21,060 was saved in the cost of paper, printing and editorial, &c., expenses, which were brought down to £846,617. The rest of the loss on sales and advertisements has been more than covered by an increase of £15,373 in interest and dividends received on the company's investments, and by the reduction of £21,000 odd in the amounts assigned to depreciation. All is quite clear and straightforward in the balance-sheet.

People who regard shipping companies as vampires batten on the necessities of the nation will get something of a shock when they read the report of the Orient Steam Navigation Co., Limited. Instead of making any extra plunder in the year to June 30, the profit on working was actually £33,000 less at £167,430, and although £10,000 more was brought in, the amount available is £32,000 less at £238,215. The dividend of 5 per cent. (moderate enough, surely) is repeated, and there is no bonus in the shape of payment in respect of calls, such as there was in the two previous years. This time the allowance for repairs and renewals is cut in half at £25,000, but the allocation to general reserve is about doubled at £98,600, and the amount left to carry forward is practically the same at £97,000. During the year, however, £72,000, or £53,000 more, debentures were redeemed, and the balance-sheet looks healthy. Paid-up capital has increased £98,000 to £417,000, and the underwriting account is £97,000 higher at £333,000, while the book value of the fleet, plant, investments, &c., is up £345,000 at £2,323,000, and debtors have been reduced by about half to £150,000. Four of the company's best boats are on service as armed merchant cruisers, and the rest have maintained a mail service with Australia, and have also served as transports, so that they have not been able to take advantage of the high freights ruling. We think it would be only fair if the Government made some tangible recognition of that fact.

However untoward conditions in Argentina may have been, there is no evidence of anything but prosperity in the report of the South American Stores (Gath and Chaves), Limited, for the year to July 31. Trading profits, including £19,000 more from interest, &c., were £111,000 higher at £318,370, and after meeting all charges, including depreciation and the obligatory provision for reserve (£11,170, against £6,270), the nett profit is £78,000 higher at £178,750. Out of this it is proposed to place an additional £30,000 to reserve

LLOYDS BANK LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE - 71, LOMBARD ST., E.C.

Capital Subscribed -	£31,304,200
Capital Paid Up -	£5,008,672
Reserve Fund -	£3,600,000
Deposits, etc. -	£133,958,678
Advances, etc. -	£56,535,897

FRENCH AUXILIARY—
LLOYDS BANK (FRANCE) LIMITED.

fund, raising it to £107,445, which is not bad for the fourth year of the company's existence. The 6 per cent. preference shares get 15 per cent. of the surplus profits, which allows of an additional distribution of 2 per cent., and a balance of £1,085 goes forward to their credit. Then the ordinary shares get 65 per cent. of the surplus, allowing their dividend to be raised from 5 per cent. to 8 per cent., and leaving £9,400 to their credit. Finally, the shilling deferred shares get a dividend of 2d. per share, and £260 is carried forward. Altogether the directors are justified in regarding the results as satisfactory. Changes in the balance-sheet are much what might be expected from the increased business. Creditors have increased £172,000 to £610,000, debtors £50,000 to £238,780, and stocks £46,000 to £1,500,000. Investments, mainly in British Government securities, are up £138,000 at £531,000, and the cash in hand has risen £40,000 to £167,300. The company's business is naturally liable to rather sharp fluctuations, and perhaps it has been a little too liberal in its distribution of profits this time, but the outlook seems encouraging.

There is nothing very encouraging in the report of the Inter-oceanic Railway of Mexico, Limited, for the year to June 30. The lines are still in the possession of the Mexican Government, which has not supplied the board with any information as to the results of working or the condition of the property, and consequently no accounts or balance-sheet can be submitted. At June 30, 1915, there was a debit balance of £295,800, and, allowing for fixed charges, &c., this is now raised to £530,490. In face of that there is a grim humour in the response of the Government to an application for a payment generally on account. A sum of \$100,000 Mexican, we are told, was recently received from the Constitutional Railways of Mexico, the sterling equivalent of which was £860! The moratorium granted by the debenture-holders expires on May 29 next, but, having regard to existing conditions, it will obviously be impossible to resume cash payments then, and a further extension will become necessary. It is proposed, therefore, that the existing arrangement shall be extended until one year after the railways have been restored to the owners by the Government. It is said that the Mexican Government is disposed to return the lines which have been taken over, but as this will be a complicated transaction, and pre-supposes the existence of certain conditions, the only thing the Government can do at present is to signify its intention of returning the lines as soon as it may be possible to do so. That does not look very encouraging, but we can only counsel the stockholders to have patience, and not throw away their securities at rubbish prices, as they are bound to get their property back sooner or later, and if President Wilson will only bestir himself, there need not be undue delay. It is a terrible tangle, and we are sorry to see that Lord Cowdray has resigned his seat on the board; but no doubt his considerable influence will be exerted on behalf of the company whenever there is an opportunity of doing so effectively.

It has been evident for a long time that the British Central Africa Co., Limited, would have to make some arrangement about the Shire Highlands Railway, and proposals on the subject will be submitted at next week's meeting. Before dealing with these, it may be convenient to refer briefly to the Central Company's report for 1915. Revenue was £14,000 lower at £50,880, and the nett profit was £7,420 less at £44,625. The cotton crop was fair, and the tobacco crop good, but much difficulty was experienced in shipping produce home. With the amount brought forward, there is a balance of £224,400, but £212,300 has to be written off for depreciation of assets, leaving £12,100 to be carried forward. It appears that there was an actual loss of £71,400 on the construction of the Shire Railway, and a loss of £140,900 arises from other sources not specified. The Shire Railway, in which the Central Company holds 536,750 debentures

and £100,000 in shares, has never paid any debenture interest, the arrears of which now amount to £187,860. In these circumstances, it is evident that the Central Company will not be in a position to pay dividends for years, even although earning moderate profits, unless it can place its finances on a sounder footing. It has £350,000 in prior lien bonds and £650,000 in first charge bonds, and the holders of these are to be asked to accept the following scheme:—Prior lien bonds to be exchanged for an equal amount of Shire Railway debentures; first charge bonds to be exchanged for 28 per cent. of Shire Railway debentures and 72 per cent. of the Central Company's fully-paid shares, the respective totals being £182,000 Shire debentures and £468,000 Central shares. The company will guarantee the interest on the Shire debentures (which it appears to be in a position to do), and the holders of the debentures will have the right of nominating two-thirds of the directors of the Shire Railway and one-third of the Central Company. No difficulty is likely to arise with the prior lien holders, and the first charge holders may be persuaded that the scheme is better than it looks at first sight. The Central Company has fair prospects, and they will hold nearly one-third of the share capital, which may become of substantial value in the future. At any rate, the scheme is ingenious, and deserves sympathetic consideration.

Thanks mainly to the higher rates of exchange, the results of the Chinese Engineering and Mining Co., Ltd., for the year to June 30 show a decided improvement. The company's proportion of the profits of the Kailan Mining Administration amounted to £195,145, an increase of £34,000. Adding interest and deducting administration expenses, the nett profit is £42,000 higher at £201,725, and £47,000 more was brought forward, but income-tax required £13,000 additional, and the available balance is £275,380, an increase of £76,000. It is proposed to repeat the dividend of 10 per cent., and the carry forward is £76,000 higher at £175,380, but this is subject to excess profits duty. The sales of coal were practically the same as last year at 2,667,740 tons, and so far as the current year has gone the sales have been maintained. Apparently the directors do not consider it necessary to have a reserve fund apart from the amount carried forward, but it would be prudent all the same. Creditors have increased £85,000, and debtors £34,000. Apart from £68,840 locked up in Brussels, for which no provision has been made, the cash position is strong, with £30,000 more at £170,000 in hand, and £100,000 more at £195,000 in British Government securities.

Comparatively little change is shown in the results of the Pahang Consolidated Co., Limited, for the year to July 31. Tons of ore treated were 162,000, an increase of 2,000 tons, but the total production of tin was 17 tons less at 2,647 tons, and the working profit on the mines fell £6,000 to £100,600, although the average price obtained was £10 higher at £113. This is due to the increased amount of development and higher working costs. Dividends of 12 per cent. on the preference and 15 per cent. on the ordinary shares are repeated, and the balance forward is £1,800 higher at £9,810. The production of rubber was 117,950 lbs., against an estimate of 95,000 lbs., and a crop of 69,000 lbs. last year; but this branch of the business is still in its infancy, and expenditure again exceeds receipts. However, this branch ought to prove profitable before long, and the prospects appear to be quite encouraging.

In spite of a smaller output and higher working costs the Cape Copper Co. made a striking recovery last year. The profits increased by no less than £98,036 to £131,248, and the ordinary shareholders consequently receive 4s. per share, instead of 1s. It is five years since such good results were achieved, though prior to 1910-11 earnings were on a much larger scale. Of course, the explanation of the improvement is the higher price which has been realised

for copper. The stock on hand figures at £407,500, an increase of £134,000. Taxes absorbed nearly £47,000. Results at the O'Okiep mine were much the same as in the preceding year, and no change is shown in the ore reserves. The NababEEP South gave an increased tonnage of lower-grade material, and the ore reserves have dropped from 160,000 to 120,000 tons. The mines at Rakha Hills, India, have not yet reached the stage of production, but the ore reserves have been raised from 344,991 tons to 393,148 tons. At present the directors can give no indication as to when production will begin owing to delays caused by war conditions.

Particulars have now been issued of the proposals for financing the new Government ground successfully tendered for by the Brakpan Mines and the Central Mining and Investment Corporation. In regard to the 1,812 claims on the Brakpan Farm, it is estimated that to carry out the scheme for exploitation as well as duplication of the reduction works will require £850,000. This sum it is proposed to provide by means of an allocation from the profits of the Brakpan company of £100,000, by the sale to the Consolidated Mines Selection Co. of 100,000 Brakpan shares at £5 each, 10,000 immediately and the balance as and when required, and by a loan not exceeding £250,000 at 1 per cent. above Bank rate, with a minimum of $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The Consolidated Co. will receive 5 per cent. commission on the loan. It is proposed to sink immediately an additional shaft to a depth of 4,200 ft., which should be completed in about four years, and subsequently a ventilating shaft. The present milling capacity, 60,000 tons monthly, is to be doubled, and to become effective five years hence. Even with the enlarged plant, the life of the Brakpan will, it is stated, be, roughly, doubled. The scheme of the Central Mining and Investment Corporation is more complicated, and it is dependent upon no objection being raised by the Treasury to its securing the initial working capital of £350,000 from funds lying in South Africa. The corporation proposes to form a company with a capital of £752,041 to take over the East Modderfontein area, and also the assets of the Cloverfield and Rand Klip companies. It guarantees to subscribe 350,000 shares at par, while the Cloverfield shareholders will receive one new share for every three old shares, and the Rand Klip shareholders three new for every eight old shares. All three companies are to be given options over shares, the Central Mining on 218,750, the Cloverfield on 59,166, and the Rand Klip on 81,063 shares. If the options are exercised, the new company will receive £1,184,000 in cash, and there will be 61,582 shares in reserve. These two schemes involve the provision of over two millions of fresh capital for the Rand mining industry, the result of which will be, it is hoped, to maintain the output of gold during the next ten years or so, when a number of existing mines will have reached the exhaustion stage. Owing to the enormous creation of credit caused by the war, it is desirable to prevent the output diminishing as much as possible.

A salutary check to the speculative rise in copper has been given this week by an announcement that the Ministry of Munitions has imposed stricter regulations on the buying and selling of the metal. In future no one will be allowed to purchase or sell copper outside the United Kingdom without a special permit issued by the Ministry of Munitions. For a long time past those engaged in the copper trade, who have perceived the undesirable trend of events, resulting in a rise of £30 a ton in a month, to the extremely high level of over £150, have advocated a more effective control over the metal market, at last with success. The advance in price had not been caused by any speculative dealing on the metal exchanges of this country. Under the regulations imposed some time ago that was impossible, the only permissive transactions being sales by actual holders to actual consumers. But no restriction was placed upon the use to which the metal might be put, and British merchants, manufacturers, and others were free to bid for copper in foreign markets as they pleased.

Consequently, in the United States, where unrestricted buying has caused the sharp rise in price, British buyers have freely participated without regard to their relative requirements or to the purposes for which the metal was wanted. The effect of the new order will be to remedy this state of affairs by restricting British competition for the metal to national needs. Of course, up to a certain point, advances in price tend to increase production, but when the limit of productive capacity has been reached, further rises in price achieve nothing. Many well-informed metal people contend that the productive capacity has now reached its limit, so far as price has been able to stimulate it.

The Fifth Vote of Credit for 1916-17.

Very promising indeed was Mr. Bonar Law's first appearance as Chancellor of the Exchequer on Thursday night in introducing a vote of credit for £400,000,000. This is an enormous amount, coming so soon after the last vote, but it will not be sufficient to carry us on to the end of the fiscal year by at least £200,000,000, or perhaps £250,000,000. Expenditure, as Mr. Bonar Law explained, continues to increase for various reasons, one obviously being the increased number of Allies we are called upon to support with our credit and war commodities. It is precisely the same now as in the Napoleonic wars at the end of the eighteenth and the beginning of the nineteenth centuries, but the Allies now are banded together for a nobler purpose than they were then. Financially, however, the consequence is the same for us, and accordingly the daily expenditure, which Mr. Asquith put at £5,000,000 early in the year, has now risen to £5,710,000, and the £300,000,000 credit voted in October, which was expected to last out this year, will be exhausted this week. Urgency, therefore, demanded this new vote, which brings up the total war outlay of the current year to £1,750,000,000; but as another £200,000,000 at least may be wanted to complete the provision for current requirements, we may put the demands upon us for the fiscal year ended March 31 next at the round figure of £2,000,000,000. Mr. Bonar Law said £1,950,000,000, but the larger figure is as likely to be reached as the smaller.

What does all this mean? Let us recapitulate the figures lucidly given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. In 1914-15 the war demanded £362,000,000 of additional money, and in 1915-16 it absorbed £1,420,000,000. Add in the current year's probable requirements, and we get in all at least £3,750,000,000 as its cost to us by April 1 next. If, therefore, this war goes on for another year at the current rate of expenditure, it will have cost us, on our own behalf and in assistance to our Allies, at least £5,500,000,000. Assume that by vigorous and co-ordinated action, helped by a severe winter and starvation within the two criminal Empires, the war ends early next autumn, and still it will have cost us at the very lowest estimate £4,750,000,000, or thereby. The figures slip off the tongue easily enough, but what do they mean for the nation when the war is over? Probably we shall have for some little time after to pay 6 per cent. for the money. That means that the debt will temporarily add £285,000,000 to £300,000,000 to the charges demanded by our annual Budget. Can we carry that appalling dead weight? Yes, we can; let it be repeated with emphasis; but we can do so only by self-denial and mutual helpfulness. It will not be by one man keeping six or sixteen gardeners for his own private delectation and another pinching on his daily living expenditure in the often vain attempt to make ends meet that we will attain to ability to carry such a burden. Nor will it be by one great, much-bedizened personage holding countless acres of land away from the industry of the cultivator, while said cultivator, having no soil to till, huddles in a town slum and lives precariously on his daily wage or on a pension. There must, in short, be a new spirit diffused through the nation if we are going to overcome the calamity Prussian brutality has brought upon us all. Peace with the Kaiser and his unspeakable ruffians? There can be no peace until the aggressor has, in the

words of Mr. Asquith, quoted with emphatic endorsement by Mr. Bonar Law, made reparation for the crimes he has perpetrated.

But our Allies whom we help, what of them? Look back at the history of our advances to Austria, Prussia, Spain, Portugal, and other States we had to help during the progress of the Napoleonic conflict, and you can answer the question for yourself. No doubt the Allies we now assist, Belgium, Serbia, Rumania, the Greece of Venezelos, together with our larger co-partners in the war, Russia, Italy, and France, are all animated by a nobler spirit, press on to realise a finer ideal, than those who struggled, often in mere blind instinct, more than a century ago, but all of them will be poor and all will therefore require to be tided over the period of recuperation which must follow the exhausting output of energy demanded to secure victory in this fight for deliverance. Therefore, we cannot at first expect much assistance from any of these Allies, any more than from our own dependencies abroad, which will probably have to be themselves assisted to bind up their wounds. Consequently, mere self-denial on our part will not be enough to provide the means necessary to enable us to honour all our war-costs obligations—even self-denial combined with organisation and co-operation will not—and the Germans, therefore, in answer to their "peace" bombast or whine, ought to be led emphatically to understand—and they read everything that is published in this country with hungry avidity—that we shall look to them for the wherewithal to enable us to pay our way after the war, and to relieve us from the crushing load their infamies and aggressive designs have forced us to shoulder. There is no room for sentiment in the matter. We shall be driven by necessity to exact the utmost we can from the loathsome enemy. By ceding territory, by tribute paid through the sale of their products, by the confiscation of the properties now possessed by the dominant castes in the two empires, castes whose existence has been ever a curse to the masses of the people—in these and other ways we shall have to call upon them to make good their depredations, and take measures to enforce our demands. Will our pacifists please take note of the position as thus outlined, and cease from deluging the country with their sloppy sentimentalities and contemptible ignorance of the real question at issue? To gratify their cancerous treachery to the future of civilisation and the future of humanity, they are seemingly ready to consign all our claims and just rights to the care of the treacherous aggressors.

A "Win-the-War" Ministry.

Beyond question Mr. George was right when he declined to enter into a discussion with Mr. Asquith over incidents leading to the change of Ministries. There is but one problem just now before the country: "How to win the war," and to the solution of that problem all other discussions must give way. We may be, this writer, to his cost, is, profoundly grieved that the change has deprived us of the services of many able and trusted men, and most of us recognise, even in welcoming the change and their successors, that there has been no real failure in the conduct of the war, only misfortunes, miscalculations, and disappointments, but nevertheless we bow to the inevitable. We cannot, for instance, blame the late Government for the slow-looking progress on the Somme, for that has been due to the weather. Its weakest field of operations has been the Balkan one and Greece, but even there, when all is known, it may be that future critics will give judgment more in their favour than the nation does now, for they were not acting alone, not even in Greece, where Viscount Grey undoubtedly took a wrong road early in the war—a road that ended in a quagmire of treachery and intrigue. But palliations and excuses availed nothing—the Ministry of Mr. Asquith had to go.

We have ever been more disposed to criticise the domestic administration of the late Government than its management of the war. It seemed to be checked in its movements and good impulses on every side by bureaucratic routine, by vested interests, and by the

ingrained habits of the past, so that even when the right thing to be done was fully understood and acknowledged, Mr. Asquith's Ministry allowed itself to be cajoled or bullied into what too often bore the aspect of "wait and see" tactics. And all the while the nation's vitals and hoards of wealth were being gnawed at or were wasting away. And, thanks to the shriekings of an ignorant, unscrupulous Press, an aspect of half-heartedness came to be thrown over the methods of conducting the war, conscription and recruiting were seemingly muddled, &c., &c., until it is small wonder that eager souls like Mr. Lloyd George became impatient and more and more anxious for a change that would give them their chance to lead the way.

The change, though looked for and unavoidable, has come, suddenly, dramatically, with a thoroughness that clears away all barriers, as it were, and leaves the new Ministry an open road along which it may travel as it pleases. It is a good Ministry, too, a body of capable men, who have been promptly gathered together by the new Prime Minister, and have already set to work with a will in a quiet way that gives the nation hope. What should be the attitude of all parties towards the new Government? It should whole-heartedly be the attitude indicated by Mr. Asquith at the Reform Club meeting of the Liberal Party last week. Nothing could be easier or more caddishly disloyal to British interests than to pick out blemishes, real or alleged, in the past public records of some among those men Mr. George has gathered round him; to belittle this man's talents and cast suspicion on that man's relations or origin. To "sling mud" is easy; a certain measure of moral courage may be necessary to enable some party critics to abstain from the luxury of detraction. But all this kind of faction fighting must be stopped. In this crisis there ought to be no question of political partisanship when support of the Ministry is in question. A stupendous task has been laid on these men who have taken over the burden from the weary leaders who preceded them—a task so overwhelming in its responsibilities, so full of perplexities and of urgent necessities, too, that patriotism and self-sacrifice alone can enable them to bear the burden with success. Is this a fit time, then, to assail these new Ministers with criticisms, to turn party-coloured light upon their past; to accuse this one and the other of ignorance, of being a "traitor," of "disloyalty," or otherwise to yap and backbite all in the spirit of the sensation-hunting journalist, the place-seeker or the party hack? We throw not.

For our part, we shall hold fast by the policy with which we began—viz., the policy of supporting the new Ministry in all things relating to the conduct of the war, except rashness. Its impulse may perhaps lead it to attempt to force the pace in places where it ought not to be forced just now, and any move of that kind should be, not exactly opposed, but deprecated and reasoned against. To force the fighting either on the Somme or in Macedonia, for example, at the present moment looks like a cruelty towards the troops engaged from which no advantage could be reckoned or that mere blockade would not give. In these instances, our work should be to contain the foe, to prepare thoroughly for the future, and make sure of being ready when striking time comes, taking care meanwhile that the enemy endures, suffers, more than we do. But all must be done in harmony with our Allies, and we hope that out of the small "War Councils" France, Italy, and probably Russia are forming, in imitation of us, a supreme council, composed of delegates from each of the great nations now combined to destroy the Prussian Ogre, may be formed—not exactly to govern the conduct of the war, but to commune together, compare notes, and insure, by instant knowledge, cohesion in strategy and oneness of purpose.

What fascinates one about the new Ministry, and compels admiration almost in spite of oneself, is the boldness in innovation shown in its composition. Some of the offices may have been allotted in the old "to the victors the spoils" way illustrated so vividly in Lord George Hamilton's memoirs, but the bulk of the

men have obviously been selected on qualifications alone, and the introduction of merely business men, wholly unconnected with party politics, like Sir Arthur Stanley and Mr. H. A. L. Fisher, constitutes a new departure that might have far-reaching consequences. Red-tape routine, life tenure of position in the permanent services, no matter how incompetent or idle, strictly graduated scales of promotion, untrammelled by merit, and all the resulting inefficiency, ignorance, and over-staffing of public offices, might soon come to disappear under the reforming hand of the man who had himself done real work in his lifetime, knew what work was and meant, and who likewise knew how to get work done.

One appointment has pleased us much, viz., that of Mr. R. E. Prothero, to the presidency of the Board of Agriculture. "What," some reader may say, "you, who have been advocating something like revolutionary treatment of the landlords, think well of the appointment of the Duke of Bedford's Land Agent to this vital post."

But it is just because we are *not* revolutionary in the usual guillotine sense, and because the Board of Agriculture is one of the most important "win-the-war" posts in the Government, that we think the Prime Minister to be both admired and congratulated for his courage in scorning party routine, the tradition of the territorial magnates, in making this selection. We have never wanted to *dispossess* the landlords, whatever wrongs to the nation may be wrapped up in their legal monopoly of the land; we only want them to step down from their railed-off pedestal and come and share the lot of the nation among whom and by whom they live. Mr. Prothero should know, if any man living does, how to exercise the right persuasion, and on the great estates of his chief, the Duke of Bedford, he has had abundant experience of the beneficial results flowing alike from the utilisation of great wealth in creating the first profit-yielding improvement of land, and from that of the individual ownership of farms which stimulates to further efforts in augmenting its productiveness. We shall look to him, therefore, to guide the great territorial magnates of the kingdom towards a better fashion of showing their patriotic zeal than that followed by the Duke of Sutherland when he conditionally handed 12,000 acres of waste land in the sub-Arctic north of Scotland over to the State as a free gift—fishing, &c., reserved—on which to plant soldier cottiers after the war.

We have no cavil, then, to raise over any appointment in Mr. George's new Ministry. May it go on and prosper, wisely led, vigorously supported, and helped by the friendly criticisms and suggestions of those who have already passed through the fire, and whom it has replaced.

The German "Offer of Peace" Farce.

Bearing in view the character of the German mind and the colossal arrogance with which, under Prussian guidance, the two Teutonic Empires began the long-brooded over war of conquest, the display on Tuesday last in the Reichstag must be taken to mark a stupendous descent towards humility. Bethmann-Hollweg no longer talks of "scraps of paper" or of "hacking his way" through Belgium to victory, and does not so much as allude to the hopes of large "indemnities," of destroying France, and wiping out Belgium and Holland, as was the fashion with pan-Germanists two years ago. Instead, he condescends in the name of the Kaiser to offer peace, German peace, based upon the *beati possidentes* principle of Bismarck, or nearly. Here is how the Kaiser puts it in his messages to his army and his equally invincible navy—of whose "victories" he, however, does not now boast. He has a talent for striking an attitude which is at least more picturesque than his Chancellor's windy harangues. His grandmother used to sign herself "R. and I.," but he, as befits his military genius, writes himself "I.R." The first "Wilhelm, I.R.," is to the

army:—"Under the influence of the victory which you have gained by your bravery, I and the Monarchs of the three States in alliance with me have made an offer of peace to the enemy. It is uncertain whether the object to which this offer is aimed will be reached. You will have meanwhile, with God's help, to continue to resist and defeat the enemy. Main Headquarters, December 12." The order is also addressed to "my navy, which in the common fight has loyally and effectively staked all its strength." Staked and lost, yes.

What does the fustian mean? Is it really the beginning of honest efforts for peace? By the irony of a cruel fate is the new Government of the United Kingdom to reap the reward of all the toil and anxiety borne and endured during all the long struggle by the Government it has replaced? We hardly think so. Many motives may be behind this impulsive looking move of Germany, and the primary one may be an effort to reconcile the increasingly discontented home population and worn-out fighting forces to a continuance of the now desperate and hopeless struggle. When the Allies have received this bombastic offer in silence—as we trust they will receive it—the Kaiser can find a pretext in their attitude for saying to his people, "Look, I offered our beaten enemies peace. They have scorned it. They want to destroy the Fatherland. What can we do but continue a struggle which they began, and that involves our existence, until they are finally overcome?" There is also, doubtless, the desire to produce the same effect on the minds of neutrals, and to be able to work upon their feelings, interests and predilections, with a view to bring influence to bear upon the Allies to induce among them a disposition in favour of peace. They have their crosses and difficulties also. Why not work upon them, and, if possible, detach Power from Power?

Thus was Tuesday's exhibition one of the most impudent ever made, even by a Prussian-ridden Government. This Government now parading its humanitarian interests, its anxiety for the good of mankind, deliberately began the war two years and four months ago with the object of destroying France and seizing her colonies, obliterating Belgium, dominating England, and opening the way eastward to seize the British Empire of India. During the intervening period it has tried to destroy our Eastern commerce by seizing the Suez Canal and, in league with the unspeakable Turk, whose "friendship" the Kaiser is not ashamed to parade and boast about, it has perpetrated horrible massacres in Armenia and filled the Balkan Peninsula anew with horrors as abominable as any the Turk ever perpetrated. During these same years the German officials and armies have tyrannised over Belgium, and on the sea, being unable to fight a straight battle for supremacy there with the British Navy, a system of submarine piracy has been developed, the most ruthless and abominable the world ever witnessed. Austria, for her share, has aided the Bulgar, wiped out Serbia, and, unaided, made life unbearable to Czech and Slav and Ruman within her Empire. And now at the end of all this and many other horrors of loathsome savagery that have shocked mankind the German Chancellor comes forward and parades the "humanity" now actuating the Kaiser's Government in offering to begin negotiations for peace—its peace!

In making this "offer," there is the usual boasting of victory, and emphasis is naturally laid, with a sort of last-chance eagerness, upon the triumph in Rumania. "Look at my invincible forces," the Kaiser, in effect, exclaims. "Wherever they concentrate and attack the enemy has to fly before them." We admit that there is a certain dramatic fitness in this attitude at this particular moment, but underneath is there not a real desire to end the war, and an anxiety lest its continuance should reveal more emphatically with every month that passes the increasing weakness of this invincible, conquering Power? Probably enough in that direction lies the true secret of the sudden outburst of pacificism *à la Prusse*. Germany has not, perhaps, shot her last bolt in this more than half abortive raid

into Rumania, but that the exhaustion in both Germany and Austria is almost complete cannot be for a moment doubted. Neither Empire can keep the game up. Our blockade is starving them to death. The grain captured in Rumania, and for the seizure of which such stupendous efforts have been made, is now said to be required for Austro-Hungary, so none is left for German consumption. Probably that is an exaggeration, but at best the relief can mean little. Hungary is starving now, and the troops have first to be fed. The greatest stores of Rumania's grain are, moreover, still uncaptured, and likely to remain so. In the West, too, the position is anything but favourable to the besieged, water-swamped, harassed enemy; and inside Germany a spirit of revolt is spreading, as witness what has been allowed to become visible outside of the upheaval in Bavaria. Oh, there are abundant motives prompting the Kaiser to "offer" peace, after his fashion. But the Allies can afford to give time for his proposals—and his manners—to improve. What are his terms? We do not know. All is vague in the official utterances, and only indirectly through America is anything made known. Is the German Government ashamed of them? No; but fear, and a cunning desire to find out what other nations feel, probably enter into its policy.

Whatever the motives, and they are doubtless very mixed, prompting the move, it is worth while indicating the present attitude assumed. Space does not permit us to reprint the whole speech of the Imperial Chancellor, his boasting about their success in Rumania, about the "failure" of the French and ourselves to break through on the Western front, and of Italy to penetrate through to Trieste, &c., &c., all designed to hide the facts; but some phrases may be quoted, because they serve to reveal how far, in appearance at least, the Germans are yet from realising their true position. "To the great efforts on the land are worthily joined the heroic deeds of our submarines," says Bethmann-Hollweg, after declaring that "Field Marshal von Hindenburg does not rest," that "military operations proceed." So there is no shame felt for the *Lusitania* or other loathsome sea-pirate crimes. These did not involve "inhumanity" of the German standard. "The gigantic spirit of the nation is working for one common aim. Not a beleaguered fortress, as our enemies thought, but a single, mighty, firmly regulated army camp with unexhausted resources." Yes, a "camp," truly, and in Germany they are discussing the advisability of starting a system of what they call communal feeding—that is, of providing meals for all the population in any particular place or district, rich and poor. This is the German Empire, according as it is shown to us in glimpses; but to Bethmann-Hollweg it is "a mighty, self-contained force," "firmly loyal to the alliance with our comrades in arms fighting under the Austro-Hungarian, Turkish, and Bulgarian flags. Not led astray by the enemy's words, which attributed to us now plans of world-conquest and now desperate appeals for peace, we moved on resolutely, and we continue to move on, ready to defend and strike for our peoples' existence and its free and assured future." Well might the Reichstag shout "Bravo!" for "these be brave 'orts." And, of course, it is becoming that an Empire so strong, assisted, also, by such powerful, rich, humane, and unconquerable Allies as Austria, Turkey, and Bulgaria, should now, out of condescension and pity, offer a peace to the enemy. What are the terms of that peace? They are vaguely found in the Note read by von Bethmann-Hollweg, and which is said to have been sent to Foreign Powers. For the text of that Note we find room, as also for the Chancellor's concluding observations, because both are of interest, psychologically at least.

The most terrible war which history has ever seen has been raging for two and a-half years in a great part of the world.

This catastrophe, which the bond of common civilisation for a thousand years was unable to avert, strikes at mankind in its most precious achievements. It threatens to destroy intellectual and material progress which was the pride of Europe at the beginning of the twentieth century.

Germany and her Allies, namely, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and Turkey, in this fight have proved their unconquerable strength. They have won mighty successes over an enemy

superior in number and war material, and their lines unshakably withstand the ever-repeated attacks of the enemy armies.

The latest assault in the Balkans has been quickly and victoriously wrecked. The latest events prove that the Allies' power of resistance cannot be broken by the further continuation of the war, and that, on the contrary, the entire situation justifies the expectation of further successes.

The four Allied Powers were compelled to take up arms to defend their existence and their national freedom and development. The glorious deeds of their armies have not altered that fact. They have always maintained the conviction that their own rights and well-founded claims stand in no opposition to the rights of other nations. Their aim is not to crush or destroy their enemies.

Supported by the consciousness of their military and economic strength, and ready if necessary to prosecute to the utmost the fight forced upon them, but being at the same time inspired by a desire to prevent further bloodshed and to put an end to the cruelties of war, the four Allied Powers have proposed to enter forthwith into peace negotiations.

The proposals which they will bring to these negotiations, and which aim at ensuring the honour, existence, and freedom of development of their peoples, constitute, as they are convinced, a suitable basis for the establishment of a lasting peace.

If notwithstanding this offer of peace and conciliation the fight should continue, the four Allied Powers are resolved to wage it to a victorious end. They repudiate most solemnly all responsibility for the continuation of the war before mankind and history.

After reading this Note the Chancellor continued:—

Gentlemen, in August, 1914, our enemies brought up the mighty question of a world-war. To-day we put the question of peace, which is one of humanity. The tenor of the enemy's reply we await with the calm which our external and internal strength and our clear conscience confer. ("Bravo!") If our enemies decline, if they wish to assume the world burden of all the horrors that will thereafter follow, then in the lowliest cottage every German heart will blaze up anew in holy wrath against the enemies who for the sake of their destructive and conquering designs would not cease the human slaughter.

At the fateful hour we took the fateful decision. It is drenched with the blood of hundreds of thousands of our sons and brothers, who have given their lives for the safety of their homes. Human intelligence—the human mind cannot fathom this conflict of peoples, which has revealed in a manner never before seen all the horrors of life on earth, but also the greatness of human courage and human will. God will judge. We wish to go our way uprightly without fear, resolute for battle, ready for peace. (Loud applause.)

The most curious thing about all this is the revelation given of German mentality, and in that we have a warning not to count upon a too sudden collapse of German resistance, notwithstanding the new desperate plight thus revealed. The average German mind may have to be disciplined for a long time yet before it is brought to a condition favourable to our peace—a peace which sets the oppressed free, which delivers, not only Belgium from the grip of the plunderer and Alsace and Lorraine from the tyranny of the most pig-headed, would-be master of men that ever got control of another country, but which also clears the Balkans from the five centuries' old brutal oppression of the Osmanli and liberates Asia Minor from the same cruel grip; which frees the Slav populations of Hungary from the oppression of the Magyar, and delivers all the oppressed races under the Austrian Crown from Habsburg oppression. But that German education has begun, and makes progress, is something, and encourages us to persevere.

By-the-Way War Notes.

Last week, being weary and sick, we were in some degree swept away by the prevailing mood of pessimism, and took too dark a view of the situation both East and West. Profoundly moved as we are by the misfortunes of Rumania, which seem undeserved, it has yet to be borne in mind that they are only as one episode in the most gigantic siege the world ever witnessed. The German successes in Rumania are as nothing more in this war than a partially successful supplies foray by the beleaguered garrison. They do not loosen the hold of the containing forces, nor in any degree secure a single rood of the ground overrun. German Press lackeys have been ordered to call the world's attention to the number of capitals the all-conquering hosts of the Kaiser have seized, and we are bidden to bow our heads in humility at this proof of their prowess. It is an unfortunate line to adopt, because it forces comparison with the performances of the first Napoleon. He overran Europe in the style the

Kaiser and his Prussians meant to imitate; they were fatally and finally stopped on the Ourcq and the Marne within a month or so of their starting. He overran Germany and Austria, Italy and Spain, annexed the Low Countries, now Belgium and Holland, occupied Hamburg, Frankfort, Berlin, Vienna, Rome, Naples, Milan, Florence, Madrid, Lisbon, Moscow, and many other cities and places of importance. Compared to the great conquests of the French under Napoleon, those feats of conquest the Kaiser brags about are mere loot hunts, mere outbursts of lawless brigandage. But yet Napoleon's military prowess availed him nothing. His entire Empire crumbled to pieces in the end before the unrelenting pressure of the coalition his restless, insatiable ambition had raised against him. If the Kaiser had been sane and capable of understanding the teachings of history, the story of Napoleon's rise and fall would perhaps have restrained him from committing the criminal folly of attempting to emulate his model's performances; but being mad the miserable being must needs rush to his doom. The pity of it is that he should have come so near involving the whole world in his own impending ruin.

This mortal and his tired, pride-sore, hunger-gnawed *Junkers* now want peace. It is not surprising. They are nowhere victorious in an enduring sense, and at most points within the long line of containment which circumscribes or dictates their movements they are shut up as securely as if they were confined in a fortified city of the Middle Ages. Only in the East have they found and pounded a gap in the slowly contracting lines of the Allies, and this they have swarmed through with great effort only to find themselves in a trap. The renowned chiefs of the driven armies have not captured anything like the booty they were sent after—only 170 head of Rumanian cattle have thus far been spared from the plunder for starving Buda-Pesth—they have not rounded up the Rumanian Army nor broken it, nor at any point effectively checked the Russian onset. That is to say, the Prusso-Austro-Magyar-Bulgar-Turk motley armies have burst through the bounds only to tumble into a land they cannot escape from. The efforts have exhausted the miserable beings driven to the shambles, used up stores of munitions, worn out guns, and otherwise weakened the "conquerors," and have gained them nothing substantial. All the much-mouthed-about Allies of the Kaiser are now thoroughly ruined. Turkey cannot keep up the fight through another season, Bulgaria's internal condition is probably worse than Hungary's, and what that is the *Morning Post's* Hungarian correspondent sufficiently reveals in an inconveniently opportune letter published on Wednesday. Official statistics show, he says, that the ratio of female labour to male has risen from 16 per cent. before the war to 89 per cent. now:—

Among the registered workers 3,000 were under 12 years of age, and in the provincial munition factories over 4,000 children under eight years of age have been putting in 12 hours a day for many months past. The *Nepszava*, commenting on these figures, asserts that many thousands of still younger children, infants not yet seven years old, are working hard from morning to night in munition factories on all sorts of odd jobs. . . . The rate of mortality among the labouring classes in Hungary, which was already high in peace time, has assumed alarming proportions since the outbreak of war, and women and children have been specially affected. . . . And the decline is going on at an accelerating rate owing to the ever-increasing scarcity of foodstuffs and the constant tendency to lengthen the hours of labour. . . . As a natural consequence of this terrible state of affairs, the birth rate has declined to the extent of 45 per cent. as compared with 1911. . . . The hours of labour in munition and other war industries is from 14 to 16 a day, and those who decline to work these long hours are treated as soldiers who disobey orders: they are court-martialled.

Such is the glimpse given by this well-informed observer of life for the common people in Hungary in war time. And on all this the savages in Berlin have the audacity to offer us "peace"! Well, it seems their workmen are less docile than the Hungarian, and have to be promised a mark an hour, or 12s. nominal a day, to get them to work, and that is expensive even when the money to pay them with is only a matter of paper and print. Perhaps if they could have procured the

slaves of Hungary at a few shillings a week, or if the dragooning of Belgians had not proved to be so troublesome, and so upsetting to the feelings of civilised peoples, the Reichstag might not have been summoned to hear insincere "peace jaw" till after Christmas. Perhaps the German Empire is ready to fly in bits.

Not only is the military situation precarious for Germany in Rumania, but in the Balkans and in Greece, as is proved by the unblushing liberty in lying of the Bulgarians. And all is not going according to the wishes of the Kaiser with his brother-in-law in Greece. The free Greeks at Salonica have not waited for the hesitating Powers to dethrone the treacherous creature; they have repudiated him, and taken away his Kingship.

In the west the siege is fully maintained amid endless difficulties and obstacles. So is it in Italy, though "King Winter" is chief strategist on all fronts at present. The indomitable Russians alone press on in the Carpathians, and sustain the Rumanian onslaughts in Northern Rumania without pause. There will be no retiring into winter quarters on any front this winter.

On the sea, however, the Germans continue to sink ships indiscriminately, with the fury of a people driven mad by their buffetings, and there we often seem to be losing ground. Are we really doing so? We think not, and get hints now and then of enemy U boats destroyed or captured, which would be consoling if official. But the Navy never gets a show either from officialism or from the Press. We have all the news about our airmen's feats as events happen, and it is ever welcome, but our Navy might sink or capture 100 German submarines and we should only know it after the war, if then. Will our new "First Lord" consider this? The country has no wish to be given news that might help the enemy, but surely the authentic facts revealing the Navy's success in combating German brutality at sea are capable of being summarised in a way that would tell said enemy nothing useful, while yet proving to the nation, nay, to the civilised world, most reassuring.

The subjoined table professes to give the total number of German casualties up to the end of November. It includes all segments of the German nation, but omits naval and Colonial losses. As it is, it cannot be regarded as complete, and the method of compiling it sufficiently shows its defective character. The casualties entered are those reported during November, not those that actually occurred in that month. It is unnecessary to make any observation:—

	Nov., 1916.	Totals.
Killed and died of wounds	28,729	889,957
Died of sickness	1,625	56,070
Prisoners	1,472	214,739
Missing	30,678	285,041
Severely wounded	21,843	521,203
Wounded	6,551	293,170
Slightly wounded	62,667	1,453,870
Wounded remaining with units	12,601	207,819
	166,176	3,921,869

American Business Notes.

Inconsiderate pacifists here appear to be looking to the United States to make a move in the interests of German peace. We hope and believe that they are mistaken. President Wilson has learned a good deal in the last four years, and however deep his sympathies may be with nebulously humanitarian pacifist ideas, he is not now likely to commit any blunder that would excite against his country feelings of distrust and animosity amongst the nations that are its best friends. So far, the comments of the American Press on the episode have been excellent in spirit, and wise also in the point of view adopted. Officials at Washington likewise appear to be perfectly well aware of the meaning of the German trick, and not at all disposed to lend themselves to any mock negotiations on a false basis. Perhaps the most noticeable thing about the sudden proclamation of the affectionate, humane German's desire to live in peace in brotherhood with all men is on the Stock Exchange, where the mere hint of peace plays

havoc with the gamblers in iron and steel shares, in munitionings of all kinds.

To help prices down, though, Wall Street brought some of its old weapons to bear on the market. Money is more than plentiful in New York; it is in rot-causing profusion. Nevertheless, the handlers of it contrived to make the price of call loans rise to 15 per cent. last week, and in doing so relieved a good many bulls of the war stocks of their cash. "That was not fair play." Probably not, but is the word current in New York?

It is always interesting to note how the managers of American Railroads succeed in counteracting the effects of dearer working costs under all heads by improvements in the mechanism, so to say, of working their lines. Here is the East Coast line, an agglomerate which owns the larger half of the Louisville and Nashville share capital, and is therefore in a dominant position. It managed last year to earn nearly \$3,000,000 more than in the preceding year at a cost of less than \$100,000 increase in expenses. Indeed, had not the taxes gone up by \$205,000, the earnings would have been obtained at less cost than the year before. Consequently the nett revenue was actually up almost to the extent of the gross, and was higher even than that of two years ago, when the gross earnings were nearly \$37,000,000, as against less than \$34,000,000 last year. Has this kind of economy been obtained dishonourably? Is it little more than the usual indication of starving the line? It might be to some extent, though we doubt it, because at present there is no adequate motive for "economising" in this way at the expense of future outlay of capital, and the true reason for the East Coast Road's progress seems to be found in the steady increase of the train load. As recently as 1905-6 that load was only 167 tons, and last year the average tonnage of freight moved per train mile was 274. There has been steady progress all through recent years, and that means an enormous economy of working. If we had the same kind of management here, and were it universal in its control—and we rejoice to see indications of an attempt towards it—our railways might be worked at anything up to 25 per cent. less in current expenses than they are now, with all the men's demands gratified, including substantial provision for old age and disablement.

We see that the Cudahy Packing Co. of Chicago, one of the meat trust group, managed to earn last year a nett income equal to about 40 per cent. on the entire share and bond capital involved, and its president, Mr. E. V. Cudahy, declares that out of every dollar taken in from the sale of all the products derived from animals, 80 cents has gone to the farmer, 7 cents to the wage-earner, 5 cents for freight, and 4 for other materials needed in the manufacture and in the preparation of the goods for sale. Out of the remaining 4 cents there have been paid interest, taxes, insurance, repairs, and all such items, and of the residue not quite 2 cents per dollar is the nett profit of the company.

Critical Index to New Investments

ANGLO-CONTINENTAL GUANO WORKS, LTD.

This company has been formed under the auspices of Lord Rhondda to acquire from the Public Trustee the business and assets hitherto carried on under the style of the Anglo-Continental (late Ohlendorff's) Guano Works, a branch of a German firm domiciled at Hamburg. The capital is £400,000, divided into 200,000 7½ per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1 each and 2,000,000 ordinary shares of 2s. each, and the present issue consists of half the preference and 500,000 ordinary shares. All the latter have been applied for by the directors, so that only the preference shares are offered for subscription. According to a statement furnished to the Public Trustee, the assets are valued at £417,532, and the price payable has been fixed at £325,000, of which £100,000 has already been paid, and the balance is payable by annual instalments of £50,000. The contractors are making no promotion profit, and the company will acquire the assets and business as from January 1 last at the price mentioned, and

will be entitled to all the profits made since then. Profits are set out for the past six years, and although they fell to £8,960 in 1914, the average has been £27,850 per annum, so that the preference dividend is amply secured, and a sufficient margin left for substantial distributions on the ordinary. Since February 14 last the works have been a controlled establishment, so that a great increase in the profits is not to be anticipated, but the business is capable of considerable development, and we think subscribers to the preference shares might have been given the opportunity of taking an interest in the ordinary as well. It is stated that the Stock Exchange Committee has granted permission for dealing in the ordinary as well as the preference shares as soon as the certificates are ready, but how this can be under the regulations of the House we do not pretend to understand.

MINING RETURNS FOR NOVEMBER.

Abosso.—9,706 tons; value, £13,862 (Oct., £15,526).
 Ashanti.—10,424 tons; value, £40,303 (Oct., £40,159).
 Aurora West.—14,600 tons; profit, £4,381 (Oct., £4,423).
 Balaghat.—2,250 tons, 1,713 ozs. fine gold (Oct., 1,478 ozs.).
 Bantjes.—23,800 tons; loss, £754 (Oct., loss, £420).
 Brakpan.—57,301 tons; profit, £36,620 (Oct., £35,379).
 Bullfinch Prop.—5,055 tons; profit, £1,104 (Oct., £1,393).
 Cape Copper.—Output, 204 tons (Oct., 257 tons).
 Champion Reef.—12,699 tons; 9,212 ozs. fine (Oct., 9,309 ozs.).
 Chenderiang Tin.—23½ tons; profit, £500 (Oct., £691).
 City and Sub.—26,000 tons; profit, £19,109 (Oct., £19,142).
 City Deep.—60,000 tons; profit, £55,000 (Oct., £55,084).
 Cons. Langlaagte.—52,600 tons; profit, 22,527 (Oct., £22,412).
 Cons. Main Reef.—27,760 tons; profit, £14,053 (Oct., £14,107).
 Crown.—196,000 tons; profit, £76,056 (Oct., £78,316).
 Durban Road Deep.—25,100 tons; profit, £3,301 (Oct., £3,035).
 East Rand Prop.—148,800 tons; profit, £35,029 (Oct., £45,263).
 Ferreira Deep.—53,760 tons; profit, £41,769 (Oct., £43,663).
 Geduld.—28,300 tons, £42,017; profit, £12,885 (Oct., £12,804).
 Geldenhuis Deep.—59,800 tons; profit, £13,573 (Oct., £15,027).
 Ginsberg.—15,350 tons, £14,757; profit, £1,507 (Oct., £1,727).
 Glencairn.—20,320 tons; profit, £1,019 (Oct., £1,036).
 Glynn's Lydenburg.—4,208 tons; profit, £3,530 (Oct., £5,364).
 Gov. Areas Mod.—84,000 tons; profit, £34,249 (Oct., £28,079).
 Jupiter.—23,100 tons, £25,650; profit, £3,692 (Oct., £5,015).
 Kamunting Tin.—23½ tons; profit, £1,515 (Oct., £1,805).
 Knight Central.—25,500 tons; profit, £220 (Oct., £274).
 Knight's Deep.—105,600 tons; profit, £15,176 (Oct., £12,480).
 Langlaagte Estate.—50,498 tons; profit, £13,050 (Oct., £13,954).
 Luipaard's Vlei.—21,720 tons; profit, £3,474 (Oct., £1,982).
 Main Reef West.—24,340 tons; profit, £1,430 (Oct., £1,342).
 May Consolidated.—14,020 tons; profit, £786 (Oct., £659).
 Meyer and Charl.—14,600 tons; profit, £27,928 (Oct., £30,181).
 Modder "B."—45,000 tons; profit, £59,547 (Oct., £62,436).
 Modder Deep.—40,300 tons; profit, £44,331 (Oct., £45,213).
 Mysore.—24,767 tons, 16,603 ozs. (Oct., 16,484 ozs.).
 New Goch.—29,940 tons; profit, £8,032 (Oct., £7,816).
 New Heriot.—13,000 tons; profit, £8,001 (Oct., £8,403).
 New Modder.—53,300 tons; £66,924 (Oct., £61,723).
 New Primrose.—21,000 tons; profit, £3,006 (Oct., £3,009).
 New Unified.—14,000 tons; profit, £4,172 (Oct., £4,176).
 North Anantapur.—2,100 tons, 1,125 ozs. fine (Oct., 1,134 ozs.).
 Nigel.—11,300 tons; profit, £1,014 (Oct., loss, £856).
 Nourse.—42,600 tons; £58,471; profit, £10,602 (Oct., £10,033).
 Nundydroog.—8,300 tons, 6,833 ozs. (Oct., 6,819 ozs.).
 Ooregum.—13,316 tons, 8,537 ozs. fine gold (Oct., 7,706 ozs.).
 Pahang Cons.—Black tin produced, 229 tons (Oct., 223 tons).
 Princess Estate.—22,000 tons; profit, £892 (Oct., £1,117).
 Randfontein Cent.—186,669 tons; profit, £75,099 (Oct., £78,000).
 Renong Tin.—Output, 74½ tons (Oct., 87 tons).
 Robinson Deep.—54,600 tons; profit, £24,848 (Oct., £26,242).
 Robinson.—55,500 tons; profit, £28,111 (Oct., £30,491).
 Rooodepoort United.—35,766 tons; profit, £3,178 (Oct., £2,014).
 Rose Deep.—66,300 tons; profit, £13,520 (Oct., £16,305).
 Sheba.—6,862 tons; 1,966 ozs.; loss, £696 (Oct., loss, £548).
 Simmer and Jack.—67,300 tons; profit, £20,241 (Oct., £21,102).
 Simmer Deep.—60,900 tons; profit, £5,920 (Oct., £7,740).
 Sub Nigel.—9,000 tons; £20,260; profit, £5,831 (Oct., £5,014).
 Sudan.—2,621 tons for £4,968 (Oct., £4,400).
 Van Ryn Deep.—45,000 tons; profit, £52,553 (Oct., £50,044).
 Van Ryn.—38,050 tons; profit, £18,033 (Oct., £17,617).
 Village Deep.—52,600 tons; profit, £18,299 (Oct., £20,041).
 Village Main Reef.—28,500 tons; profit, £15,364 (Oct., £17,118).
 Vogelstruis Estates.—12,439 tons, 3,035 ozs. (Oct., 3,298 ozs.).
 Wanderer.—13,490 tons; profit, £2,374 (Oct., £2,139).
 West Rand Cent.—34,250 tons; profit, £6,577 (Oct., £6,396).
 Witwatersrand.—41,450 tons; profit, £22,001 (Oct., £22,201).
 Wit. Deep.—39,900 tons; profit, £10,074 (Oct., £11,500).
 Wolhuter.—35,150 tons; profit, £13,051 (Oct., £13,902).

FREDK. SAGE AND CO., LTD.—It has been found impossible to complete the accounts owing to the liability for special taxation not having been agreed, but the directors have resolved to pay a dividend of 6 per cent. on the ordinary shares, on account of the profits for the year ending September 30. No further dividend will be paid on account of the profits for that period.

The Week in Mines.

Several interesting features have developed in the mining markets this week, though business generally has been restricted. Buyers generally have been scarce owing to political developments producing an unsettled feeling, but there have been a number of notable exceptions to the rule. Randfontein Estates and Randfontein Centrals have been active and strong on buying induced by an intelligent anticipation that the Barnato group is negotiating to secure control of the Robinson properties. Lonely Reefs have been galvanised into life, Russians have rallied, while copper shares have relapsed sharply on the announcement that a stricter control of the metal trade has been imposed by the Ministry of Munitions.

SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

The first batch of dividends for the waning half-year, though satisfactory, failed to put fresh life into the South African market. Brakpans have fallen $\frac{1}{4}$ to $4\frac{1}{8}$, in spite of the maintenance of the dividend at 22½ per cent., an achievement all the more noticeable in view of the appropriation from profits of £100,000 to develop the new claims. Rand Selections are $\frac{1}{16}$ lower at 3½, though the dividend has been raised from 12½ to 15 per cent. The Modder group shows a general reaction, New Modders being $\frac{3}{8}$ lower at 18½. Springs are $\frac{3}{8}$ down at 2½, and Welgedachts have fallen $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{7}{8}$ on disappointment at its exclusion from the Cloverfield scheme. The Randfontein group, however, has been active and strong on well-founded rumours that the control is being sought by the Barnato interests. Randfontein Estates have risen 2s. 6d. to 15s., and Centrals 1s. to 12s. 6d., while Johnnies have improved to 18s. 9d. Gold Mines Investments were dull at 11s. 6d. on the report, which, although showing increased profits, does not encourage hopes of a dividend for the present. Lonely Reefs have been actively bought and are 2s. 6d. higher at 20s. 6d., but other Rhodesian shares were a dull market. Tanganyikas fell 3-32 to 2-7½, and the debentures $\frac{1}{8}$ to 6½, on the scheme for postponing redemption of the latter until six months after the war. Cam and Motors have been weak at 10s. 3d. Diamond shares have weakened, De Beers deferreds falling $\frac{1}{8}$ to 13½. Among West Africans, Ashanti Goldfields have risen to 19s. 6d., but Taquahs at 16s. 6d. are easier.

COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

The new order establishing a stricter control over copper, which caused the price to fall £10, provoked a healthy reaction in copper shares, especially the American descriptions, which were subjected to heavy pressure in New York on Germany's offer. Rio Tintos declined $\frac{1}{4}$ to 62½, Utah 2 to 24½, Utah 1½ to 19½, Mount Elliotts $\frac{1}{4}$ to 5½, Capes $\frac{1}{4}$ to 4½, and Mons Cupris 2s. 3d. to 4s. 9d. Tin shares also weakened, but the fall in prices was slight. Pahangs fell 6d. to 10s. 3d. on the report, which disappointed the bulls. East Pools, too, relapsed $\frac{1}{16}$ to 15½, in spite of the declaration of a second interim. The Broken Hill group has been firm, notably British Props. at 26s. 6d. and Sulphides at 29s. 6d. on their respective reports. Canadian Silver shares have declined, and Camp Birds fell 1s. to 5s. 6d. on the report. Russians are lower on the week, but closed above the worst on better news from Rumania. Indian shares have declined further, Champions weakening to 6s. on the report. Burmas are $\frac{1}{16}$ lower at 70s.

MINING NEWS.

MOUNT ELLIOTT.—Smelting operations were resumed in the year ended June 30, and resulted in the production of 2,017 tons of blister copper, containing 1,997 tons of copper, 2,612 ozs. of gold, and 4,753 ozs. of silver. After writing off £11,878 for depreciation, £4,651 for development account, £1,250 for stamp duty on the increase of capital, and £2,806 for depreciation on the 4½ per cent. War Loan, there is a net profit of £29,938, which compares with a loss of £43,342. Including £1,262 brought in, the amount carried forward is £31,200. The smelting plant at Mount Elliott is now being remodelled, and its capacity enlarged to cope with more ore when smelting is resumed. It is expected that the new works will be completed and smelting resumed about next March, when a monthly output of 700 tons of copper is anticipated. The total output for 1917 has been sold to the Ministry of Munitions at £120 per ton c.i.f. London. The whole Australian production has been bought on the same terms.

TRANSVAAL GOLD OUTPUT.—The production last month was £3,326,253, an increase of £8,719 on November last year. The following table shows the monthly production since January, 1911:—

Month.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
January ..	2,765,386	3,130,830	3,353,116	2,708,470	3,037,058	3,344,948
February ..	2,594,634	2,989,832	3,118,325	2,660,186	2,872,406	3,201,063
March	2,871,740	3,528,688	3,358,050	2,917,346	3,202,514	3,384,121
April	2,836,267	3,133,383	3,334,358	2,904,924	3,160,651	3,205,643
May	2,913,734	3,311,794	3,373,998	3,059,340	3,243,347	3,303,777
June	2,907,854	3,202,517	3,173,382	3,049,558	3,208,224	3,235,767
July	3,012,738	3,255,198	2,783,017	3,111,398	3,272,258	3,232,891
August	3,030,360	3,248, 95	3,092,754	3,024,037	3,307,975	3,318,116
September ..	2,976, 65	3,176,846	2,999,686	2,982,630	3,299,423	3,277,408
October	3,010,130	3,265,150	3,051,701	3,116,754	3,388,122	3,365,642
November ..	3,057,213	3,216,965	2,860,788	3,040,677	3,317,534	3,326,253
December ..	3,015,499	3,297,962	2,857,938	2,952,755	3,317,949	—
Total ..	34,991,620	38,757,560	37,358,040	35,588,075	38,627,461	36,195,229

NATIVE LABOUR RETURNS.—These returns show a decrease amounting to 3,417, which compares with an increase of 2,095 in October. There was a decrease of 3,317 at the gold mines, and at the diamond mines there was a further decrease, the second this year, of 430:—

Month.	Natives on Gold mines.	Natives on Coal mines.	Natives on Diamond mines.	Total natives.
November, 1915.....	210,068	9,432	—	219,500
December	209,438	9,309	132	218,879
January, 1916.....	209,835	9,225	802	219,865
February	209,426	9,468	970	219,864
March	203,575	9,588	917	214,080
April	199,936	9,827	938	210,701
May	194,705	9,811	1,459	206,035
June	192,809	9,859	2,105	204,773
July	192,130	9,932	3,339	205,401
August	194,112	10,086	5,146	209,344
September	197,734	10,239	6,527	214,500
October	199,330	10,907	6,358	216,595
November	196,132	11,118	5,928	213,178

HAMPDEN-CLONCURRY.—During the half-year ended August 31, 56,119 tons of ore were treated, producing 3,674 tons of copper, 1,277 ozs. of gold, and 28,009 ozs. of silver. In the preceding six months the respective figures were 48,360 tons, 3,851 tons copper, 957 ozs. gold, and 31,110 ozs. silver. The working profit was £165,223, against £163,409, and the net profit was £143,816, against £141,973. Debits to profit and loss account include £13,443 provision for income and land taxes. Surplus of assets over liabilities amounts to £158,270, against £133,078. Reserves of ore amount to 299,000 tons, against 306,000 at February 29 last, estimated to contain 22,100 tons of copper against 23,600 tons.

CHAMPION REEF OF INDIA.—As was anticipated in last year's report, the production in the 12 months ended September 30 decreased, and the results as far as the shareholders are concerned were distinctly less favourable. Production declined from £545,339 to £497,320, and the total nett income was £478,089, against £520,178. The profit declined by £37,708 to £172,400, and including £4,511 brought forward and £1,463 dividends received, the available total is £178,374, a decrease of £36,963. Depreciation absorbs £18,000, or £3,000 more, the reserve gets £10,000 instead of £15,000, the expenditure on the Gifford shaft written off is reduced from £19,010 to £11,583, and £1,000 is placed to insurance and contingency fund. The dividend is reduced from 56½ per cent. for the year to 40 per cent., leaving £4,296 to be carried forward. Total costs show a decrease of £4,381, but the cost per ton treated works out at 2s. 1½d. per ton higher, owing largely to the reduced tonnage milled. The less favourable developments referred to in the last report have continued, and the ore opened up has been of lower grade than formerly. This, in conjunction with the closing of certain stopping sections, has caused a reduction of 119,024 tons in the available ore reserves, the total being estimated at 375,991 tons.

IRTVSH CORPORATION.—The first report of this Russian concern, formed by the Russo-Asiatic Corporation, covers the period from incorporation on November 30, 1914, to January 13 last. As regards capital, 167,700 shares have been issued for cash against options exercised under the terms of the debenture issue, and 153,300 have been issued for cash alone. The latter have been sold, some at 32s. 6d. each, some at £2 10s., and others at £2 5s. each. The two Russian companies formed to work the Ridder and Kingiz concessions had, up to January 13, been financed to the extent of £384,744. London expenditure amounted to £29,870, and the preliminary expenses to £7,745. Ore reserves at the Ridder Mine remain at 3,174,000 tons, valued at £10,800,000. A big programme of development and equipment has been mapped out for the coming year.

REDPATH, BROWN AND CO., LTD.—Being a controlled establishment, this company is experiencing the same difficulty as other concerns in making up its accounts, owing to the question of Munitions Exchequer payments. The directors, however, are satisfied that the profits for the year ended October 31 justify their repeating last year's payment of a dividend of 8 per cent. and bonus of 12 per cent., tax free, on the ordinary shares.

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 GRESHAM HOUSE, LONDON, E.C.

NOVEMBER RUBBER OUTPUTS.

Company.	Current Estimate.	Last All-in Cost.	November lbs.	(+) or (-) lbs.	Months	Aggregate lbs.	(+) or (-) lbs.
Aboyne Clyde	392,629	1/0.50	43,648	+ 10,797	5	180,774	+ 15,216
Allagar	312,000	1/2.05	33,800	+ 11,600	11	267,100	+ 26,300
Alliance	163,716	—	26,155	+ 8,478	11	139,845	+ 5,187
Aior Pongau	270,000	1/0.88	24,370	+ 4,305	11	233,761	+ 36,804
Ampat	130,000	1/3.30	125,340	+ 4,920	12	155,530	+ 67,250
Anglo-Java	1,697,000	—	157,300	+ 76,500	11	1,509,320	+ 872,482
Anglo-Johore	270,000	1/4.20	21,111	+ 1,111	11	166,979	+ 8,709
Anglo-Malay	1,600,000	1/1	164,342	+ 21,232	11	1,590,041	+ 219,744
Anglo-Sum.	880,000	1/0.2	80,352	+ 9,488	6	474,570	+ 75,081
Asahan	257,353	1/4.13	41,696	+ 21,943	4	144,518	+ 70,384
As. T. Ceylon.	235,000	1/1.55	28,744	+ 13,666	11	99,773	+ 22,911
Ayer Kuning	595,000	1/2.98	78,500	+ 27,500	11	637,447	+ 258,932
Bagan Serai	348,550	1/0.28	36,000	+ 9,000	11	321,845	+ 81,512
Bah Lina	—	—	13,736	+ 4,263	1	13,726	+ 4,263
Bajoe Kidol.	110,000	1/9.12	21,000	+ 10,331	11	139,560	+ 50,608
Bakap	375,000	—	27,600	+ 1,140	11	145,451	+ 5,849
Bambrakelly	260,000	1/1.43	27,687	+ 10,623	8	145,451	+ 5,849
Bandar Sum.	360,000	1/8.45	34,780	+ 7,846	4	128,690	+ 34,938
Bandarjaria	213,000	—	22,500	+ 4,780	11	221,730	+ 75,517
Bandarapala	300,000	—	25,000	+ 11,000	11	187,800	+ 38,000
Bantardawa	400,000	—	25,000	+ 5,000	5	101,960	+ 18,660
Bantam	495,000	1/1.88	67,166	+ 11,020	4	255,664	+ 60,700
Batang	341,000	1/1.3	35,360	+ 12,851	7	218,640	+ 45,480
Batak Kabit	294,000	1/1.99	31,200	+ 10,713	11	264,183	+ 74,383
Batang Mal.	300,000	1/2.60	31,200	+ 10,713	11	264,183	+ 74,383
Batu Caves	600,000	1/9.13	76,257	+ 19,418	11	618,095	+ 65,956
" Matang	160,000	—	16,762	+ 4,859	5	68,769	+ 10,816
" Rata	420,000	1/1.50	49,200	+ 14,520	5	206,030	+ 57,316
" Tiga	750,000	1/0.39	70,300	+ 5,750	11	683,464	+ 81,599
Belut R/B'n'o	231,500	1/5.75	20,500	—	7	140,500	—
Bekoh	420,000	1/2.3	47,700	+ 20,914	11	179,500	+ 49,633
Benlota	250,000	1/0.33	27,400	+ 12,542	11	190,096	+ 46,987
Beranang	250,000	1/5.0	27,021	+ 2,538	5	126,086	+ 37,250
Bernam-Perk	260,000	1/2.86	24,000	+ 7,100	5	114,700	+ 24,100
Bidor	—	1/1.83	37,056	+ 9,050	8	260,500	+ 31,500
Bikam	310,000	1/4.24	33,000	+ 9,000	11	358,650	+ 111,423
Bode	100,360	1/6.98	20,917	+ 7,917	11	176,521	+ 81,461
Bradwall	400,000	1/5.08	46,630	+ 10,716	11	372,790	+ 101,420
Braunston	360,000	1/1.10	39,000	+ 11,000	2	73,200	+ 14,700
Brit Born Para	260,000	1/1	23,300	+ 1,800	7	154,550	+ 16,050
British Malay	280,000	—	41,500	+ 9,200	11	259,791	+ 206,191
Brooklands	570,000	1/1.47	58,328	+ 26,322	11	330,860	+ 83,232
Broome	350,000	1/4.57	34,515	+ 14,189	3	166,210	+ 66,067
Bukit Cloh	290,000	1/0.39	27,000	+ 4,000	11	223,500	+ 12,800
" Ilok	280,000	1/0.74	27,000	—	11	280,500	+ 65,500
" Kajang	800,000	—	86,000	+ 20,000	5	140,850	+ 100,990
" Lintang	300,000	1/1.12	26,000	—	5	127,100	+ 5,770
" Mert'ing	780,000	1/1.08	80,665	+ 25,300	8	498,614	+ 121,639
" Pan'ing	455,000	1/0.7	44,500	+ 2,500	11	443,100	+ 9,340
" Rajah	877,000	1/11.83	98,939	+ 29,228	8	668,377	+ 185,973
" Sen ba.	850,000	1/0.77	73,700	+ 22,700	11	655,393	+ 177,593
Carey United	283,000	—	21,644	+ 2,300	2	48,840	+ 10,179
Cent. Trav.	555,000	—	48,960	+ 6,114	3	232,465	+ 23,560
Ceylon T. & R.	240,000	1/3.08	34,394	+ 5,743	11	197,040	+ 36,604
Ceylon T. & R.	682,912	1/4.23	102,267	+ 41,931	11	754,842	+ 163,830
Chamb-Sal.	650,000	1/3.92	26,739	+ 8,239	11	204,516	+ 8,340
Chemb Malay	385,000	1/1.39	80,000	+ 20,000	11	718,000	+ 233,000
Cheras	385,000	1/1.32	43,729	+ 5,451	11	375,604	+ 66,523
Choronesse	170,000	1/6.62	19,900	+ 8,600	11	159,100	+ 75,450
Chiviot	720,000	1/11.44	65,855	+ 9,725	11	642,322	+ 39,051
Chiviot	570,000	1/3.48	40,740	+ 14,690	10	292,610	+ 8,965
Chota	170,000	—	23,866	+ 10,175	8	133,441	+ 42,584
Cicely	190,000	1/2.34	19,494	+ 3,923	11	192,693	+ 52,443
Cicely	345,000	1/1.08	31,500	+ 3,476	11	237,064	+ 22,246
Clany	225,000	1/3.01	21,410	+ 5,310	11	204,641	+ 44,079
Cons. Malay	809,000	1/1.93	81,900	+ 12,586	11	733,797	+ 94,995
Dalketh	400,000	1/0.79	58,000	+ 30,650	11	340,200	+ 74,547
Damansara	650,000	1/0.95	69,842	+ 11,019	11	707,561	+ 138,884
Dangan	225,000	1/2	19,695	+ 2,115	5	95,496	+ 17,050
Dennistoun	580,500	1/1.2	57,450	+ 11,171	11	531,215	+ 78,687
Deviturai	320,000	1/0.27	40,300	+ 22,300	11	260,551	+ 26,632
Dimbula	340,000	1/0.36	38,200	+ 10,700	11	289,779	+ 21,691
Djasinga	242,120	1/4.51	29,000	+ 11,325	5	128,857	+ 70,557
Djember	160,000	—	16,500	+ 5,200	11	149,500	+ 79,100
Doranakande	210,000	1/2.30	25,300	+ 12,479	11	157,442	+ 10,371
Duff Develop.	400,400	1/7.40	50,218	+ 15,818	11	549,492	+ 189,092
Dusun Durian	520,000	1/11.47	68,254	+ 30,938	10	586,075	+ 283,203
E. Ind. & Cey.	175,540	1/3.36	27,131	+ 12,429	11	159,460	+ 20,941
Edinburgh	327,000	1/9.71	40,000	+ 12,500	11	384,000	+ 114,000
Elphal	170,000	1/8.21	19,103	+ 8,222	11	165,277	+ 61,526
Emerald	320,000	1/2	41,500	+ 20,300	10	293,700	+ 117,100
Eow Seng	170,000	1/1.20	15,750	+ 2,563	11	144,208	+ 8,186
Escot	180,000	1/2.32	19,000	+ 6,000	2	35,620	+ 6,620
Fed. Malay S.	1,538,982	1/9.50	173,000	+ 49,000	6	959,000	+ 216,465
Fed. Selangor	345,000	1/0.01	31,903	+ 2,550	8	235,897	+ 21,787
Galaha	103,144	—	13,735	+ 3,285	11	98,926	+ 11,827
Galang Besar	400,000	1/8.91	37,500	+ 4,900	5	180,560	+ 17,070
Gal Kae	160,000	—	16,028	+ 3,928	5	72,485	+ 16,383
Garing	150,000	1/3.49	16,000	+ 2,720	2	30,300	+ 3,770
Gedong	184,000	1/0.68	19,775	+ 6,832	11	19,775	+ 6,832
Gen. Ceylon	835,000	1/0.10	121,500	+ 59,347	11	779,390	+ 151,046
Glen Berrie	220,000	1/2.57	24,937	+ 6,390	2	44,995	+ 7,745
Glendon	240,000	1/1.56	27,608	+ 10,144	2	49,721	+ 10,601
Glenshiel	295,000	1/3.06	41,348	+ 19,829	11	340,450	+ 142,482
Goleonda	498,000	1/11.86	51,592	+ 6,507	11	529,022	+ 103,902
Golden Hope	225,000	1/2.04	27,143	+ 9,601	11	338,378	+ 58,805
Grand Cent.	4,000,000	1/0.72	510,156	+ 203,087	11	3,648,108	+ 664,112
Gula Kal'p'g.	1,269,000	1/1.1	122,100	+ 19,201	11	1,061,311	+ 126,945
Harpenden	431,000	1/11.23	41,600	+ 5,295	11	467,216	+ 99,526
Hayoep.	451,000	1/4.59	42,685	+ 7,353	11	447,086	+ 134,702
Heawood	600,000	1/3.28	23,040	+ 9,453	11	183,406	—
Hid. St. Gams	190,000	1/2.80	89,000	+ 35,500	11	559,700	+ 94,600
Highlands	1,233,000	1/11.22	23,500	+ 6,000	11	215,688	+ 63,688
Inch-Kenneth	354,000	1/3.41	39,890	+ 17,420	11	216,310	+ 85,340
Insulinde	375,140	1/8.92	21,500	+ 7,100	5	99,306	+ 36,310
Java Anal.	480,000	—	54,200	+ 20,900	11	477,070	+ 179,300
Java R & Prod	240,000	—	27,500	+ 7,608	11	260,933	—
Java Para	250,000	1/1.20	29,600	+ 17,595	11	238,059	+ 110,260
Jerah	167,100	1/1.80	26,140	+ 4,766	8	174,683	+ 27,502
" Rub. Ld.	1,000,000	1/0.6	16,100	+ 1,700	5	70,032	+ 7,532
Jong Landor	650,000	—	50,233	+ 56,236	11	777,370	+ 409,841
Jugra Estate	350,000	1/0.60	34,701	+ 16,785	8	285,217	+ 8,469
Jugra Land	1,600,000	1/1.35	39,794	+ 29,752	7	643,003	+ 194,647
Kali	200,000	1/1.95	29,254	+ 18,074	11	233,079	+ 151,449
Kali Glagah	1,000,000	—	17,500	+ 6,500	8	119,600	+ 49,346
Kamp Kua't'n	350,000	1/0.93	31,000	+ 2,900	11	318,700	+ 27,700
Kamuning	810,000	1/1.49	91,090	+ 33,630	11	386,990	+ 70,200
Kapar Para	762,800	1/0.62	84,131	+ 37,639	11	728,015	+ 357,803
Karak	138,201	2/1.88	19,731	+ 6,039	11	181,203	+ 50,199
Kasintoe	200,000	—	34,000	+ 25,192	8	236,400	+ 177,380
Kawie Java	450,000	—	2,200	—	8	287,800	+ 69,805
Kepingalla	591,000	1/4	65,914	+ 24,338	8	415,738	+ 76,267
Kepong	300,000	1/9.53	26,300	+ 1,000	11	266,500	+ 23,000
Kerala	215,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
Khota Tampin	200,000	1/3.30	—	—	—	—	—
Killingball	266,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kimanis	263,000	2/1.39	34,500	+ 18,500	11	233,761	+ 36,804
Kinta Kellas	445,000	1/2.81	46,685	+ 19,787	8	332,374	+ 128,674
Klabang	220,000	1/4.15	24,000	+ 9,622	11	201,768	+ 49,411
Klangang	—	1/0.91	35,775	+ 13,453	11	363,688	+ 51,683
Kombok	419,000	1/1.59	48,830	+ 5,390	11	430,340	+ 155,056
Kuala Klang	175,000	1/1.57	17,710	+ 1,417	2	36,239	+ 3,173
" Kubu	150,000	—	14,125	+ 2,985	5	63,091	+ 11,512
" Lumpur	1,600,000	1/0.64	141,500	+ 30,970	5	679,140	+ 73,165
" Na	210,000	1/3.36	15,500	+ 5,500	11	173,800	+ 66,127
" Pahi	160,000	—	14,942	+ 7,226	11	148,138	+ 58,539
" Selangor	600,000	1/9.2	53,922	+ 5,575	11	572,959	+ 57,655
Kurau	330,000	1/1.08	31,200	+ 4,781</			

Tanj. Malim	1,100,000	1/2.97	105,930	+ 42,390	5	457,380	+ 157,948
Tandjong	1,455,000	1/0.59	120,886	+ 24,390	5	592,960	+ 130,156
Tangeol	290,000	1/5.07	23,760	+ 6,435	5	99,847	+ 54,031
Tebrau	1,100,000	1/2.05	94,240	+ 18,249	5	463,941	+ 101,992
Teekoo	222,170d	1/5	28,082	+ 1,931	4	105,018	+ 21,000
Teloregidoj	237,000	1/5	47,000	+ 37,912	11	331,568	+ 277,064
Tenom B'neco	530,000	1/11.93	55,000	+ 15,500	11	522,650	+ 120,350
Third Mile	425,000	1/0.30	31,522	+ 5,873	11	384,303	+ 79,187
Tremelbye	550,000	1/0.80	65,500	+ 15,500	5	300,300	+ 54,650
Trolak	225,000	1/3	28,526	+ 7,809	2	54,986	+ 16,794
Ulu Rantau	227,648d	1/2.49	25,624	+ 4,544	11	236,767	+ 32,453
U. Suabotang	800,000	1/2.77	87,321	+ 35,801	11	714,233	+ 340,203
U. Serdang	2,913,800d	1/11.79	295,904	+ 41,322	3	847,499	+ 98,997
U. Sumatra	800,000	1/0.7	84,220	+ 17,130	11	759,930	+ 163,130
U. Temiang	645,000	1/5.03	52,690	+ 23,070	4	196,210	+ 85,100
Uva	154,450d	1/5.28	18,561	+ 6,340	11	173,032	+ 32,466
Val d'Or	250,000	1/3	30,800	+ 9,300	1	30,800	+ 9,300
Victoria	164,000	1/5.28	17,300	+ 11,815	5	65,640	+ 48,576
Windsor	253,000d	1/4.21	29,000	+ 12,790	11	243,260	+ 111,789
Woodend	180,000	1/2.75	27,057	+ 15,101	11	162,205	+ 44,789
Yam Seng	300,000	1/2.75	36,330	+ 10,072	1	36,330	+ 26,228
Yatiantota	—	—	64,090	+ 25,509	11	380,528	+ 4,266

a Last year's crop. † For September. * For October.

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down	Dec. 8	£	3,204	+ 441	*	£	180,769	+ 7,941
Grand Canal	" 8	£	1,154	+ 14	†	£	24,531	+ 2,307
Great Northern	" 8	£	22,135	+ 1,485	†	£	1,184,748	+ 47,398
Gt. Southern and Western	" 8	£	32,832	+ 3,713	†	£	1,647,749	+ 51,919
Midland Great Western	" 8	£	13,303	+ 289	*	£	649,089	+ 13,608

* From Jan. 1. † From July 1.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

Assam Bengal	Nov. 4	Rs.	1,52,000	+ 4,739	†	Rs.	6,99,000	+ 46,211
Bengal & N.W.	" 4	Rs.	3,64,110	+ 44,576	†	Rs.	16,49,840	+ 1,31,606
Bengal Nagpur	" 11	Rs.	9,75,000	+ 1,83,000	†	Rs.	2,97,28,638	+ 46,24,158
Bombay, Baroda	Dec. 2	Rs.	14,31,000	+ 77,000	†	Rs.	1,09,32,000	+ 2,06,000
Burma	Nov. 4	Rs.	3,54,112	+ 47,402	†	Rs.	1,21,28,249	+ 8,38,564
Delhi Umballa	Dec. 9	Rs.	77,200	+ 21,506	†	Rs.	8,20,000	+ 1,51,156
East Indian	" 9	Rs.	21,44,000	+ 45,000	†	Rs.	2,14,49,000	+ 7,79,000
Gt. Indian Pentin	" 9	Rs.	22,86,900	+ 21,000	†	Rs.	1,91,16,700	+ 13,27,022
Lucknow-Bareilly	Nov. 4	Rs.	30,528	+ 1	†	Rs.	1,50,890	+ 4,208
Madras and S.	" 11	Rs.	7,70,000	+ 36,500	†	Rs.	50,16,000	+ 2,54,271
Mahratta	" 11	Rs.	89,454	+ 22,436	†	Rs.	6,37,318	+ 59,342
Nizam's Gd. (Broad)	" 11	Rs.	70,405	+ 2,030	†	Rs.	3,77,112	+ 4,403
Robilkund and	" 4	Rs.	30,387	+ 2,673	†	Rs.	1,61,545	+ 9,068
Kumaon	" 11	Rs.	5,56,924	+ 38,143	†	Rs.	33,71,654	+ 104,133
South Indian	" 11	Rs.	—	—	†	Rs.	—	—

† April 1. † October 1.

COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

Beira	Sept. *	£	27,898	+ 10,848	3	£	100,689	+ 7,577
Canadian Northern	Dec. 7	£	917,900	+ 87,300	†	£	19,064,000	+ 4,317,400
Canadian Pacific	" 7	£	3,139,000	+ 93,000	†	£	67,185,000	+ 10,375,000
Gr. Trk. Main Line	" 7	£	188,200	+ 35,283	†	£	9,109,644	+ 1,540,957
Gr. Trk. Western	" 7	£	35,795	+ 5,198	†	£	1,789,758	+ 293,930
Detroit G. H. & M.	" 7	£	12,575	+ 1,527	†	£	634,500	+ 90,248
Gr Trk Pac Prairie Sc	" 7	£	34,315	+ 10,981	†	£	505,599	+ 95,493
Masonaland	Sept. *	£	54,414	+ 1,436	4	£	—	—
Mid. of Westn. Aus.	Oct. *	£	6,878	+ 317	4	£	24,048	+ 761
New Cape Central	Nov. 4	£	1,748	+ 386	4	£	68, 69	+ 8,219
Rhodesia	Sept. *	£	87,187	+ 8,740	4	£	350,971	+ 27,197

* Months. † July 1. † Jan. 1. c From Oct. 1.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Chesapeake & Ohio	Nov. 30	£	1,489,000	+ 103,000	†	£	20,976,000	+ 1,344,000
Chicago G.W.	" 30	£	343,000	+ 22,000	†	£	7,175,000	+ 919,000
Colorado & South'n	" 21	£	375,000	+ 6,000	†	£	6,859,000	+ 609,000
Denver & Rio Gran.	" 30	£	707,000	+ 51,000	†	£	11,860,000	+ 416,000
Louisv'e & Nashv'e	" 21	£	1,402,000	+ 237,000	†	£	26,118,000	+ 3,576,000
Minn. S.P. (Soo)	" 14	£	711,000	+ 170,000	†	£	14,001,000	+ 515,000
Missouri Kansas	" 30	£	1,046,000	+ 79,000	†	£	17,154,000	+ 3,385,000
Southern	" 30	£	2,070,000	+ 193,000	†	£	32,730,000	+ 4,044,000

‡ Includes Wisconsin Central. † From July 1.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—HOME.

Bristol	Dec. 8	£	9,609	+ 474	†	£	494,435	+ 23,467
Dublin United	" 8	£	6,070	+ 314	†	£	298,706	+ 1,580
Hastings and Dist.	" 8	£	834	+ 156	†	£	50,943	+ 3,514
Isle of Thanet	" 9	£	214	+ 22	*	£	2,710	+ 35
Lancashire United	" 6	£	1,682	+ 200	†	£	89,813	+ 5,374
Provincial	" 9	£	1,839	+ 159	*	£	20,595	+ 251
Yorks. (Wst. Rdng.)	" 10	£	1,577	+ 32	†	£	87,559	+ 9,115

* From Oct. 1. † From Jan. 1.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.

Anglo-Argentine	Dec. 9	£	52,955	+ 1,155	†	£	2,507,386	+ 4,237
Auckland Electric	Nov. 20b	£	20,729	+ 181	a	£	105,015	+ 979
Brazilian Traction	Oct. 3	£	3,821,000	+ M86,000	†	£	38,194,000	+ M931,580
Brisbane Elec. Inv.	Nov. 4	£	26,740	+ 4,380	†	£	357,160	+ 10,036
British Columbia	Oct. 3	£	993,418	+ 34,643	4	£	393,803	+ 148,636
B.A. Lacroze	Nov. 3	£	39,173	+ 3,430	5	£	199,778	+ 16,624
Burmah Electric	Nov 16b	Rs.	26,824	+ Rs. 3,129	†	Rs.	—	+ Rs. 8,205
Calcutta	Dec. 9	Rs.	72,671	+ Rs. 5,408	†	Rs.	739,638	+ 183,423
Cordoba Light	" 9	£	13,533	+ 92	6	£	98,087	+ 740
P. & T.	Oct. 3	£	13,750	+ 3,161	†	£	636,975	+ 152,768
Hongkong	Nov. 4	£	4,342	+ 202	11	£	46,399	+ 429
La Plata	" 5	£	33,292	+ 1,081	10	£	337,350	+ 16,858
Lima	Oct. 3	Rs.	29,664	+ Rs. 3,827	†	Rs.	65,170	+ Rs. 51,009
Madras Electric	Nov. 30c	£	215,256	+ 108,669	†	£	3,193,106	+ 197,227
Mexico	" 3	£	5,033	+ 5	5	£	40,555	+ 1,839
Rangoon	" 3	£	12,833	+ 707	†	£	555,666	+ 55,527
Singapore Electric	" 4	£	437,623	+ 4,579	10	£	4,355,734	+ 407,127
Toronto	Oct. 3	£	28,729	+ 1,545	12	£	347,772	+ 17,171
United of Monte V.	" June	£	380,700	+ 328,400	7	£	375,300	+ 506,600
Vera Cruz	" 3	£	96,243	+ 8,727	10	£	975,126	+ 23,556
Winnipeg	Oct. 3	£	—	—	†	£	—	—

b 28 days. * From Jan. 1. ‡ Nett. a From July 1. c Two weeks.

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.				GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.			
	Week ending	Amount	in. or dec. on last year.		Wks.	Amount	in. or dec. on last year.	
Alcoy and Gandia ..	Dec. 9	Ps. 12,500	—	£ 1,000	†	Ps. 627,300	+ Ps. 27,600	
Antofagasta (Chili)	" 10	40,385	+	4,395	†	1,712,295	+ 481,470	
Arauco ..	Oct. 2	12,000	+	2,775	†	185,238	+ 30,491	
Argentine N.E.	Dec. 9	5,800	+	23	†	153,202	+ 3,174	
Bilbao R. and Canta	Nov. 2	5,437	+	221	†	52,214	+ 3,321	
Bolivar ..	" 3	7,000	+	2,015	†	37,250	+ 2,473	
Brazil ..	Sept. 3	M3,863,000	+	M365,734	†	M320,000	+ M268,942	
Brazil Gt. Southern	" 3	M18,505,503	+	M15,600	†	M332,571	+ M25,070	
B. Ayres & Pacific	Dec. 9	87,000	+	5,000	†	1,933,000	+ 92,000	
Do. Central	Nov. 3	22,855	+	1	†	128,374	+ 6,586	
Do. Gt. South'n	Dec. 10	124,000	—	3,000	†	2,402,254	+ 226,346	
Do. Western	" 10	52,000	—	3,000	†	1,211,000	+ 118,000	
Central Argentine.	" 9	100,000	+	2,900	†	2,574,700	+ 41,000	
C. Ur'g'ay of Mts V.	" 9	13,058	+	352	†	282,609	+ 9,968	
Do. East'n Ex.	" 9	5,404	+	1,169	†	96,139	+ 9,256	
Do. North'n Ex.	" 9	2,131	+	252	†	45,636	+ 805	
Do. West'n Ex.	" 9	2,147	—	300	†	43,071	+ 452	
Colombian National	Oct. 3	12,400	+	2,200	†	115,850	+ 11,608	
Cordoba Central	Dec. 9	24,400	—	2,830	†	702,975	+ 8,000	
Costa Rica ..	Oct. 21	4,113	—	2,123	†	81,475	+ 496	
Cuban Central	Dec. 9	8,788	—	238	†	209,436	+ 21,740	
Dorada Extension..	Nov. 3	8,300	+	1,400	†	91,200	+ 5,000	
Egyptian Delta	Nov. 20a	8,484	+	1,797	†	133,901	+ 26,689	
Entre Rios ..	Dec. 9	8,600	—	2,600	†	264,300	+ 35,800	
French Sante Fé	Sept. 3	99,264	+	21,521	†	818,311	+ 133,999	
Gt. South. of Spain	Dec. 2	Ps. 79,457	+	Ps. 2,795	†	Ps. 619,881	+ Ps. 70,439	
Gt. West. of Brazil.	" 9	18,900	—	6,100	†	529,400	+ 42,200	
Havana Central	Nov. 25	7,007	—	1,380	†	132,582	+ 15,720	
Inter. of C. Amer...	Oct. 3	33,082	+	5,424	†	479,670	+ 78,953	
La Guaira and Car.	Nov. 3	7,000	—	250	†	85,250	+ 10,750	
Leopoldina ..	Dec. 9	29,147	+	2,219	†	1,235,259	+ 225,619	
Manila (N. & Sth.)	" 9	10,056	+	4,671	†	455,145	+ 32,918	
Midland Uruguay	Nov. 3	13,404	—	4,461	†	58,786	+ 7,339	
Mogiana ..	Sept. 3	M2,300,000	—	M131,436	†	M166,680	+ M174,162	
N.W. of Uruguay	Nov. 3	82,500	—	3,235	†	819,207	+ 82,059	
Nitrate ..	Nov. 30b	32,400	—	7,720	†	621,825	+ 295,442	
Paraguay Central	Dec. 9	2,910	—	50	†	60,350	+ 5,230	
Paulista ..	Sept. 3	M3,500,000	—	M393,404	†	M227,500	+ M175,742	
Peruvian Corp'n	Nov. 3	S25,826	—	S174,100	†	S4,514,650	+ S656,873	
Salvador ..	Dec. 9	82,600	—	3,350	†	868,105	+ 39,986	
S. Paulo (Brazilian)	" 3	37,650	—	3,932	†	1,380,638	+ 86,784	
Sorocabana ..	Sept. 3	Mr. 856,000	—	Mr. 137,383	†	Mr. 136,698	+ Mr. 18,634	
Taital. ..	Nov. 3	17,078	—	240	†	95,738	+ 12,959	
United of Havana.	Dec. 9	35,152	—	5,751	†	719,606	+ 130,262	
West'n of Havana.	Nov. 25	5,501	—	876	†	112,367	+ 17,998	
Z'fra and Huelva.	Oct. 3	12,003	+	657	†	116,211	+ 31,892	

SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

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FUNDS OVER £10,500,000.

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Total Assets Exceed £16,000,000.

Claims Paid Exceed £24,000,000.

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NOTICE.—Owing to the Christmas Holidays THE INVESTORS' REVIEW will next week be published on Friday morning, and the Office will be closed from Friday evening to the following Wednesday morning.

The Investors' Review.

Money and Credit Notes.

BANK RATE 6 PER CENT. (Increased from 5 per cent. on Thursday, July 13.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

The City will again be discussing the probability of a definite War Loan stimulated thereby by the grave figures recited by Mr. Bonar Law on Thursday. It might certainly tend to the smooth working of the market were the terms of the new loan to be settled, and an issue made early in the new year, but it is not much use as yet trying to hurry up the new Government. Give it a little time to find out things, and to make up its mind. Of actual credit movements in the City there have again been none worth describing this week. Business is quiet enough, and sometimes it looks as if there were more sellers of short-dated Treasury bills than buyers in the market, but it amounts to little one way or another, and both money and discount rates remain unchanged as in our tables. They are likely to continue much where they are until the turn of the year unless some unforeseen incident or unusual and unlooked for shortage should arise.

The week's business, whether Government or private, has made very little change in the Bank return. The proportion of reserves to liabilities has declined a minute fraction to 21½ per cent., but that is due as much to a change in the total of the reserves as to the slight further decrease in the Bank's liabilities. Public deposits have shrunk £1,205,000, and other deposits £2,420,000, but other securities have also gone down £2,690,000, and as we do not know how to interpret these movements we need not trouble to try. Actually the reserve is £936,000 lower, and of that decline £837,000 is due to coin and bullion withdrawals.

New rules have been issued by the India Office for the sale of bills and telegraphic transfers on India. Intermediate sales are suspended for the present, but tenders will continue to be received and allotments made on Wednesdays at 1 o'clock at the Bank of England. Owing to this suspension, the amount to be offered next week is increased from Rs. 50,00,000 to Rs. 80,00,000. No allotments, however, will be made at lower rates than 1s. 4d. per rupee for bills and deferred telegraphic transfers, and 1s. 4 7-32d. for immediate telegraphic transfers. A notice issued late to-day states that not more than 10 lakhs will be allotted on December 20 to any one applicant. The step of restricting the amounts to be sold each week and of fixing minimum prices has been rendered necessary by the steady reduction of the Indian currency reserves. Imports from India have shown considerable expansion, while prices have risen substantially, and with our exports very greatly restricted, the demand for remittances has naturally been keen. Sales of drafts have recently risen to between 200 and 300 lakhs per week, so that the restriction to a maximum of 80 lakhs now imposed will seriously affect those houses which have contracts with India to meet. Some weeks ago an effort was made to relieve the situation by increasing the fiduciary issue of notes by 12 crores of rupees against the purchase of £8,000,000 Treasury bills in London, and merchants are hoping that some further arrangement of this kind may be made to prevent a deadlock.

There has been a good deal of attention devoted lately to the weakness of the German exchange, which has fallen to a discount of more than 30 per cent. against gold, but the real surprise is that it should have held up so long, and we suspect that one motive impelling the Kaiser and his Junkers to begin suing for peace is that the cunning devices by which the market has been kept from falling much further are nearly used up. Germany has been unable to export anything to speak of for over two years. How is she contriving to pay for her imports which she draws from Holland, Denmark, and Sweden? It must be by creating wind credit wherever it is possible to do so, probably in the United States first and most of all. Does Mr. Jacob Schiff's zeal for an early peace find any nutriment in the condition of the banking account of Germany with his and other bankers in the North American Republic? The question is worth bearing in mind, because it will get an answer one of these days.

Like ourselves France is compelled to endure more taxes. That is where war's punishment comes in, especially for the defeated, and doubtless the Germans begin to understand that their postponement of any serious provision to meet the load of debt their aggressive war has piled upon the Empire is going to land them in a pretty mess, now that "indemnities are no longer to be counted on." The French Government in the report of the Budget Committee, drawn up by

THE MANCHESTER AND LIVERPOOL DISTRICT BANKING COMPANY LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1829.

Head Office: Spring Gardens, Manchester.
London Office: 75, Cornhill.

Deposits	-	-	-	£30,630,010
Cash, etc., Bills, Investments				20,487,555
Advances	-	-	-	13,454,332

30th June, 1916.

Foreign Banking Business transacted.
Bank acts as Trustee or Executor.

Deputy Peret, told the nation that including the £320,000,000 of war credits needed for the first quarter of 1917, the total amount which the war will have cost the Republic is £2,900,000,000, and nearly the whole of this has had to be borrowed, for only £340,000,000 has been furnished from the proceeds of taxation between August 1, 1914, and October 31 last. The actual cost of the new debt to the country is now £100,000,000 per annum, and the whole of that added charge will have sooner or later to be found either by imposing additional taxes or by economy. And the French Government is faithfully seeking for taxes to fill the gap. The war profits tax alone is expected to yield £12,000,000 next quarter, or at the rate of almost half the present war debt demand. Then a tiny sum of £1,600,000 expected from the new income-tax this year is, if possible, to be doubled in the coming year, raised, that is, from 2½ per cent. to 5. Also £3,000,000 is to be drawn from a variety of small sources, some of which may have considerable effect on social habits. Postage stamps on letters are to be raised in price, as also the charges for telegrams and for the use of the telephone. Then taxes on dogs are to be raised, and, apparently, graduated up to £3 per annum. In this last move there is a hint to our new Chancellor of the Exchequer.

How little it takes now to comfort holders of securities affected by the war. The shares of Australian companies were depressed last week by the report that the 50 per cent. levy on excess war profits in Australia was to be doubled for the second year of the war, that is to say, the whole of these profits it was said would be seized by the Commonwealth. When it turned out that the increase was to be only to 75 per cent., and that 25 per cent. would still remain for the profit-getters the shares hardened on the market. The profit standard from which the excess profits tax will begin to be reckoned is, first a limit of £200, the same as here, and next a 7 per cent. yield for companies, and 8 per cent. for private firms. All above 7 and 8 per cent. will be shared with the Commonwealth Treasury.

The Treasury announces that the offer published on September 22 last to purchase holdings of Province of Manitoba Government 4½ per cent. registered stock, 1953, will be withdrawn on the evening of Friday, the 22nd instant, and no holdings tendered after that date will be accepted.

SILVER.

The principal influence in the silver market has been the further decrease of over two crores in the stock of rupees held by the Indian Treasury. At the same time the supplies available continue small, and with a moderate general inquiry the price has advanced steadily to 37d. per oz.

Applications for the Rs. 50,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 5,73,25,000. Of these Rs. 2,65,000 were allotted in bills, Rs. 36,71,000 in deferred transfers, and Rs. 10,64,000 in immediate transfers. Tenders for bills and deferred transfers at rs. 4 3-32d., and for immediate transfers at rs. 4 3-32d., received about 10 per cent. Special sales have also been made of Rs. 24,833 in bills, Rs. 70,00,000 in deferred transfers at rs. 4½d., Rs. 1,31,50,000 in immediate transfers at rs. 4 5-32d., and also Rs. 12,00,000 in immediate transfers at rs. 4 7-32d. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is increased to Rs. 80,00,000. Since April 1 the total sales have been Rs. 30,15,67,364, realising £20,264,749.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, December 13, 1916.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued	£	Government Debt..	£
.. .. 71,911,650		.. .. 11,015,100	
		Other Securities	7,424,000
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	53,461,650
		Silver Bullion	—
	£71,911,650		£71,911,650

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital	£	Government Securities	£
.. .. 14,553,000		.. .. 42,187,599	
Reserve	3,234,561	Other Securities	104,059,713
Public Deposits (including		Notes	33,954,310
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,644,274
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	57,511,685		
Other Deposits	106,526,295		
Seven Day and other Bills	20,355		
	£181,845,896		£181,845,896

Dated Dec. 14 1916.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year.

Last year, Dec. 15.		Dec. 6, 1916.	Dec. 13, 1916.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,296,508	Rest	3,235,919	3,234,561	—	1,358
54,130,369	Pub. Deposits ..	58,716,597	57,511,685	—	1,204,912
94,169,276	Other do.	108,946,791	106,526,295	—	2,419,896
14,597	7 Day Bills ..	20,027	20,355	328	—
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
32,840,075	Gov. Securities ..	42,187,603	42,187,599	94	—
96,865,303	Other do.	106,749,046	104,059,713	2,689,933	—
34,329,820	Total Reserve ..	36,534,395	35,598,584	935,811	—
				3,626,166	3,626,166
£		£	£	Increase	Decrease.
32,840,075	Note Circulation	37,858,335	37,957,340	99,005	—
50,281,182	Coin and Bullion	55,942,730	55,105,924	—	836,806
23.6 p.c.	Proportion	21.8 p.c.	21.7 p.c.	—	1 p.c.
5 "	Bank Rate	6 "	6 "	—	—

CURRENCY NOTES.

Return of Currency Notes for the week ended December 13, 1916.

	Issued.	Cancelled.	Outstanding.
£1 notes	4,381,995	2,531,158	97,101,928
10s. notes	1,491,279	889,346	29,408,969
Note certificates	350,000	200,000	14,660,000
Previous total	486,764,639	348,196,512	—
	492,987,914	351,817,017	141,170,897

Ratio of gold held against notes: this week, 22.51 p.c.; last week, 22.97 p.c.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For 7 days ended Dec. 9.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE		
£	£		
Customs	1,820,000	National Debt Service ..	160,582
Excise	625,000	Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	3,041,675
Estate, &c., Duties	482,000	Development & Road Impvt.	—
Stamps	313,000	Payments to Local Taxation	181,984
Land Tax and House Duty	—	Other Consolidated Fund	—
Property and Income Tax ..	882,000	Charges	11,600
Excess Profits Tax	5,055,000	Supply Services	13,059,609
Land Values	—	Bullion Advances	50,000
Post Office	600,000	For Advance for Interest	—
Crown Lands	—	on Exchequer Bonds under	—
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	—	Capital Expenditure	—
Miscellaneous	50,000	(Money) Act, 1904	—
Bullion advances repaid ..	50,000	For Treasury Bills	29,629,000
For Treasury Bills	35,675,000	For Exchequer Bonds issued	—
War Loan, 1925-8	—	under the War Loan Re-	—
War Loan, 1925-45	—	demption Act, 1910 ..	—
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919 ..	—	Issues under Section 61 of	—
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920 ..	—	Finance Act, 1916	25,700
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1921 ..	—	Under Telegraph (Money)	—
6% Exchequer Bonds, 1922 ..	9,480,000	Act, 1913	20,000
War Expenditure Certificates	196,300	Under Post Office (Lon-	—
War Savings Certificates ..	900,000	don) Railway Act, 1913 ..	—
Other Debts created under	—	Under Housing Act ..	—
War Loan Act, 1915, and	—	Public Buildings Expendi-	—
Finance Act, 1916	—	ture Act, 1903	—
Telegraph Money Act, 1913	—	Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8 ..	—
Under Post Office Rly. Act,	—	Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11 ..	—
1913	—	For Redemption of Ex-	—
Under Military Works Acts,	—	chequer Bonds, 1904 ..	—
1897-1903	—	Exchequer Bonds, 1916 ..	—
Under Housing Act	—	Cunard Loan repayment is-	—
Redemption of Exchequer	—	ued to reduce debt under	—
Bonds, 1904	—	the Cunard Agreement ..	130,000
Cunard Loan—repayment on	—	Deficiency advances repaid	—
account of principal ..	—	Ways and Means Advances	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	—	repaid	5,115,000
Ways and Means Advances	500,000	Increase in Exchequer	—
Decrease to Exchequer	—	balances	5,203,051
balances	—		
	£56,628,301		£56,628,301

SHORT TERM GOVERNMENT LOANS.

	Nett Sales Last Week.	Nett Sales This Week.	Total Outstanding.
Treasury Bills	23,414,000	583,000	1,148,471,000
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919 ..	—	—	34,212,000
Do. 1920	—	—	237,805,969
Do. 1921	—	—	62,644,000
6% Exchequer Bonds	12,212,000	9,480,000	133,734,000
War Expenditure Certificates	263,300	196,300	49,150,100
War Savings Certificates ..	1,050,000	900,000	38,450,000

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Dec. 14, 1916.	Dec. 7, 1916.	Nov. 30, 1916.	Dec. 16, 1915.
Gold in hand	202,640,560	202,197,930	201,821,880	201,054,060
Silver in hand	12,318,960	12,440,360	12,553,520	14,308,880
Bills discounted	23,017,280	22,319,320	25,804,640	14,979,160
Advances	53,424,360	53,493,500	53,311,000	46,001,320
Note circulation	655,381,160	651,920,280	644,779,840	537,950,120
Public deposits	1,066,160	2,734,840	2,201,320	89,469,920
Private deposits	80,872,480	78,116,560	76,673,520	88,566,280
Foreign Bills	244,280	247,480	255,480	50,600

Proportion between bullion and circulation 32.80 per cent., against 32.92 per cent. last week. Advances to the State £284,000,000, increase £8,000,000. The adjourned payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium, £24,384,920, decrease £129,660, and at the branches £29,461,640, decrease £71,000.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1916.	1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
January	1,071,948,000	918,685,000	153,263,000	—
February	1,107,655,000	960,743,000	146,912,000	—
March	1,364,590,000	1,231,392,000	133,207,000	—
April	1,090,356,000	976,264,000	114,092,000	—
May	1,447,416,000	1,164,194,000	283,222,000	—
June	1,147,630,000	960,209,000	187,421,000	—
July	1,239,193,000	1,316,695,000	—	77,502,000
August	1,364,782,000	1,352,519,000	12,263,000	—
September	1,136,590,000	1,000,008,000	136,582,000	—
October	1,304,880,000	1,000,919,000	213,961,000	—
Nov. 1	315,087,000	273,423,000	41,664,000	—
" 8	312,043,000	269,284,000	42,759,000	—
" 15	322,327,000	262,398,000	59,929,000	—
" 22	323,713,000	261,627,000	62,086,000	—
" 29	322,618,000	263,784,000	58,834,000	—
Dec. 6	363,003,000	271,441,000	91,562,000	—
" 13	319,639,000	255,433,000	64,206,000	—
Total	14,553,479,000	12,829,018,000	1,729,461,000	—

FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	Nov. 24, 1916.	Nov. 17, 1916.	Nov. 26, 1915.
	£	£	£
Gold coin and certificates	56,746,000	58,628,200	49,197,200
Gold Redemption Fund	280,800	276,670	250,400
Gold Settlement Fund	34,960,200	28,164,200	14,766,000
Legal tender notes, silver, &c.	3,594,800	3,316,000	7,442,400
Total reserves	95,581,800	90,445,000	71,656,000
3% redemption fund against F.R. bank notes	94,000	94,000	—
10-day bills and loans	3,493,000	2,236,000	1,232,800
30-day bills and loans	5,494,400	5,848,400	2,258,000
60-day bills and loans	10,150,200	9,196,400	3,665,000
90-day bills and loans	5,074,600	5,932,000	1,904,800
Maturities over 90 days	306,400	304,600	766,200
Total	24,518,600	23,498,600	9,794,600
Investments—			
U.S. Bonds	7,885,400	7,823,000	2,583,800
One year U.S. Treasury notes	2,233,400	2,233,400	—
Municipal Warrants	4,413,200	3,719,400	5,461,600
Federal Reserve notes—nett.	3,082,800	2,851,200	3,855,200
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—nett.	8,652,600	11,954,600	2,810,600
All other assets	510,200	1,224,200	926,600
Total assets	147,012,000	143,843,400	97,068,400
Paid-up capital	11,142,200	11,140,800	10,909,200
Government Deposits	5,265,800	5,034,200	3,000,000
Reserve deposits—nett.	127,144,400	124,450,800	79,590,400
Note circulation—nett.	2,859,200	2,893,600	2,677,000
Fed. Res. notes in circulation	205,600	206,000	—
All other liabilities	126,800	118,000	831,800
Total liabilities	147,012,000	143,843,400	97,068,400
Gold reserve against nett liabilities	72.5%	72.3%	77.9%
Cash reserve against nett liabilities	75.3%	75.1%	86.9%

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	Dec. 9, 1916	Dec. 2, 1916	Nov. 25, 1916	Dec. 11, 1915
	£	£	£	£
Loans	666,296,000	678,821,000	689,312,000	630,082,000
Reserve held in own Vaults	80,674,000	77,512,000	81,290,000	103,916,000
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk.	34,676,000	33,986,000	35,610,000	32,262,000
Reserve held in Other Depos.	16,754,000	10,841,000	11,226,000	10,888,000
Nett Demand Deposits	650,684,000	660,666,000	677,514,000	645,014,000
Nett Time Deposits	34,068,000	34,160,000	33,372,000	29,364,000
Circulation	5,914,000	5,938,000	6,030,000	7,022,000
Excess Lawful Reserve	13,932,000	8,506,000	11,394,000	35,604,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits.

NEW YORK STATE BANKS & TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.).

	Dec. 9, 1916.	Dec. 2, 1916.	Nov. 25, 1916.	Dec. 11, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Loans	153,782,000	152,416,000	150,140,000	123,848,000
Specie	12,518,000	12,340,000	12,321,000	10,566,000
Deposits	162,172,000	162,216,000	160,676,000	129,118,000
Legal Tenders	2,164,000	2,096,000	2,070,000	2,000,000

IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Dec. 6, 1916.	Nov. 29, 1916.	Nov. 24, 1916.	Dec. 6, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Notes in reserve	12,000,000	11,480,000	12,430,000	6,925,500
Gold	146,510,000	146,680,000	155,880,000	160,815,100
Gold in reserve abroad	214,990,000	214,970,000	205,510,000	22,809,100
Loans and Discounts, including Treasury Bonds	679,010,000	686,250,000	693,190,000	—
Circulation note issue	830,500,000	823,520,000	817,570,000	528,900,000
Deposits, including Treasury deposit	22,935,000	23,039,000	23,499,000	23,342,500

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Dec. 7, 1916	Nov. 30, 1916.	Nov. 23, 1916.	Dec. 7, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Total Coin & Bullion	126,754,300	126,746,250	126,724,850	123,605,900
Treasury Notes	13,203,750	15,791,650	14,092,450	23,083,650
Bills discounted	396,534,200	403,784,350	419,178,450	249,596,200
Advances	574,950	620,200	536,100	679,000
Note circulation	370,094,500	366,683,850	333,267,350	302,044,500
Deposits	171,183,250	181,095,850	209,603,300	81,314,000

Clearing House returns during Nov., £285,269,763 against £309,547,600 in Oct.

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Nov. 25, 1916	Nov. 18, 1916	Nov. 11, 1916	Nov. 27, 1915
	£	£	£	£
Gold	48,050,222	48,038,188	47,898,225	33,737,709
Silver	29,846,255	29,704,802	29,641,134	30,113,734
Foreign Bills	3,902,708	3,901,819	3,905,652	4,003,578
Discounts and Short Bills	25,708,631	25,864,839	25,872,745	26,019,467
Treasury Account, &c.	29,480,254	29,358,803	29,800,362	28,049,286
Notes in Circulation	92,660,277	93,148,248	93,824,974	82,380,394
Current Accounts, Deposits	28,940,390	28,768,172	28,711,579	27,137,127
Dividends, Interests, &c.	1,606,946	2,284,623	1,569,533	1,750,105
Government Securities	3,685,727	3,145,264	3,315,515	1,991,590

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	Nov. 10, 1916	Oct. 31, 1916	Oct. 20, 1916	Nov. 10, 1915
	£	£	£	£
Total cash	44,305,680	45,904,760	43,709,000	53,263,600
Inland Bills	19,403,040	20,072,960	20,314,280	19,464,880
Foreign Bills	832,600	834,080	813,480	834,440
Advances	8,581,160	8,128,720	7,608,920	7,184,480
Government securities	8,756,280	8,800,680	8,795,320	8,078,920
Circulation	148,367,960	147,662,080	149,149,360	116,664,160
Deposits at notice	16,675,300	15,142,560	15,390,040	11,392,000
Current accounts	14,556,120	15,398,280	15,187,500	18,160,600

BANK OF NORWAY.

	Dec. 7, 1916.	Nov. 30, 1916.	Nov. 22, 1916.	Dec. 7, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	6,064,000	6,065,000	6,069,000	3,526,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills	5,179,000	5,288,000	5,348,000	3,788,000
Gov't Securities	767,700	767,000	767,000	81,000
Discounts & Loans	7,006,000	7,355,000	7,152,000	4,314,000
Notes in Circulation	13,284,000	13,220,000	13,085,000	8,400,000
Deposits at notice	3,194,000	3,606,000	3,745,000	1,377,000

BANK OF SWEDEN.

	Dec. 2, 1916.	Nov. 25, 1916.	Nov. 18, 1916.	Dec. 4, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	10,131,000	10,133,000	10,131,000	6,921,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills	8,019,000	7,873,000	7,862,000	7,980,000
Swedish and Foreign Gov't Securities	3,769,000	3,774,000	3,776,000	2,908,000
Discounts and Loans	6,317,000	4,377,000	4,562,000	4,931,000
Notes in circulation	21,429,000	19,958,000	20,240,000	16,863,000
Deposits at notice	5,559,000	5,105,000	5,146,000	5,150,000

SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	Dec. 7, 1916.	Nov. 30, 1916.	Nov. 23, 1916.	Dec. 7, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold and silver	14,970,756	14,531,718	13,596,400	12,073,100
Bills	6,746,180	7,054,792	6,535,136	5,519,412
Note circulation	18,800,888	19,167,040	18,451,980	16,697,440
Current and deposit accounts	4,703,188	4,531,476	3,209,692	3,368,756

NETHERLANDS BANK (12 Florins to the £).

	Dec. 9, 1916.	Dec. 2, 1916.	Nov. 25, 1916.	Dec. 11, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold and Silver	49,248,416	49,313,916	49,276,333	35,393,956
Bills and Advances	11,951,925	12,761,591	12,703,500	13,519,118
Note circulation	61,936,000	62,483,331	61,633,500	47,103,267
Deposits	2,892,500	3,062,166	3,832,616	3,609,480

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.
Paris	chqs	27.80½	27.80½	Antwerp	chqs	—	—
Brussels	chqs	—	—	Italy	chqs	32.16	31.50
Amsterdam	chqs	11.66	11.66	Constantinople	chqs	—	—
Christiania	—	16.05	17.27½	Rio de Janeiro	chqs	12d.	12½d.
Stockholm	—	16.25	16.50	Buenos Aires	chqs	5 13d.	5 13d.
Copenhagen	—	17.55½	17.03½	Calcutta	chqs	1 14d.	1 14d.
Petrograd	chqs	16 16	16	Bombay	chqs	1 14d.	1 14d.
New York	cable	4.76½	4.76½	Hong Kong	chqs	2 13d.	2 13d.
Lisbon	chqs	31½d.	31½d.	Shanghai	chqs	3 13d.	3 13d.
Madrid	chqs	22.20	23.80	Singapore	chqs	2 14d.	2 14d.
Switzerland	—	24.07½	23.70	Yokohama	chqs	2 14d.	2 14d.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Dec. 12, 1916.		Dec. 14, 1916.	
		Sellers.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Buyers.
Amsterdam	Cable transfers	11.64	11.67	11.65	11.68
"	Three months' bills	11.80	11.85	11.80	11.85
Paris	Cable transfers	27.79	27.82	27.79	27.82
"	Three months' bills	28.15	28.20	28.15	28.20
Marseilles	Cable transfers	18.15	18.20	18.15	18.20
Switzerland	Cable transfers	23.50	23.51	23.51	23.52
"	Three months' bills	23.85	24.00	24.00	24.10
Petrograd	Cable transfers	16 16	16 16	16 16	16 16
"	Three months' bills	16 16	16 16	16 16	16 16
Genoa, &c.	Cable transfers	32.75	32.95	32.95	33.10
"	Three months' bills	33.20	33.30	33.30	33.40
Spain	Cable transfers	22.20	22.40	22.40	22.60
"	Three months' bills	49 1/2	49 1/2	49 1/2	49 1/2
Lisbon and Oporto	Cable transfers	11	11	11	11
"	Cable transfers	17.45	17.55	17.55	17.65
Christiania	Cable transfers	16.05	17.05	17.05	17.15
Stockholm	Cable transfers	16 8	16.28	16.28	16.58

TREASURY BILLS.

	Last week.	This week
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months	5½	5½
Six months	(£98 12 10) (£98 12 10)	5½
Twelve months	(£97 5 12) (£97 5 12)	5½
	(£94 10 0) (£94 10 0)	

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Last week.	This week
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted	5½	5½
Three months	5½	5½
Four months	5½	5½
Six months	5½	5½
Three months fine inland bills	5½	5½
Four months	5½	5½
Six months	5½	5½

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Last week.	This week
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	6	6
Bankers' rate on deposits	6½	6½
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	4	4
7 and 14 days' notice	4½	4½
Current rates for 7 day loans	4½	5
for call loans	4½	5

The Week's Stock Markets.

Although business on the Stock Exchange has been extremely poor this week, it has afforded a rather sardonic illustration of the difference between the points of view of London and New York. The peace talk "made in Germany" had no effect here except as the first official intimation of the enemy's weakening, and quotations for Government and other leading securities tended to harden slightly, because the end of the war comes within more measurable distance. But in New York the German "offer" caused almost a panic, in case peace should come and cut off the profits from munitionments, and it was only when the views of the Allies had time to filter through that Wall Street pulled itself together. Of course, the technical position of the market in New York had most to do with these fluctuations, but the incident has its grimly amusing side, all the same. In other directions, the rather sharp fall in Shipping shares has been most prominent, on fears that the Government might take over control of the whole of the shipping industry; but Lord Inchcape's speech at the P. and O. meeting had a reassuring effect, and prices recovered. Mr. Bonar Law's statement about the results of the agreement with the railway companies has not had much influence, but it is rather interesting. He said that the arrangement had proved a good bargain for the State, and although he could not give actual figures, he thought he was safe in saying that there would be no financial loss, and probably some gain. As the Government shoulders most of the burden of increased wages, that is good news; but what about all the postponed expenditure on maintenance and renewals which the companies will have to face after the war? That is the crucial point from the railway stockholders' point of view.

The Stock Exchange has been extremely quiet all the week, and, in the absence of buyers, prices generally tended to give way. Shipping shares, especially, being flat. Markets, however, became much more cheerful later, the German "peace kite" being regarded as a confession of weakness. Consols touched 53½, but recovered as quickly as they went back, and closed ½ up on the week at 54½, while the 4½ per cent. War Loan improved ½ and the 3½ per cent. was marked up ½. Local Loans stock also rose ½, and Irish Land stock ½. The few changes in Colonial Government stocks were favourable. Amongst Foreign Government securities, French War Loan receded to 70½, several Russians fell 1, and Belgian 3 per cent. was also marked down 1. Brazilian things were steady, with a recovery in the old Funding Loan, but Chilean things showed some irregularity. Chinese loans were harder, and Japanese 4 per cent. (1905) put on ½, but both series of the 4½ per cent. dropped ½.

The Home Railway market remained in a neglected condition, and prices again gave way, but even here there was some recovery towards the close. North-Western fell 1 to 93½, but closed at 93½. Great Western fell ½, and North-Eastern and Midland preferred and deferred were all ½ down. District also fell ½, but Underground Electric income bonds improved to 92. Scotch stocks generally were weak. Canadian Pacific shares touched 172½, but recovered to 174, while Grand Trunk second and third preferences lost ½ each, and the guaranteed was marked down 2. American Railroad shares have been unsettled throughout on profit taking. A sharp setback on Wall Street, ostensibly on the German peace overtures, on Wednesday was followed by as sharp a recovery. United States Steel

common, however, which relapsed to 128½, closed at the lowest, and International Mercantile Marine common and preferred fell to 44½ and 120 respectively. Argentine Railways have been quiet, but generally show improvements of ½ to 1. Amongst other foreign railways, Leopoldina fell ½ and San Paulo 1, Guayaquil and Quito 5 per cent. bonds were marked down 2, and Mexican Railway ordinary stock lost 1 and the preferences 2½ each.

	Last Week	This Week		Last Week	This Week
Consols	54½	54½	N.S.W. 4½% 1922-7	93x	92
War Loan 3½%	84	84	" 5% 1921-3	95½x	95½
India 3%	54½	55½	" 5½% 1921-2	97½	97½
" 3½%	64½x	64	New Zealand 4%	94½	94½
Australian 5½% 1920-22	99½	100	Queensland 4%	82	82
Canada 4% 1940-60	83	83	" 4½% new	93½	93½
" 4½% 1920-5	94	94	Union of S. Africa 4½%	90x	90½
N.S.W. 4%	82x	81½	1920-5	92½	92
" 4½% 5 yr. bds.	95	95	Victoria 4½% 1920-5	90x	92
Belgian 3%	61	60	Westn. Aus. 4%	80	80
Brazil, 1913	62	62	French War Loan, 5%	80	79½
" New Funding	75	75	New	80	79½
Chinese 1896	90	90	Japan 4½% (1st)	95½	95
" 1912	74	74	" (2nd)	95½	95½
Egypt Unified 4%	79	79	Russia 4%	64	64
French War Loan, 5%	80	79½	" 4½%	74	74
Brighton defd.	61½	61½	" 5%	81	80
Caledonian defd.	8½	8½	London and S.W. defd.	22½	22½
Chatham ord.	8½	8	Do. new pf.	98	98
Gt. Central pf.	12½	12½	Metropolitan	23½	23
" defd.	68	7	Do. 5% New pf.	90	90
Gt. Eastern	34½	34½	Met. District	16	15½
Gt. Northern defd.	36½	36½	Midland defd.	55½	55½
Gt. Western	88½	87½	Nth. British defd.	13½	13
Lanes. and Yorks.	66½	65½	Nth.-Eastern	99½	99½
			Nth.-Western	94½	93½
			Sth.-Eastern defd.	25½	25½
Canadian Pacific	175	174	Chesapeake	71½x	69
Do. 6% Notes	109½	108½	Erie	40½	39
E. Indian Guar. 4½% debts.	87	86	Milwaukee	98½	96½
Grand Trunk ord.	10	9½	N. Y. Central	133½	131½
Do. 3rd pf.	24	23½	Southern	31½	31
Do. 5½% 3-yr. Notes	96	96	Southern Pacific	104½x	103
Do. 5½% 5-yr. "	96	96	Union Pacific	154½	152½
Atchison	111½	109½	U. S. Steel	141½	128½
Baltimore	90½	88½			
Antofagasta defd.	125	124	Cent. Argentine ord.	65	65½
Brazil Common	4	4	Do. 5% Notes	94½	95
B. A. & Pacific	40	40½	Do. 6% "	98½	99
B. A. Gt. Southern	77½	78	Leopoldina	31	30½
B. A. Western	77	77	Mexican ord.	15½	14½
			San Paulo (Brazilian)	179	175
Bank of Australasia	112	111	United of Havana	80½x	81
Barclay & Co. "A"	72	72	London City & Midland	7½	7½
Do. "B"	10½	10½	London County & West.	14½	14½
Capital & Counties	24	24½	London Joint Stock	21½	21
Chartered of India	57	56	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (£10½ pd)	25½	25½
Hongkong & Shanghai	76	76	Do. (£12 pd)	31	31
Lloyds	24½	24½	Parr's	28½	28½
London & Provincial	16½	16	Standard of S.A.	10½	10
London & S.W.	11½	11½	Union & Smiths.	23½	22½
Apollinaris ord.	2	2			
Armstrong, Whitworth	39½	38½	Forestal Land	53½	52½
Associated Cement	22	22	Furness, Withy	51½	47½
Birmingham Small Arms	47½	47½	Hudson's Bay	67½	68x
Borax defd.	33½	33½	Imperial Tobacco "B" pf.	21	21
Bovril	20½	20½	Do. "C" pf.	37½	34½
Brazil Tracton	48	46	Kynochs	32½	31½
British Amer. Tobacco	5½	5½	Lever Bros. "C" pf.	20½	20½
Brown (John), & Co.	34½x	34½	Lyons, J.	38	38
Brunner, Mond	47½	47½	Marconi	28	28½
Cammell-Laird	7	7	Maypole Dairy defd.	18½	18½
Castner-Kellner	3½	3½x	Mond Nickel ord.	32	32
Coats	62x	62x	National Steam Car	21½	21½
Cunard	96½	96½	Pears, A. & F.	14½	14½
Dennis Bros.	34½x	34½	P. & O. defd.	34½x	326x
Dorman, Long	35½	32½x	Royal Mail	11½x	11½x
Eastmans	71	69	South Durham Steel	32½x	30½
English Sewing Cotton	47½	45½	Underground Inc. Bds.	91	92
Fine Cotton Spinners	30½x	29½	Vickers	37½	37½
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	11½	10½			
Baku (10s.)	210½	210½	Mexican Eagle pf.	39½	39½
Burmah	42½	42½	North Caucasian	24½	23½
Lobitos	43½	42½	Roumanian Cons.	64	71½
Maikop Combine (10s.)	3½	3½	Royal Dutch (100 gulden)	423	442
Maikop Pipeline	3½	3½	Shell	58½	52
Mexican Eagle	39½	39½	Spies (10/-)	12½	14½
			Ural Caspian	29½	28½
Anglo-Java Rub. (2½-)	6½	5½			
Anglo-Malay 2½	12½	12½x	Malayalam £1	36½	36½
Ayer Kuning £1	35½	36½x	Merlimau 2½	5½x	5½x
Bukit Mertajam 2½	41½	41½	Pataing 2½	32½x	33½
Bukit Sembawang 2½	26½	26½	Port Dickson 2½	3½x	3½x
Carey United £1	41½	41½	Rubber Trust 2½	24½	24½
Grand Central £1	26½	26½	Sapumakande £1	22½	23½
Gula Kalumpung £1	30½x	30½x	Sialang £1	67½	67½x
Highlands £1	57½	56½x	Singapore Para 2½	310½	310½
Java Para £1	29½	29½	Singapore United 2½	3½	3½
Johore Rubber Lands £1	30½	30½	Tapiing 2½	3½	3½
Langen Java £1	44½	45½	Tanjong £1	82½	84½
Linggi 2½	23½	23½	Tanjong Malim £1	30½½	34½
London Asiatic 2½	8½	7½x	Tebrau £1	73½x	75½
Malacca £1	85½	85½	United Serdang 2½	12½	12½
Abbottiakoon (10/-)	5½	4½	Vallambrosa 2½	8½x	19½x
Brakpan £1	42½	42½	De Beers defd. (£2 10s.)	13½	13½
Broken Hill Prop. (8/-)	52½x	52½	East Rand	14½	14½
Cam & Motor	11½	10½	Gt. Boulder (2½)	12½	11½
Chartered	11½x	11½	Meyer & Charlton	5½	5½
City Deep	48½	48½	Modder "B"	7½	7
Cons. Gold Fields	18½	18½	Do. Deep	7½	7½
Cons. Langlaagte	18½	18½	New Modder (£4)	18½	18½x
Crown Mines (10/-)	3	3	Rand Mines (5½)	31½	31½
			Rio Tinto (£5)	64	62½
			Van Ryn Deep	34½	34½

Bank shares have been dull, but in the London group Capital and Counties rose ½, London and Provincial lost that fraction, and Union of London dropped ½. Bank of Australasia and Chartered of India both declined 1, London and River Plate relapsed to 34½, and London and Brazilian and Anglo-South-American were lower.

Shipping shares slumped heavily in the beginning of the week, but rallied sharply, and finished well above the worst. P. and O. deferred, after touching 327½, rallied on the meeting to 326½, ex the dividend of £12, and Royal Mail showed

a loss of 3½ on balance at 116, after being down to 113½. Cunard fell to 4, and Prince Line to 3, but closed ½ above these figures, and Furness, Withy, after being down to 45s., recovered to 47s. 6d. Engineering shares have been quiet and easier. Otis Steel relapsed to 99 on profit taking, but strong support was then forthcoming, and they jumped to 112. Canadian things fluctuated in sympathy with Montreal, but closed above the lowest. On balance, Lake Superior Corporation lost 2 and Steel Company of Canada 3, but Dominion Steel recovered, and closed 1 up. Brazilian Traction shares gave way on dividend fears, and closed with a loss of 2 at 46. South Metropolitan Gas was marked down 1½, and Gas Light and Coke ½. Hudson's Bay hardened to 6½ on the interim dividend of 10 per cent., but Forestal Land were a shade easier. Salt Union shares fell to 2½, but rallied to 59s., while United Alkali and Castner-Kellner Alkali were both fractionally lower. Lyons shares touched 3½, and closed 1½ down at 3½, and other Catering things were weak. Textiles were quiet and dull, but Courtaulds, after being offered down to 6½, rallied to 6½.

In the Oil share market the main interest has been in Royal Dutch, for which a big demand sprang up on the introduction of the shares in America, and the price improved to 44½, but finished ½ below that figure. "Shell" were a shade lower at 57-32, and Anglo-Egyptian "B" dropped to 10s. 3d. Spies improved to 14s. on the results from the new well, but New Caucasian and North Caucasian were both lower. Roumanian Consolidated declined to 6s. 6d., but were then supported, and recovered to 7s. 6d. There has been rather more life in Rubber shares this week, and while the price of the commodity has fluctuated pretty widely, its effect on the shares has been small. A good many of the heavier-priced things showed fair improvements, Golden Hope, Batu Caves, Highlands, Kuala Lumpur, Sumatra Consolidated, Tebrau, and Tremelbye being all higher. Java descriptions were quiet.

LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

SUGAR.—Supplies on offer continue to clear to a ready demand, and no alteration resulted in quotations this week.

COFFEE.—Market firm and moderate supplies in auction experienced fair support at full to dearer values. Extra bold Dumont, washed, sold, 63s. to 65s. 6d. Uganda, bold, 62s. 6d. to 69s. 6d. Futures remained in a quiet state. December, done, 47s.; May, 48s. 3d. to 48s. 4½d.; July, 48s. 9d.; September, 49s.

COCOA proved a very dull market, and in order to sell importers had to submit to a decline of 2s. to 5s. per cwt. for most descriptions. Ceylon consignments mostly withdrawn.

TEA.—48,400 packages Indian and 14,300 packages Ceylon were offered this week and met with active and well distributed competition, prices in most cases ruling dearer. Medium and lower qualities came in for better support than recently.

SPICE.—Pepper market firmer, but rather unsettled, and a moderate business transpired. Singapore, black, January-March steamer, sold, 9½d. to 9½d.; white ditto, December-February, 10½d. to 10½d.; Muntok, 11d. to 11½d.; fair Zanzibar cloves, spot, sold, 7½d. to 7½d. Tapioca and also sago ruled firm to rather dearer.

RICE.—In demand and market opened stronger, but later a subdued tone ensued. No. 2 cleaned Rangoon, afloat, sold, 19s. 9d. to 19s. 6d.; January-February, 21s. 4½d. to 20s. 9d.; February-March, 21s. 3d. to 20s. 9d.; April-May, 21s. to 20s. 6d.; Japan, December-January, done, 24s. 9d., c.f. and i. terms, London. Bran virtually out of offer. Beans advanced, but became quieter. Rangoon, spot, sold, £41 10s. to £41. Japanese peas, afloat, sold, £43 15s.

FRUIT.—Currants and sultanias firm, with more trade doing, while Valencia raisins realised improved prices. Half boxes sold 58s. to 60s.

FIBRES, after slowing general firmness, assumed a quieter tone. Of Manila hemp, coarse, October-December, sold, £57 10s to £56, with other grades at proportionate prices. Larger receipts of 28,000 bales exercised a baneful influence. Jute: Native first marks, afloat, sold, £41; November-December, £42; diamond grade assortment, afloat, £49.

SHELLAC slightly unsettled. December, sold, 140s., 141s., 139s., 141s.; March, 144s., 145s.

RUBBER market erratic, though trade was on a fair scale. Crepe, spot, sold, 3s. 4½d., 2s. 10d., 2s. 11½d., and forward positions at a similar range, also standard ribbed smoked sheet. Fine hard Para, spot, 3s. 5d. to 3s. 4½d.

COPRA very steady to occasionally dearer, with moderate sales.

CORN (Mark Lane).—The tendency has remained unsettled since last Wednesday, quotations being undecided and business practically suspended. Wheat: English whites and reds range to 83s. per qr. (504 lbs.) delivered. Imported descriptions, nominal. Flour: American spring patents, 62s. upwards, landed. Grinding barley: Karachi, 68s. upwards, ex quay. Oats: Plate (sound), 49s., landed; Irish black, 47s. 6d., ex quay. Maize: Sound Plate, 66s. 6d., ex ship, and ex quay 67s. 6d.; mixed American, 67s. 6d., landed.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—The market has been thoroughly upset during the past week by one thing or another, and the conditions have not been at all favourable to a large turnover. A fair amount of testing of prices has occurred, but very few buyers have been in the mood to place orders of weight. A slump in raw cotton occurred at the beginning of the week, and since then violent changes have transpired in values. Some estimates of the American crop are now being increased, and there seems to be a probability of the yield being about

12,500,000 bales. The German peace proposals have been a rather disturbing influence, and although the end of the war may not be very near, it is recognised in most quarters that an important move has been made by our enemy. In cloth for export the turnover has been smaller than for some time back. Buyers have had less confidence in the prospects, and in addition to many offers being withdrawn it has not been desirable to start fresh negotiations. For India fewer bids have been met with in shirtings for Calcutta, and in light fabrics the sales show a falling off. Only miscellaneous transactions have occurred for China, and grey staples remain dull. No improvement can be recorded in the turnover for South America. Buyers for Egypt have not shown quite so much life. Manufacturers

CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 15, 1916.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
Sugar —per cwt.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Wool —per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
duty 14½, 98%			Australian		
polarisation			Scoured Merino	2 4 5	2 10-4 11½
Tate's Cubes No. 1	2 7 1½	2 7 1½	Scoured Cr'ssbr'd	1 10-3 7	10-3 7
Ditto, H.T.S.	2 6 7½	2 6 7½	Greasy Merino	1 7 2 3	1 9-2 4½
Fine granulated	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	1 5-1 10	1 7-2 2
Lytle's granulated	41 7½-42 1½	41 7½-42 1½	New Zealand		
Foreign granulated	nom.	nom.	Scoured Merino	3 6-3 10½	3 7-4 0
First marks	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	1 2-2 0½	1 4-2 1
f.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	Cape snow white	2 4½-3 0	2 4½-3 7½
German Cubes f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Indian rubber p.l.b.		
French Cube	nom.	nom.	Plantation, Spot		
prompt	nom.	nom.	Crepe	0 3 3½	0 2 11
Crystallised, West	nom.	nom.			
India	nom.	nom.	Joal —per ton		
Best, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Durham, best	nom.	nom.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	seconds	nom.	nom.
Tea —per lb., duty			East Hartlepool	nom.	nom.
1/2 lb.			seconds	nom.	nom.
Indian Pekoe	0 10½-1 0½	0 11-1 1½	beans, best	30 0	30 0
Broken	0 10½-1 1½	0 11-1 2½	seconds	25 0-26 0	25 0-26 0
Orange	0 10½-1 3	0 11½-1 2			
Broken	0 11½-1 3½	0 12-1 9	Lead —per ton	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Pekoe Souchong	0 10-1 0	0 10½-1 0½	English Pig		
Ceylon Pekoe	0 10½-1 2½	0 11½-1 2	Foreign soft		
Broken	0 11½-1 2½	0 12-1 2½	Quicksilver —per		
Orange	0 11½-1 2	0 12-1 1½	bottle first hand		
Broken	0 11½-1 2½	0 12-1 4			
Pekoe Souchong	0 10½-1 0½	0 11-1 0½	Flax —per ton		
			English Ingots		
Cocoa —per cwt.	£ s.	£ s.	Do. bars		
duty 6d. per lb.			standard cash	nom.	nom.
Trinidad—per cwt.	76 0-82 0	74 0-80 0	10 Plates, per box	nom.	nom.
Grenada	68 0-78 0	62 0-70 0			
West Africa	68 0-71 0	62 0-59 0	Copper —per ton		
Ceylon Plantation	70 0-90 0	68 0-88 0	English, Tough		
Guaiaquil Arriba	87 0-92 0	83 0-89 0	per ton		
Coffee —per cwt.			Best Selected		
duty 42½ per cwt.			Sheets		
East India	67 0-95 0	67 1-95 0	Standard		
Jamaica	62 0-120 0	62 0-120 0	Jute —per ton		
Costa Rica	62 0-84 0	62 1-84 0	Native firsts for		
Provisions			shipment Nov-Dec	£42 10 0	£42 0 0
Butter , per cwt.			Oil —		
Australian finest	206½-208½	206½-208½	Linsseed, per ton	£53½-£54½	£51½-£52½
Irish Creameries	208½-214½	2 8½-214½	rape, ref. English,		
Dutch ditto	2 6½-210½	206½-212½	barrels	£55-£57	£56-£58
Russian finest	nom.	nom.	new English,		
Normandy baskets	nom.	nom.	naked	£54 0 0	£54 0 0
Danish finest	218½-222½	220-222½	Scott's Seed, crude	£50 0 0	£52 10 0
Brittany rolls			ditto, refined	£59 £60	£59-£60
doz. lb.	20½-22½	21½ 23½	Petroleum Oil, per		
Bacon —per cwt.			8 lbs.	1/4	1/4
Irish	110 0-120 0	110 0-120 0	Water White	1/2½	1/2½
Continental	106 0-120 0	106 0 200	in Seeds, Linsseed		
Canadian	100 0-112 0	100 0-112 0	Calcutta—per 41		
American	92 0-105 0	104 0-112 0	lbs., Dec-Jan	5 12 6	5 6 6
Hams —per cwt.			rape, Tom.	93/6	92/
Irish	148½-166½	148½-166½	Iron —per ton		
Canadian	116½-118½		Cleveland Cash	nom.	nom.
American	75 0-114	75 0-112 0	Tobacco —(duty,		
Cheese —per cwt.			manufacture)		
Dutch	86 0-126 0	116 0-126 0	5/6 to 6/2½ per lb.		
Canadian	128 0-132 0	130 0-134 0	Maylard & Onco		
English Cheddar	132 0-140 0	132 0-140 0	per lb. bond	0 6-0 10	0 6-0 10
Willis loaf	nom.	nom.	virginia leaf	0 8-1 0	0 8-1 0
New Zealand	nom.	nom.	Kentucky leaf	0 6½-0 10	
Rice —per cwt.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Parakee	1 0-3 1	1 0-3 0
Garden Siam			Java	1 0-0 1	1 0-0 0
spot	19 6	20 3	Java	0 6-	0 6-2 0
Rangoon 2 stars	19 9	20 0	Cigars, duty 10/6		
Eggs —per 120.			per lb.	2½ upds.	2½ upds.
English	34 0-35 0	34 0-35 0	Timber —Wood		
Irish	32 0-34 0	29 0-32 0	Fitch pine	250/- 270/-	250/- 270/-
Danish	34 0	32 0 31 0	Indian teak	400/- 500/-	400/- 600/-
Spelter			Furpentine —		
G.O.B. as to position	£58-£54½	nom.	American Spot	2 11 6	2 13 6
Flour —per sack.			Copra —		
G. R.	59/	59/	Malabar, London	nom.	nom.
American First			Nov-Jan.		
Patents	62/ upds	62/ upds	Ceylon, London	40 10 0	41 2 6
			South Sea	39 10 0	40 2 6
			F.M.S.	39 10 0	40 12 6

have not been disposed to give way in price equal to the decline in the raw material, and in certain sections engagements are of such a character that makers do not wish to sell further forward, American yarns for home use have been more irregular in price when tested. Certain favourite marks in twists have commanded very full rates. It is necessary for users to purchase moderate lines from time to time, but most buyers have limited their purchases as much as possible. Rather more activity has recently prevailed in bundle yarns for India, but demand is now tapering off. Bolton spinings have been generally firm in quotation, but no free movement can be recorded, and, on the whole, order lists are getting rather more irregular.

Bibi Eibat Oil Co., Ltd.—Production for week ending December 3, 1916, 52,467 poods, or 846 tons.

Insurance News.

A new accident and illness policy has been devised by the London Guarantee and Accident Co. which is designed to appeal to the large and still rapidly growing class of business women. The "Attractive Policy," as it is termed, is an annual contract, which has been framed in the light of a long experience in casualty insurance. In return for quite moderate premiums substantial benefits can be obtained, and the age limits are wide, while premiums are subject to reduction in the case of total abstainers.

The experience of fire underwriters doing business in Canada and the United States was unfavourable for October, the total losses being some £600,000 heavier than in the corresponding month at £3,540,000. This brings the total losses for 10 months of the current year up to £37,896,000, or nearly 9½ millions sterling more than for the corresponding period of last year, which was itself a year none too favourable from the underwriting point of view.

A further partial moratorium, this time for three months from December 1, has been accorded by the French Government with respect to the payment of claims by French insurance companies. The present terms are extended to policies which become claims before March 1 next, provided that they were effected prior to the outbreak of war.

The insurance market viewed the German overtures for peace with utter indifference, and no business proposals came forward to test rates for insurance in connection with the duration of the war.

Tea, Oil and Rubber.

Business in the Rubber share market has been as quiet as the movements in the price of the commodity have been lively. On the whole, the tone has been firm, and there is a continued demand for the better-class shares, but dealings have been very restricted owing to the scarcity of floating stock. As regards the raw material, the price rose to 3s. 5d., dropped back to 2s. 10d., and has since been fluctuating either side of 3s. The usual explanation of these fireworks is that rumours gained currency that several important cargoes had been sunk, which, of course, helped to put the price up, and when it was found that the shipments were safe, the natural reaction followed. Unfortunately, the statistics do not bear out this theory, as the landings have been just about the average, and stocks have not varied enough to make a difference of ½d. per lb. But a lot of forward contracts mature at the end of the year, and we have little doubt the final adjustment of these has been the principal factor in the violent movements that have taken place, aided, perhaps, by speculation among those "in the know." At the same time, with prices of all sorts of commodities advancing, it would be strange if rubber were left entirely out of the fashion.

The development of the Sembilan Estates Co. in the year ended July 31 was evidently much more rapid than the management had anticipated, and instead of the estimated crop of 352,720 lbs. the actual output was 457,603 lbs., or an increase of 243,929 lbs., compared with the previous twelve months. An average gross price of 2s. 8½d., or 5d. more, was realised, and with the all-in cost at the moderate figure of 1s. 1½d. the nett profits showed an improvement of no less than £27,475 at £34,792. The dividend on both the participating preference and ordinary shares is raised from 6 per cent. to 18 per cent., less tax, and after transferring £5,000 to reserve, as against £2,000 a year ago, the balance carried forward is increased by £14,192 to £16,270. This sum, however, is subject to excess profits duty, which will probably be very heavy. During the year £4,000 was received from the final call on 8,000 preference shares issued in 1914-15, making the paid-up capital £88,000, while, on the other hand, the cost of the property was increased by £4,052 to £78,796. Stocks of rubber are valued at £19,862, or £13,453 more, debtors have risen by £8,669 to £8,748, and investments by £4,745 to £8,735, against which sundry creditors are £2,484 up

at £4,593. The crop for 1916-17 is estimated at 495,150 lbs.

Out of a planted area of 1,601 acres, the Rembia Rubber Estates has 940 acres in full bearing and 36 acres in partial bearing, and in the year ended September 30 it obtained an average yield per tree of 2½ lbs. The crop was nearly 30,000 lbs. larger than the estimate, and exceeded the previous output by 112,281 lbs. at 379,667 lbs., and altogether the results were very satisfactory. An increase of 1.34d. to 10.72d. in the f.o.b. cost was more than met by a rise of 2.45d. to 2s. 4.15d. in the nett price realised, and the nett profit was £14,415 better at £25,369. A year ago, by reducing the balance carried forward from £10,677 to £3,032, the directors were able to pay the postponed preference dividend for 1913-14, together with 11 per cent. on both preference and ordinary shares for 1914-15, and to transfer £6,000 to reserve. On this occasion, the dividend on both classes of shares is increased to 25 per cent., but £2,000 less at £4,000 is added to reserve, and the balance carried out is £1,369 larger at £4,401. Further young clearings are now coming into bearing, and the crop for the current year is estimated at 435,000 lbs.

Probably most people will recognise the Plantations Trust, Ltd., better when they are reminded that it is the new name of the Vine and General Rubber Trust of unhappy memory. The present directors succeeded to the legacy of a debit balance amounting to £150,990, and their pluck in carrying on is commendable. Even if the profit of £1,140 for the year to September 30 is not very dazzling, it is a very decided improvement on previous results. Moreover, loans amounting to £14,550 have been paid off, and creditors have been reduced from £7,400 to £2,700, while the cash in hand a year ago was £8, and it is now £19,280. But the capital account is in a terrible tangle, with "A" and "B" preference and ordinary shares, and it is frankly admitted that the total must be drastically reduced and the different classes consolidated. A scheme to accomplish these objects is in preparation, and will be submitted at an early date.

Both the Central Mining Corporation and the Consolidated Gold Fields of South Africa are interested in the development of the properties belonging to Trinidad Leaseholds, Limited, and considerable progress appears to have been made in the year to June 30. By the abandonment of certain licences the area has been reduced to 63,500 acres, but that is quite enough to handle meantime. On the field known as the Forest Reserve twelve wells have been brought in, and the present weekly output is now about 1,400 tons, while up to June 30 the total yield had been 222,960 barrels. The company is not yet in a position to present a profit and loss account, but from the balance-sheet we gather that there has been a credit balance of £35,000 on production and refinery accounts, which is deducted from the cost of development, amounting in all to £54,000 for the year, while a new item of £29,600 represents oil stocks in hand. The construction of a six-inch pipeline has been completed at a cost of £40,000, including sundry expenses, and £35,000 has been spent on plant, machinery, &c. As the company had only £6,740 in cash a year ago, besides about

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ENDOWMENT ASSURANCE RESULTS ALSO UNSURPASSED.

37, Threadneedle Street, London, E.C.

13,000 tons of oil not taken into account, it has had to borrow freely, and loans have risen from £25,000 to £139,000. These have been arranged mainly with the Central Mining Corporation at the reasonable interest of 6 per cent., but the options on certain blocks of shares have been extended till 18 months after the termination of the war or the repayment of the loans, whichever shall be the later. Two tanks of 55,000 barrels capacity have been erected, and a third of the same size is in course of construction. It ought not to be long till substantial results are obtained, and the issued capital of £417,000 is fairly reasonable as things go.

CENTRAL SUMATRA RUBBER.—This company took over a property of 28,579 acres in July, 1915, of which, however, only 1,000 acres are at present under rubber, planted between 1910 and 1913. Its paid-up capital is £44,749, and in addition there are a vendors' account of £4,812, which has since been satisfied by an allotment of 19,250 shares of 10s. each, credited with 5s. paid up, and a loan of £8,812. The cost of the property is £48,453, exclusive of £2,581 for buildings and £1,158 for machinery and plant, while underwriting commission and preliminary expenses are carried as an asset for £3,357, and the company has £5,364 in cash. Tapping has apparently now been started, and the manager estimated the crop for 1916-17 at 100,000 lbs., but owing to more pressing estate work and the advisability of adopting a conservative initial system of tapping the visiting agent puts the figure at not more than 40,000 lbs.

UPOLU RUBBER AND CACAO.—This company apparently suffers from a chronic shortage of labour, which promises to become even more acute, as the local Government in Samoa refuses to permit the further recruitment of Chinese labour, and will only allow the re-engagement of coolies for short periods. In addition to the insufficient supply of labour, the year ended June 30 was abnormally wet, with the result that the rubber crop fell considerably short of the estimate, and was only 12,456 lbs. in excess of the previous output at 54,896 lbs. Better results, however, were obtained from cacao, the crop of which was 2,790 cwts., compared with an estimate of 2,300 cwts. and a yield of 1,613 cwts. last year. The gross price was 18s. 10d. down at 74s. 6d. per cwt., but the gross price for rubber rose by 8.23d. to 2s. 10.98d., and after providing for the whole of the expenditure on the estate, as against a proportion only of Alisa management and general cultivation charges, there was a profit of £1,795, compared with a loss of £2,979. Deducting this from the debit balance brought in, there remains a debit of £1,509 to be carried forward. Estimates for the current year are subject to the company being able to obtain the necessary labour, but it is hoped to harvest 2,000 cwts. of cacao and 70,000 lbs. of rubber. In the case of the latter, however, the realisation of this figure seems doubtful, as the crop for the first four months only amounted to 19,670 lbs.

What Balance Sheets Tell.

BRITISH INDIA STEAM NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

This subsidiary of the P. and O. suffered the loss of four steamers sunk by torpedoes, and another was injured but managed to make port. Two new steamers were delivered during the year to September 30, and arrangements have been made to obtain delivery of two more as quickly as possible, but the number requisitioned by the Government was increased, thus further limiting the tonnage available for ordinary trade. Consequently the company has no dazzling results to produce, but after allowing an unspecified amount for depreciation the profits were £228,540, an increase of £23,200, so the dividend and bonus are raised from 10 per cent. to 12 per cent., and the carry forward is £4,100 higher at £19,770. Debts and liabilities are £2,640,000 up at £4,865,000, but on the assets side the four items given last year are now lumped together, making an aggregate of £9,960,000, an increase of £2,410,000. Everything, we are sure, is all right, and we must not be too inquisitive in these times.

BLAENAVON CO., LTD.

Except that it was impossible to start the tyre mill owing to the lack of labour and the call for steel for munitions purposes, this company's departments were fully engaged throughout the year ended September 30, the bulk of its products being directly for munitions at prices subject to Government control. Its profits, before providing for excess profits duty or munitions levy, showed an increase of £98,431 at £140,440, of which £28,082 is transferred to reserve and renewal funds, compared with £11,515 a year ago, £25,000 is set aside to create a general reserve, and £40,000 as against £20,000 is written off for depreciation of plant. Including £24,092, or £4,495 brought forward, the balance available is £47,359 larger at £71,450, and out of this the ordinary shares get a dividend of 7½ per cent., less tax, the first since 1912-13. No special provision has been made respecting munitions levy and excess profits duty, but the directors consider that the amount carried forward is ample to cover these charges. Property account, after allowing for the depreciation now written off, is £19,777 up at £636,297, against which the reserves stand at £75,385. Stocks are £46,632 smaller at £140,125, but debtors have risen by £47,851 to £211,714, and cash is £32,619 up at £32,827. On the other hand, creditors and bills payable are only £6,335

higher at £184,579, while the secured loan on hire purchase of wagons has been reduced by £33,676 to £24,174, and bank loans are £10,971 down at £40,000.

LINOTYPE AND MACHINERY, LTD.

Some improvement is shown in the results for the year to June 30, but it will take a great deal more to lift the company from the waterlogged condition in which it has been wallowing so many years. Nett trading profits amounted to £93,400, an increase of £67,700 over the previous twelve months, and after providing for debenture interest and other charges, there is a balance of £14,590, which compares with a deficit of £55,120 last year, and the undivided surplus is thus raised to £165,875. But while the balance-sheet is loaded with £1,971,450 for patents and goodwill, and probably other dead assets that are not disclosed, the unfortunate shareholders cannot be allowed to touch any of it. During the year debentures for £155,800 have been purchased and cancelled, but they still amount to £1,208,000. The company became a controlled establishment in August, 1915, and its works have been almost exclusively engaged on munitions, which no doubt accounts for the better results achieved; but, of course, the war continues to affect adversely the company's ordinary business. Creditors have been reduced £74,600, and it is stated that the balance of a loan (£40,000) has since been repaid. Owing to the debenture cancellation, the reserve fund has gained £68,300, and now stands at £181,850. Cash is £48,600 higher at £110,000, but cash in the hands of the debenture trustees has been reduced £87,500. Sundry debtors are £62,000 lower at £457,700, and buildings, plant, stocks, &c., have been reduced £50,000 to £690,000. More than half the total assets, however, are represented by goodwill, and the outlook for the £1,884,000 share capital is not pleasant. The history of this company is a good illustration of what greed and mismanagement can do to ruin a magnificent business.

PAN DE AZUCAR NITRATE CO., LTD.

This company reopened its oficina on October 11, 1915, and in the year ended June 30 took profit on a nett production of 301,349 quintals of nitrate. A gross profit of £9,753 was earned, compared with a loss of £5,383 in the previous twelve months. London charges, income-tax, &c., took £1,759 less, and £5,177 more at £5,859 was written off for exhaustion of material and depreciation, but there is nothing to write off compared with £3,936 for stoppage expenses and £1,150 for cleaning and repair of plant, and the nett result is a profit of £1,384, compared with a loss of £15,421. A year ago £15,000 was withdrawn from reserve, so that the balance brought in was only £421 smaller at £5,356, making a total of £6,740, which is carried to the new account. With the resumption of business the balance-sheet naturally shows some large movements. Stocks are £18,071 up at £30,796, debtors have risen by £17,122 to £17,983, and bills receivable by £22,943 to £42,500, while cash is £4,247 down at £7,087. On the other hand, bills payable come to £42,429, or £32,505 more, and sundry creditors have risen by £16,657 to £21,825.

WORTHINGTON AND CO., LTD.

According to the directors, fresh outlets of trade were found in the year ended September 30, from which the company derived benefits until the passing of the Output of Beer (Restriction) Act in August. These new sources of revenue were so far remunerative that the profits, which a year ago fell off by £21,900, now show a recovery of £21,800, bringing them back to the level of two years ago at £152,300. Debenture interest, preference dividends, and income-tax took an extra £4,600, leaving a surplus of £81,500, or £17,200 more, which, with £330,100, or £34,200 more, brought forward, gives a total of undivided profits and special reserves of £411,600. Property and goodwill account shows an increase of £17,500 at £879,000, but investments, loan and cash have been reduced by £58,200 to £1,328,200, while, on the other hand, mortgages on trade investments are £11,500 down at £180,300. Debtors, however, have risen by £42,700 to £234,500, and stocks are £80,700 up at £309,000, against an increase of £42,800 in current liabilities.

ST. LOUIS BREWERIES, LTD.

The State of Missouri has refused to vote itself "dry," and no doubt that accounts for an increase of 41,300 barrels in the sales of beer, the total to September 30 being 763,215 barrels. Nett profits of the American company amounted to £99,915, an increase of £11,800, but the dividend received by the English company was £8,000 less, and after paying £5,000 more for income-tax, the nett profit is £11,500 less at £79,560. About £10,000 more, however, was brought in, and the directors feel justified (no doubt owing to the "wet" vote) in raising the dividend from 1 per cent. to 2 per cent., thereby reducing the carry forward by £10,500 to £8,080. Changes in the balance-sheet are unimportant, and do not call for special comment.

BRITISH COALITE CO., LTD.

This disappointing concern, which started with such a flourish of trumpets some years ago, is still in the stage of making promises, but has little to show in the way of performance. Revenue amounted to the trumpery sum of £413, and the debit balance for the year is £10,028. In addition there was a loss of £75,410 on the sale of the Barking property, and the adverse balance is raised to no less than £156,180. However, the proceeds of this sale sufficed to pay off the £60,000 first debentures with a small margin over, and arrears of interest on the second debentures have been settled in cash. Prospects depend on the success of the Barnsley Smokeless Fuel Co.'s plant at Barugh. The completion of these works has been delayed by the war, but it is expected to be in operation during the next few weeks.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

MINES.

Apex.—Interim of 5 per cent. (6d. per 10s. share) for half-year ending Dec. 31, against 10 per cent.

Blackwater.—1s. per share (5 per cent.), less tax, payable 30th inst., same as a year ago.

Brakpan.—22½ per cent. (4s. 6d. per share), same as a year ago.

Broken Hill South Silver.—6s. per share, less tax, payable Dec. 22.

Chino Copper.—\$150 regular, \$1 extra, payable Dec. 30, against \$1.

Geduld Proprietary Mines.—5 per cent. (1s. per share), same as a year ago.

Idris Hydraulic Tin.—1s. per share, less tax at 4s. 6d.

Modderfontein Deep Levels.—37½ per cent. (7s. 6d. per share), against 25 per cent.

Nevada Consolidated Copper.—50 cents regular, \$1 extra, payable Dec. 30.

Oroville Dredging.—Interim of 6d. per share, payable, less tax at 5s., Dec. 30, same as a year ago.

Rand Selection Corporation (formerly Transvaal Coal Trust).—Interim of 15 per cent. (3s. per share), against 12½ per cent.

Ray Consolidated Copper.—75 cents regular, 25 cents extra, payable Dec. 30, against 40 cents.

Rooiberg Minerals Development.—Interim of 5 per cent. (1s. per share) for half-year ending Dec. 31, same as a year ago.

Sungei Besi Mines.—1s. per share, less tax at 4s. 6d.

Tomboy Gold.—1s. per share, free tax, payable Dec. 30, against 2s.

Utah Copper.—\$2.50 regular, \$1 extra, payable Dec. 30, against \$1.50.

Van Ryn Gold.—Interim for current year of 17½ per cent. (3s. 6d. per share), less tax, same as a year ago.

Weardale Lead.—Interim of 1s. per share, free tax, payable Jan. 1, same as a year ago.

MISCELLANEOUS.

African Association.—Interim of 6½ per cent., against 5½ per cent.

Anglo-Malay Rubber.—Second interim of 20 per cent. (actual) in respect of year ending Dec. 31, payable Jan. 23, equivalent to 4 4-5d. per share, less tax (4s. 6d.), making total payment so far this year of 35 per cent., against 20 per cent. for the corresponding period last year.

Bernam-Perak Rubber.—Interim of 5 per cent. actual, free of tax, on both the ordinary and preference, on account of season ending June 30 next, payable Dec. 31, against 3 per cent.

Bodega.—Interim of 2½ per cent. (2s. 6d. per share) on the fully-paid ordinary, and 2s. per share on the ordinary, £4 paid up, less tax, payable Dec. 20.

British Indian Tea.—Interim of 4 per cent., or 4s. per share, less tax, on the ordinary, payable Dec. 28, against 2½ per cent.

California Petroleum.—1 per cent. on the preferred, payable Jan. 2.

Canadian Western Natural Gas Light, Heat and Power.—At the rate of 2 per cent. per annum on the capital stock.

Clerical, Medical, and General Life Assurance.—Half-yearly payment of 9s. 6d. per share, free tax, will be made on Jan. 1.

Coventry Chain.—The directors have decided not to publish accounts, but to recommend payment of a dividend on the ordinary of 7 per cent., making 10 per cent. for the year, and a bonus of 5 per cent. for the year., payable Jan. 1. The annual meeting is fixed for Dec. 29.

Cuban Telephone.—\$1½ per share on the preferred and common, payable in Havana Jan. 15.

Dejoo Tea.—Interim of 4 per cent., less tax, payable Jan. 31, same as a year ago.

East Pool and Agar.—Second interim at the rate of 1s. per share, less tax. The preceding dividend was at the same rate.

Federated (Selangor) Rubber.—Interim of 35 per cent., less tax, on account of year ending March 31, 1917.

Forestral Land, Timber, and Railway.—Interim of 6 per cent., less tax, on the preference, and an interim of 6 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary in respect of year ending Dec. 31, payable Jan. 2, same as a year ago.

Galaha Ceylon Tea Estates and Agency.—Interim of 8 per cent., free tax on the ordinary, payable Dec. 30, against 6 per cent.

Java Investment Loan and Agency.—Interim of 5 per cent., less tax, on account of year ending March 31 next, payable Jan. 15.

Jetinga Valley Tea.—Interim of 5 per cent., being at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, free of tax, on the ordinary, payable Jan. 1, same as a year ago.

Jorehaut Tea.—Interim on account of 1916 of 5 per cent., or 1s. per share, free tax, payable Jan. 6, same as a year ago.

Kepong (Malay) Rubber.—Third interim of 15 per cent., less tax at 4s. 6d., on account of current year, payable Dec. 22, against 10 per cent.

Langat River (Selangor) Rubber.—Second interim of 5 per cent., payable Dec. 15.

Linggi Plantations.—Interim on the ordinary of 30 per cent. actual, less tax, in respect of year ending Dec. 31, against 15 per cent.

Lobitos Oilfields.—Interim of 5 per cent., less tax, on account of current year, payable Jan. 15, same as a year ago.

London and Lancashire Life and General Assurance.—Dividend and bonus for half-year ending Dec. 31 at the rate

of 1s. 6d. per share, less tax, payable Jan. 1, equal to 15 per cent. on the paid-up capital, same as last year.

Manila Electric Railroad and Lighting.—1½ per cent. (\$1.50 per share) for quarter ending Dec. 31 on the common, payable Dec. 31.

Molson's Bank, Montreal.—2½ per cent., being at the rate of 11 per cent. per annum for current quarter, payable Jan. 2, same as a year ago.

National Bank of New Zealand.—Interim at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, tax free, for half-year ended Sept. 30, same as a year ago.

New York Central Railroad.—1½ per cent., payable Feb. 1.

New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency.—Final of 3½ per cent., less tax, on the ordinary to June 30 last, making 6 per cent. for the year, against 5 per cent.

Niddrie and Benhar Coal.—Interim of 1s. 3d. per share, free tax, against 6d.

Ogilvie Flour Mills.—2½ per cent. on the common, payable Jan. 2, against 2 per cent.

Orchestrelle Co.—At the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, less tax, on the cumulative preference for six months ending Dec. 31, payable Jan. 1.

R. and J. Dick.—Final of 10 per cent. on the ordinary, making 12 per cent., less tax, for the year, against 6 per cent., less tax.

Ribu Rubber.—Second interim of 5 per cent., payable Dec. 15.

Scottish-American Mortgage.—Interim of 5 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary, same as last year.

Simo Rubber.—Interim of 6 per cent., payable Dec. 30. For the whole of the preceding year the dividend was 10 per cent.

South Australian Co.—Interim of 30s. per share, tax free, payable Jan. 15, same as a year ago.

Uva Rubber of Ceylon.—Second interim of 5 per cent., payable Dec. 15.

Victoria Falls and Transvaal Power.—Twelve months' dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, less tax, on the preference, thereby making the cumulative dividend paid up to Dec. 31, 1916, payable Jan. 8.

On and after the 25th inst. the offices of Messrs. Walter Judd, Ltd., will be at 97, Gresham Street, London, E.C.

The Standard Bank of South Africa, Ltd., has opened a branch at Bothaville, in the Orange Free State.

Consolidated Gas, Electric Light and Power of Baltimore.—Net earnings for Oct. \$355,123, increase \$32,312. Aggregate from July 1 \$1,192,554.90, increase \$128,074.63.

New Zealand.

A Wealthy Country, Splendid Climate, Fertile Soil, Plenty of Water.

An Ideal Country for the farmer, the percentage of grain and lambs being phenomenally high.

New Zealand, a country as large as the United Kingdom, with but a million population, has an annual export of raw products exceeding Twenty Million Pounds sterling.

New Zealand is rich in COAL, IRON, TIMBER, GUM, GOLD AND SILVER. Total yield of Minerals, over One Hundred and Twenty Million Pounds.

Over Eighteen Million Pounds have been advanced by Government to Farmers and Workers for Improvements and Buildings at a low rate of interest.

The Railways, 3,000 miles, Telegraphs and Telephones, 124,000 miles, are owned and operated by the State.

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To those desirous of making a home in a new country, New Zealand offers solid advantages.

Excellent Steamship Services are run direct to New Zealand by the Shaw Savill and Albion Company, Limited, New Zealand Shipping Company, Limited, and the Federal and Shire Lines.

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THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR NEW ZEALAND,
413-416, STRAND, W.C.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM
NAVIGATION.

GOVERNMENT AND SHIPPING.

LORD INCHCAPE'S OPINION OF NATIONALISATION.

The seventy-sixth ordinary general meeting of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company was held on Wednesday at the offices, 122, Leadenhall-street, E.C., the Right Hon. Lord Inchcape, G.C.M.G., K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E. (the chairman of the company), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. F. J. Abbott) having read the notice convening the meeting,

THE RISE IN FREIGHTS.

The Chairman said: Ladies and Gentlemen,—I mentioned a year ago that the company had not benefited to the same extent as many other shipping companies through the rise in freights, and the same remark holds good to-day. About one-half of the P. and O. fleet has been continuously in Government service during the past year, and has been paid for at less than pre-war rates, while we have been handicapped in the mail services by the conveyance of enormous quantities of mail matter, to the exclusion of cargo. These services have been conducted at a great increase in cost, while we have also suffered from fewer passengers travelling. I foreshadowed last year that we might find it necessary to raise our passenger fares owing to the rise in the cost of coal, stores, and wages, but so far we have refrained from taking this step, out of consideration for the Indian public, who are our principal supporters, and on whom the times are telling hardly. The matter, however, is still under consideration. Although the mail and passenger services have, as I have said, been conducted at a great increase in expense, and in many cases at great pecuniary loss, it has been the object of the Board to maintain them throughout the war at all costs. (Hear, hear.) This, so far, they have succeeded in doing, and this they will continue to endeavour to do.

VESSELS LOST.

The company has unfortunately lost five ships during the year, the *Socotra*, *Persia*, *Geelong*, *Maloja*, and *Simla*. The *Persia* and *Simla* were torpedoed in the Mediterranean without warning, the *Maloja* was sunk by an enemy mine off Dover, and in the case of the *Persia* and *Maloja*, I regret to say, there was considerable loss of life. The *Socotra* was wrecked on the French coast in circumstances which made navigation extremely difficult, and the *Geelong* was sunk in the Mediterranean by a steamer carrying no lights on account of dangers from the enemy. Although the company has not suffered by losing these vessels, so far as their book value in the accounts is concerned, the loss of their services during the past few months has been extremely unfortunate. The *Himalaya*, which had been employed by the Admiralty for some time, was compulsorily purchased by the Government a few months ago, and we have notice that the *Macedonia*, *Marmora*, and *Moldavia*, which had been similarly engaged, have also been taken over by the Government within the last few weeks. The question of the right to acquire these vessels is being contested, and, in any case, the prices to be paid for them have not yet been agreed. The ships could not be replaced for less than double their original cost, even if it were possible to build them for early delivery, which is not the case, as the building yards continue to be occupied with Government work, and there is great difficulty in getting material. The two mail steamers which have been under construction for some time are still far from completion, and two large steamers for the Australian frozen meat and general trade, which were ordered in the early part of this year, are, I am sorry to say, progressing very slowly. Within the last few days we have placed an order for a large high-powered mail ship, which is to be laid down immediately.

MAIL SAILINGS MAINTAINED.

Despite the fact that so many of our ships have been taken over by Government, the company's mail sailings from terminal ports have been maintained, not one having had to be abandoned, although arrivals both out and home have in some cases been later than scheduled times, owing to circumstances which it is not desirable to mention and which were entirely beyond the control of either the Post Office or the company. The mileage covered by our ships in certain of their passages has had to be much in excess of that traversed in normal times. I think I should put on record that in the case of the *Maloja*, which was mined while on her way from London to Marseilles to embark the outward Indian mails, another steamer was promptly dispatched to take her place, and the mails left Europe only a day or two late. (Hear, hear.) Since closing our accounts the *Arabia* has been sunk by the enemy. The steamer was torpedoed on November 6 without warning, and with no regard to the large number of civilian passengers on board. I will refrain from enlarging on the circumstances attending the loss of this ship, as they are all known to you. But I cannot pass over the outrage without referring to the fact that within fifteen minutes of the vessel being torpedoed no less than 721 people were safely transferred to the ship's boats before the vessel went down. (Applause.) This is a performance which reflects the greatest credit on Captain Palmer, his officers, and engineers, the whole of the ship's company, and the passengers. (Hear, hear.) I deeply regret to say that two of the engineers and eleven men were killed in the engine room by the explosion of the torpedo. We have had hundreds of letters

from passengers expressing appreciation of what was done to save their lives, and of the arrangements made for their convenience and comfort in bringing them home. The company has spent £10,000 in assisting and looking after the *Arabia's* passengers at Port Said, Malta, Marseilles, and elsewhere, and in transporting them to England. I desire to express our thanks to the Governor and Admiral at Malta, and to his Majesty's ships for the assistance they rendered in rescuing and taking care of the passengers and crew, and also to those merchant ships which rescued the people from the boats. The *Poona*, outward bound to India and Australia, was badly damaged by an enemy mine or torpedo on December 6. She had no passengers on board, and, thanks to the assistance rendered by some of his Majesty's ships, was able to reach a port, where she is now undergoing repair. I am happy to say in this case there was no loss of life. (Hear, hear.) Our small cargo steamer *Harlington*, which ran between London and the East Coast ports, serving as a feeder for our oversea ships, was, I regret to say, sunk by a German mine on December 9. The crew, who got away in the boats, were picked up shortly afterwards by another steamer, but this steamer was also mined and sunk, and unfortunately seven of the *Harlington's* men, who had gone down to the stokehold to dry their clothes, lost their lives in the explosion. The others escaped for a second time in the boats, and were safely landed at an English port. A British India steamer, the *Mantola*, was lately seriously injured by an enemy mine not far from port. Her forehold was filled with water, but by the skilful seamanship of the master she reached port safely and is now being repaired. In this case we have to thank the Admiral at the Nore for the assistance he rendered to the ship in sending vessels to stand by and accompany her till she got into safety. Some few years ago an International Bulkhead Committee made new rules with the object of ensuring that vessels, if damaged, should remain afloat. This ship was built before the rules came into force, and I am advised by our technical staff that if these rules had been in operation when she was constructed she would inevitably have gone to the bottom. (Laughter.) We are learning a good deal from this war. The P. and O. Co. had the honour of conveying from Bombay the retiring Viceroy, Lord Hardinge, and taking out to Bombay the new Viceroy, Lord Chelmsford. In both cases high appreciation was expressed of the arrangements made for their safety and comfort.

PURCHASE OF THE NEW ZEALAND CO. COMPLETED.

On September 8 last the shareholders of the P. and O. Co., at an extraordinary general meeting, entered into a very important transaction. They decided to purchase the ordinary shares of the New Zealand Shipping Co. and to pay for them by the issue of about £906,720 of P. and O. deferred stock, thereby increasing the deferred stock to £2,704,853. The transaction, which after full consideration was recommended to the shareholders by the board and was adopted unanimously, has been completed. Out of 90,672 ordinary shares in the New Zealand Shipping Co. the P. and O. are now the proprietors of 90,582 shares, only 90 being held by others, and the P. and O. Co. has, therefore, complete control of the New Zealand Shipping Co., which owns the Federal Line. The bargain, as I explained at the extraordinary general meeting, was a favourable one for the New Zealand shareholders, because, though we got the New Zealand shares at par and gave P. and O. deferred stock in exchange at par for an equivalent amount of New Zealand shares, the P. and O. stock is worth in the market fully three times the nominal amount. In accepting P. and O. deferred stock at par in exchange for New Zealand shares at par, the New Zealand shareholders displayed considerable confidence in the P. and O. Co., and I hope they will find that this has not been misplaced. (Hear, hear.) At the same time, knowing, as the board does, the intrinsic value of the New Zealand shares, taking into account the value of their ships on a conservative depreciated pre-war basis, and their liquid assets in the shape of cash, Treasury bills and other investments, and taking into consideration the company's goodwill, its organisation and the earning capacity of its ships, the transaction is not, I believe, an unfavourable one for the P. and O. shareholders. A bargain of this description, where the parties are to continue to be associated, can only be regarded as satisfactory provided it is fair to both sides. In our opinion that is the case here. "For better or for worse," as the parsons say—(laughter)—the late New Zealand shareholders are now one with the previous holders of P. and O. deferred stock in the combined undertakings of the P. and O. Co., British India, and New Zealand Companies, and I hope the arrangement will prove satisfactory, not only to the late shareholders in the New Zealand Co., many of whom I am glad to see here to-day, but also to those who held P. and O. stock before the operation was carried through. The New Zealand and Federal Companies' fleets comprise 27 steamers, all up to date and good poor man's ships, with a gross tonnage of 225,037 tons, in commission, and there are several vessels under construction. The purchase of the New Zealand Co. is a continuation of the policy embarked upon a few years ago, when the P. and O. Co. purchased the Blue Anchor Line running to Australia, which is now a branch of the P. and O. service. We have no reason to be dissatisfied with the results of that operation. We shall, in our amalgamation with the New Zealand Co., have the advantage of retaining the experience of the present administration, and it is satisfactory to know that the shareholders in the New Zealand Co. who are resident in New Zealand have unanimously agreed to the amalgamation, and have taken P. and O. stock in exchange for their New Zealand shares. The local board in New Zealand will be continued, and we shall, I hope, have the benefit of their services and influence as before.

TONNAGE OF THE JOINT FLEETS.

I am glad to think that through the New Zealand Co. we secure a peaceful entry not only into the New Zealand trade with this country, but also into the trade between America and Australasia, and between this country and Australasia by way of the Panama Canal. The amalgamation of the P. and O. and British India companies with the New Zealand Co. ought to bring with it certain conveniences in the way of interchange of ships and passengers, and also economies. The joint fleets of the P. and O., British India, and New Zealand companies, including vessels under construction, amount to 236 steamers and 57 tugs, with a gross tonnage of 1,515,923 tons. The P. and O. capital, including debenture stock, preferred and deferred stock, now amounts to about seven and a-half millions sterling—a very considerable sum. We looked very closely into our financial position, apart from ways and means, which are an everyday problem, when considering the purchase of the New Zealand Co. The result of our investigations was quite reassuring. It is the outcome of the prudent policy which has characterised the administration of the companies for many years, and it justified us in concluding that, come what may, with careful management the P. and O. Co., with its enlarged basis and its extended sphere of operations, ought to be capable of holding its own. In the future it is possible that the shareholders may have to face a reduced return on their deferred stock, but if things go moderately well when we get back to normal conditions I hope that may not be the case.

NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT'S PROJECT.

You will have observed that a project has been mooted in New Zealand for a Government line of steamers of 20,000 tons each, with a speed of 20 knots, to run between New Zealand and this country. I do not think I would be disposed to invest in that line unless it was supported by a good Government guarantee both for the payment of interest and for the repayment of capital. A 20,000-ton steamer doing 20 knots would be very costly to build, and she would require to have fairly fine lines, and her dead-weight capacity would be mostly required for the fuel she would consume in the long distances between ports. I would rather put my money, if I had any, into a proposition more likely to pay. The Commonwealth Government of Australia has recently bought some tramp steamers at high prices to engage in the carrying trade. While the war lasts and freights are high these ships may make money, especially if they are free from income-tax and excess profits duty, to which private shipowners are subjected, but when things become normal and depreciation and overhaul have to be provided for, the position may be altered. There is no industry which has more ups and downs than shipping, and not one which loses money more rapidly when earnings are less than disbursements, and it is only by paying moderate dividends in good times and husbanding resources for bad that British shipping has been able to hold its own and develop as it has done. The shipping industry of Great Britain, her dominions, colonies and dependencies has not been built up by Government aid. It is the outcome of individual enterprise, initiative and prudence. Except for special services rendered not a farthing has been contributed by the State to the shipping industry of the British Empire, which is the greatest in the world and the envy of other nations. In my humble judgment, Governments would do well to leave shipowning alone and to avoid embarking on schemes which, if persisted in, can only have one end, and that is to kill private enterprise. If my voice could carry to the Antipodes I would suggest for consideration there that the wealth and power of Great Britain have been built up not by State-managed institutions, but by the enterprise of individuals. (Hear, hear.)

RATES OF FREIGHT.

I am no advocate of excessive rates of freight. I can recall the time, not so very long ago, when freights were at a level which was insufficient to pay even the dues of the Suez Canal, to say nothing of the expense of loading, discharging and running the ships. I make no reflection on our merchant friends, though I think they will admit that when they were top dog they had little compassion on shipowners. (Laughter.) On the contrary, they squeezed them to such an extent that ships had to be laid up to avoid bankruptcy. I have no recollection of shipowners appealing to the Government at that time to force merchants to pay reasonable freights, and if they had done so I think the answer would have been, and rightly so, that both parties were perfectly capable of looking after themselves. In the meantime, a very large amount of British tonnage is employed in the service of the Admiralty, and is being paid for at pre-war rates, and in some cases at less than pre-war rates. All cargo belonging to Government shipped by British ships not requisitioned is being carried at extremely moderate freights based on the Blue Book rates. There is an agitation in some quarters for the nationalisation of shipping and any number of other enterprises. If the Government were to take over and run the P. and O. Co. I do not think many people, tired and jaded by an Indian climate and hard work, would look forward as they have done hitherto to getting on board the mail steamer in Bombay Harbour and to seeing the Prongs light dipping astern. They know that under existing conditions they will find a clean and well-found cabin, a properly equipped and disciplined ship, a good, if moderate, table, reasonable attendance, everything possible done for them, no red-tape irritating restrictions, and all on board, from the master downwards, anxious to make them comfortable. If Government ran the ships, I venture to say, with all respect,

that the anticipations of the homeward passage would not be so attractive. I sometimes wonder what would happen to this country if all these outcries resulted in British capital being withdrawn from shipping, and if our carrying trade and that of the world, which is for the most part at present in our hands, were in consequence to get into the hands of other nations. I have no hesitation in saying that in a few years' time we would have an agitation not only for a Shipping Subsidy Bill, but possibly for a Bill under which British ships should be paid so much for every mile they covered, and also for a measure by which a bounty would be given for every ship built in this country. We have examples of this kind not very far away. It would then be too late; our sea supremacy would have gone. I cannot help thinking that shipowners are regarded in some quarters as a class by themselves. Many years ago, when British shipping was in its infancy and ships were divided into sixty-fourths, this was to a great extent, no doubt, true, but all that has changed. In the P. and O. Co. we have no less than about 8,500 stock and debenture holders, and the ownership is thus very widely distributed throughout the country. The same doubtless applies to the majority of the shipping companies in Great Britain, so that the ships are owned not by a restricted class, but by the people generally.

COMMAND OF THE SEAS.

It is not for us to claim that but for the enterprise of those who have invested their capital or a portion of their means in shipping, and have placed such a magnificent merchant navy in commission, the aspect of the war and the conditions of life in this country would have been very different from what they are to-day; we are content to leave that to the statesmen who are at the head of affairs, and who are able to form a true appreciation of the position. You will have noticed that Mr. Balfour, in his great speech at Glasgow in September last, said: "Many things are necessary for the successful conduct of the war—men, shells and guns; but the fundamental necessity underlying all these is to maintain practical command of the seas by the co-operation of our fighting ships and our mercantile marine." (Hear, hear.) The destruction of merchant ships and their cargoes is doubtless a serious matter for this country, as it is reducing our wealth in the shape of property and our earning power; but submarines are not built for nothing. If all stories are true, they are constantly being sunk, and, after all, there is not an enemy merchant ship on the sea, our enemies' trade is completely strangled, and on balance we are miles to the good. We are confronted with a problem at the moment which has its difficulties, but I have perfect confidence that with patience these will be overcome by the Navy and Sir John Jellicoe. You have had to make over the greater part of your earnings in excess of those made prior to the war to help the country's finances, while neutral shipowners have been able to retain their enlarged earnings for themselves. You make no complaint, but you will be face to face, when the war is over, with severe competition, not only from neutrals, but also from an ally who, while being put to little expense, has been able to reap a rich harvest from the war. Speaking for myself, however, although there are strenuous times ahead, I have no fear as regards the future of British shipping if it is fairly treated. Despite the considerable reduction which our shipping has suffered by enemy attacks during the past two years, I feel confident that with careful management and the distribution of moderate dividends we shall be able to maintain our premier place in the world if we are only left alone. There is a matter concerning the personnel of the P. and O. Co. to which I would like to refer. The position of dock superintendent of the company in London is a very important one. The man occupying it must have the confidence, the respect and the esteem not only of the board, but of the entire service. In Captain Harris—I see him here—the company has had the good fortune to have been served by such a man for 20 years, and he retired the other day. An old sea-dog, with a stentorian voice which made the ships shiver from truck to keel, he has been a landmark on the dock-head to every incoming and outgoing P. and O. steamer for many a day. I was making a round of the Port of London with Lord Devonport a few months ago, and speaking of Captain Harris he called him a perfect tiger in the way he worked for the interests of the P. and O. Co. Captain Harris, though getting old, was never too hidebound to adopt suggestions made with a view to improvements. I always felt perfectly confident with Captain Harris in charge that the best that could be done would be done in an emergency, and I shall miss him greatly. He is succeeded, however, by Captain Summers, who I am satisfied will prove a worthy successor in every way, possessing, as he does, the confidence not only of the board, but of the whole service. I am sure you will join me in wishing Captain Harris many years to enjoy his well-earned pension in retirement. (Applause.)

WORKSHOPS AND DRY DOCKS IN BOMBAY.

An important piece of work was carried out over a year ago in the amalgamation under one management of the P. and O. and British India workshops and dry docks in Bombay. The premises are next door to each other at Mazagon on the harbour face—very valuable, convenient, and freehold sites—and the arrangement has proved entirely satisfactory. The P. and O. dry dock has been enlarged, so that it can now take in vessels of 470 ft. in length and 68 ft. beam, and the length can be increased if need be at a very moderate outlay. The workshops are in process of equipment with up-to-date machinery, which will, when completed, be a great advantage to both com-

panies, and in the meantime the joint resources and combined working under one administration of the two yards have not only proved an economy to ourselves, but have been largely availed of by the public. They have also been useful to the Government for the fitting out of transports, armed cruisers, and hospital ships, and in the building of barges and river craft for Mesopotamia, while the flotilla of the two companies in Bombay Harbour required for mail, cargo, stores, coal, and passenger transportation, working as one, has proved not only convenient, but economical. Other arrangements for co-ordination in the management and working of the joint services have been brought into operation, while more are in view, and these will be gradually introduced as circumstances permit without doing any injustice to men who have served us well. Our youngest colleague on the Board obtained a commission when the war broke out, and is at the Front in France; 497 of the P. and O. and British India employees joined the Forces before the summer of this year. No less than 34 of our men have made the supreme sacrifice, 33 have been wounded or invalided, while 14 have received decorations, including the V.C., the C.M.G., the D.S.O., the Military Cross, the D.S.C., and the "Legion of Honour," and many have been mentioned in despatches. (Applause.) The companies' employees who are serving with the Forces continue to draw the allowances which were given on the outbreak of the war. These have already cost the P. and O. and British India companies together a very considerable sum, but I feel sure the shareholders will not grudge this money to men who are serving their country, and who, if they win through, will be welcomed back to their appointments. (Applause.) It would be a great omission if I failed to ask you to join me in expressing our warmest thanks to those who go down to the sea in the P. and O. and British India ships. All through this trying and anxious time they have displayed the greatest gallantry, and they have never uttered a murmur. The war has made heavy inroads on our officers and engineers, and all who could be spared have joined the Forces, but the difficulties which we have had to meet on this account have been minimised by the loyal spirit displayed by those who have remained in the service. Every man of military age serving in the P. and O. and British India companies, if he had his own way, would be in the fighting line, and had it not been for the wise action of the Government we should have lost all our young officers and engineers. While we cannot fail to sympathise with those who are debarred from joining the Forces, I hope they will recognise that they are doing an equally valuable service to the country, and at great risk to themselves, in maintaining the communications of the Empire which it is the aim of the enemy to destroy. The enemy may make prisoners, if they choose to do so, of the captains and the chief engineers of the steamers they sink, but that will not deter either a master or chief engineer from continuing to go to sea. In due time I hope the men of the merchant service will receive those distinctions which they have earned so well throughout the war. (Applause.)

THE P. AND O. AND BRITISH INDIA AMALGAMATION.

Although I have the honour to be addressing the shareholders of the P. and O. Company, I do not forget that I am also speaking through them to the shareholders of the British India Company. The amalgamation which was sanctioned more than two years ago has worked out not only without a hitch, but with material benefit to both concerns. In the year under review I am sorry to say three British India steamers were lost, and since closing our accounts another has been sent to the bottom. Of these four, three were sunk by enemy submarines in the Mediterranean and one by an enemy mine or submarine in the North Sea. The last-mentioned had brought home from India a batch of repatriated Germans and Austrians, the people whom Lord Grey, you will remember, was specially warned by the enemy to safeguard, as they were "of the better class." (Laughter.) The vessel was sunk after these distinguished passengers had disembarked. (Renewed laughter.) In none of these four cases were our people responsible, and in all the behaviour of those on board were beyond reproach. Two of the vessels were in the service, under the orders and at the risk of the Government, and their values, or something approaching thereto on to-day's basis, have been recovered. The others were fully insured. In the British India company's fleet of 143 steamers, in a good hour be it spoken, we have not lost a ship by a marine risk for the last six years. I speak with bated breath; I make no prophecy as to the future—we never know what a day may bring forth—but I think the record of the British India Company for the past six years, so far as immunity from loss by navigation and marine risks is concerned, is one on which we may congratulate not only ourselves, but those in charge of our ships. (Hear, hear.) In passing, I may remark that while the British India Company has carried on its own shoulders the entire marine risk of its ships, the underwriters on cargo carried by the British India steamers cannot have done badly in the past six years. The amounts they have covered must have run into many millions, and the premium receipts must have been very large. I wish it had been my good fortune to have a share in their book. When we consider that the P. and O. and British India steamers are constantly in and out of port, constantly navigating crowded waters, that they go to sea and prosecute their voyages in all conditions of weather, volumes are spoken for the care and skill of the captains, officers, and engineers. Our freedom from accident and breakdown also speaks well for the attention that is given to the ships by the marine and engineer superintendents ashore, who are responsible for recommending promotions and for ensuring that the vessels are in good order

throughout, well found and properly equipped before they sail. When we think of the number of voyages made by the P. and O. and British India steamers in the past twelve months, and the number of passengers they have carried, running into millions—first, second, and third class—it is a source of satisfaction to the directors, as it must be to the shareholders and to those who make use of our ships, to know that we have been so comparatively free from casualty. What with the vessels which have been lost and their values recovered, the amounts realised for the steamers which have been compulsorily appropriated by the Government, and the sums which have been set aside for depreciation which would ordinarily have been put into new tonnage, we find ourselves with very large accumulations, which have meantime been lent to the Treasury, but all of which will be required in the near future for the construction of new ships.

APPROPRIATION OF PROFITS.

After providing for the payment to Government of 25 per cent. of our nett earnings in the shape of income-tax and for 60 per cent. of any profits earned in excess of those made on the average of two pre-war years, there remains sufficient to pay the proposed dividend and bonus, to make an addition to the reserve fund of £126,000, and to increase the carry forward by £7,000. In adding this amount to the reserve fund and slightly increasing the carry forward, the directors have been influenced by the importance of conserving the company's resources as much as possible, so that money may be available for the construction of new steamers as soon as circumstances permit, for the development of the company's business and for provision to meet contingencies that may hereafter arise. Our investments are valued at something well under to-day's minimum market prices. Our ships stand in our books at what may be described as merely a nominal value, and they should require very little depreciation in the future. New vessels, however, costing as they will do at least double the prices of normal times, will have to be drastically written down the moment they are in the water in order to keep their book values at a safe basis, and what the accounts will hereafter gain on the one hand I am afraid they will lose to a great extent on the other. No one can say that the dividend we are proposing to pay is lavish or that it is the outcome of the present situation. We are not distributing a war dividend. We are able to recommend the present modest increase of 3 per cent. in our distribution in a great measure owing to the fact that the company's resources in the past have been conserved under the prudent guidance of our late chairman, Sir Thomas Sutherland. (Hear, hear.) The dividend which we propose on the deferred stock represents an extremely moderate return on the amount of capital actually employed in the undertaking.

ASSETS OF £12,500,000.

If you look at the credit side of our balance-sheet you will observe that our assets are close on £12,500,000. Perhaps someone may be disposed to say, "Why don't you realise the assets, which are probably worth a good deal more than their book value, discharge your liabilities, wind up the company, and let us put our money into securities to yield 6 per cent.?" We might do so, but I do not think this would be in accordance with your views. I believe you would prefer to keep your money in the P. and O. rather than see your great organisation, with its potentialities, whatever they may be, transferred elsewhere. After all, there are matters to consider beyond dividends, and one of the most important of these is the maintenance of the country's supremacy at sea. As regards the future, while it is impossible to say what may be ahead of us, you may feel perfectly satisfied, as I said a year ago, that we shall never distribute a sixpence beyond what we can well afford to pay, after providing for depreciation and all contingencies, and, I may add, after taking care of those who help us to grind out the corn—our captains, our officers, our engineers, and our other employees. (Hear, hear.) Before sitting down, I must give you a message from Sir Thomas Sutherland. He sent me a letter, after reading the remarks which I made to you a year ago, in which he was good enough to say that he approved of all I had said; only I had made one grave omission, and that was that I had forgotten to mention that the cordial and friendly relations which had existed between him and myself for the last five and thirty years remained unbroken. I now beg to propose that the report and statement of accounts be adopted. (Applause.)

Sir William Adamson, C.M.G., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

DIVIDEND AND BONUS.

The Chairman next proposed, "That a dividend for the half-year ended September 30 last of 2½ per cent. on the preferred stock, less income-tax, and a dividend of 6 per cent., with a bonus on 6 per cent., on the deferred stock, free of income-tax, as recommended in the report, be now declared, and that payment for the same be made on and after the 18th instant."

Mr. W. G. Rathbone seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously, and the auditors, Mr. W. F. Courthope and Mr. F. A. White, were reappointed.

Mr. Thomas Dence proposed a cordial vote of thanks to the chairman, directors, and officers of the company for the great care and trouble they had taken in the conduct of the affairs of the company during the past year.

Mr. W. B. Atkinson seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman briefly acknowledged the vote, and the proceedings then terminated.

SIR W. G. ARMSTRONG, WHITWORTH, AND CO., LIMITED.

THE ALLEGED INFLATION OF PRICES.

The adjourned 22nd ordinary general meeting of Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth and Co., Ltd., was held on Thursday at Newcastle. Mr. J. M. Falkner, chairman of the directors, presided.

DIRECTORS' REPORT.

The report of the directors for the year ended December 31, 1915:—

A statement of accounts is submitted herewith for the year ending December 31, 1915, from which it will be seen that, after deducting depreciation and adding £334,038 13s. 2d. brought forward from the previous year, there is a balance of £1,186,387 os. 2d., which is reduced to £1,086,387 os. 2d. by the transfer of £100,000 to general reserve.

The preference share dividends and dividends on the ordinary shares, amounting to 1s. per share, less income-tax, and 1s. 8d. per share, free of income-tax, have already been paid for the year 1915, leaving a balance of £461,387 os. 2d. to be carried forward to next year's account.

It has not yet been settled with the Government Departments concerned whether the company is liable for excess profits duty or the munitions levy in respect of the year 1915, but the directors do not consider it necessary to make any special provision on this account.

Owing to the continuous and exceptional use of the plant and machinery, the directors have thought it advisable to make a considerable increase in the depreciation written off in the year's accounts.

For many months there has been high pressure in all the departments, and the directors wish to repeat the tribute which they paid in their last report to much good work done by those in the company's service. Every effort continues to be made to meet the demands of the Government.

The directors regret the death of their late chairman, Sir Andrew Noble, which has occurred since the issue of the last report. His connection with Elswick lasted for more than 55 years, and he had been chairman of the board since 1901. The directors wish to record their appreciation of his distinguished career, as well as of the great services which his devotion and energy rendered to the country and to the company.

THE LATE SIR ANDREW NOBLE.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said: The death of our late chairman, Sir Andrew Noble, has occurred since the last general meeting. Though he had reached an advanced age and though, after a life brimful of activity, failure of strength prepared us for the end, yet it came at last as a shock. He had been so long identified with the interest and progress of the company that his death severed many close ties and lifelong traditions. This is a fitting occasion to express the great debt which we owe to his knowledge, energy and devotion. At first sight there seems an irony in the time of his death. That a man who had spent all his life in the preparation for war should fail at the beginning of the greatest war the world has ever known—that the man to whom the science of artillery owes more than to anyone else should die when the fate of Europe is to be decided by artillery—this seems ironical enough. Yet as it was fitting that Lord Armstrong, who laid the foundation of Elswick, should close his life at the end of the 19th century, so it was fitting that the death of Sir Andrew Noble, who built the superstructure, should coincide with what must be considered the closing of an epoch.

FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES.

The old order changes, and is already changed. We are faced with problems of finance, manufacture and labour relations. The fundamental changes are that, instead of a private enterprise, we have become a Government arsenal under Government control, and that we have quadrupled the size of an already gigantic undertaking. There has been great difficulty in completing a balance-sheet because of the complicated regulations that different Government authorities have imposed. The output has enormously increased, but the increase is not reflected in profits. We have thought it prudent to increase the amount set aside for depreciation in view of the wear and tear of machinery used continuously. It is difficult to say that even this increased amount is adequate, but this is a point to which we shall give constant attention as occasion arises.

Our shareholders may at least console themselves by the reflection that such a balance-sheet as this is the best possible answer to allegations so often made against armament firms of exploiting the country's necessity. Such charges are easily

made. Sometimes they are disingenuous, and it is difficult to find time or opportunity to refute them. To me and my colleagues it appears premature to ask for committees to vindicate us or to occupy the time of Government departments and our own officials in preparing evidence. Our business is to put all our energies into the war and to leave controversy till afterwards, if controversy is necessary. In my opinion, the Government possesses in the munitions levy and the excess profits tax weapons sufficient to check any tendency to inflated prices, and at the proper time we shall court every possible inquiry. Our foreign and commercial work has been set aside to meet the country's requirements. Our only customers are the British Government. The fixing of prices rests ultimately with the Government, and patriotism forbids us to refuse orders except under very exceptional circumstances.

THE COMPANY'S HEAVY STANDING CHARGES.

A company of world-wide extent and vast complexity of manufacture like this company is necessarily handicapped by heavy standing charges and foreign expenses, which do not occur in the case of small firms or national factories. Neither of these last bear the expense of a large and highly-skilled staff at home and abroad or of endless experiments. They are taught by ourselves and others everything they want to know. They have their works laid out for them, and can specialise on a few articles. Since the war began the knowledge and experience of this company has been used to the utmost to broaden the sources of supply. We have surrendered our best men freely. We have been made a school for teaching others, including the great national factories, to make our own specialities. Our designs and experience have been put at everyone's disposal. Since the war began we have been asked by the Government to take representatives of some 200 manufacturers into our works and teach them our methods. In doing this we are, of course, creating a crowd of potential competitors. This is all as it should be, because all of us wish to help as much as possible, but such things should not be left out of account when the final balance has to be struck. We are not free to discuss figures in detail. Our output has enormously increased, and is increasing, but I cannot prophesy what future action the Government may take as to profits.

INCREASED PRODUCTION OF WAR MATERIAL.

Since we last met the production of war material has steadily improved, and this not only by adding hands, but by increased efforts on the part of the workers. Sunday work, except for matters of extreme urgency, has recently been abandoned at the request of the Government. This regulation has come as a great relief to every one. It had become obvious that work on seven days a week was physically impossible over protracted periods. Either the work or the workers must suffer by too long hours. It is hoped that the workers and their unions will see to it that the cessation of Sunday labour does not diminish output. On the whole, an increase of industry and regularity is noticeable. Though there is still much room for improvement and some deplorable slackness, yet things are better than they were, and this is due partly to the force of example of a vast body of conscientious workers, and partly, I hope, to the influence which the unions are bringing to bear on their members. It may be, also, that there is a growing realisation of the seriousness of the war. If it could be brought home to every individual how vitally this war affects the prospects or existence of every home in the nation I cannot doubt that more marked improvement would be shown.

What is technically known as "dilution"—that is, the careful husbanding of highly skilled labour by the introduction of less skilled labour and the substitution of woman labour for man labour—is being gradually extended. For their acquiescence and assistance we acknowledge our obligation to the trade unions, and we hope for their ungrudging help in carrying the principle further during the war. The number of our women workers has largely increased, and their efforts merit very high praise indeed. We are doing all we can to improve the conditions of labour, both male and female, by the establishment of canteens and clubs. Welfare workers are devoting special attention to the women.

CHANGES ON THE BOARD.

There have been changes on our board, and you are asked to confirm several appointments. We miss Lord Sydenham, who had to sever his connection with this company on taking a seat on the Air Board. As a set-off to this loss we have recovered Sir Percy Girouard, for whose energies present conditions offer the fullest scope. We are particularly glad to welcome our old friend Sir Philip Watts, in view of his vast experience and attainments and of our continually increasing naval commitments. A seat on the board has been offered to Colonel Hadcock, and accepted by him. He has been with the company for 27

years, and is probably the greatest living authority on ballistics. At the beginning of the war the great armament firms stood between this country and possible failure. Since then they have shown a wonderful power of expansion, and their output has multiplied many times. This process of expansion goes steadily forward, and will go forward till victory is attained. Meanwhile, their efforts are little recognised and receive scant acknowledgment. They are, indeed, seldom noticed, except for blame.

THE COMPANY AND ITS STAFF.

As regards our firm I should like to take this opportunity of offering special thanks to the staff. They have grappled with a bewildering expansion. They have worked early and late, Sundays and week-days, with entire self-sacrifice and cheerfulness. I mention no names; to do so would be invidious where all have shown such energy. I associate warmly in this commendation our foremen and our conscientious workers, men and women. I believe that the relations between the workers and the management are at least as cordial here as in other firms of anything like our magnitude. It is possible that both sides are beginning to understand each other better, and are more ready to make mutual concessions, however temporary. I hope this understanding may continue. We are safeguarding our shareholders' interests as far as we can and as far as the abnormal circumstances allow. While we are not losing sight of after-the-war problems, we realise that our first and engrossing object must be the successful prosecution of the war. He concluded by proposing the adoption of the report.

Mr. H. H. Smith Carington seconded the motion, and it was agreed to.

The Chairman moved and Sir G. H. Murray seconded: "That the following dividends be confirmed:—4 per cent. per annum on the first preference shares, 5 per cent. per annum on the second preference shares, an interim dividend of 1s. per share, and a final dividend of 1s. 8d. per share on the ordinary shares."

The motion was agreed to.

On the proposal of Colonel Mackenzie Sunderland, the appointment of Sir Percy Girouard, Colonel Haddock, and Sir Philip Watts as directors was confirmed, and the retiring directors, Mr. S. W. A. Noble, Sir Charles Otley, and Mr. Henry Whitehead, were re-elected.

Messrs. Monkhouse, Goddard and Co. were reappointed auditors, and a vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the meeting.

WHITE PASS AND YUKON RAILWAY.

The 19th ordinary general meeting of the White Pass and Yukon Railway Co., Ltd., was held on Monday, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. C. C. Macrae (chairman of the company) presiding.

The secretary (Mr. J. A. Robertson) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: When I met you last, a year ago, we were face to face with the most serious crisis which has confronted this company even during its exceedingly strenuous career. The heavy losses and curtailment of business which we sustained through the war rendered us unable to meet our debenture interest, and for the second time within little more than twelve months we had to face our debenture-holders to ask their consideration. The year 1915 closed the second of the two bad years suffered by this company owing to the war, and the curtailment of business occasioned thereby, and, therefore, you will not be surprised to find in the report that there was a loss shown for the year of £14,107, in addition to the previous loss of £10,567 shown in the preceding year. Those two together make the two black years of this company, occasioned, as I have already said, by the intervention of the war. Now I will give you some general remarks on the present situation of the company. In the first place, I am very pleased to say that the year just expired has produced a remarkable revival in business, justifying what we all along anticipated would be the case when once this incubus of the war trouble is removed. Of course, that in itself has not ceased, but it has so far diminished that the acute effect of it felt during the first two years is passing away on that far Pacific coast, and, as I have told you, as regards our territory there has been a very marked revival of business. That will be best shown to you when I give you quite generally what we believe to be the figures respecting the past season. From the best of the information that we have received to date—I am obliged to put it in that qualified way because the final accounts of the companies will not be made up until the end of this month—we believe we are correct in telling you that the tonnage carried in the past season has amounted to no less than 45,000 tons of merchandise, which is an increase of no less than 50 per cent. on the tonnage of the preceding year, and 27,000 tons of ore, which is almost entirely additional, inasmuch as the amount of ore carried in the preceding year was insignificant. The number of passengers carried we believe to have been 16,400 odd, against 11,081 in the previous year—an immense increase again. The receipts from passengers were something like £369,000, against £304,000 in the preceding year, or an increase of £65,000 in round figures on the passenger business. These are most gratifying figures,

and a remarkable feature in connection with them and in the passenger business to which I have just referred, is that a very large proportion was contributed by what is comparatively fresh business—that is, the tourist business. The great trunk American and Canadian railroads for the first time this year advertised the Alaskan trips for their seasonal excursions, with the result that there was this remarkable influx of tourists coming to the territory. I may say that to the best of our belief this last season has produced an increase of no less than \$420,000 in gross revenue over and above that of the preceding year, which amounts to 26 per cent. upon that taken in the previous year. The operating expenses are down by 13 per cent., although there is an increase of \$130,000 in the amount. Of course, the reduction in ratio is due to the fact of the gross being so much larger. The nett revenue is up by no less than 50 per cent., the increase being roughly \$300,000. Most satisfactory to me, although the operating expenses have been so heavy, is the fact that they amount to no more than 56 per cent. of the gross revenue in the year that I am speaking of, against 64 per cent. in the preceding year. With our English experience, and I might say the American, that ratio is the most gratifying figure which I can offer you. It is far below anything we have experienced in this country, or, as far as I know, in connection with the great railroads in America. Now, I do not propose to detain you any longer except to read you one or two remarks as regards the outlook for the year 1917 which occur in the report that I have before me from the general manager of the local companies. He says:—"The outlook for the winter and for next season is good. We are making our preparation at the present time to continue the hauling of ore all winter from the White Horse district, as we believe that the development of this district, which at the present time looks far more promising than at any time in its history, is one of the most important items in our programme. The outlook for next season is good all along the line." Then he goes into a number of details, and later on he summarises,—"Looking out over the situation, therefore, for next year, we feel quite confident, from all the information we can gather at this time, that we will have a very busy season. Of course, with a territory like ours, spreading out over thousands of miles, there are bound to be isolated spots where, from one cause or another, there will be a little shrinkage in business, and we must expect and be prepared for occurrences of this kind. The main point is that the situation as a whole is thoroughly healthy, and very promising, and we are looking forward with great confidence to even a better year next season than we had this."

Mr. E. F. North seconded the resolution, which was adopted unanimously.

The Chairman, replying to a vote of thanks, said he had never felt so hopeful about the future of their great enterprise as he did at the present time.

ASHANTI GOLDFIELDS CORPORATION.

The 19th ordinary general meeting of the Ashanti Goldfields Corporation, Limited, was held on Tuesday at the Holborn Restaurant, the Earl of Bessborough, K.P., the chairman of the company, presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. Horace Morgan, A.C.I.S.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said that the excess of liquid assets over liabilities was £132,450, showing an improvement of about £20,000 on the position a year ago. Expenditure on shaft sinking amounted to £9,829, while £10,794 was spent on new equipment, principally in connection with the extension of fuel lines. Their total income was £482,975, while all-in costs, charges, and allocations totalled £309,694, leaving the net profit £173,281, or £13,023 more than in the previous year. The credit balance of £89,082 would have warranted paying a higher dividend, but in face of the difficulties of the times and the increased cost of all supplies, it was necessary to maintain a larger balance than in normal times. Their ore reserves position was eminently satisfactory, notwithstanding the fact that for the year ending September last about £520,000 of ore had been extracted, but their development work had been so satisfactory that they were able to replace this and increase the value of the ore reserves by over £850,000. The total value of their reserves was now about £2,300,000. The estimated net profit value of these reserves was about £1,000,000, an amount which might be considered ample to maintain their rate of dividend at its present level—namely, 70 per cent.—for the next six years. The development work for the current year continued to show satisfactory results, and they could look forward to an equally strong ore position when they met again next year. Having referred to the developments of the various mines, the Chairman stated that, notwithstanding the increased and increasing prices in all directions, the gross expenditure would be rather less this year than last, though the "per-ton" costs would be higher. They did not, however, anticipate any falling off of the profits as compared with those of the year under review, if they maintained their arranged output of £40,000 per month. In regard to the fuel question, they were experimenting with the reforestation of the larger timber areas which they had cleared during the 20 years the company had been in existence. The experiment, on the whole, pointed to satisfactory results, and he hoped it would be possible, in time, to extend the operations. They were negotiating with the Nigerian Government with a view to utilising the output from the new coalfields discovered in that colony. Tests were now being made, both

at mines and in England, with a view to ascertaining its suitability for their fuel requirements.

Mr. Jeremiah Colman, J.P., seconded the resolution.

Sir Hugh Clifford, K.C.M.G., said that, not as a shareholder, but as one who chanced to be for the time being responsible for the administration of the Gold Coast Colony and Ashanti, its principal Dependency, he was familiar not only with the company's property, but also with their staff. From first-hand knowledge he had much pleasure in congratulating them upon the condition of their property and upon the manner in which it was being worked by those responsible for its development. He would like to bear personal testimony to the admirable way in which their property was being conducted by those responsible on the spot. He would like to tell them also of the surprising manner in which the Gold Coast Colony had withstood the depressing influences of the war, and also of the excellent relations that existed between the native population of the West Coast and the Britisher. He said advisedly "Britisher," although it was only a matter of 15 or 16 years since Ashanti had been at war with Great Britain. That was a matter for great congratulation to the administration, and to all the Europeans who had to deal with the native population. The Gold Coast Regiment had taken part in the expedition which had led to the conquest of Togoland before the end of the first month of the great war, and from Togoland the regiment went on to the Cameroons, where it served without intermission until the conclusion of that campaign. He had never seen men leave for the front in higher spirits. He would like people to feel that the relations between the Englishman and the West African natives had led to results such as those, and he would point out that it was not only the men in the Army, and not only the Civil servants, but every white man who went out to West Africa took the reputation of his country in his keeping. It depended on the general character which the white men on the West Coast were able to maintain whether or not they had the faith and trust of the native population. It was very gratifying in 15 years to find such results as those in a colony which a short time ago was at war with Great Britain. He hoped that what he had said would tend to make them appreciate not only the work of those in whom the shareholders were specially interested in West Africa on the Obuasi Mine, but also the work of their countrymen generally in circumstances which, since the outbreak of war, had often been arduous, difficult, and trying.

Mr. Morrison said he was sure they were all interested in hearing Sir Hugh Clifford, and he did not think the meeting should go further without some expression of the satisfaction which the shareholders felt at the splendid position which the Chairman had put before the meeting. It struck him that the Board and the management had brought the mine to a somewhat unique position. They had a profit in sight equal to the market value of the shares of the company, excluding all the assets on the property. He considered that a remarkable achievement, and he did not think there were many Gold Coast mines in that position. He would like to offer on behalf of the shareholders, as he was sure he could, their congratulations and thanks, and particularly he would like to mention Mr. Feldmann and Mr. Mann.

The resolution for the adoption of the report and accounts was then put and carried unanimously.

BENGAL-NAGPUR RAILWAY.

The 58th ordinary general meeting of the stockholders of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Co., Ltd., was held on Thursday at the company's offices, 132, Gresham House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. Robert Miller, chairman of the company, presiding.

The Managing Director, Sir T. R. Wynne, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman said that during the year ended March 31, 1916, capital expenditure had had to be kept to the lowest possible figure, and on rolling stock and stores supplied from England practically the only expenditure had been on contracts arranged before the war. The gross earnings amounted to £2,958,219, exceeding all previous records. The most prosperous earlier year was 1913-14, when the gross earnings were £2,803,957. The nett earnings were £1,508,340. The rise in gross earnings during the last five years was substantial, and pointed to a steady development of the area the railway served. In comparison with 1911-12, the earnings of the year showed an increase of £627,000, or about 27 per cent., though the open mileage had only increased by 194 miles, or 8 per cent. The working expenses during the same period rose by £303,731 and the nett earnings by £323,524. The receipts were still increasing. Their agent in India estimated the earnings for the half-year to September 30, 1916, at £885,666, an increase of £284,636. Interest charges and working expenses would also be higher. Coal and other goods which were sea-borne before the war from Calcutta to other Indian ports were now being carried by the railways, and had contributed to this increase. It must be expected that after the war they would lose some of this traffic, but they hoped they would be able to retain a proportion of it. There was steady growth in mineral traffic also. The railway served districts rich in minerals. Every year these resources were being more and more developed, with the result that their tonnage was more evenly distributed throughout the year. The more minerals and metals became the mainstay of the traffic, the less they need fear times of drought and famine and the more wealth must be accumulating for India, bringing about prosperity and raising the purchasing power of the individual.

The receipts on coaching traffic, amounting to £870,000, were disappointing, as they only showed an increase of £2,667 over 1914-15, or a decrease of £61,000 on 1913-14, the year in which coaching receipts were the highest on record. During the second half of the year, however, coaching traffic took an upward turn and the prospects were now considerably brighter. It was goods traffic they had to thank almost entirely for the successful results of last year's working, the receipts on this account amounting to £1,989,000, exceeding the receipts of 1913-14, the previous highest, by £218,000. The main increases were on account of general merchandise, £141,565, and coal, £75,160. The increase under general merchandise was due principally to grains, metals, and ores, and to the transfer of traffic from the sea to the railway. The coal traffic during the past year had shown remarkable expansion. This had been most marked in the case of traffic to Bombay for the Royal Indian Marine, mills and bunker purposes. Before the war about 1,300,000 tons of coal were consumed annually in Bombay. Of this amount approximately 950,000 tons were shipped from Calcutta, 300,000 tons were obtained from outside India, and something like 50,000 tons were carried by the East Indian and Bengal-Nagpur Railways, the only two railways connecting Bombay with the Bengal coalfield. Of the rail-borne coal the Bengal-Nagpur Railway during 1913 only delivered 17,000 tons in Bombay. As soon as war broke out the demand on the railways increased, and during 1915 this railway delivered 217,000 tons to Bombay stations, or an increase in two years of 200,000 tons. The diversion of coal traffic to the sea route not only affected Bombay and Karachi, but also Madras and concerns in South India, with the result that their earnings from coal traffic increased during 1915-16 by £75,160. As a matter of reasonable precaution, when the war broke out the Government of India pressed for every economy being made in working expenses, which necessitated reduced expenditure in repairs to rolling stock. They also undertook, as all Indian railways did, a large amount of special work in the railway workshops. The practical result had been that they had fallen behind in the upkeep of locomotives and wagons, and this would have to be made up in future years. He had every confidence, however, that this question would be fairly dealt with by the Government of India when the war was over. The working expenses of the year were £1,449,879, or 49.01 per cent. of the gross earnings. This was satisfactory, but it must be remembered that repairs were in a backward state, the result of which they were bound to feel in years to come. On July 1 last an interim dividend at the rate of $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. was paid with the guaranteed interest of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The board now proposed a final dividend of $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. and a bonus of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., both less tax, making a distribution for the complete year of 3 per cent. over and above the guaranteed interest of $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., so that the return to the stockholders was at the rate of $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., less tax, for the year. The final dividend and bonus would leave £187,600 to be carried forward. They had a sound, steady investment. The present price of the shares did not mean that the working of the railway had deteriorated in respect of its traffic earnings and efficiency of working. They had more traffic offering than they could carry, due to conditions beyond their control, and the depreciation in the value of the shares was due to circumstances which had affected similarly all other sound companies. Indian railway companies had freely and without any guarantee placed their resources in men and material at the disposal of the Government of India for overseas railways, and endeavoured to frame their policy during the war on Imperial lines. The Chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. A. H. Campbell seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

CAPE COPPER.

The twenty-ninth ordinary general meeting of the Cape Copper Co., Ltd., was held on Wednesday at 9, Queen Street Place, E.C., Mr. T. Blair Reynolds (the chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. P. J. Franks) read the notice and the auditors' report.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that on the credit side of the profit and loss account the item of copper ores and metal, at £263,793, showed the large increase over the previous year of £158,558. This increase was due principally to the higher prices of copper, which affected receipts in respect of the output of the mines for the year, and of stocks brought forward from the previous year. Against this increase there was a reduction in the other credit items and a general enlargement of outgoings, due to war conditions. The working profit for the year was £131,248, against £33,212. This was a substantial increase, but the whole of it was not in respect of the output for the year; it related partly to the realisation of stocks brought forward from previous years when profits were lower. They had to provide for taxation no less than £46,895, against £10,840. The dividend recently declared was at the rate of $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., or rs. 4.8d. per share, on the preference shares, and 3s. per share on the ordinary shares, and they were carrying forward more than usual to meet the possibility of additional taxation. With regard to the mining position in Cape Colony no important extensions of the ore bodies had been discovered during the year. A year ago he stated that instructions had been given to increase to some extent the average grade of ore taken from the Nababep mine. Recently the directors had decided to carry that principle still further as the lower grades of ore from Nababep formerly mined were, with the present high costs, unpayable. It was impracticable, with the range of grades now fixed, to increase

the output of copper, but under present conditions the cost per ton of copper should be considerably reduced. At the Indian mines practically no development work was done during the year. The large reserves opened up were deemed to be amply sufficient to justify the starting of the reduction plant, so that a further lock-up of capital on development of ore was unnecessary. The hope he expressed a year ago that Rakha would be turning out copper by this time had not been fulfilled. The restrictions in the way of obtaining material for the blast furnace plant had constantly increased, and the difficulties generally had been well-nigh insuperable. Speaking generally with regard to the company, he believed it would be found, on comparing present conditions with those of the period before the war, that the higher price obtained for copper was almost set off by the enormous increases in costs of freight, fuel, labour, and materials. As to the future, they must look for a gradually diminishing output from their Cape mines—a decrease which should be made good from the plant now being completed at Rakha. Later, however, they might hope for an increased output, for the last developments of the Rakha mines indicated that before long an extension of the plant would be justified. It was impossible to foretell the ultimate magnitude of their Indian mines. They had a prospecting area extending over a length of about 30 miles on the copper belt. An inspection had been made of part of the area, on which a mineralised section had been located where the geological features were reported to be very similar to those on the section where the Rakha Hills mines had been opened out. He did not wish to give undue importance to this report, but it was evident that the further prospecting of the area must not be delayed, as it might have a bearing of consequence on the future of the company.

Mr. John E. Champney seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

COLOMBIA RAILWAYS AND NAVIGATION.

The ordinary general meeting of the Colombia Railways and Navigation Co., Ltd., was held on Thursday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. Alfred S. Marks, the chairman, presiding.

The Secretary, Mr. F. Thomas, read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman moved the adoption of the report and accounts, and after dealing in detail with the figures he said that the company's present financial position might be considered fairly satisfactory. They possessed in Colombia a working capital of about £90,000, sufficient for conducting the business with efficiency, and their earnings during the past year had been slightly better than for the previous one. Unfortunately, events had occurred quite recently which were seriously prejudicial to the company's earning capacity. He referred to the rupture of the Fluvial Pool. Explaining this, he said that in 1909 the company, then called the Cartagena (Colombia) Railway Co., was in a very serious position, as, owing to the isolated position of the railway, it was unable to obtain sufficient traffic to make it a paying proposition. The Colombia Navigation Co., Ltd., was formed in that year as a subsidiary to the railway company, and acquired practically the whole of the fleets then existing on the river, and in the first year of its existence it carried something like 94 per cent. of the whole river traffic. Competition speedily arose, and was greatly stimulated by the financial weakness and inadequate working capital of the company, which ultimately made its reorganisation imperative. An arrangement was made whereby the various companies agreed to a uniform tariff and to pool the traffic in agreed proportions. This arrangement dated from July, 1914, and had had the effect of obviating the disastrous result which must have followed from a rate war during a time when traffics were showing a marked decrease. It had worked fairly well, but for some considerable time before its expiration of the agreement last September it had become evident that there would be a difficulty in the renewal of the pool arrangements. When negotiations were commenced in the spring of the present year a determination was apparent on the part of their then allies either to terminate the pool or to force this company to accept inequitable conditions, and in spite of concessions made by this company, at the end of September the pool was broken up. He could not imagine what the competing companies hoped to gain by a rate war. So far as could be judged from the returns for October, the only effect had been that all were carrying about the same amount of freight, but at greatly reduced rates. Since October 1 there had been a heavy reduction of rates, and a further reduction might be necessary to an extent which would render it impossible for any boat to be run on the Magdalena River except at a loss. Under these circumstances it was necessary to consider the company's financial position. This was fairly strong, for working capital was intact, and was sufficient for carrying on the business of the company efficiently; but there were no other resources out of which to pay interest unless it was earned. It was not probable that the interest due on January 1 next on the Navigation debentures would have been fully earned, and although no formal decision had been arrived at, he thought the board were unanimously of the opinion that it was their duty at this juncture to take advantage of a wise provision in the scheme of arrangement enabling them to defer the payment of the interest on these Navigation bonds. Great improvements had been made in their boats, and some improvements in the railway, although a great deal remained to be done.

Mr. J. M. R. Francis, J.P., seconded the resolution.

The Chairman, replying to points raised during a long discussion, said that their gross traffics in 1912 were £333,000; in 1913, £302,000; in 1914, £243,000; and in 1915, £233,000. This constantly diminishing volume was partly due to the competition and partly to reduction of trade caused by the war. In spite of this continual reduction the directors had managed to make a profit and improve the property by spending on it money that ought to have been spent in former years, before the present board took control.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

THE DE-TINNING CO.

THE UTILISATION OF MUNICIPAL WASTE.

At the invitation of the British De-Tinning Company a largely attended conference of members of municipal and other bodies was held on Wednesday at Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., to consider the question of securing for this country the remunerative industry connected with the collection and utilisation of waste, which before the war was almost exclusively in German hands.

Mr. H. C. Cust, in opening the conference, said he was pleased to see so many present at what he considered was a national and patriotic undertaking. He was present that day as President of the Central Committee for National Patriotic Organisations. They had found no better field for their efforts than in dealing with the many economic questions, and one of the earliest questions which had presented itself was that of dealing with the treatment of household waste.

Mr. Morgan L. Jones, speaking on behalf of the De-Tinning Company, said that he came before the conference as a plain business man, with a plain commercial proposition of national importance, which he would endeavour to explain as simply as possible. They were present that day to discuss in particular the apparently worthless old tin cans. For many years past this country had practically made the Germans a present of the raw material for a number of their large industries, together with valuable by-products. What was more important still, he was intimately acquainted with and in possession of improvements on the various processes by which the Germans transformed their old tins into a huge variety of valuable goods, and he would show how with the co-operation of those present the industry might be captured for this country. Practically every industry using iron and steel could benefit in some way by their work. They would be adding to the country's resources steel and tin suitable for various war requirements, manufactured quickly and inexpensively, from thousands of tons of old tins at present lying idle and rapidly accumulating.

The conference was resumed on Thursday. Mr. David Roberts (Swansea), who presided in the absence of Mr. Ellis Griffith, K.C., M.P., said he had the fullest confidence that if this movement was taken up in the proper spirit it would open up a big vista of change in the domestic habits of the country, and that it would satisfy everyone interested.

Mr. C. T. Ruthen (Swansea), owing to Mr. Morgan Jones's indisposition, gave further particulars of the company's proposals. There were two principal alternative suggestions, he remarked. The first was that the corporations should erect works at their own expense and trade on their own account, paying a royalty to the company for the processes. The principal objection to this was that at present public authorities had no power to engage in commercial trading. The alternative proposal was that the company should undertake the manufacture itself, the local authority contracting for the sale of the waste tin for a period of years at a fixed sum, which should not be less than that paid to enemy agents in pre-war days, and which would include the cost of collection and sorting. It was suggested that the local authority should provide a site close to the local refuse destructor, at a fixed rent, the company to erect the building necessary if one could not be locally provided, and further instal the necessary machinery. When the local authority rented machinery from the company for cutting, flattening, and bundling the tins the rent of the machine could be added to the selling price per ton. The company would, if necessary, supply and pay for the labour and working of the machine, but if the authority did the work the cost would be arranged and added to the selling price. In the case of very small areas, where the waste tin was not of sufficient quantity to justify even the erection of the smallest plants, it was suggested that the authority should sell to the company, who would send a travelling machine to cut, flatten and bundle the waste at stated intervals, and afterwards remove the tins to convenient regional process works. The company proposed to erect works in the first place at Southwark, Wandsworth, and Southend, but for this purpose they required the sanction of the Minister of Munitions to the erection of the buildings, and also of the Treasury for proceeding with the formation of the company. He (the chairman) suggested that the conference should appoint a committee of thirty, who should appoint a supervisory committee of three. The latter would examine the methods and processes as demonstrated at works to be erected at Southwark by Mr. Jones, who would report within six months.

Mr. Reginald Brown urged that a very large quantity of refuse metal from the smaller authorities went to Germany, whatever a few of the larger Corporations did. As a matter of patriotism he moved:—"That this conference records its opinion that there is a vast amount of waste metals collected by Corporations and others which can and ought to be utilised in the national interest, and that the conference offers its undivided encouragement to any British company to undertake any neces-

sary process for the purpose of such utilisation, and thereby capture from German companies a profitable trade."

Mr. Greaves (Southwark) seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The conference was again resumed on Friday. In the absence of Mr. A. D. Downay (the Mayor of Wandsworth) the chair was taken by Mr. P. Dodd (Borough Engineer). A telegram was read from the Mayor of Wandsworth approving of the scheme.

Mr. Dodd (Chairman) said that the Wandsworth Council had adopted the proposals of the company, not only on economic grounds, but also from patriotic motives. The company would pay the Council prices which were very much above pre-war prices for the waste tin, and the Council would also participate in the nett profits made after dealing with the tins.

Mr. Croxford (Wood Green) asked if the company were also going to collect the scrap metal from London houses, or only deal with the municipal authorities.

Mr. Ruthen (Swansea) said it was the object of the company to buy from outside commercial firms. The company would adopt a scheme of centralisation, which would be to the advantage of the company and the local authorities, though if the waste metal could be treated partially before it left the local authorities, then so much the better.

Alderman E. A. O'Bryen (Mayor of Hampstead) said he was interested in getting a higher price for their old tins as well as the patriotic motive. He promised to push the scheme before his Council for all it was worth. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Ruthen said that, speaking broadly, the company would pay 25s. per ton (minimum) for waste tins, but everything depended upon the condition of the tins.

On the motion of Mr. Ruthen (Swansea), a resolution was carried calling upon the Government to take action as soon as possible upon the lines laid down at the Paris conference of June last, so that means might be taken early to prevent inroads into British and Allies trades by enemy countries and agents, particularly German.

A small committee of five were appointed to negotiate with the British De-Tinning Co.

GLOBE AND PHOENIX GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

An extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders of this company was held on Friday at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., to receive a report from the directors in reference to the litigation with the Amalgamated Properties of Rhodesia (1913), Ltd., and generally as to the future conduct of the company's operations. Earl Russell (the chairman) presided.

The Secretary, Mr. Tom Priest, read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman said that they had met on the happy occasion of the conclusion of the very long litigation in which they had been involved, and he was able that day for the first time to speak frankly about the issues which were raised and the conduct of the case. He had seen letters from shareholders in which they said that the litigation arose from the agreement made in 1912, and therefore through the fault of the board who made it. He did not know where they got that information from; they certainly did not get it from any authoritative or well-informed source. That was never suggested in the course of the litigation, and the judgment of the Court showed that it was not the fact. He proceeded to explain at considerable length the nature of the claim brought against the company by the Amalgamated Properties of Rhodesia, and said not only was there a large sum of money involved, but the further question of the security of their property as a whole. It had been asked by some of the shareholders why there was no settlement of the action. That was almost answered if they considered the purpose for which it was raised. The action was not quite, in their view, an ordinary commercial action by a commercial gentleman who thought he had a claim which was worth making, and out of which he would get something. Their view of the chief reason why the action was raised was to assist financial and Stock Exchange operations, for at the very moment it was raised there was a reconstruction of the Amalgamated Properties Co. going on, and there was being dangled before the eyes of the unfortunate shareholders of their opponents the prospect of half-a-million pounds to be got somehow or other out of this action. It would not have been to anybody's advantage on the other side to settle the action for £50,000 or £100,000, and therefore there was never any likelihood of the action being settled. Moreover, they could not possibly let it be settled except on the footing of justifying the continuity of their Phoenix reef from the top to the bottom. Once that was challenged it was essential for the security of their future working that it should be disposed of. With regard to the judgment of Mr. Justice Eve, he said that it was not merely a judgment in their favour. They might have had a judgment in their favour on the agreement, and that would have enabled them to win this action. But they might have lost on the issues of fact or they might have had the issues of fact left unsettled. In either of those circumstances there would have been no security for the future conduct of their mine. The really important matter in this action was to win on the issues of fact, and they had got a judgment that was not merely and entirely for them on the agreement, but they had got a smashing and conclusive judgment on the issues of fact. That part of the judgment it was, of course, impossible to

appeal from. No court would ever consent to hear such an appeal to begin with, and certainly no court would reverse on questions of fact the decision of so careful a judge who had heard the witnesses and weighed the evidence of their relative credibility. Every penny expended on the trial had been well expended to obtain such a decision as that which freed them for all time from attacks, not only by the Amalgamated Properties Co., but by anybody else who might be rash enough to enter the lists against them. They had naturally obtained their costs, and they were justified in obtaining them on the higher scale. It was proposed none the less to write off the cost of the trial in the ordinary way from this year's balance-sheet, and if and when they recovered those costs, which might very well amount from £30,000 to £40,000, they would come in as an additional asset. He had seen balance-sheets of their opponents, which appeared to make it doubtful whether they had £30,000 cash available immediately for payment of these costs. He could not say how that might be, but the board would proceed as quickly as possible with the taxation of those costs and take the usual steps for their recovery. The result of the judgment was to free the John Bull Fund, which had reached a very considerable amount. Out of that fund the board had at once declared a dividend of 3s. per share, which was payable next month. They could have paid more than that, but they had to provide between £60,000 and £70,000 next month for income-tax. The production at the mine was going on steadily, and the finance was in every way satisfactory. Speaking of the board's previous policy, he said now that the company was free from this nightmare, which had hung over them for three years, they were proceeding at once with the development of the lower levels of the John Bull claims, which were suspended during the action. They had also satisfactory developments in other places, of which he gave some particulars, and he remarked that the experts which they had had to call in, in connection with the litigation, had been asked to tell the board where they might work some portions of the mines which had been neglected or regarded as worked out. The good developments to which he had referred were the result of their advice, so it was satisfactory to know that a portion of the cost had already been recovered in a commercial manner. Cheaper and better methods of treating the sands had been discovered, and he was hopeful that the time might shortly come when the sand plant would really be making something like the profit they estimated when they decided to put it up.

After some discussion, a resolution was passed voting a thousand guineas to each of the directors in recognition of their arduous and successful conduct of the litigation.

Answers to Correspondents.

* * A Key to these Answers will be posted early each week for a subscription of ONE GUINEA per annum, 11s. for six months, or 5s. 9d. for three months.

Deposits against future queries may be lodged with the Publisher.

A. B. C.—Probably it would be right to average, but we cannot be sure, and there is quite a probability that the price will go lower still, although the changes now being made look very promising of good results for the distant future.

J. A. L.—The income bonds are not in the Government list, and we regret not to have made that clear. The property is doing much better, so these bonds seem worth sticking to.

Santa Anna.—The general situation seems to be improving a little, but we do not see our way clearly enough to advise you to average just now.

Salt.—The good companies are mostly at such high premiums that we hesitate to recommend a purchase of any. And we can only say here if you find a share that can be bought to pay 6 per cent., or more, on present returns to buy that.

Lydia S.—(1) This ought to be safe, it is repayable so soon. (2) This also is good, so keep. (3) We are a little doubtful here, and think you had better sell. Buy Exchequer bonds to hold meantime.

A. B. S.—There has been some recovery since you wrote. The company is very strong financially; the stock gives a good return at present price, and looks like going higher, but there are risks, and if you feel nervous you should sell part, if not all.

D. R. C.—If you are prepared to wait, we think you might buy a little more, though we do not expect to see much recovery for some time to come.

Jetsam.—The samples you give are not particularly attractive, and we think you will save yourself trouble if you clear them out.

L. M.—The property is at a standstill, and we fear you can do nothing but wait and hope the company can pull round after the war. The stock is at present quite unsaleable.

Zero.—On the whole, we think not. The company, it is true, is enlarging the capacity of its plant, but any benefit from this seems to be already so fully discounted that there is not much scope for further appreciation.

The Clerical, Medical and General Life Assurance Society has appointed Mr. George Herbert Lawton assistant secretary of the society.

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PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1916, and Dec. 9, 1916:—

	Estimate for the Year 1916-1917. (See note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1916, to Dec. 9, 1916.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1915, to Dec. 11, 1915.
Balances in Exchequer on April 1—	£	£	£
Bank of England	—	25,111,065	81,898,728
Bank of Ireland	—	463,941	1,552,224
REVENUE.		25,575,006	83,450,952
Customs	71,000,000	47,141,000	35,175,000
Excise	65,000,000	37,220,000	40,290,000
Estate, &c., Duties	30,000,000	20,560,000	22,289,000
Stamps	7,000,000	5,175,000	4,644,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,650,000	340,000	350,000
Property and Income Tax and Super Tax	195,000,000	47,955,000	22,715,000
Excess Profits Duty (including Munitions Levy)	86,000,000	67,543,000	—
Land Value Duties	475,000	141,000	62,000
Post Office	36,100,000	21,550,000	21,050,000
Crown Lands	550,000	420,000	350,000
Receipts from Suez Canal Shares and Sundry Loans ..	5,000,000	4,822,119	774,312
Miscellaneous	3,500,000	11,503,208	4,229,070
Revenue	502,275,000	264,370,327	151,928,382
Total, including Balance		289,945,333	235,379,334
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion		2,760,000	1,880,000
For Treasury Bills (for supply) ..		1,560,554,000	357,842,000
For Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 ..		3,087,600	—
For War Loan, 1925-1928		—	35,798,408
For 3% Exchequer Bonds, 1920 ..		—	242,345
For War Loan, 1925-1945		424	586,316,000
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919 ..		34,222,000	—
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920 ..		84,140,469	—
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1921 ..		62,464,000	—
For 6% Exchequer Bonds, 1920 ..		133,734,000	—
For War Expenditure Certificates ..		29,150,100	—
For War Savings Certificates		38,450,000	—
For American Loan		—	24,735,000
For other Debt created under the War Loan Act, 1915, and Finance Act, 1916 ..		146,106,208	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 ..		180,000	1,230,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 ..		160,000	160,000
Under Housing Act, 1914		45,200	650,000
East Africa Protectorate Loan Repayments on account of Principal and Interest ..		—	3,825
Cunard Loan—Repayment on Account of Principal		130,000	130,000
Temporary Advances—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £345,000,000 in 1916-1917 and £231,150,000 in 1915-1916)		459,156,500	292,196,500
Total		2,844,285,834	1,536,563,412

NOTICES.

SOUTH MANCHURIAN RAILWAY 4½ PER CENT. BONDS. COUPON DUE 1st JANUARY, 1917.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above COUPONS will be PAID on and after the 2nd January, 1917 (Saturdays excepted), between the hours of 11 and 3, at the Yokohama Specie Bank Ltd., where lists may be obtained.

Coupons must be left three clear days for examination prior to payment.

For the Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd.,

K. TATSUMI, Manager.

7, Bishopsgate, E.C.,

15th December, 1916.

IMPERIAL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT 4% LOAN OF 1899.

Coupon due 31st December, 1916.

IMPERIAL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT 4% LOAN OF 1905.

Coupon due 1st January, 1917.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above COUPONS will be PAID on and after the 2nd January, 1917 (Saturdays excepted), between the hours of 11 and 3, at the Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd., where lists may be obtained.

Coupons must be left three clear days for examination prior to payment.

For the Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd.,

K. TATSUMI, Manager.

7, Bishopsgate, E.C.,

15th December, 1916.

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Estimate for the Year 1916-17. (See note.)	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1916, to Dec. 9, 1916.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1915, to Dec. 11, 1915.
EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£
Permanent Charge of Debt ..	12,818,000	14,896,998	17,028,089
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	114,436,000	95,176,199	27,553,388
Road Improvement Fund	—	—	694,395
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c.	9,500,000	6,345,312	6,497,433
Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,700,000	1,304,452	1,215,883
Supply Services	1,687,529,000	1,287,123,191	950,834,760
Expenditure	1,825,983,000	1,404,846,152	1,003,823,948
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion		2,800,000	2,415,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		91,370	91,370
For Treasury Bills for Supply		1,015,717,000	101,693,000
For Exchequer Bonds under the War Loan (Redemption) Act, 1910		—	16,395,500
For Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	£4,060,900	—	—
Less: paid off by the National Debt Commissioners	973,300	3,087,600	—
For Exchequer Bonds under Section 61 of the Finance Act, 1916		172,450	—
For Issues under Section 1 (5) of the War Loan Act, 1915		—	170,143,313
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913		210,000	1,400,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 ..		160,000	190,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		8,000	—
Under Housing Act, 1914		44,500	744,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8, issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1908		69,000	60,000
Old Sinking Fund—1910-1911: Issued under the Finance Act, 1911—Section 16 (1) (b)		53,160	104,856
Old Sinking Fund, 1911-1912—Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Co. (Acquisition of Capital) Act, 1914		250,000	250,000
East Africa Protectorate Loan Repayments:—Issued to reduce Debt under the Finance Act, 1911		—	3,825
Cunard Loan Repayments—Issued to reduce debt under the Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904		130,000	130,000
Temporary Advances repaid—Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £307,551,000 in 1916-17 and £205,998,000 in 1915-16)		391,447,500	205,998,000
Balances in Exchequer—			
Bank of England	24,419,995	32,184,945	—
Bank of Ireland	779,107	665,675	—
Total		2,844,285,834	1,536,563,412

MEMO.—Treasury Bills outstanding on Dec. 9, 1916 *£1,148,471,000
* Includes £217,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of this Account.

NOTE.—Estimate as in House of Commons Paper No. 50 of 1916, and Supplementary Grants.
Treasury, December 11, 1916.

The Investors' Review

FOUNDED BY A. J. WILSON, FEBRUARY, 1892.

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Paid up Capital	669,665	0 0
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits ..	354,791	5 3
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	606,962	10 0

REMITTANCES made by CABLE.

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Passing Events.

One of the most absorbing problems facing Mr. Bonar Law is the funding of the now stupendous floating debt. Evidently that gentleman is tackling it, for in the Committee of Ways and Means he yesterday moved a resolution authorising the issue of a new War Loan, as and when the Treasury thought fit. At the present time, as last week's Exchequer returns show, the floating debt amounts to £1,149,000,000 in Treasury bills, £147,759,000 in 6 per cent. Exchequer bonds, £29,000,000 in War Expenditure and over £37,000,000 in War Savings Certificates, making a total of nearly £1,700,000,000. Every week this huge mass is necessarily being added to. Were that all, we might sit quiet and hold on, but it is the attribute of a floating debt to be continually coming up in wisps and slices for renewal. Last week, for example, although the expenditure on supply services was only £28,828,000, the total outgoings of the week amounted to £61,230,000, because, in addition to the ordinary expenditure, which, including everything, amounted to £30,246,000, there were £25,636,000 of Treasury bills that had to be renewed, besides £5,255,000 of temporary advances falling in for payment. Consequently the Government had to issue £30,960,000 of Treasury bills, £10,025,000 of 6 per cent. Exchequer bonds, £4,012,000 of other war debt, and £5,000,000 of temporary advances, besides receiving £900,000 for Saving Certificates and £321,000 in Expenditure Certificates, in order to keep its payments level. And it did that with £1,567,000 over. Wonderful finance, but precarious. The ordinary revenue was £11,560,000, of which excess profit duty provided £6,156,000. Up to date, in fact, that new branch of income has yielded £73,699,000, and it promises to exceed the Budget estimate. It may, therefore, be increased.

There was a businesslike directness about Mr. Prothero's address to the Federation of Agricultural War Committees which is of good promise for his administration. We must act, he told his hearers, "under the full consciousness that we are in a beleaguered city," and that is unpleasantly near the truth. Proceeding on this assumption, Mr. Prothero set forth the steps now to be taken in order to supply ourselves with food from our own resources.

The best use is not being made of the land, he said, but the committee will be given "power to enter upon, occupy, cultivate, and put seeds into lands which were found to be insufficiently cultivated or not cultivated at all." If this measure is carried out with an impartial thoroughness, so that the waste lands held for their pleasure by the rich will be as fully given over to tillage as the common land or the cultivable wild pastures now waste, then, indeed, we shall see the beginning of a far-reaching reform in the condition of rural England, and an incalculable increase in the country's capacity to withstand adversity; see also a valuable increase in our solid wealth.

But coercion is not to be applied without compensation, and Mr. Prothero proceeded to say that while there was to be "no fiddling about with maximum and minimum prices," it had been decided to give fixed prices to the grower for the product of his industry. The price of wheat is fixed at 60s. per quarter, which is not excessive, as times go. If the price went higher the cultivators would be nominally losers, but if it went below the 60s., the Government—that is to say, the general taxpayer—would suffer the loss. We do not like this method of stimulating an industry, but it is probably unavoidable in present circumstances. Wheat alone, however, is not in question, and Mr. Prothero admitted that he had not yet come to a decision as to what prices would be fixed for oats and potatoes. A decision will be come to and announced within the next fortnight. In addition to all this, an effort is to be made to wake up the dormant life of our villages; the cottage garden is to be utilised, and seed potatoes will be provided according to the space the cottager is able to devote to that crop. Necessarily, if the stirring up of labour in this way is to be efficacious in altering the habits of our rural population, it must be accompanied by co-operation, not only in cropping, but in gathering and disposing of the crops, and a beginning may thus be made in an economic comradeship throughout rural districts which should lead to a return of population to country life. At the moment, however, the great difficulty will be to find labour, but on that point also Mr. Prothero spoke clearly and to the point. Already the Board of Agriculture has secured one thing, in his opinion not much, but still something, since no men are to be

called up on January 1 "until the census returns have been carefully scrutinised." The system of fortnightly exemptions, with its consequent waste of time, would cease. Farmers also were promised that they could employ as many women as they liked without fear that their men—provided these were just the scale allowance—would be taken away by the military representatives. Help is to be got from the Treasury to set the new machinery in motion. But we hope it will be so given as to conduce to the development of self-help.

The *Morning Post* has been homilising about our finance, giving us some "plain words," it says, but they are not so very plain, after all. The writer does not deny to the late Ministry and to Mr. McKenna "energy in handling confessedly difficult problems"; nevertheless, it thinks "that censure of the late Government must be severe, because most of its mistakes arise from self-opinionated ideas and a determination merely to consult the experts in a desultory fashion," with more of the same sort. Mr. McKenna's "obduracy and self-complacency at the Exchequer have been of incalculable injury," we are told. Is that so? We have criticised Mr. McKenna often enough, but never thought of committing ourselves to so sweeping a condemnation as that type. Where has he sinned in the eyes of this critic? Apparently not so much in his neglect to utilise all forms of thrift which we have so often complained about, but in his allowing the finances of the country to "drift." "There must be no paltering with the question of economy," we are told. Did the late Government palter? If so, how, where, and when? "Sinking funds must be restored, the floating debt must be reduced, taxation must be aimed, not solely at incomes, but still more at every form of unnecessary expenditure." Ah, we begin to see. The good old *Post* wants a tariff, as usual, and wants it just when it would be most hurtful to the trade of the country. Says the writer, "We must reduce our imports and increase our exports." Well, that is not to be done just now, by a tariff, anyway. And as for "restoring sinking funds," there is only one way by which we can do that with effect in present circumstances, and that is by issuing premium bonds in the Continental manner. If these are what the *Morning Post* wants to see, why not say so frankly, instead of printing rotundities of language which conceal instead of revealing the mind of the writer? Lottery bonds, yes, by all means.

The feverish dash of the Austro-German, Turk-Bulgar, &c., &c., forces towards Braila brings vividly before us the true motives governing the strategy of this Rumanian campaign, or raid. The generals and their troops are driven forward by hunger, and are being disappointed as they go. For the grain has been removed from their clutches, or in great part, so that, according to the well-known Budapest correspondent of the *Morning Post*, of the expected quantity not more than one-fifth has fallen into the hands of the invader, less than three million tons, says the *Cologne Gazette*, of which less than one-third may reach Germany. Let us hope that it will be much less. Perhaps it is because of this disappointment that the vengeful Hun, in true brigand fashion, has ordered a levy of £4,000,000 to be made on the city of Bukarest. We hope he will fail to collect the money, and are sure that even should he do so, it will not help to relieve the hungry in Germany. All will be devoured by the army. The same correspondent gives us the official figures of part of the last German harvest, and they are worth reproducing here as emphasising the fact that scarcity must be growing increasingly acute there every week now. The only crop which has yielded substantially larger results than in 1915 is potatoes. There the increase is nearly 8,500,000 tons, and it is due to the extensive use of waste land in growing the additional crop—a fact our agricultural guides ought to take note of; but the larger stock of potatoes does not suffice to make good the shortage in cereals, some of which are not tabulated here, and consequently the famine, as it has now be-

come, is not relieved. Moreover, there is the prospect that in the coming year, no matter how the nation's labour may be organised, crops will be poorer still because of the lack of fertilisers:—

	1916.	1915.
	Presumably Tons.	Presumably Tons.
Wheat	3,855,841	3,971,955
Winter barley	378,916	370,505
Summer barley	2,483,752	3,137,983
Potatoes	53,973,348	45,569,559
Hay	33,158,784	41,773,214
Oats	5,986,034	9,038,185

It is pleasant to find that a further substantial recovery has taken place in the results of the India Rubber, Gutta Percha, and Telegraph Works Co., Limited, for the year to September 30. Two years ago there was a loss of £18,920, and £50,000 was taken from reserve to meet losses sustained by Persian and the foreign branches. Last year, however, there was a nett profit of £80,400, and for the past twelve months it has jumped to £133,780. Gross profits amounted to £288,940, an increase of £82,000, but expenses, income-tax, debenture interest, and the allowance for depreciation were all higher. The directors have restored the £50,000 taken from reserve two years ago, and are content to maintain the dividend at 10 per cent., increasing the balance forward by £21,300 to £40,210, so as to make provision for excess profits duty. The company's debentures fell due last March, and had to be renewed at 93, with interest at 5 per cent., instead of 4 per cent. This operation cost £28,000 in cash, which has apparently been charged against revenue, as the item does not figure in the accounts. One of the two steamers has been sold, and the other (the *Dacia*) was sunk by a torpedo, but the loss was fully covered by insurance. As a result, buildings, plant, &c., are reduced £27,000 to £528,000. Creditors have increased £100,000, while debtors are £41,000 lower. Cash is up £31,000, and stocks are £83,000 higher, while assets at Persian and branches have increased £130,000. The Silvertown works became a controlled establishment on May 1 last, but that fact is not likely to impede the earning capacity of the company, which has long had a reputation for sound and enterprising management.

We are glad to see some recovery in the results of the Argentine Transandine Railway Co., Ltd., for the year to June 30. Gross receipts were £73,540, an increase of £25,560, which compares with a decrease of £47,600 last year, the latter being abnormally affected by the long stoppage of the international traffic. General business improved, and goods traffic from Chile is steadily developing, while the results from the current financial year so far show a continuous increase over the corresponding period. Nett revenue amounted to £18,070, an increase of £9,200, but, including miscellaneous receipts and deducting interest on the "A" and "B" debentures, there is a deficit of £10,630, which is £7,780 less than last year, but goes against a credit balance of £18,220 in 1914. Claims by the Buenos Ayres and Pacific Co. for expenditure which this company contended could not be properly charged have been compromised by the payment of roughly one-third of the amount claimed. The company, we believe, has a promising future, but it may take longer to materialise than was at one time expected.

As announced at the time, its system was handed back to the Mexican Railway Co., Ltd., by the Government on September 1 last, but as the requisite information for the period during which the line was out of its control has not yet been received from Mexico, it is impossible to submit any useful accounts, and the report to June 30 confines itself to an explanation of the general position. Shortly before the property was restored the officials were able to make a cursory inspection, and reported that the track, though suffering from lack of maintenance, which is now very much in arrear, has stood up very well. Many of the stations have been damaged or destroyed, but fortu-

nately none of the larger stations have suffered except from neglect. The most serious damage has been caused to engines and rolling stock; many of the engines have been rendered temporarily useless, and a large portion of the rolling stock has been burnt or is missing. Owing to the activity of rebel bands it has been found impossible to resume traffic on any of the branch lines except the Puebla, and no reliable report has been received as to their condition. Since September 1 the working of the line has therefore been carried on with difficulty, and even in daylight trains have been attacked by bandits, and in two cases five engines were destroyed and two freight trains burnt. Nevertheless, during the month of September the gross earnings were \$8,002,000 and the expenses \$3,547,000, showing nett receipts of \$4,455,000, but no provision was made for necessary renewals, and it is believed the expenses represent only the amount paid out for wages. Moreover, the currency mentioned is at present practically worthless, but since November 30 the company has been allowed to collect all charges except second-class passenger fares in specie or its equivalent, but it is rather doubtful if there is enough specie left in the country to maintain this system. Since September 1 remittances for £9,800 have been received, but this has been insufficient to meet office and other expenses, and the directors are compelled to ask the debenture holders for an extension of the moratorium. The present time is inopportune for pressing claims for compensation, but the outlook is rather brighter, and the directors pay a tribute to the correct manner in which the management has been met by Señor Carranza when it has been necessary to appeal to him. But it is fairly obvious that it must take a long time before conditions settle down in the unhappy country.

It seems a long time now since the collapse of the Bank of Egypt caused an unpleasant-looking scandal, and some readers may remember the efforts that this journal made to have that scandal opened up, with a view to fixing the malfeasance, if any, upon the right shoulders and making the culprits pay. One of the worst aspects of the collapse was to be found in the fact that so hopelessly ignorant of the truth were the directors of the board in London that they actually allowed the issue of a new parcel of shares, which were sold to the proprietary and the public at a premium, the bank being at the time perfectly rotten. We hope the time is now at hand when it will seem an impossibility that such a neglect of duty should go unpunished; but the directors of the Bank of Egypt are, it seems, to be allowed to depart in peace and enjoy their reputation. A committee of shareholders was got together, and began an investigation into the bank's history, with a view to taking proceedings against the board, or sundry members thereof, for repayment of losses. That done, the whole thing relapsed into the happy oblivion which is, as it were, the vestibule of the ornamental company director's paradise. One of the cheated shareholders, however, has extracted the fact that further proceedings have been abandoned, and that the shareholders' committee has collected £1,814 in all, including £69 13s. 5d. received as interest on money deposited. It has spent about £719 of this on solicitors and counsel, shorthand writers, &c., £336 on accountants, and £112 on petty expenses. Of the remainder, £640, or at the rate of 11d. per share, has been returned to the subscribers, and £7 8s. 4d. is kept in hand to meet any further charges. Then there was likewise a plaintiffs' committee, which collected only £388 from subscribers, and that sum does not seem to have given much scope for employment of lawyers, for only £147 is entered as having been paid as law costs, &c. Secretary's salary and office charges absorbed another £65, and printing, postages, &c., took nearly £21, so that altogether £232 of the money was utilised in a show of hostility, and of the balance £148 was returned to the subscribers, who got back 4d. per share on 8,246 shares. Also £10 7s. 6d. is classed as "returnable" to subscribers over and above, and a small balance is kept in hand. Thus nobody got anything out of the effort to

bring these men to justice except the lawyers, and now the whole unpleasant subject is to be buried for good. Such are sometimes the ways of limited liability finance.

A sensible position seems to have been arrived at by the board of the Western Australian Bank in the matter of opening branches outside the State. It was proposed a year ago to open a branch in Melbourne, but that idea has been abandoned, and the circumstances seem to point to the wisdom of restricting all avoidable expenditure. Last season in Western Australia was not altogether favourable, and although prices have been good and the prospect for the coming harvest is fair both for cereals and fruit, the continuance of the war and the increase in taxation make the necessity for circumspection in all directions imperative. This colony, like the rest, is beginning to feel the pinch caused by a reduction in its supply of labour, and no doubt the authorities will have to take measures to substitute females for males in many departments of industry there as well as here. According, however, to the report issued for the six months ended September 25 last, the profit earned by the bank was just about as good as usual, only, in fact, £69 less at £27,140; so that, adding £27,840 brought forward, there was £54,980 to divide, and after paying the £1 per share dividend declared by the board, free of the State dividend tax, there will be £5,892 more left to carry forward at £29,980. In addition, there is a reserve fund of £680,000, and thus the bank looks well protected against the buffets of adversity. That is as it should be. Its liability on deposits is £149,332 down at £2,296,000. Of that total £1,142,000 bears interest. Against this liability there is a capital paid up, a reserve fund, and balance of profit and loss aggregating £985,000. That is the first protection, and then amongst the assets there is £2,489,000 of bills receivable and other advances, which is £32,350 more than at the corresponding date last year. Specie on hand is down £203,000 to £281,480, and bullion £39,000 lower at £120,000, but the holding of Australian notes has gone up £25,000 to £236,000. The aggregate of the balance-sheet is £175,000 smaller at £3,422,253.

There is little reflection of disturbed conditions in the report of the Imperial Bank of Persia, which has excellent results to show for the year ended September 20. Gross profits, after providing for income-tax, amounted to £122,666, an increase of £11,370, but a year ago £7,000 for income tax was debited separately, so that the results are actually better than the figures disclose. Moreover, it has been found possible to reduce management and other expenses by £6,000, and the nett profit is £17,400 up at £54,170. Consequently the directors are able to place £10,000 to reserve (raising it to £160,000), and to increase the dividend from 6s. to 7s. per share, leaving £24,280, or £5,200 more, to be carried forward. Notes in circulation are £28,000 less at £180,000, while deposits are £25,000 higher at £727,840, and bills payable have increased £148,000 to £888,750. Cash in hand is £64,300 less at £522,830, but money at call and short notice has increased £152,500 to £178,000. Investments have been reduced by £117,000 to £429,200, but bills discounted, advances, &c., are £200,000 higher at £1,480,000. Everything has a healthy and prosperous appearance.

Considering the extent to which South Africa has been affected by the war, both directly and indirectly, the African Banking Corporation, Limited, had a most successful year to September 30. Gross profits amounted to £234,250, an increase of £26,000, but expenses were £10,500 higher, and after placing £10,000, against nil, to reserve, the balance is £4,000 larger at £49,840. This allows of the dividend being raised from 6 per cent. to 6½ per cent., and £28,840, or £1,140 more, remains to be carried forward. Current and deposit accounts have increased £172,000 to £5,735,900, drafts £95,000 to £277,900, and

acceptances £273,000 to £367,200, but the note circulation is £37,000 lower at £225,600. Cash in hand, at call, &c., is a trifle less at £1,258,000, investments have dropped £122,000 to £915,000, and bills of exchange purchased are £48,000 lower at £1,287,000, but a healthy sign of reviving trade is an expansion of £819,000 to £3,463,000 in bills discounted, advances, &c. The bulk of the assets, therefore, are in very liquid form. It is interesting to note that the Earl of Selborne has been reappointed chairman on resigning the office of President of the Board of Agriculture.

Shareholders in Slaters, Limited, will not have expected any very brilliant results for the year to September 30, as the new directors only took office at the end of March, and nearly all their energies must have been devoted to the reorganisation of the business. As a matter of fact, the trading profits show an increase of £1,500 at £14,260, and that is a hopeful sign that a great deal may yet be done to restore some of the company's past prosperity, although it will necessarily be uphill work. When proper allowances are made for various charges there is a debit balance of £6,786 against an apparent profit of £2,836 last year, but the latter figure was quite illusory. It has now been found necessary to write off £16,000 for dilapidations, and £42,460 for depreciation of investments. Half the latter amount is charged to profit and loss, and the other half against reserve, with the result that the debit balance is raised to £45,180, and the reserve fund is reduced to £47,500. A long circular is issued with the report, explaining the difficulties with which the new directors have had to contend, and offering to submit themselves for reelection at the forthcoming meeting. So far as can be judged, they have done excellent work, and deserve to be supported. It is stated that since October 1, when the reorganisation of the business first became effective, there has been a small and gradually increasing nett profit week by week, so that there is a reasonable prospect of the company again entering the dividend list in the future.

It is announced that Dick, Kerr and Co., Limited, have made an offer to purchase the business of the United Electric Car Co., Limited, on the basis of exchanging the 6 per cent. preference shares at par, or paying them off at 20s. in cash, and buying the ordinary shares at 15s. each. An amalgamation would probably be to the advantage of both concerns, neither of which has been particularly successful in recent years. So far as the offer to the United Electric preference holders is concerned, Dick, Kerr preference shares rank at least equally as high, and those who wish to realise can scarcely hope for better terms than par for a long time to come. As regards the ordinary shares also, the price of 15s. seems generous enough. In the past nine years they have only received an aggregate of 20 per cent. in dividends, an average of little over 2 per cent. per annum, and although the price has recently been in the neighbourhood of 15s., we are inclined to think that this may be partly due to knowledge that a deal was impending, as the shares seem scarcely worth the price on their merits. Anyhow, the United Electric directors recommend the shareholders to accept the offer, and they are in the best position to judge of its reasonableness.

It is not practicable to compare exactly the results of the London-American Maritime Trading Co., Ltd., for the year to July 31 with those of the previous period, which covered 14 months. Moreover, there have been slight changes in the form of accounts before the trading profit is arrived at. For instance, £15,500 written off preliminary expenses has been deducted before the profit is struck, whereas last year £5,500 appeared as a separate debit. Doubtless there are variations that do not appear, and the result is that the trading profit looks as though it were £9,000 smaller at £118,835. Anyhow, it is a very creditable

showing, and the directors prudently double the appropriation to reserve for contingencies at £50,000, and reduce the dividend from 27 per cent. to 20 per cent., but increase the balance forward by £15,400 to £17,940. The preference dividend is made up to 10 per cent., against 11½ per cent. Last year's ordinary dividend would work out at 23 per cent. per annum, so that the shareholders do not sacrifice much—less than nothing when the increased strength of the company is taken into account. Several of the company's vessels have been under Admiralty requisition during the year, and since the accounts were closed it has acquired the Leander fleet of four steamers (19,500 tons), while it has replaced three of its older vessels by a modern one. There is nothing in the balance-sheet calling for special mention, but it has a clean, straightforward appearance, and the company is evidently managed with vigour and ability.

It is certainly no small proof of the perfect organisation of Messrs. Skinner's office that the well-known and most useful "Stock Exchange Year-Book" should have been issued this year at the customary date. To be sure, in one sense the work of compilation and correction has been less arduous in that the turgid flood of new companies has been dammed back by the war. On the other hand, Government activity in loan-raising has been, as Sir Thomas says in his preface, "immense." The Colonies also have been by no means idle, and the large drafts upon credit made by the Empire in carrying on the war have had a shrivelling influence on the prices of other important classes of securities. Compared with a year ago, "British Government stocks show falls ranging up to 27 per cent., Home Corporation stocks up to 18, Colonial and Provincial Government stocks up to 15, and Foreign Government bonds up to 22 per cent." The prior stocks of our railways have also suffered, though not so severely as some others, and it is a tale of depression all round, except in the American market, where well-known causes have made things hum. In spite of the stoppage of company promoting, 4,062 projects were registered in the three kingdoms last year, but the average capital was only £13,000 per company, whereas in 1878-9, when the number of companies was about the same, the average capitalisation was about £45,000. But recent registrations have been almost entirely domestic—the converting of private businesses into joint-stock. The total number of companies in existence on April 30 last was 66,094, with a capitalisation of £2,716,989,000. More particulars about these companies than in any other work of reference will be found in this accurate Year-Book.

The report of the British Broken Hill Proprietary Company confirms the anticipations expressed in these columns a fortnight ago. The directors, while still holding the view that it would have been cheaper and more efficient to smelt the lead concentrates in Great Britain than in Australia, have decided now to join the Broken Hill Associated Smelters' combination, as the Australian Government has refused to remove the embargo on the export of lead concentrates. The company has therefore no option but to join the smelting combine, unless work, which has already been suspended for over two years, was to remain suspended indefinitely; but the conditions under which the company has now joined the combine are much more favourable than when it refused to participate, the smelting works having been extended so that the whole output can be treated. In the half-year ended June 30, after writing off £3,232 for depreciation, a nett balance of £180 has to be deducted from the balance brought in, leaving £14,979 to be carried forward. Liquid assets exceed liabilities by £67,472, exclusive of £11,405 due from the German firm of Beer, Sondheinier and Co. A considerable quantity of valuable carbonate ore remains to be extracted from the mine. The zinc and lead concentrates on hand at the outbreak of war have been sold at satisfactory prices. Active operations at the mine are now about to be resumed.

Exceptionally hard luck was experienced by the Cordoba Light, Power, and Traction Co., Limited, in the year to September 30. The rainfall in the area of the San Roque Lake, from which the company's hydraulic stations are supplied, was the smallest recorded since the formation of the company. Consequently energy had to be very largely generated by the reserve steam-power station during the months of May to November inclusive, and it was particularly unfortunate that the water power should have failed in a year when the cost of fuel was wholly abnormal. But for this untoward circumstance the results should have been at least as favourable as those of the previous twelve months. Gross receipts of the subsidiary companies for the whole year showed an increase of £5,000, but in the second half nett receipts fell off no less than £21,000. Notwithstanding the abnormal working expenses, the profits were within £230 of meeting all charges, which compares with a credit balance of £19,035 last year. The directors are therefore unable to recommend the payment of the preference dividend, which would require £18,000, but £26,350 is carried forward, and advices from Cordoba state that heavy rains have now fallen, so it may be hoped that the preference holders will not have to wait long to have the deficiency made good. During the year 6 per cent. promissory notes for £500,000 were issued, partly in replacement of other obligations matured, and the balance allowed the bank overdraft of £38,000 to be repaid. Loans to subsidiary companies have increased £32,500, and cash is £6,300 higher at £19,650; otherwise the items in the balance-sheet call for no remark. With anything like reasonable luck we have no doubt the company will have much better results to show next year.

Like a good many other breweries, Samuel Allsopp and Sons, Limited, managed to do a more profitable business in the year to September 30, notwithstanding the difficulties under which the trade has been conducted, both as regards cost of materials and enforced restrictions. Gross profits were £41,000 higher at £161,800, but interest required £4,400 more, and repairs, depreciation, &c., £10,400 more, so that the nett profit comes out £29,000 to the good at £60,790. After providing the agreed 2½ per cent. on the debenture stock, it is proposed to set aside £12,000 for redemption of certificates, £10,000 for reserve, and £6,000 for income tax, leaving £23,720, or £7,000 more, to be carried forward. Changes in the balance-sheet are of no particular significance, and need not detain us, but it is clear that the position has materially improved. Reference is made to restrictive legislation, and the directors say it is impossible to express a reliable opinion as to the prospects for the future, but the shadow is often more fearsome than the substance, and it may well be so in this case.

Minerals Separation, Ltd., only now presents its report and accounts for 1915, but as previously explained its chief source of revenue is from mining royalties that have to be collected from all parts of the world, and this necessarily involves considerable delay. Further progress was made last year, and the total revenue of £38,260 shows an increase of just over £10,000, while the nett profit (subject to income-tax and excess profits duty) amounted to £22,300, an increase of £10,400. No dividend is recommended, and the credit balance now stands at £55,014, against an issued capital of £50,000. But the shareholders are not to go any longer without some solatium. It has been found desirable to organise the American interests in a company registered in the United States under the title of the Minerals Separation North American Corporation, and it is proposed to distribute 250,000 trust certificates of this corporation among the shareholders of the parent company in the proportion of five certificates for each share held, which must represent a very handsome bonus. In last year's report it was announced that the Privy Council had upheld the validity of the company's

patents so far as the British Empire is concerned, and we have now the much more important news that the Supreme Court of the United States has come to a similar decision. It is said that the company's flotation processes are being extensively used in the United States, almost every mine of importance having adopted or being about to adopt this method of concentration. Although many of these users have become licensees, the majority are infringers. It is significantly added that these infringers should now be effectively dealt with, and we believe American law is fairly severe on such freebooters. Anyhow, it is satisfactory to find that the results of British invention and enterprise cannot be stolen with impunity in America, where there is the biggest field for the working of this particular patent.

The New Prime Minister and His Mission.

One of the most dramatic episodes in British political history may be said to have come to an end with Mr. Lloyd George's first appearance and speech as Prime Minister in the House of Commons on Tuesday. The whole country—nay, we may say the whole world—was on tip-toe of expectation to learn what was in his mind, what the motives were that impelled him to turn out his colleagues of the Coalition administration, and assume, at a turning-point in the civilisation-submerging conflict, the responsibility for controlling our share in it. The speech answers the implied questions in the public attitude to some extent, and answers frankly enough, but yet is not fully satisfying. There is in it a strain of eagerness and impatience to reach the goal, which, though it may be pleasant to encounter in any first-class politician nowadays, is somewhat disquieting. For, above all things, rashness is at this moment to be avoided by our, by any Allied Government. We are not, however, concerned to labour this point here, to criticise in any way, indeed; rather is it our duty to accept the new Prime Minister and his policy loyally, with an earnest purpose, and to make the best of them, and to help.

And on all leading problems relating to the war, Mr. Lloyd George spoke with welcome explicitness. His characterisation of the so-called "peace" proposals of Germany was excellent, and in full unison with those of the other Prime Ministers concerned in France, Italy, and Russia. His phrase describing the clumsy snare put forth by Germany as a noose with the rope's end in the hand of the Germans is graphic enough to pass into colloquial speech, and the declaration that Mr. Asquith's definition of peace terms—complete restitution, full reparation, and effectual guarantees against any repetition of the crime—remained unaltered was received with cheers that implied heartfelt relief. Ministers may change, but the policy remains the same. There will be no truckling with the enemy, of that we may be sure, and because the nation can be satisfied on that point it will be willing to accord ungrudging support to the new Ministry, even when it makes innovations the utility or object of which may not at first be visible. This "universal national service," for instance, will be a puzzle to most people. How can it be carried out? What is the object sought to be attained by it? Is it a mere imitation of the latest Hindenburg device, and therefore to some extent an expansion and liberalising of outdoor relief? We do not know what it is, but should Mr. George and his colleagues deem the step necessary, they may feel assured that it will be given a fair trial, even were it to embody a further mobilisation of individual wealth. And the fact that Mr. Arthur Neville Chamberlain is to be Director-General of this new "national service" ought at least to secure a business handling of the problems it will be certain to create.

In a speech of more than two hours' duration many things were touched upon and somewhat elaborately treated for which we have no room, but it is well to emphasise the Prime Minister's warning not to expect

a speedy end to the war as a result of the change of Ministry. It is a far more arduous war than any of us imagined when it commenced, and is not likely to be less arduous in the last phases than in the earlier, because we are fighting docile, nay servile, peoples whose rulers know themselves to be threatened with obliteration, with retaliation, by their victims should they be defeated. For this very reason we plead for caution in the conduct of the war. The men in command of our armies ought not to be hurried or worried by the interference of civilians in a hurry at home. And may we point out that the remarkable success of the French at Verdun last week—a success obtained at comparatively slight cost to the French troops—comes most opportunely as a warning to us that it is wiser to trust to those who lead our armies than to prescribe to them a strategy or modes of offensive that might involve disaster.

We cannot close this brief note on a historic sitting of the Commons without a word on Mr. Asquith's speech, but have only room to say that it was a speech worthy of the man—magnanimous, dignified, luminous in its review of the past and convincing in its vindication of the conduct of public affairs and of the war both under the Liberal administration which was in power when it broke out, and under the Coalition Ministry that has now vanished like a morning mist. Probably in their hearts all the ousted members of the late Government are thankful to be allowed a time for rest, and certainly in none of the "opposition" speeches was there trace of any disposition to "hit back," to seek "revenge." The augury is therefore good. The new Government will not only be given a "fair show," but cordial help in all the measures designed to help the nation forward towards victory in this fight for life.

And Ireland? Mr. Redmond complained, and with good reason, about the absence of Ireland from Mr. George's exposition. His complaint and warning brought the excuse that the new Prime Minister had not had time to handle the Irish problem, and it was a reasonable excuse. But Ireland will not, cannot afford to wait much longer. Will the new Government have the courage, and its supporters the self-abnegation, to tackle Ulster?

A German Peace and its Consequences.

It is so easy to talk about peace, and unquestionably all the world more and more longs for peace, but do those who talk loudest of making peace and intrigue most persistently against the war realise what peace would mean to the *Entente* belligerents were it arranged now? Grant that, as many of our academic philanthropists insinuate or proclaim, Germany is willing to surrender her conquests, or most of them, and perhaps even to give back Alsace and Lorraine to France, would such concessions ensure lasting peace or more than a truce? Is not something more needed to insure that than a modified return to the *status quo ante*? What about the losses which German aggression has inflicted upon the territories invaded? What about the devastations perpetrated by Germany upon the merchant shipping of the world? What about her thefts of everything portable from the people whose lands have been overrun by her spadassins? Is there to be no compensation demanded for the infamies and robberies that innocent and helpless mankind has had to suffer from at the hands of these beasts? Are all the brutalities of the Prussians to be forgiven, their record of infamy blotted out, and the world to go on as before, waiting for their next foray?

No; academic humanitarians, ignorant of the world and its actualities, may agitate or plead in misplaced language of mercy and theorise in abstractions, but there is something more to be settled than the dry clauses of a compromise treaty with savages; we have to look beyond the present agony and our mere personal sufferings. They all forget, especially these academic pacifists, the financial side of the war, and if any of them are asked "what about the debts we have incurred,

what about the militarism which has brought these debts into existence?" there is not one of them who can give us a coherent answer. It is nearly always useless to talk to University-trained minds in this country about finance. They either possess grotesque conceptions on the subject or frankly treat all money matters as mysteries beyond their ken, and rather to be despised than worthy of notice by the refined mind. They have not the slightest conception of the relation between the credit which is money and material well-being, and the organisation of a community, and do not at all realise that all our present war expenditure represents bills drawn on futurity, and discounted at high and increasing rates of interest. Futurity may not accept these bills or agree to pay them unless we make it worth futurity's while. Ah, these doctrinaire pacifists, who might as well be naked Huns, never think of that. They are probably incapable of comprehending that the one insuperable obstacle to a peace now is financial. The Germans have carried on the war too long to allow the Allies to give them peace even if disposed. If we made a patch-up peace now with the robber Empires of Central Europe, it could not relieve us from a crushing military burden, Prussian aggressions, and aggressive designs have laid on Europe, and we should perish, not only as an Empire, but as a nation—nay, all the Allies would—if we had to shoulder unaided that burden along with the costs the war has laid upon us. So true is this that such a peace would be the signal for universal bankruptcy. Our invincible financial power would crumble and collapse like a smitten Zeppelin on the news that a peace so ruinously cruel had been signed. Therefore, fight on the Allies must until they have destroyed the brutal, tyrannous militarism which has grown up within these lust-consumed Teutonic Empires, and so cleared the way for our own permanent deliverance from the menace their existence embodies. If it be true, and it is, as we pointed out last week, that at the end of another year the war will have cost us, Great Britain alone, such a sum as will require for some years after it ends perhaps £300,000,000 of revenue every year to pay the interest upon it, could we, in addition to that mortgage on our labour, also shoulder the costs of a standing army of perhaps 500,000 men, or a fleet whose magnitude would have to be as formidable as it is to-day, in order to make us in a manner safe? That is to say, could we take on an additional £200,000,000 required by the maintenance of our fighting forces, and thus condemn ourselves to find £500,000,000 per annum in all before having a free penny of income to spend upon social reforms, upon education, upon the civil administration, the judiciary, the police, all and every incidental expenditure demanded by our modern civilisation? Where would the money then come from to pay for all those ameliorations and developments about which we dream? Would we be able then and thus handicapped to build the Channel Tunnel, to beautify Charing Cross, to pension our land-bereft outcasts, to do anything whatever to improve the intercourse between nations, or the lot of the poor? To ask such questions is to proclaim the absurdity of the hope that aught could come of a German peace save increased misery. That being so, what is the use of talking about the ease with which we might make peace, of finding excuses for German crimes, of prattling, oh, so engagingly and insincerely, on the theme that "all Germans are not lecherous ruffians and bloodthirsty robbers," or that "there are even good men amongst Austrians," and that "every Magyar is not a throat-slitting villain"? The use is that such language helps towards the betrayal not merely of the nation, but of the future of mankind. Asseverations have nothing whatever to do with the problem before us, which is that if we are without perishing to assume and meet the obligations this war has forced us to enter into, we must destroy Prussian militarism root and branch everywhere in all forms.

We may as well go on with the war for other reasons. It is in the best interests of the human race that the crimes committed by the Teuton aggressors wherever

they have penetrated into other lands should be brought home to them as individuals, and not merely vaguely in the mass. The German race itself will be benefited by a stern retribution and calling to account which shall serve to reveal to the tyrants themselves their true character as seen by the world. If the decorated and titled commanders of the German troops who have plundered and otherwise tyrannised over Poland, Belgium, and Northern France, and who are now ravaging unhappy Rumania, can have their crimes brought home to them, and can be tried and punished on conviction as a common thief would be, that will do more to discredit the merely military profession than anything else conceivable. If it could be proved, for example, that the Kaiser himself ordered the assassination of Miss Cavell, and if the criminal were in our hands, then, to encourage the others, he should be hanged like a common felon.

Let us repeat once more: there ought to be a tribunal set up to try all those ruffians in uniform, and to treat them when found guilty with the same cold impartiality as is meted out to a common thief or slum assassin.

"But to put forward an ideal of justice such as this is to proclaim that the war may go on for years," people tell us, "and meantime we are suffering." So let us try to arrange a peace which will save our skins and bellies, come of our children's children what may? "We are beginning to have our food restricted, to come under the *régime* of German despotism in food tickets." Well, supposing it is so, if the object aimed at is good, if by holding on and fighting on we attain to the deliverance of mankind from that blight of Prussian militarism which has weighed down men's spirits and warped all spiritual life the world over for nigh two generations, is there not a prospect of some compensation to be seen at the end of it? Surely there is, and it is therefore the duty of every man to brace himself to endure hardship loyally, to deny himself of his own free will in all ways, and thus to help the Government to resist with success, rather than to yield to weakness of spirit and whine for "peace," well knowing that any peace that could be reached now could be but a fraud upon posterity.

Contrast our position at its worst with that of Germany to-day. Here there is no absolute scarcity of food, and if all eat only what they need there never will be any. The dearth of most essential articles of consumption is, in this country, due much more to the scarcity caused by insufficient harvests than to any action on the part of the enemy. His submarine brutality is more annoying and dangerous than his Zeppelin impishness, but it is being diminished, and at most amounts to little as food-supplies obstruction. In Germany it is otherwise. Our fleet is more and more cutting off all overseas supplies, and one of the reasons which prompted the Kaiser's minions to fly that peace kite of theirs last week was the imminence of revolution within Germany—of a hunger revolution. It is not necessary, therefore, for the Allies of the *Entente* to win their goal wholly by war, at the expense of the sacrifice of, perhaps, millions of their citizens. Fighting there must be to contain the enemy—to lock him in, as it were—and fighting there must be to push him back where he has succeeded in breaking through and raiding, as in Rumania, other people's lands. But the victory is none the less to be won at the end by famine, and probably with the German people helping. As long as we hold control of the ocean, it is necessary to repeat, this victory is certain, and the longer the Germans hold out against the grip that is slowly starving them to death, the more humble will they become, the readier to agree to whatever terms the *Entente* Powers decide to impose.

The winter we have now entered upon will do much to hasten this, the Allies' victory. It may be heralded by revolts within the two Empires—already there have been many starvation riots in both—or it may be that the increasing dread of popular vengeance will drive the tyrants to humble themselves and beg to be allowed to get food. Whatever the method adopted, the Allies cannot in prudence betray any haste in

coming to terms. They ought not to discuss terms with the Kaisers and their functionaries at all. They should demand to have sent to them delegates freely chosen by the people, and to these the first sentences addressed should be: "We cannot relieve your hunger until you have made reparation for your crimes, and handed back the property you have stolen. In proportion as this is done you shall have consignments of food, the cost of which will be added to the indemnity you must pay." New methods of Government have been evolved during this furious struggle of right to avoid destruction at the hands of might, and they must in turn bring into play new methods of diplomacy and treaty-building between nation and nation. For the peace we fight for and long for must be a pact between democracies, not a parchment elaborated in secret between monarchs and their lick-spittles, and signed only as a truce or thing to cheat by. Ah, we are a long way yet from the peace, *our* peace, and yet perhaps not so long if we do not swerve from our purpose and become ready to sell our birth-right for a mess of pottage.

The Control of Food.

Less grumbling than we expected has been stirred up as yet by the new sumptuary regulations, as they may be called, in virtue of which various restrictions are to be put upon the eating and drinking habits of the people. Hotel and restaurant managers have yielded with fair grace to the demands made upon them by Mr. Runciman before he left the Presidency of the Board of Trade, and through the Press they are now rather pluming themselves upon their virtue. It was agreed, after much discussion, that they should only give dinners of three courses and luncheons of two. In the letter they have conformed to this restriction, but hardly in the spirit, and we should like to know what a German *gourmand* would think of such a menu as those put forth as lunch and dinner models by the Savoy and Cecil Hotels. It will be noticed that, although nominally only three courses are permissible at dinner, the Hotel Cecil contrives to spread it out to eight.

Savoy Hotel lunch:—

Half-Course.—Hors d'œuvres, ou Huitres, ou Consomme.
One Course.—Entree ou plat du jour au choix avec Pommes de terre ou Farineaus Italiens et Fromage et celeries.
Legumes.

Half-Course.—Fruit.

Hotel Cecil lunch:—

Half-Course.—Hors d'œuvre.
Half-Course.—Creme Parmentier.
One Course.—Filet de Sole frit, sauce Tartare.
One Course.—Cote de Mouton Reformé.
One Course.—Roast beef, Choux Verts, Pommes Persillees.
One Course.—Buffet Froid.
One Course.—Mince Pies, Fromage et Beurre.
Half-Course.—Desert.

Hotel Cecil dinner:—

Half-Course.—Hors d'œuvre.
Half-Course.—Consomme Paysanne.
Half-Course.—Creme de Celeri.
One Course.—Supreme de Barbeue Mornay.
One Course.—Blanchailles.
One Course.—Jambon braise aux apinard.
One Course.—Cote de Bœuf Nivernaise, Pommes Chateau.
One Course.—Poulet Roti au Cresson, Salade.
One Course.—Glace Panachee.
Half-Course.—Dessert.

"Three courses only are allowed by regulation."

But the hotel restrictions are only one, and a minor one, of the directions in which Lord Devonport, the Food Controller under the new arrangement, can make his influence felt. According to the Bill creating the new Ministry, his position is practically that of food dictator, much as in Germany. He is empowered to regulate both the supply and the consumption of food in such a manner as he thinks best for maintaining a proper defence against hunger. He can take such steps as he thinks best for encouraging the production of food, and for those purposes "he shall have such powers or duties of any Government Department or authority, whether conferred by statute or otherwise, as his Majesty may, by Order in Council, transfer to him or authorise him to exercise." In other words, he is a despot in his particular domain for the time being,

and quite possibly, especially if we have a severe winter, he may have to interfere in many directions as yet unsuspected in order to regulate the distribution of food, to ensure as far as practicable its uninterrupted supply, and, in conjunction with the President of the Board of Agriculture, to take vigorous measures to increase domestic production. We are up against the most civilisation-obliterating crisis in the history of mankind, and no means must be neglected to ensure our victorious emergence from the all-devouring calamity. That is the excuse for the creation of an office like Lord Devonport's.

We have alluded to the probable feelings of the German diner on contemplating our first-class hotel menus contrasted with his own, and it may be some encouragement to people here not to grumble if we look for a moment at the straits to which Germany has been put by our blockade. A favourite exercise, by the way, of our "help-the-Hun" Press's mischievous industry has been to sneer at and denounce our blockade. It was a sham blockade, we were continually assured; it was playing into the hands of the enemy, it was doing all manner of things that it ought not to do, and a botch altogether. Probably from ignorance, no attention was ever paid to the difficulties put in the way of our Fleet's unhampered action by the intervention of neutrals between it and German territory. But, throughout the yapping, and in spite of these "neutral" difficulties, our blockade soon began effectively to put the pressure of hunger upon the insanely insolent population of the Hohenzollern Empire. Regulations of and restrictions upon food had to be commenced long before six months of the war had elapsed, and in spite of being marked by "the profound wisdom" with which the same class of journal in this country habitually credits everything German, they were panicky and blundering regulations from the start. Partly because of the blockade, partly because of the shortage of home crops, the cry of "danger of hunger" began to be heard before the end of 1914. It was an exaggerated cry doubtless, cunningly intended if possible to incline neutral countries to the side of Germany, perhaps also to weaken our blockade, but the pinch was sufficiently real, and sufficiently credited by the German people, to lead the administration to perpetrate several colossal blunders that have yielded abundance of vexation and misery ever since. War bread was very soon introduced, and then a clamour arose that there were too many animals, especially too many swine, eating grain that should be kept for human food, so an enormous slaughter of bees and pigs, especially of pigs, was ordered and took place, with the result that ever since there has been a shortage of fats and of both kinds of flesh meat. War bread was introduced in the end of October, 1914, and very poor bread it was. In the beginning of 1915 its quality was still further modified for the worse, and mixed rye flour was often substituted for potato flour, and other changes made calculated to produce "violent colics," as a grumbling citizen of Cologne put it. The bread was first made of 70 per cent. wheat flour and 30 per cent. rye flour, or 20 per cent. of the total weight might be in potato flour or starch in substitution for wheat. Rye bread itself had to be adulterated with 10 per cent. of potato flour or starch. By the end of January, 1915, it was found necessary still further to regulate the supply and mixture of cereals used in making bread, and an Imperial Distribution Office was started with power to fix prices and limit the quantity each person might consume. Less than 4 ozs. of bread a day became the allowance. Since then there has been a continuous stream of decrees, all tending to limit the quantity of food or to debase its quality, until the whole population is now completely in the hands of officialism for its victuals and drink in regard both to the quantities and qualities which it may consume. The last harvest has again been a poor one, partly because there is not enough labour left in the country to till the land properly, and also because we have stopped all imports of nitrate of soda into the happy Fatherland. The wholesale destruction of cattle and pigs ordered and

carried out in blundering panic haste early in the war has likewise reduced the supply of farm manure, and now the regulations extend to pease, haricots, leguminous lentils, and other eatables, and although bread and meat are still doled out to the people, it is in a way which ensures the misery of the multitude without compensation of any kind. The poor cannot even be sure of getting the 4 oz., or whatever the fragment may be, of flesh allotted to them now and then.

Here we have only got as far as an attempt to regulate the price of milk, but in Germany for long back it has not been supplied at all to adults, or to hotels, restaurants, confectioners and bakers, and the quantity granted to children, at first about 1½ pints a day for infants under three years and half that quantity for older children, has been more than once reduced, until in many places it is now totally insufficient, or a locally controlled monopoly fertile of waste.

It would take more space than we can spare to detail the ever changing multitude of *verboten* actions, of restrictions and rules which now govern the supply of a totally insufficient quantity of all kinds of food to the German population. They are eloquent of famine. No wonder the theory finds support in some quarters that Hindenburg's call to universal service is only a clumsy disguise for universal poor relief. The poor in Germany suffer now more dumbly than sheep in a drought. The rich no doubt still escape many of the miseries that have fallen upon the bulk of the population, just as our rich do, but even they, if they go to places of public entertainment, dare not allow themselves the gratification of meals such as those put before their guests by the hotels mentioned above. In October, 1915, a decree was issued forbidding the providing of meat of any kind, in any form, to customers of restaurants on Fridays. On Mondays and Thursdays meat and game and fish, however cooked, were forbidden, and on Saturdays pork was *verboten*. The police have power to enter and rummage premises at any time in quest of proof of disobedience.

We are to have cards for our sugar, it is alleged in certain papers, and we are invited to grumble at the prospect. But in Germany cards are required for almost everything consumable, and the quantity allotted to each mouth is fixed, and all devices tried, whether stupid or astute, fail to provide the people with enough to satisfy their hunger. At Charlottenburg, a suburb of Berlin, since April last, a food card has been distributed to officials of the food control giving the possessor the right to one pound of rice, pease, or haricots per month at half tariff rates charged to the multitude. That is a concession more suggestive of the misery the masses have to endure than a long disquisition. Official recommendations have even been published counselling the people to collect elder-berries for their nutritious qualities, in order to help out the available food. In restaurants some people who have means may contrive to get a sufficient meal now and then by dining first at one restaurant and then at another, but they may be caught by a spy, or delator, that most honoured and honourable of German manifestations of *Kultur*.

UNITED WIRE WORKS, LTD.—After writing off £7,000, or £4,500 more for depreciation and providing for excess profits duty, the nett profit for the year ended September 30, including £5,004, or £3,000 more, brought in, was £2,300 up at £13,702. The dividend on the ordinary shares is increased from 3 per cent. to 7½, and £1,500, or £500 more, is transferred to general reserve, leaving £3,300, or £500 less, to be carried forward. Current liabilities are £14,300 up at £19,300, but the bank overdraft has been reduced by £3,600 to a mere trifle, while, on the other hand, cash has risen by £16,500 to £16,900.

POWER-GAS CORPORATION.—For the year to September 30 the profits were slightly higher at £21,190, and with a larger amount brought in, the total available is £2,000 up at £30,298. After again placing £4,200 to reserve, and repeating the dividend of 6 per cent., there remains £11,120, or £2,000 more, to be carried forward. Loans from bankers have increased £12,000, while advances to an associated company have been reduced £20,000. On the other hand, investments are up £9,500, and contracts partly executed have increased £23,000.

A Harmsworthian Business Achievement.

There is a piquancy about the report of the Anglo-Newfoundland Development Company, Limited, that we never find in any other Harmsworth publication. Pandering to the meanest, most degraded, most unwholesome type of office-boy intelligence, in the most loathsome manner, is easier than falling off a log, if you have a conscience that does not rebel against such muddy-puddling and a mental capacity that cannot soar above it. Unfortunately, experience shows that there are swarms of people (especially round London) who seem to prefer the kind of garbage they are so copiously provided with, and the catering for their depraved tastes has proved an extremely lucrative enterprise.

But when we test the Northcliffe Cabinet-makers by a simple little business proposition of their own, we feel rather sorry for the puppets who would try to run the Empire on similar lines. There are scores of concerns in the same line of business as the Anglo-Newfoundland Development Company, with only a fraction of its advantages, which can make quite handsome returns to their shareholders; but that is a business achievement that is still denied to the super-business men of the Harmsworth group. It just manages to meet the debenture service, and would not accomplish even that if proper provision were made for depreciation and reserves. To appreciate the position properly we must mention that the issued share capital is £1,250,000, and there were £500,000 debentures super-imposed, of which £32,000 have been redeemed. Acquisition of properties, plant, &c., stands at no less than £1,064,000, an increase of £52,000 since last year, and there is no hint of what allowance has been made for depreciation anywhere in the report or accounts.

Against that mass of capital and partially wasting assets the magnificent sum of £28,000 has been accumulated as "reserves." During the year to August 31, investments have been reduced by £130,000 and stocks by £155,000, so that there is a decrease of £165,000 in creditors and an increase of £97,000 in debtors, while cash in hand is £5,000 up at £53,000. And as to the profits from all this display? After providing for the service of the debentures (£34,700), they amounted to £30,800, an increase of £14,300, which, however, goes against a decrease of nearly £20,000 last year. It is not what could be described as a brilliant result, and the directors prudently enough add it to the amount brought in, and carry forward a total of £56,580. That is the sum of their achievement after ten years' working. They might have squeezed out a dividend of 3 per cent., but it would have looked so despicably meagre compared with the 40 per cent. derived from *Comic Cuts* and similar publications, which we are forced to assume is the real Harmsworth *métier*. At the same time, we have a sardonic admiration for the business acumen which decided two years ago—in a "stained-glass attitude" of unctuous rectitude, not to say generosity—to get 5,000 unmarketable deferred or founders' shares converted into 70,000 ordinary. That is the only really clever thing we have stumbled across in the management of the venture.

It is said that the past year has been full of difficulties for the company owing to conditions brought about by the war. Restrictions on imports of paper and pulp have meant a reduction in the quantity of paper shipped; while, we are told, there has been a steady increase in the costs of all materials necessary for the effective working of the mill. Moreover, adequate supplies of coal have been particularly difficult

to obtain, even at high prices, and shipping has been a great problem owing to the scarcity of suitable tonnage as well as to the exceptionally high freight rates. And lest there should be some glimmering hope of a dividend next year, the shareholders are informed that while "the general position of the company may be regarded as satisfactory in the circumstances, the outlook in regard to the importation of our products, shipping scarcity, expensive freights, the high prices of all materials and coal in particular, are such that the difficulties during the present year may be even greater than those experienced during the year under review." We have quoted the sentence in full mainly to disclaim responsibility for its construction. But there are one or two observations that seem apposite to all these excuses. It is doubtless perfectly true that the cost of production has increased, but is it not also a fact that the price of paper has risen even more in proportion? Is the Anglo-Newfoundland Co. being bled white in order that the Associated Newspapers and Amalgamated Press should get their paper supplies cheap? If not, why all this whine about the increased cost of production? Then as to freights. Last year we were told that "in order to minimise as much as possible the severe rise in the freight rate, your directors were compelled in the early part of this year (1915) to buy two steamships." What has happened to these vessels? There is not a word about them in the present report, or about any services they have rendered to the company, and yet, as things have turned out, they ought to have proved a most valuable acquisition. It should be noted, too, as we have already mentioned, that stocks of paper, &c., have been heavily depleted, and as they were produced before increased costs became operative they ought to have brought in an exceedingly handsome profit. Yet all the company has to show is a beggarly 2½ per cent. on the share capital, and even that cannot be distributed. Last year the stocks of paper, pulp, &c., were valued at



BEHIND THE SCENES ON THE L.G.O.C.

No. 10.—THE CONDUCTOR— THE DAY'S WORK.

The "General" Conductors report for duty at the garages some 15 minutes prior to the scheduled times of departure of the omnibuses. The first buses to set out are those for munition workers, which leave about 5 a.m., and are followed at decreasing intervals by those on other routes.

With noon comes a respite—about 1 hour—for meals, when the relieving Conductors (Late Turns) begin work by taking the places of 50 per cent. of those who came out with the buses, who in turn, having satisfied the wants of the inner man (or woman), relieve the remainder of the original complement. The last-mentioned resume again about 4.30, when the 'turn and turn about' arrangement provides an interval for tea. One third of the Conductors (Early Turns) are released for good at 5.30. The buses return to the garages at night between 9.30 and 12.30, as the requirements of the traffic fall away. As a rule, the Conductors are relieved at garages, or at terminal points like Golders Green, which are furnished with special accommodation for their comfort.

The London General Omnibus Co., Ltd.,
Electric Railway House,
Broadway, Westminster, S.W.

£488,000, and if no more than this had been turned over during the year the profits might have been in the neighbourhood of £200,000 under proper management. Either costs of production or sale contracts were outrageous, or perhaps both, but in any case the actual results are not much to be proud of. And, in face of such an exhibition of incompetence extending over a decade in a two-penny-halfpenny business, Lord Northcliffe recently had the effrontery to offer (apparently in all seriousness) to replace Sir Wm. Plender as the liquidator of the German banks in London! He was to finish this really complicated and difficult job in three months, if we remember rightly. Ye gods, what fools *some* mortals be!

By-the-Way War Notes.

Not even the brilliant stroke of the French at Verdun, the most perfectly rounded-off victory of the year, has sufficed to raise the spirits of many people in this country. They were thrown into such a depression by the dramatic apparent suddenness of the German success in Rumania that nothing will make them part company with their gloom. Yet that skilfully managed and brilliantly executed stroke of General Nivelle's which has driven the Germans several miles further away from the city of Verdun, and given the French control over the enemy's lines over a long distance, surely offers proof enough that the best of the fighting power the German soldier possessed has gone, and that if it were good policy to sacrifice our men they could drive the beleaguered foe back all along the front, "break through," in short, wherever they pleased. They will not do that yet for very good besieger's reasons, but that they can do it has again and again been demonstrated, and most strikingly so of all by this last sweep-up of the French. Four French divisions attacked, scattered, and captured five entrenched German divisions, drove them out of their entrenchments, or forced them to surrender in mobs, seized their guns and ammunition—11,387 prisoners, or a division, as divisions now count in Germany, 115 guns taken or destroyed, 44 mine-throwers, and 107 machine-guns also captured.

This Rumanian affair none the less still weighs down people's minds, thanks to the ingenuity and persistence with which the German account of the invasion is kept before the public and the neatness with which all manner of scattered hints derogatory to Rumania are thrown out—hints eagerly picked up by help-the-Hun journalists in this country, and magnified until they look like a heralding of the approach of a mighty catastrophe.

Mackensen is going to invade Serbia, Mackensen is about to march into Bessarabia, Mackensen is sweeping the enemy out of the Dobrudja, his troops are already at Braila busy rifling the grain stores there, and where he but casts his eye he triumphs. The narratives of this man's progress suggests a sort of holiday promenade on the part of magnificently equipped German troops of overwhelming strength. They might well be supposed to be on a motor-car pleasure excursion, and busy devouring sausages as they roll along, swilling beer—not turnip beer, you bet—and smoking their china pipes in the intervals, so little hint of losses, of difficulties of transport, of any drawback whatever, is to be found either in the German pompous despatches or in the English Press commentaries thereon. These wise men of profound strategic knowledge always amuse us by the smoothness with which they make every plan of campaign that boils up in their heated imaginations run its course to a triumphant final. There would appear to be no mountains at all in the Balkan Peninsula according to these wonder-workers, nor anything at all anywhere to stand between Falkenhayn and Mackensen and instant, complete success on the North or East. They seem to have control of the Black Sea, the Danube, and everything else necessary to their triumph. This is amusing, but also a little wearisome, and we really wish these scribes could take a holiday of a few months' duration, because their lucubrations are poured out for the benefit of people of as little judgment or instruction as their own, and consequently do far more harm than their merits warrant. They are

perfectly safe to spin absurdities for the passing day. All their absurdities are no sooner imbibed than forgotten.

That Rumania has suffered a grievous reverse is undeniable, and just as true is it that her generals were rash at the outset of the campaign in plunging into Transylvania under the idea that the Germans could gather but feeble forces to resist them. They may have been misled into this rashness of campaign by German liars, but whether or not, it is now plain that Hindenburg and his subordinates had been secretly preparing for some time to make the counter-stroke which has caused such a sensation, upsetting Ministries, alarming mobs, especially well-clad mobs, and in other ways filling the world with something like a scare of cowards. And, after all, it was not such a rash proceeding on the part of the Rumanians to endeavour to seize and hold all the leading passes into their country, and the losses which the enemy must have suffered in overcoming Rumania's resistance in those passes in order to force their way through will probably never be revealed. The Rumanians fought bravely and made the foe pay dear. The Germans got through, however, though not on the Moldavian frontier, and succeeded also in bringing their big guns over one or more of the Western passes leading into Wallachia. After that to retire was the only prudent course open to the Rumanian army, and it has retired behind the Sereth under cover of Russian patrols, fighting rearguard actions wherever these were necessary to secure the unmolested withdrawal of the main army, with its artillery and supplies.

Is the campaign lost, then, for Rumania? On the contrary, it seems only about to begin. The Germans have boasted, and are careful to keep repeating, that by crossing the Transylvanian Alps and linking up with Bulgaria, their line was shortened by some 600 or 700 miles—it does not matter how many. Technically that may have been so, regarding their lines as lines of defence in a siege, but in reality their lines of communication are lengthening every day, and increasing the strain on the transport. And what is the character of the troops toiling and marching under these redoubtable German generals? They are waifs of all nationalities, German victims principally, and then Turks, Bulgars, held down Tchechs, Slavs, and other suppressed nationalities, and the hardest part of the fighting must fall upon the men who can least be spared—men of the German and Magyar races. Perhaps the Bulgar, who is fairly enough described as the Prussian of the Balkans, fights as doggedly as the Teuton or the Magyar, but the motley swarms around them can neither be cohesive in action nor sufficiently disciplined to withstand the Russian onslaught long, and, in the meantime, the whole raid courts danger by its insolent aggressiveness. It has the Russian armies accumulating on its front, and probably on both flanks. It has the Russian fleet against it, and taking effective action wherever and whenever it judges expedient, as witness its bombardment of the flour mills at Baltchek the other day. And all the while affairs inside the border of the Austro-Hungarian Empire grow more and more anarchic. The population grows increasingly hungry, and there is no means with which to sustain a campaign of any kind. A Frankfurt banker is reported to have said the other day that Germany, too, has "had enough" of the fighting, and is ready to make sacrifices, but he does not say that the Germans are yet men enough to stand up to that mountebank, deformed creature who postures before the nation he has oppressed and betrayed as god almighty on earth, and demand of him their liberty. No, they will go on raging, cringing and dying; and since they have not manliness enough to do otherwise, they must e'en be allowed to die.

Most reassuring to all patriotic Greeks, and soothing to consciences in all civilised Europe, was the Prime Minister's statement of our attitude towards King Constantine. "In the last few days," he said, "we have taken very strong action in Greece. We mean to take no risks there. We have decided to take definite and decisive action, and I think it has succeeded. We

have decided also to recognise the agents of that great Greek statesman, M. Venizelos." But apparently Constantine even now refuses to take us seriously. "But only a few old women of diplomatists fussing around" seems to be his idea, and accordingly his Government has issued a warrant for the arrest, on a charge of high treason, of M. Venizelos, the statesman whom we have, wisely, though tardily, decided to recognise as the true ruler of Greece. Mr. Lloyd George has here an opportunity to display his promptitude in action without danger of encountering disagreeable consequences. Constantine, the Prussianised Dane, ought to be held personally responsible for the slaughter of Allied troops in and around Athens, and made to pay compensation to the last drachma of his substance. And he must be conveyed out of the country to a safe place as soon as possible.

American Business Notes.

Why people should have expected President Wilson to accompany the gracious offer of peace by the beaten Prussians to the Allies with a homily of his own or recommendation to give heed, we do not know. The form of it should have been enough to show that the President could only have made himself ridiculous by intervening at such a point. What could he have said? There was nothing to recommend or to advise upon. He had no call or right to suggest terms which the baffled foe did not himself condescend to indicate, and therefore the only thing he could do was to send the missive forward without note or comment. We hope this correctness of attitude will be maintained should the palaver go further, which is by no means certain—nay, we trust it will be allowed to lie unanswered.

A much more personally interesting question for the President is what is he going to do about Mexico? Under the agreement reached towards the end of last month by the Mexican-United States joint commission, United States troops should be withdrawn within forty days unless new bandit raids occurred in the meantime. Should these occur, the United States troops are given the right to pursue and disperse the bandits, even into Mexican territory. They have occurred—at least, the brigand Villa has got money from somewhere, very likely from the Germans, and, as the papers mentioned some time ago, has begun a new campaign of devastation, which has been successful thus far in driving back the forces of Carranza. Stories of tremendous fighting, and of Villa's defeat at the city of Chihuahua, have been circulated, but have received little credence and no confirmation. The man, then, is alive and well to the fore again as an anarchic force. What is President Wilson going to do to end this kind of trouble? What ought he to do? He ought to assemble the bankers interested in Mexican affairs, and say to them that he proposes to support Carranza by every means in his power short of an occupation of Mexican territory, and that in order that he might do this the more effectually he would expect these bankers to subscribe a loan to be doled out to Carranza as required, in order to enable him to maintain a force sufficiently strong and loyal to put down ruffians like Villa and Zapata. That would be the first step in the restoration of order within the country, and a judicious continuance of such a policy might gradually lead to the establishment of a native administration solid enough to be able to continue to maintain order.

Once again the proposal has been started in the United States to change the date for closing the accounts of the railroads from June 30 to December 31. Already some of the greatest railroads in the States do make up their accounts to cover the calendar year—roads like the Pennsylvania and the New York Central—and we never heard that any harm came to them from adhesion to that policy. December 31 would certainly be a more convenient date than June 30,

and we shall not be sorry to see a change initiated. There should be no difficulty in making it, as our own experience with Indian and English railways proves. For many years the Indian railways made up their accounts covering the calendar year, but they have now for some years made the end coincident with the Government's fiscal year, which closes March 31. In like manner, the English Great Western Railway and the two great Scotch railways for many years made up their half-yearly accounts at the end of January and July, but they had no difficulty in coming into line with the other companies when they decided to make the change.

Insurance News.

The liquidators of the Law Guarantee Trust and Accident Society now present their report with regard to the winding-up during the past year. Receipts amounted to £273,354, and the total payments were £79,907, the cash balance at December 12 being £1,101,623, of which £1,096,500 is on deposit at current rates of interest with various banks. The amount received as interest exceeded by about £1,000 the amount the liquidators had to pay to creditors under the scheme of arrangement. Summarising the position as at December 12, Sir Wm. Peat stated that they had in debentures guaranteed still to run off £956,662, and of that there was in default £447,427. On mortgages there was still to run off £1,176,296, of which there was in default £55,495. The grand total of the figures is £2,140,000, or a reduction in the year, either by arrangement, compromise, or claim, of £400,000. Total ascertained claims up to the present come to £1,336,883. The scheme of arrangement operates until 1918.

It is intended that the fusion of the Eagle Insurance Co. with the British Dominions General Insurance Co. shall take effect as from October 1 last, and the investigation into the affairs of the Eagle, which in the ordinary way would have fallen due at the end of next year, is to be made as at September 30 last. The agreement entered into will not become absolute unless and until it has been approved by the Court. The two directors of the Eagle who will join the board of the amalgamated company are Mr. Horace Peel (the chairman) and Mr. G. J. Fowler. They and the remaining members of the Eagle board will constitute the West End board of the amalgamated company. At the present moment Eagle shares are changing hands at 8s. 6d., while some three months ago the quotation was about 4s. 6d. Owing to the large sums required to write down securities, Eagle shareholders latterly have been receiving dividends at the rate of 5 per cent. only, it not having been possible to pay any bonus. At their meeting on Wednesday the shareholders unanimously agreed to the proposed fusion of interests with the British Dominions Co.

The directors of the Alliance Assurance Co., Ltd., announce that Mr. Robert Lewis, the general manager of the company, having expressed the wish to retire, owing to prolonged ill-health, they have, with the deepest regret, accepted his resignation, which will take effect on January 1 next. Mr. Lewis has been in the service of the Alliance for over 54 years, for over 50 of which he has been the chief officer of the company. The directors have elected him to a seat on the board of the company. In consequence of the retirement of Mr. Lewis, the directors have made the following appointments:—Mr. O. Morgan Owen, at present sub-manager, to be general manager; Mr. T. B. Ponsonby, at present secretary, to be sub-manager; and Mr. Sidney T. Smith, at present assistant secretary, to be secretary.

Canadian Bank of Commerce.—Branches have been opened at Birch Hills, Saskatchewan, and Richard, Saskatchewan.

Mr. Gilbert Wheaton Fox, chairman of the Reliance Marine Insurance Company, has been elected to a seat on the board of Messrs. Lever Brothers.

The Week in Mines.

Business has been rather quiet this week in the Mining markets, but the tone has been generally firm. The outstanding incident has been the strength of Russian shares, which, after a long period of depression, recovered under the stimulus of rather better news from Rumania. South Africans have not benefited much from the dividend announcements. Although the metal itself has been steadier, copper shares have fallen heavily, mainly on New York liquidation, but tin shares have been supported at higher levels, in spite of a further fall in the metal.

SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

The half-yearly dividend declarations have not brought any fresh business to the South African market, which has shown a tendency to ignore the favourable results, and to lay stress upon the disappointments. Thus, although it was well known that the Bantjes had done badly this year, the announcement that no dividend could be paid was the ostensible reason that the shares fell 1s. 9d. to 11s. 3d. Durban Deeps weakened to $\frac{1}{8}$ on the passing of its dividend, in consequence of heavy capital expenditure, and Consolidated Main Reefs also declined to 18s. on the dividend reduction, which was made for the same reason. The Modder dividends were satisfactory, but quotations, nevertheless, dwindled. Brakpans fell $\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$ on news of a shaft accident. Profit-taking caused Randfontein Estates to relapse 9d. to 14s. 3d. Van Ryns at 2 1-32, Geldenhuis Deeps at 17 $\frac{1}{2}$, and New Gochs at 7s. 6d. were firmer on their respective dividends. In the Rhodesian section, Lonely Reefs continued to meet with demand, and closed 9d. higher at 21s. 3d. Diamond shares have been inclined to weaken, De Beers deferreds being no better than 13. Liquidation of enemy bank holdings having ceased in the West African market, this department has shown a steadier tendency.

COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Copper is unchanged on the week, but heavy selling in New York of the "Exotics" have lowered prices considerably, and placed the market in a better technical position. Anacondas are $\frac{1}{2}$ lower at 18 $\frac{1}{2}$, and Utahs 2 points at 22 $\frac{1}{2}$. Mount Elliots have fallen $\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 $\frac{1}{2}$, and Rio Tintos $\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 $\frac{1}{2}$, but Mons Cupris have recovered 9d. to 5s. 6d. Tin shares have met with support, notably Dolcoaths, which, on rumours of favourable developments, have risen 1s. 3d. to 11s. 6d. Geevors have advanced 1s. 3d. to 8s. 9d. on an official statement that good developments continue, while Renongs at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ and Pahangs at 10s. 3d. are better. Broken Hills show little change, but Westralians have hardened in places. Canadian silver shares have met with support, St. John del Reys have scarcely been affected by the statements made at the meeting foreshadowing an extended life for the gold-mining properties, and the development of the iron ore deposits at an early date.

The Russian group has been active and strong, statements made at the Irtysk and Russo-Asiatic meetings encouraging buyers. Russo-Asiatics have risen $\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 $\frac{1}{2}$, Irtysks 9-32 to 2 7-32, and Tanalyks $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Indian shares have shown a better tendency, Mysore recovering to 3 $\frac{1}{2}$, and Champions to 6s. 3d.

MINING NEWS.

KNIGHTS DEEP.—During the year ended July 31 the tonnage milled was increased by 134,380 tons to 1,307,000 tons. The yield was £994,969, or 15s. 2d. per ton, an increase of 3d. per ton. Working costs were a shade lower at 12s. 2d. per ton, so that the working profit was further increased by £34,834 to £197,943, or 3s. per ton as against 2s. 8d. per ton in 1914-15. The total profit rose from £172,135 to £205,872; the dividend is consequently raised from 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to 15 per cent., and £160,084 against £131,081 is carried forward. Reserves of ore have declined from 2,627,000 tons to 2,614,000 tons, but the average value has increased from 4.2 to 4.4 dwts.

AMALGAMATED PROPERTIES OF RHODESIA (1913).—It is announced that the directors will convene a meeting of the shareholders in the early part of next month to consult on the present position of the company and the agitation instituted by Messrs. McClure, Knapp and Watt Winder. The company is about to lodge an appeal against the judgment of Mr. Justice Eve in the action brought against the Globe and Phoenix Gold Mining Co., Ltd.

CAM AND MOTOR.—This company's results for the year ended June 30 were very disappointing. Working profit decreased from £45,086 to £14,933, while the nett profit fell from £15,513 to £8,562. Including the sum brought in, the available balance is £24,772. Of this, £21,849 is transferred to reserve against nil, and £2,923 against £16,210 is carried forward. The transfer to reserve brings this account up to £56,964, from which depreciation amounting to £16,964 is written off, leaving £40,000. Ore reserves at the Motor Mine stand at 577,281 tons, valued at 36s. 6d. per ton, as compared with 739,844 tons, valued at 41s. 4d. per ton a year ago. In addition to the fully developed ore a large quantity of good grade ore has been partially exposed.

GOLD MINES INVESTMENT Co.—The nett profit for the year ended November 30 amounted to £42,311, as against £24,599. Adding £45,086 brought forward the available balance is £87,397 against £45,087 in profit and loss. This is subject to depreciation of investments amounting to £109,367 as against £90,782 a year ago. Consequently, as capital to that extent is

not represented by assets, the directors are unable to recommend a dividend, and the balance of £87,397 is therefore to be carried forward. Investments are valued at £478,030. It had been expected that the company would propose a reconstruction of capital account, but apparently no decision on this point has yet been reached.

SULPHIDE CORPORATION.—Remarkably good results are reported by this Broken Hill concern for the year ended June 30. The nett profit rose from £286,000 to the record level of £391,404. Of this, £39,000 is placed to contingency reserve against £28,000, and the dividends on the ordinary and preference shares are raised 10 per cent. to 30 per cent. for the year, leaving £37,404 to be carried to the credit of the accumulated profit account. The large sum of £287,463 brought forward last year has been placed to this accumulated profit account to meet a point raised by recent Australian legislation. Operations at the Central Mine were adversely affected by abnormal conditions, the output being reduced by 18,000 tons to 181,992 tons. Shipments of zinc concentrates amounted to 59,689 tons. In future all sales of this class of product, except the amount required for the Seaton Carew works, will be made through the Zinc Producers' Association, the co-operative Australian concern formed under the auspices of the Commonwealth Government. There has been no development of ore during the year, and consequently the reserves have been reduced by the amount extracted, and now stand at 1,858,200 tons. A plant is now in course of construction for the production of electrolytic zinc. The construction of a lead refinery has also been started to meet the Government's wishes that all bullion shall be refined in Australia. It should be noted that before arriving at the large profit no less than £368,538 has been allowed for income-tax, including a reserve for excess profits duty. The Central Zinc Co.'s works are being doubled under the arrangement made with the Ministry of Munitions.

ST. JOHN DEL REY.—For the six months ended August 31 the profit was £72,199 against £79,718 for the corresponding period of 1915. As usual, the dividend is 9d. per share, less tax; £20,000, or £5,000 less, is transferred to capital works account, but the amount carried forward is raised from £7,574 to £19,811, partly to meet the excess profits duty. Mortgage bonds amounting to £1,800 have been paid off, and the company is now free from all mortgage debt. The tonnage treated was slightly less than in recent years, the bullion realised being £231,332, as compared with £234,285. The yield per ton was slightly over 49s. per ton, and is the highest recorded since the reopening of the mine.

CAMP BIRD.—The profit and loss account for the year ended June 30 shows an available profit of £138,685 against £117,899. After paying preference dividends Nos. 9 and 10 there is a balance of £85,029, which is carried forward, against £6,590. Last year a dividend on the ordinary of 1s. per share was paid. Production amounted to £163,202, or £6 7s. 6d. per ton, against £196,149, or £6 1s. 4d. per ton, and the profit declined from £112,548, or £3 9s. 7d. per ton, to £94,945, or £3 14s. 2d. per ton. Nevertheless, the profit was £34,945 in excess of the profit estimated at June 30, 1915. As the ore available for milling has been exhausted now, all work in the mine has ceased pending the completion of an adit, which is being driven by the Tunnel Co.

SANTA GERTRUDIS.—This subsidiary of the Camp Bird did very well last year, all things considered. The profit rose from £29,159 to £42,057, making with the sum brought in £97,451 against £130,685. A dividend of 1s. per share is again to be paid, leaving £22,030, against £55,394, to be carried forward. Ore reserves are estimated 1,214,000 short tons, containing 66,964 ozs. of gold and 13,392,981 ozs. of silver. Last year the reserves were estimated at 1,287,000 tons.

CHARTERLAND AND GENERAL EXPLORATION.—In the year to August 31 the nett profit, including the sum brought in, amounted to £8,757 against £22,804. A dividend of 5 per cent., free of taxes—the first since 1912-13, when 4 per cent. was paid—is proposed, leaving £567 to be carried forward against £193. Last year £22,611 was written off the assets.

TVEE COPPER.—The report for the year ended April 30 states that the company has been successful in disposing of its smelting plant and other assets in British Columbia to a syndicate. At the end of April last the debit balance stood at £124,098, an increase of £3,893.

The Right Hon. Sir George H. Reid presided on Wednesday at the fifteenth annual meeting of the Australasian Chamber of Commerce in London, and in moving the adoption of the report, he made a sympathetic reference to the death of the Hon. B. R. Wise, K.C., late Agent-General for New South Wales. Although the ordinary business of Chamber of Commerce during the past year had been seriously affected by the war, he was glad to note from the report that very important developments had taken place in connection with the future of trade and employment when the war was concluded. The war had smashed all our Free Trade ideals. As most people knew, he had been one of the leading Free Traders of Australia, but the war had made it impossible for him to look forward to Free Trade with Germany. We would have to set to work to develop more earnestly than ever the resources, not only of this land, but of all the lands within the Empire, and we could not be indifferent to the trading interests of our Allies.

IRISH RAILWAYS.

		£	+	£	+	£	+	£
Belfast and County Down ..	Dec. 15	3,317	+	397	+	18,086	+	8,248
Grand Canal ..	" 15	1,149	—	230	—	25,680	—	2,517
Great Northern ..	" 15	21,535	+	2,335	+	1,407,283	+	49,733
Gt. Southern and Western ..	" 15	31,408	+	3,624	+	1,684,157	+	8,815
Midland Great Western ..	" 15	15,125	+	1,195	+	664,214	+	14,804

* From Jan. 1. † From July 1.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

		Rs.	+	Rs.	+	Rs.	+	Ra.
Assam Bengal ..	Nov. 4	1,52,000	+	4,739	+	6,99,000	+	40,211
Bengal & N.-W. ..	" 4	3,64,110	+	44,576	+	16,49,840	+	1,31,606
Bengal Nagpur ..	" 11	9,75,000	+	1,83,000	+	2,97,28,638	+	46,24,158
Bombay, Baroda ..	Dec. 9	15,11,000	+	43,000	+	1,24,43,000	+	1,63,000
Burma ..	Nov. 4	3,94,112	+	47,402	+	1,21,28,249	+	8,38,156
Delhi Umballa ..	Dec. 9	77,200	+	21,506	+	8,20,000	+	1,91,154
East Indian ..	" 9	21,44,000	+	45,000	+	2,14,49,000	+	7,79,000
Gt. Indian Penin. ..	" 9	22,86,900	+	21,000	+	1,91,16,700	+	13,27,022
Lucknow-Bareilly ..	Nov. 4	30,528	—	1	—	1,50,890	—	4,208
Madras and S. ..	" 11	7,70,000	+	36,500	+	50,16,000	+	2,54,271
Mahratta ..	" 11	89,454	—	22,436	—	6,37,318	—	59,342
Nizam's Gd. (Broad) ..	" 11	70,495	+	2,030	+	3,77,172	+	4,403
Robilkund and ..	" 4	30,387	—	2,673	—	1,67,112	—	9,068
Kumaon ..	" 11	5,56,924	+	38,143	+	33,71,654	+	104,133
South Indian ..	" 11							

† April 1. † October 1.

COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

		£	+	£	+	£	+	£
Beira ..	Oct. *	30,086	—	12,071	3	130,775	—	10,648
Canadian Northern ..	Dec. 14	892,600	+	868,900	+	19,956,600	+	4,186,300
Canadian Pacific ..	" 14	83,106,000	+	851,000	+	70,291,000	+	1,042,600
Gr. Trk. Main Line ..	" 14	200,438	+	44,972	+	9,310,082	+	1,591,929
Gr. Trk. Western ..	" 14	33,740	+	7,109	+	1,823,498	+	286,821
Detroit G. H. & M. ..	" 14	13,192	—	787	—	64,698	—	89,461
Gr. Trk. Pac. Prairie Sc. ..	" 14	31,201	—	7,054	—	536,800	—	102,547
Mashonaland ..	Oct. *	54,580	—	6,128	4	—	—	—
Mid. of Westn. Aus. ..	" *	6,878	+	317	4	24,048	—	761
New Cape Central ..	Nov. 4	1,748	—	386	—	68,69	—	8,219
Rhodesia ..	Oct. *	84,897	+	6,477	4	435,868	+	33,674

* Months. † July 1. † Jan. 1. c From Oct. 1.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

		\$	+	\$	+	\$	+	\$
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	Dec. 7	889,000	+	111,000	+	21,865,000	+	1,455,000
Chicago G.W. ..	" 7	325,000	+	40,000	+	7,500,000	+	959,000
Colorado & South'n ..	" 7	353,000	+	16,000	+	7,729,000	+	6,800
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	" 7	533,000	+	71,000	+	12,391,000	+	487,000
Louisv'e & Nashv'e ..	" 7	1,441,000	+	246,000	+	49,343,000	+	4,036,000
Minn. S.P. (Soo) ..	Nov. 21	637,000	—	243,000	+	14,638,000	—	272,000
Missouri Kansas ..	Dec. 7	809,000	+	161,000	+	17,956,000	+	3,546,000
Southern ..	" 7	1,673,000	+	286,000	+	34,403,000	+	4,330,000

§ Includes Wisconsin Central. † From July 1.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—HOME.

		£	+	£	+	£	+	£
Bristol ..	Dec. 16	9,484	—	638	+	503,919	+	22,829
Dublin United ..	" 8	6,070	+	314	+	298,766	+	1,540
Hastings and Dist. ..	" 15	839	+	118	+	51,783	+	3,633
Isle of Thanet ..	" 16	222	+	5	+	2,941	+	40
Lancashire United ..	" 13	1,612	+	93	+	91,431	+	5,460
Provincial ..	" 16	1,841	—	187	+	22,436	—	66
Yorks. (West. Rdng.) ..	" 17	1,629	+	170	+	89,489	+	9,286

* From Oct. 1. † From Jan. 1.

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.		GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.			
		Week ending	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	Wks.	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	
			£	£		£	£	
Alcoy and Gandia ..	Dec. 16	Ps. 13,000	+	Ps. 5,000	+	Ps. 640,300	+	Ps. 32,600
Antofagasta (Chili) ..	" 17	43,660	+	8,365	+	1,755,955	+	489,835
Arauco ..	Oct. 17	12,000	+	2,775	+	185,238	+	30,443
Argentine N.E. ..	Dec. 16	7,000	—	1,325	—	160,202	—	1,849
Bilbao R. and Cant. ..	Nov. *	5,417	+	221	11	52,214	—	3,321
Bolivar ..	" *	7,000	—	2,015	5	37,250	—	2,473
Brazil ..	Sept. *	M3,863,000	+	M365,714	+	M 320,000	+	M268,944
Brazil Gt. Southern ..	" *	Mis. 50,503	+	M15,600	+	M 32,571	+	M25,070
B. Ayres & Pacific ..	Dec. 16	89,000	+	7,000	+	2,022,000	+	99,000
Do. Central ..	Nov. 22	22,855	—	5	5	128,374	+	6,586
Do. Gt. South'n ..	Dec. 17	121,000	—	8,000	—	2,523,254	—	218,346
Do. Western ..	" 17	50,000	—	6,000	—	1,261,000	—	112,000
Central Argentine ..	" 16	102,000	+	7,000	+	2,676,700	+	34,000
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte V. ..	" 16	13,872	—	1,433	—	296,431	—	11,401
Do. East'n Ex. ..	" 16	6,299	—	1,740	—	102,438	—	11,002
Do. North'n Ex. ..	" 16	2,520	—	384	—	48,176	—	1,189
Do. West'n Ex. ..	" 16	2,263	—	258	—	45,333	—	194
Colombian National ..	Oct. *	12,400	—	2,200	10	115,850	—	11,605
Cordoba Central ..	Dec. 16	251,000	—	3,465	—	727,975	—	11,465
Costa Rica ..	Oct. 21	4,113	—	2,123	—	81,475	—	496
Cuban Central ..	Dec. 16	9,564	—	683	—	219,000	—	21,057
Dorada Extension ..	Nov. *	8,300	—	1,400	—	91,200	—	5,000
Egyptian Delta ..	Nov. 202	8,484	—	1,997	—	133,901	—	26,689
Entre Rios ..	Dec. 16	11,300	—	500	—	275,500	—	36,300
French Sante Fé ..	Sept. *	99,264	—	21,521	9	818,311	—	13,999
Gt. South'n of Spain ..	Dec. 9	Ps. 56,578	—	Ps. 17,886	—	Ps. 676,459	—	Ps. 683,053
Gt. West. of Brazil ..	" 16	18,900	—	7,800	—	548,300	—	50,000
Havana Central ..	Nov. 25	7,007	—	1,380	—	112,482	—	15,720
Inter. of C. Amer. ..	" c *	38,219	—	5,736	—	5,676,000	—	83,560
La Guaira and Car. ..	" *	7,000	—	250	—	85,250	—	10,750
Leopoldina ..	Dec. 16	25,317	—	1,289	—	1,260,576	—	226,908
Manila (N. & Sth.) ..	" 16	10,444	—	4,113	—	46,589	—	37,031
Midland Uruguay ..	Nov. 13	13,404	—	446	5	58,786	—	7,339
Mogiana ..	Sept. *	M2,300,000	—	M131,469	—	M166,608	—	M117,462
N.W. of Uruguay ..	Nov. *	26,500	—	3,235	4	811,907	—	82,059
Nitrate ..	Dec. 15	31,547	—	4,977	—	653,372	—	300,419
Paraguay Central ..	" 9	2,910	—	50	—	60,350	—	5,230
Paulista ..	Sept. *	M3,500,000	—	M393,404	—	M 2,275,000	—	M175,744
Peruvian Corp'n ..	Nov. *	5925,826	—	S174,100	4	S4,574,650	—	S656,873
Salvador ..	Dec. 16	22,000	—	2,500	—	849,210	—	84,480
S. Paulo (Brazilian) ..	" 1	32,150	—	484	—	1,412,848	—	87,268
Sorocabana ..	Oct. *	M1,88,000	—	M 60,603	—	M152,520	—	M85,766
Tatal ..	Nov. *	17,078	—	240	5	95,378	—	12,959
United of Havana ..	Dec. 16	36,177	—	3,204	—	755,87	—	133,773
West'n of Havana ..	" 16	5,739	—	632	—	136,935	—	18,731
Z. fr. an. Hu. va ..	Oct. *	12,003	—	657	10	16,211	—	31,402

* Months. † From Jan. 1. † From July 1. c Net. b 15 days. a 10 days

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.

		£	+	£	+	Ms.	+	£	+	£
Anglo-Argentine ..	Dec. 16	53,833	+	1,959	+	2,561,219	+	6,196		
Auckland Electric ..	Nov. 202	29,729	—	181	—	105,015	—	979		
Brazilian Traction ..	Oct. §	M3,821,000	—	M86,000	10	M 38,194,000	—	M931,580		
Brisbane Elec. Inv. ..	Nov. 1	26,740	—	4,380	11	357,160	—	10,086		
British Columbia ..	Oct. §	903,418	—	34,643	4	293,803	—	148,636		
B. A. Lacroze ..	Nov. 1	39,173	—	3,430	5	199,778	—	16,624		
Burmah Electric ..	Nov 166	Rs. 26,824	—	Rs. 3,129	—	Rs. 312,938	—	Rs. 8,205		
Calcutta ..	Dec. §	Rs. 72,671	—	Rs. 5,408	—	Rs. 31,79,638	—	Rs. 183,423		
Cordoba Light ..	Oct. §	13,533	+	92	6	98,087	+	740		
P. & T. ..	Nov. 11	13,225	—	2,013	—	850,200	—	154,781		
Hongkong ..	Oct. §	4,342	—	202	11	46,399	—	429		
La Plata ..	Oct. §	33,292	—	1,081	10	337,350	—	16,858		
Lima ..	Dec. 15	Rs. 31,938	—	Rs. 3,272	—	Rs. 27,108	—	Rs. 54,281		
Madras Electric ..	Nov. 1	215,256	—	108,669	—	33,193,106	—	197,227		
Mexico ..	Nov. 1	5,033	—	5	—	45,555	—	1,839		
Rangoon ..	" 4	12,833	—	707	—	555,660	—	55,527		
Singapore Electric ..	" 4	437,623	—	4,579	10	4,355,714	—	407,127		
Toronto ..	Oct. §	28,729	—	1,545	12	347,772	—	17,171		
United of Monte V. ..	June	380,700	—	328,400	7	753,300	—	506,600		
Vera Cruz ..	Oct. §	96,243	—	8,727	10	975,126	—	23,556		
Winnipeg ..	Oct. §									

b 28 days. * From Jan. 1. § Net. a From July 1. c Two weeks.

MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

NAME.	NETT EARNINGS FOR MONTH.				No. of Mths.	NETT EARNINGS TO DATE.	
	Month.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year			Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year
		Dols.	+ Dols.			Dols.	Dols.
Atchison T. & S. Fé	Oct.	5,516,000	+ 1,761,000	4	19,509,000	+ 5,164,000	
Atlantic Coast Line	"	882,000	+ 284,000	4	2,480,000	+ 1,117,000	
Baltimore & Ohio ..	"	3,61,000	— 100,000	4	12,729,000	— 97,000	
Canadian Northern	"	1,220,300	— 36,700	4	4,222,300	+ 1,111,300	
Canadian Pacific ..	"	5,675,000	— 904,000	4	20,290,000	+ 2,723,000	
Chesapeake & Ohio	"	1,394,000	+ 118,000	4	5,684,000	+ 500,000	
Chicago & N.W. ..	"	3,395,000	+ 599,000	4	11,695,000	+ 2,863,000	
Chicago Burl. & Q.	Sept.	4,341,000	+ 921,000	3	10,979,000	+ 2,923,000	
Chicago G.W. ..	Oct.	503,000	+ 134,000	4	1,800,000	+ 478,000	
Chicago Mil. & S.P.	"	3,572,000	+ 137,000	4	13,191,000	+ 1,066,000	
Chicago, Rock L.& P.	"	2,321,000	+ 1,024,000	4	8,391,000	+ 3,895,000	
Colorado & Southern	"	649,000	+ 90,000	4	2,060,000	+ 535,000	
Cuba ..	Sept.	183,000	+ 14,000	3	706,000	+ 129,000	
Delaware & Hud. ..	Oct.	736,000	— 185,000	10	6,622,000	— 25,000	
Denver & Rio Grand.	Sept.	923,000	— 85,000	3	2,554,000	+ 272,000	
Erie ..	Oct.	1,638,000	— 953,000	10	15,610,000	+ 382,000	
Gr. Tr. Main Line ..	"	£ 777,000	+ £ 58,400	10	£ 3,320,400	+ £ 352,550	
Grand Trunk Westn	"	£ 24,050	— £ 21,050	10	£ 384,150	+ £ 208,100	
Detroit G. H. & Mil.	"	£ 4,250	— £ 20,200	10	£ 31,100	+ £ 5,500	
Gt. Northern ..	"	3,590,000	— 1,211,000	4	13,565,000	— 264,000	
Illinois Central ..	"	1,718,000	+ 509,000	4	5,826,000	+ 1,635,000	
Kansas City Southn.	"	428,000	+ 47,000	4	1,451,000	+ 143,000	
Lehigh Valley ..	"	1,211,000	+ 59,000	4	4,725,000	+ 86,000	
Louisville & Nashvi.	"	1,967,000	+ 432,000	4	6,755,000	+ 1,208,000	
Minn. S.P. (Soo)ll	"	1,337,000	+ 358,000	4	5,310,000	+ 765,000	
Miss. K. & Texas ..	"	1,096,000	+ 191,000	4	3,177,000	+ 538,000	
Missouri Pacific ..	Sept.	1,624,000	+ 404,000	3	4,395,000	+ 1,086,000	
New York Cent. & H.	Oct.	5,677,000	+ 154,000	10	53,704,000	+ 15,056,000	
N. Y. N. Haven & H.	S. p.	2,187,000	+ 26,000	3	6,931,000	+ 460,000	
New York Ont. & W.	Oct.	81,000	— 116,000	4	1,051,000	— 62,000	
Norfolk & Western.	"	2,124,000	+ 80,000	4	8,073,000	+ 631,000	
Northern Pacific ..	"	3,272,000	— 107,000	4	11,777,000	+ 1,522,000	
Pennsylvania East and West Lines..	"	9,931,000	— 294,000	10	94,927,000	+ 24,113,000	
St. Louis & San F.	"	1,802,000	+ 405,000	4	5,653,000	+ 1,192,000	
Seaboard Air Line..	Sept.	496,000	+ 60,000	3	1,231,000	+ 74,000	
Southern ..	Oct.	2,433,000	+ 554,000	4	7,575,000	+ 1,161,000	
Southern Pacific ..	"	5,915,000	+ 632,000	4	22,376,000	+ 3,166,000	
Union Pacific ..	"	5,797,000	+ 1,128,000	4	18,703,000	+ 3,854,000	
Wabash ..	"	1,236,000	+ 317,000	10	9,493,000	+ 4,859,000	

NORWICH UNION MUTUAL LIFE OFFICE

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NATIONAL PROVIDENT INSTITUTION,
48 GRACECHURCH STREET, LONDON, E.C.

The Investors' Review.

Money and Credit Notes.

BANK RATE 6 PER CENT. (Increased from 5 per cent. on Thursday, July 13.)

Norfolk House, Thursday Evening.

Changes there are none in the rates for money prevalent throughout the week. If anything, short loans have been a little more difficult to negotiate, but that only means that borrowers have generally paid 5 per cent. instead of being able to knock a fraction off, and discount rates were just as before. There has been some diminution in the demand for Treasury bills, and that has tended to restrict the supply of credit in the open market.

The approach of the end of the year brings the usual pressure upon banks for currency, and it is therefore in order that the Bank's reserve should be down £2,025,000. Presumably most of the decrease of £758,000 in the gold shown is due to internal demands, although we cannot safely draw any such inference, because gold is not now much in circulation, and it is quite possible that the metal may have had to be sent abroad to that extent. The stock of it, however, is still large at £54,348,000, and if the worst comes to the worst—that is to say, if we have to make heavier payments abroad than can be financed on reasonable terms—there is an incalculable reserve of wealth in the country and in use, as watches, chains, &c., amongst the community, that at a pinch could easily be exchanged for Government obligations and turned into coin. Other movements at the Bank have been apparently small—at least, they have left little trace in the return at the Bank week-end. Public deposits have gone down £3,931,000, and the money has passed on to other deposits, which are up £2,481,000, in spite of the draft upon the reserve. But Government disbursements were supplemented by means raised on other securities, the total of which is up £621,000 to £104,680,000. The reserve is still substantial enough at £33,574,000, and, thanks to the small increase in the liabilities, the proportion is down only 1.1 per cent. to 20.6 per cent.

The Washington correspondent of the *Morning Post* telegraphs that a new loan of £50,000,000 for the British Government is expected to be issued in New York early in the new year by Messrs. J. P. Morgan and Co. Details are not yet available, but it is understood that the loan will be secured by the deposit of securities, that is by "collateral," as the Yankees phrase it, and that the price will yield the investor between 5½ and 5½ per cent., which is a very good rate of interest.

The directors of Lloyds Bank, Ltd., announce that Mr. Henry Bell, the general manager of the bank, while still retaining that position, has been appointed to a seat on the board.

The directors of the London Joint Stock Bank announce that Mr. Charles Gow, who has been associated with the bank for 52 years, during the last 19 of which he has been general manager, will retire on December 31. In recognition of his long and valuable services, the directors propose to elect him to a seat upon the board. Mr. J. F. Darling, who has acted as deputy-general manager for the last seven years (having previously been general manager of the York and County Bank, which was amalgamated with the London Joint Stock Bank in 1909), has been appointed successor to Mr. Gow.

We do not quite follow Sir Charles Henry's grumble about the British-Italian Banking Corporation and the share of our Government in its creation. He complained that we had only guaranteed the interest for ten years at 5 per cent., or £50,000 a year, on the paid-up capital of £1,000,000, and had therefore made a very bad bargain, whereas if we had subscribed for half the paid-up capital we might have been better off. What does he base that assertion upon? Is it a less risk of loss to stake both capital and interest, or to risk the interest alone? Had we subscribed for half the paid-up capital, and if the bank had not paid any dividends, we should have stood to lose the whole of that money, plus the interest upon it. As it now is other capitalists take the risk of the capital, and we only have the possible risk of loss of interest. One year, said Sir Charles, the bank may make a large profit, and the next none, and one year it may pay a big dividend and the next nothing; therefore we stand to lose our money. That looks something of the nature of captious nonsense. Was the real grumble the fact that Sir Ernest Cassel had been allotted 3,750 shares, "which was practically £80,000," Sir Charles explained? Why should not Sir Ernest take that risk in the business with his own money? There is far too much of this kind of grumbling, of ill-informed criticism about transactions on unfamiliar lines entered into by the Government, and, really, if M.P.'s like this gentleman have nothing better to say, for their own

THE MANCHESTER AND LIVERPOOL DISTRICT BANKING COMPANY

LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1829.

Head Office: Spring Gardens, Manchester.
London Office: 75, Cornhill.

Deposits	-	-	-	£30,630,010
Cash, etc., Bills, Investments				20,487,555
Advances	-	-	-	13,454,332

30th June, 1916.

Foreign Banking Business transacted.
Bank acts as Trustee or Executor.

AMERICAN DOLLAR SECURITIES COMMITTEE

SIXTH LIST

Of Securities which the Treasury is prepared to Purchase, and which will be subject to Special Income Tax. Exemption will be granted in respect of those Securities which are lent to the Treasury under Deposit Scheme B, (Scheme A having been withdrawn in accordance with the terms of the Treasury Notice dated 16th December, 1916.)

FURTHER LISTS

Of the Securities in respect of which holders will be liable to the Special Income Tax of 2s in the £ may be issued from time to time.

The prices set against the securities are the respective "deposit-values" as defined in Paragraph (6) of Scheme B.

The "deposit value" of any security to which an asterisk is affixed will be quoted on application. In the case of Registered Bonds, the figures quoted must be reduced by one-quarter of one point in respect of such Bonds as are convertible into Bearer Bonds, and by one point where not so convertible. The figures quoted are, except where otherwise stated, pounds sterling per \$500 in the case of bonds, and pounds sterling per 5 shares in the case of stocks.

	Description of Security.	Deposit Value.
1145	Alabama Great Southern R.R. Preferred	55½
1146	Alabama Great Southern R.R. Ordinary	44½
985	Albany Southern R.R. 1st Mortgage 5 per cent., 1939	94½
986	Allegheny and Western Rly. 1st Mortgage 4 per cent., 1998... ..	94½
987	American Brake Shoe and Foundry Co. 7 per cent. Cum. Preferred	198½
988	American Smelting and Refining Co. Common	98½
989	American Thread Co. 5 per cent. Cum. Preferred	155 9d per share
990	Atlanta Knoxville and Northern Rly. 1st Cons. Mortgage 4 per cent., 2002	91½
991	Atlantic Coast Line R.R. Conv. Debentures 4 per cent., 1939	96½
992	Atlantic Coast Line R.R. 4½ per cent. Equipment Trust, Series B, 1916-21	105
993	Atlantic Coast Line R.R. of South Carolina General 1st Mortgage 4 per cent., 1948	97½
994	Baltimore City Bonds	66½
995	Battle Creek and Sturgis Rly. 1st Mortgage 3 per cent., 1989	89
997	Belvidere Delaware R.R. Cons. Mortgage 3½ per cent., 1943... ..	*
998	Boston City Bonds	91½
999	Boston and Maine R.R. 20 Year Plain Refunding 4½ per cent., 1929	96½
1000	Boston and Worcester Street Rly 1st Mortgage 4½ per cent., 1923	106½
1001	Buins Bros. 7 per cent. Cum. Preferred	83½ p.c.
1143	Canadian Pacific Rly. Perp. Consd. 4 per cent. Debenture Stock	80½ p.c.
1149	Canadian Pacific Rly. 4 per cent. Preference Stock	183½
1150	Canadian Pacific Rly. Common	93½
1147	Cedar Rapids Manufacturing and Power Co. 1st Mortgage 5 per cent., 1953	107½
1002	Chattanooga, Rome and Southern R.R. 1st Mortgage 5 per cent., 1947	100½
1003	Chicago and North Western Rly. Extension 4 per cent., 1926	*
1004	Chicago and North Western Rly. 4½ per cent. Equipment Trust Certificates	*
1005	Chicago Rock Island and Pacific Rly. 4½ per cent. Equipment Notes	89½
1006	Chile Copper Co. Coll. Trust Conv. 7 per cent., 1923	95
1007	Coal River Rly. Guaranteed 1st Mortgage 4 per cent., 1945... ..	102½
1008	Colorado Power Co. 1st Mortgage 5 per cent., 1953	102½
1009	Colorado Springs and Cripple Creek District Rly. 1st Cons. Mortgage 5 per cent., 1942	98½
1010	Columbia Railway Gas and Electric Co. 1st Mortgage 5 per cent., 1936	95
1011	Cuba Co. 6 per cent. Debentures, 1955	102½
1012	Cuba Co. 7 per cent. Cum. Preferred	102½
1013	Cuba R.R. 1st Mortgage 5 per cent., 1952	98½
1014	Cuban Telephone Co. 6 per cent. Cum. Preferred	96½
1015	Dayton Lighting Co. 1st and Refunding Mortgage 5 per cent., 1937	101½
1016	Dayton and Michigan R.R. Cons. Mortgage 4½ per cent., 1931	98½
1017	Detroit and Bay City Rly. 1st Mortgage 5 per cent., 1931	111½
1018	Dominion Coal Co. 1st Mortgage 5 per cent., 1940	97½
1019	Dominion Iron and Steel Co. Consd. Mortgage Sterling 5 per cent., 1939	84 p.c.
1021	Electric Bond and Share Co. 6 per cent. Cum. Preferred	105
1022	El Paso and Rock Island Rly. 1st Mortgage 5 per cent., 1951	99½
1023	Essex (County of), New Jersey, Bonds	110
1024	Fort Worth and Denver City Rly. 1st Mortgage 6 per cent., 1921	93½
1025	Galveston Electric Co. 1st Mortgage 5 per cent., 1940	105
1026	Georgia and Alabama Terminal Co. 1st Mortgage 5 per cent., 1948	111
1027	Goodyear Tyre and Rubber Co. 7 per cent. Cum. Preferred... ..	109½
1028	Granby Cons. Mining, Smelting and Power Co. 1st Conv. Mortgage 6 per cent., 1928	37
1152	Great Northern Iron Ore Certificates	93½
	(For purposes of the additional interest payment of ½ per cent. per annum, the nominal value of each of these certificates will be regarded as \$25.)	
1029	Great Western Power Co. 1st Mortgage 5 per cent., 1946	122
1030	Helme (Geo. W.) Co. 7 per cent. Non-Cum. Preferred	111½
1031	Henderson Bridge Co. 1st Mortgage 6 per cent., 1931	103½
1032	Heywood Bros. and Wakefield Co. 6 per cent. Cum. Preferred	98½
1033	Houston Belt and Terminal Rly. 1st Mortgage 5 per cent., 1937	103½
1151	International Mercantile Marine Co. 1st Mortgage and Collateral Trust Sinking Fund 6 per cent., 1941	84
1034	Iowa Central Rly. 1st Mortgage 5 per cent., 1938	*
1035	Jackson Lansing and Saginaw Railway 1st Mortgage 3½ per cent., 1951	87½
1036	Jersey City Bonds	100½
1037	Kanawha and Michigan Rly. 1st Mortgage 4 per cent., 1990	87½
1038	Kanawha and Michigan Rly. 2nd Mortgage 5 per cent., 1927	100½
1039	Kansas City, Memphis and Birmingham R.R. General Mortgage 4 per cent., 1934	100½
1040	Lehigh and Wilkes-Barre Coal Co. Cons. Mortgage 4 per cent., 1920-50	106½
1041	Little Miami R.R. Original Capital Stock	80½
1042	Louisville and Nashville-Southern, Monon Coll. Joint Mortgage 4 per cent., 1952	93½
1043	Macon, Dublin and Savannah R.R. 1st Mortgage 5 per cent., 1947	

	Description of Security.	Deposit Value.
1044	Manitowoc, Green Bay and North Western Rly. 1st Mortgage 3½ per cent., 1941	86½
1045	Marquette Houghton and Ontonagon R.R. General Mortgage 6 per cent., 1925	106
1046	Massachusetts Gas Companies S.F. 4½ per cent., 1929	101½
1047	Metropolitan Telephone and Telegraph Co. 1st Mortgage 5 per cent., 1918	105½
1048	Mexican Petroleum Co., Ltd., of Del. 1st Lien and Refunding Convertible S.F. 6 per cent., 1921, Series A	113½
1049	Mexican Petroleum Co., Ltd., of Del. 1st Lien and Refunding Convertible S.F. 6 per cent., 1921, Series B	110½ p.c.
1050	Mexican Petroleum Co., Ltd., of Del. 1st Lien and Refunding Convertible S.F. 6 per cent., 1921, Series C	113½
1051	Michigan Central R.R. Grand River Valley 1st Mortgage 4 per cent., 1959	90½
1139	Michigan United Rlys. 1st and Refunding Mortgage 5 per cent., 1939	76½
1052	Mill Creek and Mine Hill Navigation and R.R. Guaranteed Stock	52
1053	Milwaukee Lake Shore and Western Rly. (Michigan Divn.) 1st Mortgage 6 per cent., 1924	116½
1054	Milwaukee and State Line Rly. 1st Mortgage 3½ per cent., 1941	87½
1055	Mine Hill and Schuylkill Haven R.R. Guaranteed Stock	59½
1056	Minneapolis St. Paul and S.S. Marie Rly. 5 per cent. Equipment Notes	*
1057	Minneapolis St. Paul and S.S. Marie Rly. 4½ per cent. Equipment Notes	*
1058	Mississippi River Power Co. 1st Mortgage 5 per cent., 1951... ..	80½
1059	Missouri Kansas and Texas Rly. 1st Mortgage 4 per cent., 1990	74½
1099	Mobile and Ohio R.R. General Mortgage 4 per cent., 1938... ..	78½
1060	Montreal Tramways Co. 1st and Refunding Mortgage 5 per cent., 1941	95½
1061	New England Telephone and Telegraph Co. Capital Stock... ..	134½
1062	New Haven and Derby R.R. Cons. Mortgage 5 per cent., 1918	105½
1063	New Jersey Junction R.R. 1st Mortgage 4 per cent., 1986	94½
1064	New Orleans Terminal Co. 1st Mortgage 4 per cent., 1953	71½
1065	New York and Long Branch R.R. General Mortgage 4 per cent., 1941	101½
1066	New York Pennsylvania and Ohio R.R. Prior Lien 4½ per cent., 1935	101½
1067	New York and Queens Electric Light and Power Co. 1st Cons. Mortgage 5 per cent., 1930	106
1068	Nipe Bay Co. 1st Mortgage S.F. 5 per cent., 1925	101½
1069	Norfolk Terminal Rly. 1st Mortgage 4 per cent., 1961	84
1070	Norfolk (Virginia) City Bonds	103½
1071	Northern States Power Co. 6 per cent. Notes, 1926	100½
1072	Pennsylvania and New York Canal and R.R. Cons. Mortgage 4 per cent., 1939	40½
1073	Philadelphia City Bonds	83½
1074	Philadelphia Co. 6 per cent. Cum. Preferred	121½
1075	Pierce Oil Corporation Conv. Debs. 6 per cent., 1924	119½
1076	Pittsburg McKeesport and Youghiogheny R.R. 1st Mortgage 6 per cent., 1932	67½
1077	Pittsburg McKeesport and Youghiogheny R.R. and Mortgage 6 per cent., 1934	104½
1078	Pittsburg McKeesport and Youghiogheny R.R. 6 per cent. Guaranteed Stock	99½
1079	Pressed Steel Car Co. 7 per cent. Non-Cum. Preferred	109½
1080	Provident Loan Society of New York 1st Lien 4½ per cent., 1921	115½
1081	Public Service Corp. of New Jersey 6 per cent. Perp. Int. Bearing Certificates	117½
1082	Quaker Oats Co. 6 per cent. Cum. Preferred	84
1083	Rensselaer and Saratoga Rly. 1st Mortgage Cons. 7 per cent., 1921	79½
1085	St Louis Iron Mountain and Southern Rly. Unifying and Refunding Mortgage 4 per cent., 1929	115½
1140	St Louis Iron Mountain and Southern Rly. River and Gulf Div. 1st Mortgage 4 per cent., 1933	107
1086	St Louis and San Francisco Rly. General Mortgage 6 per cent., 1931	74½
1141	St Louis and San Francisco Rly. General Mortgage 5 per cent., 1931	92½
1142	St Louis-San Francisco Rly. Prior Lien Mortgage 4 per cent., Series A, 1950	85½
1143	St Louis-San Francisco Rly. Prior Lien Mortgage 5 per cent., Series B, 1950	105
1144	St Louis-San Francisco Rly. Cum. Adjustment Mortgage 6 per cent., Series A, 1955	70½ (67 p.c.)
1087	St Louis Terminal Cupples Station and Property Co. 1st Mortgage 4½ per cent., 1917	94½
1088	St Paul and Kansas City Short Line R.R. 1st Mortgage 4½ per cent., 1941	101½
1089	Salt Lake City Union Depot and R.R. 1st Mortgage 5 per cent., 1938	99½
1090	San Diego Consolidated Gas and Electric Co. 1st Mortgage 5 per cent., 1929	112½
1091	San Diego Consolidated Gas and Electric Co. Debentures 6 per cent., 1922	105
1092	San Francisco and San Joaquin Valley Rly. 1st Mortgage 5 per cent., 1940	53½
1093	Seattle (Washington) City Bonds	105½
1094	Seattle Electric Co. 1st Mortgage 5 per cent., 1930	109½
1095	Sharon Rly. Capital Stock	103½
1096	Sloss Iron and Steel Co. 1st Mortgage 6 per cent., 1920	103½
1097	Southern California Edison Co. 5 per cent. Cum. Preferred... ..	103½
1100	South Jersey Gas Electric and Traction Co. 1st Mortgage 5 per cent., 1943	103½
1101	Spokane (Washington) City Bonds	94½
1102	Spokane International Rly. 1st Mortgage 5 per cent., 1955... ..	90½
1103	Springfield (Ill.) Railway and Light Co. Collateral Trust Mortgage 5 per cent., 1933	

(Continued on following page.)

AMERICAN DOLLAR SECURITIES COMMITTEE—Continued.

	Description of Security.	Deposit Value.		Description of Security.	Deposit Value.
1104	Staten Island Rly. 1st Mortgage 4½ per cent., 1943	95½	1124	Utica and Black River R.R. 1st Mortgage 4 per cent., 1922...	102½
1105	Steel Co. of Canada 1st Mortgage and Coll. Trust 6 per cent., 1940	104½	1125	Utilities Improvement Co. 6 per cent. Cum. Preferred	88½
1106	Steel Co. of Canada 7 per cent. Cum. Preferred	90½	1126	Vicksburg and Meridian R.R. 1st Mortgage 6 per cent., 1921	111½
1107	Tacoma Railway and Power Co., 1st Mortgage 5 per cent., 1929	89½	1127	Wabash R.R. Des Moines Div. 1st Mortgage 4 per cent., 1939	83½
1108	Tennessee Power Co. 1st Mortgage 5 per cent., 1962	89½	1128	Wabash R.R. Detroit and Chicago Ext. 1st Mortgage 5 per cent., 1941	110½
1109	Terre Haute Electric Co. 1st Mortgage 5 per cent., 1929	101½	1129	Wabash R.R. Toledo and Chicago Div. 1st Mortgage 4 per cent., 1941	84
1110	Terre Haute Traction and Light Co. 1st Cons. Mortgage 5 per cent., 1944	101½	1130	Warren R.R. Guaranteed Stock	78½
1111	Texas Co. Capital Stock	199	1131	Washington Ohio and Western R.R. 1st Mortgage 4 per cent., 1924	96½
1112	Texas Central R.R. 1st Mortgage 5 per cent., 1923	81½	1132	Washington Water Power Co. 1st and Refunding Mortgage 5 per cent., 1939	103½
1113	Trenton Gas and Electric Co. 1st Mortgage 5 per cent., 1949	106½	1133	Western States Gas and Electric Co. of California 1st and Refunding 5 per cent., 1941	94½
1114	Tri-City Railway and Light Co. 6 per cent. Cum. Preferred	96½	1134	Western Telephone and Telegraph Co. Coll. Trust 5 per cent., 1932	105
1115	Union Electric Light and Power Co. of St. Louis 1st Mortgage 5 per cent., 1932	103	1135	West Jersey and Sea Shore R.R. Common	50½
1116	Union Electric Light and Power Co. of St. Louis Refunding and Ext. Mortgage 5 per cent., 1933	95½	1136	Wheeling and Lake Erie R.R. 1st Cons. Mortgage 4 per cent., 1949	75½
1117	Union Steel Co. 1st Mortgage and Collateral Trust S.F. 5 per cent., 1952	111½	1137	Wisconsin Edison Co. Inc. 10 Year Convertible Debentures 6 per cent., 1924	100½
1118	United Cigar Manufacturers Co. 7 per cent. Cum. Preferred	110½	1138	York Railways 1st Collateral Trust 5 per cent., 1937	98½
1119	United Electric Light and Power Co. 1st Cons. Mortgage 4½ per cent., 1929	97½	The American Dollar Securities Committee, National Debt Office, 19, Old Jewry, London, E.C.		
1120	United Shoe Machinery Corp. 6 per cent. Cum. Preferred...	31½	19th December, 1916.		
1121	United Shoe Machinery Corp. Common	56½			
1122	United Traction and Electric Co. 1st Mortgage Coll. 5 per cent., 1933	103½			
1123	United Utilities Co. 1st Collateral Trust Conv. 6 per cent., 1943	97½			

sakes their friends might try to persuade them to hold their tongues.

A Berlin telegram to Amsterdam states that the final result of the fifth War Loan amounts to 10,698,994,990 marks (about £534,949,750). And it is all spent probably beforehand. But the credit feat is wonderful, considering how exhausted the Empire already was. And the interest? How is it to be found?

There is only one deposit scheme now in operation for the loan of securities to the Treasury. And that is Scheme B, with modifications. When this scheme was first promulgated in August its generally superior advantages as compared with Scheme A made the withdrawal of the latter only a question of time. Scheme A, however, possessed an attraction confined to itself, in that it gave the lender of securities the right to sell his securities in New York, receiving payment not in dollars but in sterling, or to claim release of his securities against payment to the Treasury Agent in New York of the current price in dollars. Alternatively, the lender had the right to ask the Treasury if it were prepared to purchase the securities deposited on loan. Scheme B did not contain this power of sale, as it is called, but, as we have indicated before, there was every reason to anticipate that it would be extended to it later. This was done at the beginning of this week, and Scheme A was accordingly withdrawn. The power of sale extended to Scheme B, however, provides that it shall only apply to securities subject to the penal tax of 2s. in the £; to securities the interest and principal of which are payable in the United States; and other securities which the Treasury may be willing to purchase. But the power of sale is subject to the reservation that the securities must, in the first place, be offered to the Treasury for purchase. This reservation is made in order that the Treasury may retain its control over securities deposited with it, and used as collateral.

The advantages of deposit under Scheme B are now infinitely superior to those under Scheme A. Lenders will receive ½ per cent. per annum for five years instead of two, and in the unlikely event of sale by the Treasury they will receive a guaranteed minimum price, which in many cases is above the current market value, plus 5 per cent. Under Scheme A they would have received only the actual price realised—which would have been very low, for the circumstances under which sale would take place would mean that the British Government was unable to pay the interest on its foreign debt—plus 2½ per cent. The main criticism of Scheme A was the absence of a guaranteed minimum price, and of Scheme B the absence of the power of sale. Scheme B now embodies both of these advantages. The power of sale will be applied to old and new deposits alike, and lenders under Scheme A have the right to transfer their securities to Scheme B. Already a rush to transfer has occurred, and there seems little doubt that practically all the A deposits will eventually be trans-

ferred into B deposits. A new list of taxable securities—those which the Treasury is prepared to buy or borrow—has been issued this week. It includes Canadian Pacific common, the deposit value of which has been fixed at 183½. Hitherto the Treasury has not been prepared to buy Canadian Pacifics, only to borrow them; but the fact that it is now disposed to buy them does not mean that it has overlooked the desirability of keeping the control in British hands. Of course, the Treasury is only, at present, at any rate, prepared to buy securities marketable in the United States. But holders should realise that the Treasury is anxious to secure every possible security that will help to provide the Government with dollars. Thanks to the indefatigable attention given by Mr. May, the manager to the Treasury Committee, to the mobilisation scheme, holders may deposit their securities with distinct gain to themselves, and with adequate safeguards in the event of sale that will place them in a better position than those who fail to respond to the Government's appeal. The point of interest to trustees, to which we referred in our issue of November 25, has now been decided by the Court. Mr. Justice Neville has ruled that the payment of ½ per cent. per annum is income, and the contingent payment of 5 per cent. in the event of sale is capital. This was the general assumption, but the Treasury declined to give a definite ruling on the point, and decided that the question should be referred to the Court for authoritative decision.

The suspension of intermediate sales of drafts by the India Council caused an exceptionally keen demand for the Rs. 80,00,000 offered for tender on Wednesday, the total being over Rs. 2,63,00,000 more than a week ago at Rs. 8,36,69,526. As will be seen from our usual particulars, applicants only got 10 per cent. of their amount, and there was naturally a good deal of disappointment expressed. Coming as it did at the beginning of the export season in India, the sudden curtailment of facilities for making remittances has put the banks to considerable inconvenience, to say the least. Representations were made to the India Office, as the result of which the India Council has raised the amount to be offered next Wednesday to Rs. 1,20,00,000 and the maximum allotment to any one applicant to Rs. 15,00,000. Maximum prices have also been fixed at rs. 4½d. for bills and deferred telegraphic transfers, and rs. 4-7-32d. for immediate telegraphic transfers. Even this concession, however, will not be sufficient to meet the trade requirements, and it is hoped that further increases will be found possible in the New Year. The Indian Government has in the meantime issued an ordinance authorising further investments from the paper currency reserve of £8,000,000 in British Treasury bills, in order to provide funds in India to meet drafts and to avoid "ear-marking" gold in London.

In connection with the arrangements for regulating the American exchange, the Treasury is desirous to purchase City of Winnipeg 4 per cent. consolidated registered stock, 1940. The price offered is 82 plus accrued interest to the date of

transfer to the Treasury. All holders of this security in the United Kingdom are invited to place it at the disposal of the Treasury without delay through their bankers or brokers (whose commission will be paid by the Treasury). Holdings of £5,000 and upwards may, if the holder prefers, be placed at the disposal of the Treasury by direct communication with the American Dollar Securities Committee, National Debt Office, Old Jewry, E.C. This offer has not the effect of rendering the dividends on the security in question liable to additional income-tax.

SILVER.

The price of silver reacted on Saturday to 36½d. per oz. on profit-taking, and since then the market has been steady. A fair business has been done each day, but in the absence of any competition the demand has been met without alteration in the quotation.

Applications for the Rs. 80,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 8,36,69,526. Of these Rs. 3,71,000 were allotted in bills, Rs. 55,49,000 in deferred transfers, and Rs. 20,80,000 in immediate transfers. Tenders for bills and deferred transfers at 1s. 4 5/32d., and for immediate transfers at 1s. 4½d., received about 10 per cent. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is increased to Rs. 1,20,00,000. Since April 1 the total sales have been Rs. 31,47,77,364, realising £21,152,530.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, December 20, 1916.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued	71,303,390	Government Debt	11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	52,853,390
		Silver Bullion	—
	£71,303,390		£71,303,390

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital ..	14,553,000	Government Securities ..	42,187,508
Res	3,277,154	Other Securities	104,680,907
Public Deposits (including		Notes	32,979,290
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,494,410
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	53,580,815		
Other Deposits	109,007,255		
Seven Day and other Bills	23,891		
	£180,442,115		£180,442,115

Dated Dec. 21, 1916.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year.

Last year, Dec. 22.		Dec. 13, 1916.	Dec. 20, 1916.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,293,906	Rest	3,234,561	3,277,154	42,593	—
53,134,578	Pub. Deposits ..	57,511,685	55,580,814	—	3,930,870
98,733,632	Other do.	106,526,295	109,037,255	2,480,960	—
18,890	7 Day Bills ..	20,355	23,891	3,536	—
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
32,840,075	Gov. Securities ..	42,187,599	42,187,508	—	91
102,450,207	Other do.	104,059,713	104,680,907	—	621,194
34,443,684	Total Reserve ..	35,598,584	33,573,700	2,024,884	—
				4,552,064	4,552,064
				Increase.	Decrease.
£	Note Circulation	£	£	£	£
55,097,450	.. ..	37,957,340	39,224,100	1,266,760	—
51,091,134	Coin and Bullion	55,105,924	59,347,800	—	758,124
22.1 p.c.	Proportion	21.7 p.c.	20.6 p.c.	—	1.1 p.c.
5 "	Bank Rate	6 "	6 "	—	—

SHORT TERM GOVERNMENT LOANS.

	Nett Sales Last Week.	Nett Sales This Week.	Total Outstanding.
	£	£	£
Treasury Bills	583,000	74,000	1,148,545,000
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919 ..	—	—	34,222,000
Do. 1920	—	—	237,805,969
Do. 1921	—	—	62,464,000
6% Exchequer Bonds	9,480,000	10,025,000	143,759,000
War Expe diture Certificates	196,300	321,100	29,471,200
War Savings Certificates ..	900,000	900,000	39,350,000

IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Dec. 14, 1916.	Dec. 6, 1916.	Nov. 29, 1916.	Dec. 14, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Notes in reserve	13,650,000	12,000,000	11,480,000	8,768,200
Gold	147,340,000	146,510,000	146,680,000	160,726,200
Gold in reserve abroad	214,990,000	214,990,000	214,970,000	22,770,400
Loans and Discounts				
including Treasury				
Bonds	697,280,000	679,010,000	686,250,000	—
Circulation note issue	838,350,000	830,500,000	823,520,000	528,900,000
Deposits, including				
Treasury deposit	23,620,000	22,935,000	23,039,000	21,419,400

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For 7 days ended Dec. 16.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
£	£
Customs	National Debt Service ..
Excise	Interest, &c., on War Debt ..
Estate, &c., Duties ..	Development & Road Impvt.
Stamps	Payments to Local Taxation
Land Tax and House Duty.	Other Consolidated Fund
Property and Income Tax ..	Charges
Excess Profits Tax	Supply Services
Land Values	Bullion Advances
Post Office	For Advance for Interest
Crown Lands	on Exchequer Bonds under
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	Capital Expenditure
Miscellaneous	(Money) Act, 1904
Bullion advances repaid ..	For Treasury Bills
For Treasury Bills	For Exchequer Bonds issued
War Loan, 1925-8	under the War Loan Re-
War Loan, 1925-45	demption Act, 1910 ..
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919 ..	Issues under Section 61 of
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920 ..	Finance Act, 1916
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1921 ..	Under Telegraph (Money)
6% Exchequer Bonds, 1920 ..	Act, 1913
War Expenditure Certificates	Under Post Office (Lon-
War Savings Certificates ..	don) Railway Act, 1913 ..
Other Debts created under	Under Housing Act
War Loan Act, 1915, and	Public Buildings Expendi-
Finance Act, 1916	ture Act, 1903
Telegraph Money Act, 1913	Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8 ..
Under Post Office Rly. Act,	Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11 ..
1913	For Redemption of Ex-
Under Military Works Acts,	chequer Bonds, 1904 ..
1897-1903	Exchequer Bonds, 1916 ..
Under Housing Act	Cunard Loan repayment is-
Redemption of Exchequer	sued to reduce debt under
Bonds, 1904	the Cunard Agreement ..
Cunard Loan—repayment on	Deficiency advances repaid
account of principal ..	Ways and Means Advances
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	repaid
Ways and Means Advances	Increase in Exchequer
Decrease in Exchequer	balances
balances	
£62,817,816	£62,817,816

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1916.	1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
January	1,071,948,000	918,685,000	153,263,000	—
February	1,107,655,000	960,743,000	146,912,000	—
March	1,364,599,000	1,231,392,000	133,207,000	—
April	1,090,356,000	976,264,000	114,092,000	—
May	1,447,416,000	1,164,194,000	283,222,000	—
June	1,147,630,000	960,209,000	187,421,000	—
July	1,239,193,000	1,316,695,000	—	77,502,000
August	1,364,782,000	1,352,519,000	12,263,000	—
September	1,136,590,000	1,000,008,000	136,582,000	—
October	1,304,880,000	1,090,919,000	213,961,000	—
Nov. 6	1,595,788,000	1,350,516,000	265,272,000	—
Dec. 6	363,003,000	271,441,000	91,562,000	—
" 13	319,639,000	255,433,000	64,206,000	—
" 20	323,036,000	266,660,000	56,376,000	—
Total	14,876,515,000	13,095,678,000	1,780,837,000	—

FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	Dec. 1, 1916.	Nov. 24, 1916.	Dec. 3, 1915.
	£	£	£
Gold coin and certificates ..	52,383,400	56,746,000	48,845,800
Gold Redemption Fund	295,270	280,800	250,400
Gold Settlement Fund	35,156,200	34,960,200	15,940,000
Legal tender notes, silver, &c.	2,167,200	3,594,800	6,536,200
Total reserves	90,002,000	95,581,800	71,572,400
5% redemption fund against			
F.R. bank notes	84,000	94,000	—
10-day bills and loans	3,944,800	3,493,000	1,556,800
30-day bills and loans	5,795,200	5,494,400	2,348,000
60-day bills and loans	10,060,200	10,150,200	3,722,000
90-day bills and loans	5,668,400	5,074,600	2,153,200
Maturities over 90 days ..	234,600	306,400	69,200
Total	25,622,200	24,518,600	10,471,200
Investments—			
U.S. Bonds	8,043,000	7,885,400	2,775,000
One year U.S. Treasury			
notes	2,233,400	2,233,400	—
Municipal Warrants	4,250,300	4,433,200	3,564,200
Federal Reserve notes—nett.	3,660,200	3,082,800	3,623,600
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—			
nett.	7,637,600	8,652,600	3,955,000
All other assets	499,000	510,200	1,310,400
Total assets	142,032,200	147,012,000	97,071,800
Paid-up capital	11,147,400	11,142,200	10,971,800
Government Deposits	5,355,400	5,263,800	3,000,000
Reserve deposits—nett. ..	122,766,000	127,414,400	78,593,200
Note circulation—nett. ..	2,676,600	2,859,200	2,793,800
Fed. Res. notes in circulation	5,600	205,600	—
All other liabilities	141,200	126,800	1,713,000
Total liabilities	142,032,200	147,012,000	97,071,800
Gold reserve against nett			
liabilities	71.4%	72.5%	80.9%
Cash reserve against nett			
liabilities	73.1%	75.3%	89.0%

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	Dec. 16, 1916.	Dec. 9, 1916.	Dec. 2, 1916.	Dec. 18, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Loans	670,030,000	666,296,000	678,821,000	615,364,000
Reserve held in own Vaults ..	82,974,000	80,674,000	77,512,000	100,070,000
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk.	33,620,000	34,076,000	33,986,000	32,818,000
Reserve held in Other Depos.	11,000,000	10,754,000	10,841,000	10,898,000
Nett Demand Deposits	655,744,000	650,684,000	660,616,000	647,782,000
Nett Time Deposits	34,462,000	34,068,000	34,160,000	29,794,000
Circulation	5,772,000	5,914,000	5,900,000	7,010,000
Excess Lawful Reserve	14,706,000	13,052,000	8,066,000	32,754,000
Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits.				

NEW YORK STATE BANKS & TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.)

	Dec. 16, 1916.	Dec. 9, 1916.	Dec. 2, 1916.	Dec. 18, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Loans	153,940,000	153,782,000	152,416,000	124,497,000
Specie	12,366,000	12,518,000	12,340,000	10,578,000
Deposits ..	162,414,000	162,172,000	162,216,000	129,740,000
Legal Tenders ..	2,190,000	2,164,000	2,096,000	2,016,000

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Dec. 15, 1916.	Dec. 7, 1916	Nov. 30, 1916.	Dec. 15, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Total Coin & Bullion	126,769,700	126,734,300	126,746,250	121,718,550
Treasury Notes ..	11,405,100	13,203,750	15,701,650	16,018,050
Bills discounted ..	393,378,150	396,534,200	403,784,350	263,771,750
Advances	641,350	574,950	620,200	734,100
Note circulation ..	373,526,450	370,001,500	366,683,000	301,680,030
Deposits	164,528,900	171,183,250	183,095,850	88,281,500

Clearing House returns during Nov., £285,269,765 against £309,547,600 in Oct

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	Nov. 20, 1916	Nov. 10, 1916	Oct. 31, 1916	Nov. 20, 1915
	£	£	£	£
Total cash	43,035,840	44,305,680	45,904,760	53,660,640
Inland Bills	19,473,240	19,403,040	20,072,960	19,470,700
Foreign Bills	812,600	832,600	831,080	834,520
Advances	5,053,880	8,481,100	8,128,720	7,396,046
Government securities ..	8,953,320	8,756,281	8,800,631	7,958,910
Circulation	148,276,120	148,367,960	147,662,080	115,798,200
Deposits at notice ..	16,950,920	16,675,360	15,112,560	11,600,040
Current accounts ..	15,304,710	14,556,120	15,398,280	19,808,800

BANK OF NORWAY.

	Dec. 7, 1916.	Nov. 30, 1916.	Nov. 22, 1916.	Dec. 7, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	6,064,000	6,065,000	6,069,000	3,526,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	5,179,000	5,288,000	5,348,000	3,788,000
Gov't Securities ..	767,700	767,000	767,000	781,000
Discounts & Loans ..	7,006,000	7,356,000	7,152,000	4,314,000
Notes in Circulation ..	13,284,000	13,220,000	13,085,000	8,404,000
Deposits at notice ..	3,194,000	3,666,000	3,745,000	1,377,000

BANK OF SWEDEN.

	Dec. 9, 1916.	Dec. 2, 1916.	Nov. 25, 1916.	Dec. 11, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	10,157,000	10,131,000	10,133,000	6,342,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	8,083,000	8,019,000	7,873,000	7,665,000
Swed. and Foreign Gov't Securities ..	3,532,000	3,769,000	3,774,000	2,897,000
Discounts and Loans ..	7,072,000	6,317,000	4,377,000	5,680,000
Notes in circulation ..	21,142,000	21,429,000	19,958,000	16,426,000
Deposits at notice ..	6,733,000	5,559,000	5,105,000	5,911,000

NETHERLANDS BANK (12 Florins to the £).

	Dec. 16, 1916	Dec. 9, 1916.	Dec. 2, 1916	Dec. 18, 1915
	£	£	£	£
Gold and Silver ..	49,789,250	49,248,416	49,313,916	35,673,321
Bills and Advances ..	12,258,166	11,951,925	12,781,591	13,750,999
Note circulation ..	61,327,750	61,936,000	62,483,331	46,837,916
Deposits	4,491,250	2,892,500	3,062,166	3,902,161

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.
Paris	chqs	27.80½	27.80½	Antwerp	short	—	—
Brussels	chqs.	—	—	Italy	short	31.50	32.80
Amsterdam ..	sight	11.66	11.68	Constantinople	3 mths	—	—
Christiania ..	—	17.27½	17.05	Rio de Janeiro.	90 days	12½d.	12½d.
Stockholm ..	—	16.50	16.04	Buenos Aires ..	90 days	52½	52½d.
Copenhagen ..	—	17.03½	17.40	Calcutta	T.T.	1/4½d	1/4½d.
Petrograd ..	3 mths	160	155½	Bombay	T.T.	1/4½d	1/4½d.
New York ..	cable	4.76½	4.76½	Hong Kong ..	T.T.	2 1/2d.	2 1/2d.
Lisbon	sight	31½d.	31d.	Shanghai ..	T.T.	3/6½d.	3/6½d.
Madrid	sight	23.80	22.32½	Singapore ..	T.T.	2 1/4d.	2 1/4d.
Switzerland ..	—	23.70	24.00	Yokohama ..	4 mths	2/1½d.	2/1½d.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Dec. 14, 1916.		Dec. 19, 1916.	
		Sellers.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Buyers.
Amsterdam ..	Cable transfers ..	11.65	11.68	11.67	11.69
Paris	Three months' bills ..	11.80	11.85	11.83	11.88
.. ..	Cable transfers ..	27.79	27.82	27.79	27.82
.. ..	Three months' bills ..	28.15	28.20	28.15	28.20
Marseilles ..	Three months' bills ..	28.15	28.20	28.15	28.20
Switzerland ..	Cable transfers ..	23.83	23.95	23.85	24.00
.. ..	Three months' bills ..	24.20	24.30	24.20	24.30
Petrograd ..	Cable transfers ..	161	163	158	161
.. ..	Three months' bills ..	163½	165½	160½	161½
Genoa, &c. ..	Cable transfers ..	32.00	32.30	32.75	32.85
.. ..	Three months' bills ..	32.60	32.80	33.20	33.30
Spain	Cable transfers ..	23.00	23.10	22.70	23.00
.. ..	Three months' bills ..	49	49½	49	49½
Lisbon and Oporto	Cable transfers ..	31	32	30½	31½
Copenhagen ..	Cable transfers ..	17.55	17.65	17.45	17.55
Christiania ..	Cable transfers ..	17.25	17.35	17.15	17.25
Stockholm ..	Cable transfers ..	16.48	16.58	16.12	16.22

TREASURY BILLS.

						Last week.	This week
						Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months ..	..	..	..	..	..	5½	5½
Six months ..	..	..	..	..	..	(£98 12 10½) (£98 12 10½)	(£98 12 10½)
Twelve months ..	..	..	..	..	..	5½	5½
						(£97 5 12½) (£97 5 12½)	(£97 5 12½)
						5½	5½
						(£94 10 0) (£94 10 0)	(£94 10 0)

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

						Last week.	This week
						Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted	..	..	..	..	..	5½	5½
Three months ..	..	..	..	..	..	5½	5½
Four months ..	..	..	..	..	..	5½	5½
Six months ..	..	..	..	..	..	5½	5½
Three months fine inland bills	..	..	..	..	..	5½	5½
Four months ..	..	..	..	..	..	5½	5½
Six months ..	..	..	..	..	..	5½	5½

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

						Last week	This week
						Per cent.	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	..	..	..	..	..	6	6
.. .. short loan rates	..	..	..	..	..	6½	6½
Bankers' rate on deposits	..	..	..	..	..	4	4
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	..	..	..	..	..	4½	4½
.. .. 7 and 14 days' notice	..	..	..	..	..	4½	4½
Current rates for 7 day loans	..	..	..	..	..	5	5
.. .. for call loans	..	..	..	..	..	5	4½-5

The Week's Stock Markets.

Considering the approach of the holidays and the unsettled condition of things created by the change of Government, business on the Stock Exchange has been maintained better than might have been expected. It is poor enough in all conscience, but a further contraction this week would have surprised nobody, as dealings generally come to a virtual standstill during what used to be called the "festive season." On broad lines of policy, Mr. Lloyd George's speech was well received, and it helped to put gilt-edged securities better, but the confirmation of the rumours that the Government proposes to assume complete control of the shipping industry had a depressing effect on that section of the market. Moreover, the hint that the excess profits duty would be revised upwards tended to frighten the industrial division, which had been reckoning that the basis of extra taxation in this form would be left undisturbed. But it is not safe to reckon on anything in war time, although we must say that the "young" men in the City aged between 55 and 60 do not seem particularly alarmed at the prospect of being commandeered for war work. Some of the jokes, however, at the expense of this scheme for winning the war, and paying for it by taking in each other's washing, were decidedly caustic. Home Railways have shown more buoyancy than for a long time past, but the market is so bare of stock that quotations are easily raised on any appearance of a buying movement. Elsewhere all has been as dull as ditch water.

At the meeting of the Sulphide Corporation, Ltd., the Earl of Kintore had some pertinent remarks to make on the effects of excessive taxation in restricting enterprise and driving capital out of the country. In the case of this particular venture, which is carrying on a business of the highest national importance, the company has to pay taxes to the State of New South Wales, to the Federal Australian Government, and to the Home Government as well, with the result that its taxation amounts to very nearly as much as the nett profits, and it expected to have to pay to the several Governments concerned actually more than the shareholders were receiving. Of course, in a gigantic war such as we are now engaged in people will submit to a great deal that they would not tolerate in ordinary circumstances, but, even so, it would be impossible to attract fresh capital for the necessary extension of plant and works if it is only to receive a minute fraction of the profits. This question of the duplication of taxation is one of really vital importance, and, as Mr. Bonar Law has had wide Colonial experience, we hope he will set about discovering some solution for the difficulties and inequalities that are constantly cropping up under the existing haphazard system. We know that the problem is not an easy one, but it ought to be possible to arrive at some arrangement with the Colonies that would remove the worst of the existing grievances.

The news from Verdun and the Prime Minister's speech put Stock markets in a very cheerful mood, and there were indications of an expansion of business in gilt-edged securities, although in many cases brokers reported that they were unable to carry out their buying orders, owing to shortage of stock. Consols recovered to 55½, but closed ½ below that figure, and the 3½ per cent. War Loan rose to 85½. The 4½ per cent. issue improved to 95½ on the powers taken by the Treasury to issue a new loan

steady, while City of Baku fell ½ to 96. Egyptian Unified was marked down to 78, but rallied to 78½.

The recovery was most marked in Home Railway stocks, where a good deal of support was forthcoming after the Chancellor of the Exchequer's statement regarding the result of working the lines. Prices moved steadily upwards, and, in spite of a little reaction, at the close the majority showed substantial gains. North-Western was 4 up at 97½, Midland deferred improved 3½, and North-Eastern 3. Great Eastern, Great Western, and Lancashire and Yorkshire rose two to three points, Brighton deferred jumped 4½, and South-Western deferred and ordinary and South-Eastern deferred were all considerably higher. Metropolitan and District shared in the general advance, and Underground income bonds recovered to 93. Canadian Pacific shares dipped to 172½, but rallied to 175, and there was a sharp recovery in Grand Trunks. American Railroad shares rallied on a renewal of the buying in Wall Street, but the market became uncertain, and there was some set-back at the close. United States Steel common fell back to 122. Except for a drop of ½ in Central Argentine ordinary, Argentine Railways were harder, with gains of 1½ in Buenos Ayres and Pacific, and of ½ each in Buenos Ayres Great Southern and Buenos Ayres Western. Mexican stocks have again been heavy, and the first and second preferences dropped 2 each on a report that General Carranza had not agreed to the proposal made by the American Commission. Leopoldina rose 1½, but San Paulo was marked down 6; United of Havana ordinary and Havana Terminal debentures were both higher.

A little support was forthcoming for Bank shares, in view of the dividends, and London Joint Stock rose ¾, while Lloyds and London and Provincial put on ½ each, but National Provincial ½ paid fell ½ and South-Western were ½ down. Hongkong and Shanghai improved ½, and amongst South Americans London and River Plate relapsed 1, and British Bank of South America and London and Brazilian lost ½ each. Shipping shares have been quiet, but the Premier's statement regarding the control of the industry caused a sharp set-back in prices. P. and O. deferred relapsed to 316 xd., and Court Line, Furness, Withy, Prince Line, and London American Maritime Trading were all lower. Only a moderate business has been done in Engineering and Munition shares, and prices generally were easier. Otis Steel, however, continued in demand, and improved to 125, but closed at 123. Canadian stocks were flat, in sympathy with New York and Montreal, and Dominion Steel, Steel Company of Canada and Nova Scotia Steel all showed more or less substantial losses. Lake Superior Corporation dropped to 23, but rallied to 25, while the income bonds rose to 56, and Spanish River Pulp and Paper showed a substantial gain at 23½. Brazilian Traction shares, after touching 45½, were supported, and recovered to 47½, but British Columbia Electric issues were weak, the deferred losing 5 and the preferred 2. Salt Union shares were wanted from the North, and touched 62s., but reacted to 2½. Castner-Kellner Alkali were also supported, but Borax Consolidated deferred gave way. The renewal of the demand for British Oil and Cake shares lifted the price to 27s. 9d. Catering shares were firm, with an improvement to 3½s. in Lyons, but Meat shares were quiet and dull. Underwriters of the Smithfield and Argentine new issue had to take a fair proportion, owing to Argentine holders of bearer shares being unable to participate. Textiles, after being steady most of the week, gave way. Coats touched 63½, but closed at 61½, and Courtaulds declined to 63½.

The Oil share market was quiet and uninteresting at first, but there was a little revival of the inquiry towards the end, and prices hardened. "Shell" rose to 5 15-32, and Royal Dutch put on 1½ at 45½. New Caucasian and North Caucasian were both better, and there was a further recovery in Roumanian Consolidated to 9s. 3d. Much less interest was taken in Rubber shares, and the higher-priced things moved somewhat irregularly, Highlands and Kapar Para being easier, while Golden Hope, Sialang, Sungei Choh, and Tanjong improved. Tebrau met with a good inquiry on the report, and improved to 76s. 3d. Bandar Sumatra gave way, as the report was considered disappointing, but a good part of the loss was recovered before the close. Trust companies were inclined to be easier, and Batavia Plantations closed lower, but Java Investment Loan and Agency hardened to 22s.

LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

SUGAR.—The small supplies on offer from time to time were readily absorbed at recent quotations.

COFFEE.—There was a steady inquiry for all suitable qualities on spot, and a fair amount of business resulted at firm to rather dearer prices. Both washed and unwashed Dumont came in for increased support. The terminal market remained dull and mostly featureless. May, sold, 48s. to 48s. 1½d.

COCOA.—No auctions were held, and privately the position ruled quiet unaltered. Sales include Ceylon, at 83s. to 85s.

TEA.—With good competition, especially for common qualities, these realised firmer prices, while the finer grades, though steady on balance, denoted slight irregularity. During the week 40,000 packages Indian, 24,000 packages Ceylon, and about 6,000 packages Java were offered.

FRUIT (Dried).—Steadiness was the dominant feature, and a moderate inquiry existed for currants and Valencia raisins.

SPICE.—Pepper prices attained a further higher level, as sellers offered very sparingly. Black Singapore, January-March, sold, 10½d.; Muntok, ditto, 11½d. Fair Zanzibar cloves, spot, sold, 7½d. Tapioca, though rather quiet, was very firmly held.

	Last Week	This Week		Last Week	This Week
Consols.....	54½	55½	N.S.W. 4½% 1922-7.....	92	92
War Loan 3½%.....	84	85½	" 5% 1921-3.....	95½	95½
" 4½%.....	95½	95½	" 5½% 1921-2.....	97½	97½
India 3%.....	55½	57	New Zealand 4%.....	84½	84½
" 3½%.....	64	65	Queensland 4%.....	82	82
Australian 5½% 1920-22.....	100	100	" 4½% new.....	93½	93
Canada 4% 1910-60.....	83	83	Union of S. Africa 4½%.....	90½	90½
" 4½% 1920-5.....	94	94	Victoria 4½% 1920-5.....	92	92
N.S.W. 4%.....	81½	81½	Westn. Aus. 4%.....	80	80
" 4½% 5 yr. bds.....	95	95	French War Loan, 5%.....		
Belgian 3%.....	60	60	New.....	79½	80
Brazil, 1913.....	62	62	Japan 4½% (rst).....	95	95
" New Funding.....	75	75	" (2nd).....	95½	95
Chinese 1896.....	90	91	Russia 4%.....	64	64
" 1912.....	74½	75	" 4½%.....	74	74
Egypt Unified 4%.....	79	78½	" 5%.....	80	80
French War Loan, 5%.....	79½	80	London and S.-W. dfd.....	22½	24½
Brighton dfd.....	61½	66	Do. new pf.....	98	98
Caledonian dfd.....	82	9½	Metropolitan.....	33	35
Chatham ord.....	8	8½	Do. 5% New pf.....	90	90
Gt. Central pf.....	12½	14½	Met. District.....	15½	16½
" dfd.....	7	7½	Midland dfd.....	55½	58½
Gt. Eastern.....	34½	36½	Nth. British dfd.....	13	14½
Gt. Northern dfd.....	36½	37½	Nth.-Eastern.....	99½	102½
Gt. Western.....	87½	90½	Nth.-Western.....	93½	97½
Lancs. and Yorks.....	65½	68	Sth.-Eastern dfd.....	25½	27½
Canadian Pacific.....	174	175	Chesapeake.....	69	69½
Do. 6% Notes.....	108½	108½	Erie.....	39	40
E. Indian Guar. 4½% debts.....	86	86	Milwaukee.....	96½	97½
Grand Trunk ord.....	9½	10½	N. Y. Central.....	111½	110½
Do. 3rd pf.....	23½	25½	Southern.....	33	36½
Do. 5½% 3-yr. Notes.....	96	96	Southern Pacific.....	103	103½
Do. 5½% 5-yr. ".....	96	96	Union Pacific.....	152½	155½
Atchafson.....	109½	109½	U. S. Steel.....	128½	122
Baltimore.....	88½	89	Cent. Argentine ord.....	65½	65½
Antioagasta dfd.....	124	125	Do. 5% Notes.....	95	94½
Brazil C. mmon.....	4	4	Do. 6% ".....	99	99
B. A. & Pacific.....	40½	41½	Leopoldina.....	3½	32
B. A. Gt. Southern.....	78	78	Mexican ord.....	14½	14
B. A. Western.....	77	78½	San Paulo (Brazilian).....	17½	172
Bank of Australasia.....	111	111	United of Havana.....	81	82
Barclay & Co. "A".....	7½	7½	London City & Midland.....	7½	7½
Do. "B".....	108½	108½	London County & West.....	148	148
Capital & Counties.....	24½	24½	London Joint Stock.....	21	21½
Chartered of India.....	56	56	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (1914 pd).....	25½	25½
Hongkong & Shanghai.....	76	76½	Do. (12 1/2 pd).....	31	30½
Lloyds.....	24½	24½	Parr's.....	28½	28½
London & Provincial.....	16	16½	Standard of S.A.....	10	10½
London & S.W.....	11½	11½	Union & Smiths.....	22½	22½
Apollinaris ord.....	3	3	Forestral Land.....	52½	51½
Armstrong, Whitworth.....	38½	38½	Furness, Withy.....	47½	42½
Associated Cement.....	2½	2½	Hudson's Bay.....	68½	68½
Birmingham Small Arms.....	47½	46½	Imperial Tobacco "B" pf.....	21½	21½
Borax dfd.....	3½	3½	Do. "C" pf.....	34½	34½
Bovril.....	20½	20½	Kynochs.....	31½	31½
Brazil Traction.....	46	47½	Lever Bros. "C" pf.....	20½	20½
British Amer. Tobacco.....	5½	5½	Lyons, J.....	3½	3½
Brown (John), & Co.....	34½	34½	Marcini.....	24½	24½
Brunner, Mond.....	4½	4½	Maypole Dairy dfd.....	18½	18½
Cammell-Laird.....	7	6½	Mond Nickel ord.....	32	32
Castner-Kellner.....	3½	3½	National Steam Car.....	21	21½
Coats.....	6½	6½	Pears, A. & F.....	14½	14½
Cunard.....	41	41	P. & O. dfd.....	32½	31½
Dennis Bros.....	34½	34½	Royal Mail.....	116½	115½
Dorman, Long.....	32½	31½	South Durham Steel.....	30½	30½
Eastmans.....	6½	6½	Underground Inc. Bds.....	92	92
English Sewing Cotton.....	45½	45½	Vickers.....	37½	36½
Fine Cotton Spinners.....	29½	29½	Mexican Eagle pf.....	39½	39½
Anglo-Egyptian "B".....	10½	10½	North Caucasian.....	23½	25½
Baku (10s.).....	2½	3½	Roumanian Cons.....	7½	9½
Burmah.....	4½	4½	Royal Dutch (100 gulden).....	44½	45½
Lobitos.....	42½	42½	Shell.....	52½	52½
Maikop Combine (10s.).....	3½	3½	Spies (10/-).....	14½	13½
Maikop Pipeline.....	3½	3½	Ural Caspian.....	28½	30½
Mexican Eagle.....	39½	39½	Malayalam Lt.....	3½	3½
Anglo-Java Rub. (2½).....	5½	5½	Merlimau 2/-.....	5½	5½
Anglo-Malay 2/-.....	12½	12½	Pataling 2/-.....	35½	33½
Ayer Kuning Lt.....	36½	37½	Port Dickson 2/-.....	3½	3½
Bukit Mertajam 2/-.....	41½	51	Rubber Trust Lt.....	24½	24½
Bukit Sembawang 2/-.....	3½	3½	Sapumalkande Lt.....	21½	22½
Carey United Lt.....	41½	42½	Sialang Lt.....	67½	66½
Grand Central Lt.....	26½	26½	Singapore Para 2/-.....	3½	3½
Gula Kalumpung Lt.....	30½	30½	Singapore United 2/-.....	3½	3½
Highlands Lt.....	56½	56½	Taiping Lt.....	3½	4½
Java Para Lt.....	29½	29½	Tanjong 2/- Lt.....	84½	86½
Johore Rubber Lands Lt.....	30½	30½	Tandjong Malim Lt.....	34½	33½
Langen Java Lt.....	45½	45½	Tebrau Lt.....	75½	76½
Linggi 2/-.....	23½	23½	United Serdang 2/-.....	14½	12½
London Asiatic 2/-.....	71½	71½	Vallambrosa 2/-.....	19½	19½
Malacca Lt.....	85½	85½	De Beers dfd. (12 1/2 10s.).....	13	13
Abbotiaskoon (10/-).....	4½	5½	East Rand.....	14½	13½
Brakpan.....	42½	44½	Gt. Boulder (2½).....	11½	12½
Broken Hill Prop. (8/-).....	51½	52½	Meyer & Charlton.....	5½	5½
Cam & Motor.....	10½	9½	Modder "B".....	7	7½
Central Mining (12).....	64½	64½	Do. Deep.....	7½	7½
Chartered.....	11½	11½	New M. der (14).....	18½	18½
City Deep.....	42½	42½	Rand Mines (5/-).....	3½	3½
Cons. Gold Fields.....	14½	29½	Rio Tinto (15).....	62½	62½
Cons. Langlaagte.....	18½	28½	Van Ryn Deep.....	34½	24½
Crown Mines (10/-).....	3	3			

if the time seemed opportune, even if the House was not sitting. Local Loans stock rose to 60½, Irish Land stock was marked up to 52, and India 3 and 3½ per cents. were both substantially higher. Bank of England stock recovered 4 to 200, and Metropolitan Water "B" advanced to 59½. Very little interest was shown in Colonial Government securities, but there was some demand for Nigeria 5 per cent. 1920, and the price rose to 95½ xd. Amongst Foreign Government stocks, the French War Loan recovered to 80, and Russian Government loans were

Rice steady, but trade in all directions was kept down. No. 2 cleaned Rangoon, January-February, sold, 20s. 6d., c.f. and i., London. Brand steady. Rangoon, November-December, London, sold, 320s., ex ship terms London. Beans quiet. Rangoon, spot, sold, £41 5s.; and Japanese peas, afloat, £43 5s. Madagascar butter beans quoted 47s. to 48s., on spot, as to quality.

FIBRES experienced a quiet sale, and in the case of Manila hemp a weaker tendency was observable. Jute proved largely nominal. Sales in Manila hemp, include coarse, November-January, £56 10s.; January-March, £55 15s.; and ditto, February-April, £55.

SHELLAC.—A firm but quiet tone ensued. T.N., December, sold, 140s. to 141s.; March, 144s. to 144s. 6d.

CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 20, 1916.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
Sugar —per cwt., duty 14l, 98% polarisation	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Wool —per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tate's Cuba No. 1	2 7 13	2 7 13	Australian	2 10-4 11 1/2	2 8-5 3
Ditto, H.T.S. ..	2 6 7 1/2	2 6 7 1/2	Scoured Merino	1 10-3 7	2 4-3 6
Fine granulated ..	nom.	nom.	Scoured Cr'sabr	1 9-2 4 1/2	2 0-2 8
Lyle's granulated ..	41 7 1/2 42 1 1/2	41 7 1/2 42 1 1/2	Greasy Merino	1 7-2 2	1 9-2 4
Foreign granulated, first marks f.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	3 7-4 0	2 10-4 3 1/2
German Cubes f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	New Zealand (scoured) Merino	1 4-2 1	1 7 1/2 2
French Cubes prompt	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	2 4 1/2-3 7 1/2	2 3-3 6 1/2
Crystallised, West India ..	nom.	nom.	Cape snow white	0 2 11	0 3 0
Beet, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Indian rubber p.l.b. Plantation, Spot	0 2 11	0 3 0
Tea —per lb., duty 1/- lb.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Coal —per ton	nom.	nom.
Indian Pekoe ..	0 11-1 1 1/2	0 11 1/2-1 0 1/2	Durham, best	nom.	nom.
Broken ..	0 11-1 2 1/2	0 11 1/2-1 2	Seconds ..	nom.	nom.
Orange ..	0 11 1/2-1 2	0 11 1/2-1 2	East Hartlepool ..	nom.	nom.
Broken ..	0 11 1/2-1 2 1/2	0 11 1/2-1 2 1/2	Seconds ..	nom.	nom.
Pekoe Souchong ..	0 10 1/2-1 0 1/2	0 11-1 0 1/2	Steamers, best	30 0	30 0
Ceylon Pekoe ..	0 11 1/2-1 2	0 11 1/2-1 2	Seconds ..	25 0-26 0	25 0-26 0
Broken ..	0 11 1/2-1 2 1/2	0 11 1/2-1 2 1/2	Lead —per ton	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Orange ..	0 11 1/2-1 2 1/2	0 11 1/2-1 2 1/2	English Pig ..	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Broken ..	0 11 1/2-1 2 1/2	0 11 1/2-1 2 1/2	Foreign soft ..	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Pekoe Souchong ..	0 11-1 0 1/2	0 11-1 0 1/2	Quicksilver —per bottle firsthand	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Cocoa —per cwt., duty 6d. per lb.	s. s.	s. s.	Tin —per ton	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Trinidad—per cwt.	74 0-80 0	74 0-79 0	English Ingots ..	nom.	nom.
Grenada ..	64 0-70 0	60 0-69 0	Do. bars ..	nom.	nom.
West Africa ..	52 0-59 0	52 0-59 0	Standard cash ..	nom.	nom.
Ceylon Plantation	58 0-68 0	70 0-90 0	Tin Plates, per box	nom.	nom.
Guayaquil Arriba ..	53 0-59 0	51 0-88 0	Jopper —per ton	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Coffee —per cwt., duty 42/- per cwt.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	English, Tough	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
East India ..	67 0-95 0	67 0-95 0	per ton	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Jamaica ..	62 0-120 6	62 0-120 6	Best Selected ..	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Costa Rica ..	62 0-84 0	62 0-84 0	Sheets ..	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Provisions —			Standard ..	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Butter , per cwt.	208/-212/-	208/-212/-	Jute —per ton	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Australian finest	208/-212/-	208/-212/-	Native firsts for shipment Nov-Dec	£ 42 0 0	£ 42 0 0
Irish Creameries	208/-212/-	208/-212/-	Oil —	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Dutch ditto ..	206/-212/-	206/-212/-	Linseed, per ton ..	£ 51 1/2-£ 52 1/2	£ 51 1/2-£ 52 1/2
Russian finest ..	nom.	nom.	Kape, ref. English, barrels ..	£ 56-£ 58	£ 56-£ 58
Normandy baskets	nom.	nom.	brown English, naked ..	£ 54 0 0	£ 54 0 0
Danish finest ..	220/-222/-	220/-222/-	Cott'n Seed, crude ..	£ 52 10 0	£ 52 10 0
Brittany rolls ..	216-236	216-236	Ditto, refined ..	£ 59-£ 60	£ 59-£ 60
Bacon —per cwt.			Petroleum Oil, per 8 lbs.	1 1 1/2	1 1 1/2
Irish ..	110 0-120 0	110 0-120 0	Water White ..	1 1 1/2	1 1 1/2
Continental ..	106 0-120 0	106 0-120 0	Oil Seeds, Linseed ..	—	—
Canadian ..	100 0-112 0	100 0-112 0	Calcutta—per 41 lb. ..	5 6 6	5 7 6
American ..	104 0-112 0	104 0-112 0	Dec-Jan. kape, Tonia ..	92/-	92/-
Hams —per cwt.			Iron —per ton	nom.	nom.
Irish ..	148/-166/-	148/-166/-	Cleveland Cash ..	nom.	nom.
Canadian ..	75 0-112 0	72/-104/-	Tobacco —duty, manufacturers ..	56 to 62 1/2 per lb.	56 to 62 1/2 per lb.
Cheese —per cwt.			Maryland & Ohio ..	0 6-0 11	0 6-0 10
Dutch ..	116 0-126 0	116 0-126 0	per lb. bond ..	0 8-1 6	0 8-1 6
Canadian ..	130 0-134 0	130 0-134 0	Virginia leaf ..	0 6 1/2-0 11	0 6 1/2-0 10
English Cheddar	132 0-140 0	132 0-140 0	Kentucky leaf ..	1 0-3 0	1 0-3 0
Wilt's loaf ..	nom.	nom.	Latakia ..	1 0-6 0	1 0-6 0
New Zealand ..	nom.	nom.	Havana ..	0 6-2 0	0 6-2 0
Rice —per cwt.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Manila ..	0 6-2 0	0 6-2 0
Garden Siam spot ..	20 3	20 6	Cigars, duty 10/- per lb. ..	2/ upds.	2/ upds.
Rangoon 2 stars ..	20 0	20 0	Timber —Wood.		
Eggs —per 120.			Pitch pine ..	250/-270	250/-270
English ..	34 0-35 0	33 0-35 0	Indian Teak ..	400/-600/-	400/-600/-
Irish ..	29 0-32 0	30 0-32 0	Turpentine —		
Danish ..	32 0-34 0	30 0-32 0	American Spot ..	2 13 6	2 12 6
Spelter —			Copra —		
G.O.B. as to position ..	nom.	nom.	Malabar, London	nom.	nom.
Flour —per sack.			Nov.-Jan. ..	41 2 6	42 0 0
G. R. ..	59/-	59/-	Ceylon, London	40 2 6	40 15 0
American First	62/ upds	62/ upds	South Sea ..	40 12 6	41 2 6
Patents ..	62/ upds	62/ upds	F.M.S. ..	40 12 6	41 2 6

RUBBER opened the week easier, but improved. Crepe, spot, sold, 2s. 9d. to 3s. 0d., and 3s.; January-June, 2s. 10d. to 3s. 1d., and 3s. Ribbed smoked sheet, spot, done, 2s. 9d. to 3s. 0d., and 3s. Fine hard Para, spot, sold, 3s. 3d. to 3s. 3 1/2d.

COPRA steadily hardened during the week on fair disposition shown to buy and reserved sellers.

CORN (Mark Lane).—Business (as only to be expected at present times) has been practically suspended this week. Meanwhile firmness remains the all-round characteristic, and scarcity of supplies still makes itself felt. Wheat (English): Whites and reds delivered up range to 82s. per qr., 504 lbs. Imported grades, nominal. Flour: American spring patents nominal at 62s. 6d. upwards, landed. Oats: Plate, 49s. upwards, landed. Grinding

barley: Indian, 68s. 6d. upwards, landed. Maize: Sound Plate, 66s. ex ship, and 67s. landed.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—The general tone of the market has been slower during the past week than for some time back. The falling tendency in raw cotton markets has had a discouraging effect upon buyers of yarn and cloth, and all along the line business has been of a sorting up character. It is believed that there is a good deal more business to be done when the outlook is more settled and prices are steadier, but in the meantime most operators are disposed to look on and await events. The drop in raw cotton rates has been largely due to increased bearish sentiment and the liquidation of holdings on the part of speculators. A fair amount of tentative inquiry has been reported in cloth for India, but practicable offers in either staple goods or fancies from the other side have been few in number, with the result that in the way of fresh business very little progress has been made. Scarcely anyone has a good word to say for China at the moment, and sales worth mentioning are quite isolated. No development has occurred in the demand for the minor outlets East and West, and the general inquiry has been slow. A little more irregularity has shown itself in cloth quotations, but the position of makers is too healthy for any real weakness in prices to prevail. American yarns for home use have favoured buyers in price, but owing to there being plenty of work to go on with rates have not fallen equal to the drop in the raw material, and where sales have occurred the margin of profit has been widened. Most users, however, have purchased sparingly. Only retail transactions have been reported in shipping yarns. Bolton spinings have been somewhat neglected, but we do not find much alteration in quotations.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

MINES.

Bantjes Consolidated.—As the operations of the current year will show a loss no dividend can be declared for that period, in view of the necessity of conserving the company's cash in hand for carrying out further development operations in the mine. No dividend was paid for the previous year.

Blaauwbosch Diamonds.—25 per cent., payable about middle Feb. next. This is the first payment since 1913-14, when 60 per cent. was paid.

Cassel Coal.—6 1/2 per cent., equal to 1s. 3d. per share, against 5 per cent. a year ago.

City and Suburban.—6 1/2 per cent. (5s. per share), same as a year ago.

City Deep.—22 1/2 per cent. for period ending Dec. 31, against 20 per cent.

Consolidated Main Reef.—5 per cent. for six months ending Dec. 31, against 6 1/2 per cent.

Crown.—25 per cent. for period ending Dec. 31, against 30 per cent.

Durban Roodepoort Deep.—In consequence of the heavy expenditure which has to be met during 1917 on two underground winders, they have decided not to pay any dividend for the half-year ending December 31. It is estimated that a cash surplus of £26,500 will be carried forward towards meeting the expenditure referred to, being an addition of £11,000 for the year. A year ago a dividend of 3 1/2 per cent. was paid.

Eldorado Banket Gold.—7 1/2 per cent., less tax, in respect of year ending March 31 next, payable Jan. 30, same as a year ago.

Geldenhuis Deep.—12 1/2 per cent. for period ending Dec. 31, against 10 per cent.

Glencoe (Natal) Collieries.—5 per cent. (1s. per share) in respect of year ending 31st inst.

Meyer and Charlton.—55 per cent., making 100 per cent. for 1916, against 40 per cent., making 130 per cent.

Modderfontein B.—40 per cent. for period ending Dec. 31, against 35 per cent.

Natal Navigation Collieries.—3 1/2 per cent. for half-year ending 31st inst., against 2 1/2 per cent.

New Goch.—5 per cent., making 10 per cent. for 1916, same as for 1915.

New Modderfontein.—16 1/2 per cent. for period ending Dec. 31, same as a year ago.

Nourse.—6 1/2 per cent. for period ending Dec. 31, against 5 per cent.

Rand.—Interim of 75 per cent. for period ending Dec. 31, against 80 per cent.

Robinson.—4 per cent. for period ending Dec. 31, against 6 per cent.

Rose Deep.—11 1/2 per cent. for period ending Dec. 31, against 15 per cent.

Tongkah Harbour Tin Dredging.—1s. per share (5 per cent.), payable Jan. 22.

Village Deep.—10 per cent. for period ending Dec. 31, against 11 1/2 per cent.

Village Main Reef.—3s. per share, tax free; last December no dividend was paid.

Witwatersrand Deep.—10 per cent. for six months ending Dec. 31, against 13 1/2 per cent.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Ampat (Sumatra) Rubber.—Final of 15 per cent. (actual), less tax at 4s. 6d. (equivalent to 3s. 3d. per share), in respect of year ended Sept. 30, making 25 per cent. for the year, £3,000 to reserve, forward £1,727, payable Jan. 6.

Anglo-American Oil.—Interim of 1s. per share, and an extra interim of 1s. per share, tax free, payable Jan. 15.

Assam Dooars Tea.—Interim of 5 per cent. on the ordinary, less tax, same as last year.

Ar. old J. Van den Bergh.—Interim for six months ended Oct. 31 at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, payable Jan. 1, same as a year ago.

Canadian Bank of Commerce.—Nett profits for the year ending Nov. 30 amount to \$2,439,415. After payment of dividends at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum and a bonus of 2 per cent., contribution to pension fund \$80,000, War tax on note circulation \$147,288, and patriotic subscriptions \$71,700, the sum of \$802,319 has been carried forward. The cash reserves aggregate over \$46,000,000, and the total assets amount to \$288,000,000.

C. and E. Morton.—At the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the cumulative participating preference shares for half-year ending Dec. 31.

Dundee, Perth, and London Shipping.—Interim of 5 per cent., less tax, same as last year.

English and Scottish Law Life Assurance.—Half-yearly, including interim to Dec. 31, will be at the rate of 6s. 3d. per annum per share (£3 10s. paid), tax free, payable 10th prox.

European Gas.—Interim of 5s. per share, tax free, same as a year ago.

Halley's Industrial Motors.—Final 5 per cent. actual, and a bonus of 1s. per share, making 15 per cent., tax free, for the year. For the previous nine months 15 per cent. was paid.

Harpenden (S-langor) Rubber.—Third interim of 25 per cent. (less tax) on account of year ending Dec. 31, same as a year ago.

Havana Cigar and Tobacco Factories.—Interim of 15 per cent., tax free, on the ordinary, same as a year ago.

Henry Clay and Bock.—20 per cent. on the preference, payable Dec. 29, being in respect of the 8 per cent. cumulative preference for 2½ years from June 30, 1914, to Dec. 31, 1916.

Hope Tea.—Interim of 10 per cent. on the ordinary, less tax, same as last year.

Hyderabad (Deccan).—Interim of 1s. per share, less tax, payable Jan. 1. A year ago the dividend was the same.

Ingersoll-Rand.—Cash of 20 per cent. on the ordinary, payable Dec. 28. A year ago a cash dividend of 10 per cent. was paid.

Kuala-Klang Rubber.—Final of 22½ per cent. (actual), less 4s. tax, making 42½ per cent. for the year ended Sept. 30, with £8,744 carried forward. For the preceding year dividend was 35 per cent. and £3,341 carried forward.

Meenlas Tea.—Interim of 3 per cent. on ordinary, less tax, same as last year.

Mexican Eagle Oil.—Third and final of 8 per cent. (making 16 per cent.) on preference for year ended June 30 last, and first interim of 4 per cent. in respect of year ending June 30 next; also second and final of 8 per cent. (making 16 per cent.) on ordinary for year to June 30 last, and first interim of 4 per cent. in respect of year to June 30 next. For the preceding year the distribution on the ordinary shares was 8 per cent.

National Explosives.—Final of 10 per cent., tax free, making 15 per cent. for year.

National Steam Car.—10 per cent. per annum, less tax, for year ended Oct. 31. For 1914-15 the dividend was 6 per cent.

Newcastle Breweries.—15 per cent. on the ordinary for half-year ended Oct. 31, making 10 per cent. for year, same as a year ago.

Norwich Union Fire.—Interim at the rate of 15s. per share, payable Jan. 4, as compared with 12s. last year. It is stated that the increased distribution is in order that the dividend may be more evenly apportioned between the interim and final payments.

Pataling Rubber.—Third interim of 75 per cent. (actual), less tax at 4s. 6d., in respect of year ending Dec. 31, payable Jan. 22; a year ago the dividend was 50 per cent.

Real Estate of South Africa.—Interim of 2 per cent., less tax, payable Jan. 8.

Selangor River Rubber.—Second interim on account of 1916 of 10 per cent., tax free, payable Dec. 22; a year ago the dividend was the same.

Straits Settlements (Bertam) Rubber.—Interim of 10 per cent., actual, less tax at 5s., the same as a year ago.

United Fruit.—Regular of \$2 per share on the common, payable Jan. 15.

White and Poppe.—15 per cent. on ordinary and of 8½ per cent. on the preference for year ended July 31 last; for 1914-15 the dividend on the ordinary shares was 10 per cent.

Answers to Correspondents.

*** A Key to these Answers will be posted early each week for a subscription of ONE GUINEA per annum, 11s. for six months, or 5s. 9d. for three months.**

Deposits against future queries may be lodged with the Publisher.

C. R. O.—It looks cheap, and if you are prepared to wait will likely rise.

S. F. D.—We do not think the dividends will fail. It is a strong concern. The most recent news is cheerful, on the whole; crop prospects good. The shares are a fair purchase at about present price, but not likely to rise much.

G. B. S.—There is no news, and we fear there can be no recovery until conditions are more settled. Probably the bonds are worth picking up, but the outlook is still very uncertain.

C. H. B.—The company is doing very well, but the price is fairly high, and we think you should take your profit.

R. D. R.—The present price is quite a full one; you might sell and put the money into Exchequer bonds.

Tea, Oil and Rubber.

That extraordinary spurt which carried the price of rubber to 3s. 5d. did not last long, and there was nearly as rapid a descent to 2s. 10d. But dealers are convinced that if the war lasts much longer the demand for rubber must exceed the supply, and consequently there has been a recovery to 3s. or a fraction over. We are inclined to think that rubber must follow the course of other commodities if the war is protracted, but the recent violent fluctuations are certainly puzzling. The share market has had a holiday aspect, but on the whole the tone has been good, especially for the older established companies. Business, however, has been on a very small scale. A circular has been issued by the Oriental Rubber Co., Ltd., which shows that, while a "statutory" loss was made in 1911 and 1912, and the dividends have averaged 14 per cent. for the past five years, the claim for excess profits duty is £25,440, equal to 54 per cent. of the total profits of the period, and to 10½d. per lb. on the rubber produced. These anomalies create a feeling of injustice, which it would be desirable to remove at the earliest possible opportunity.

A highly satisfactory report is presented by the Taping Rubber Plantations for the year ended September 30. The crop was 142,500 lbs. larger at 627,430 lbs., and the increase was accompanied by an improvement of 6.39d. to 2s. 9.27d. in the gross price and 5.59d. to 2s. 6.93d. in the nett. At the same time, the total cost, exclusive of .30d. for war risk insurance, was further reduced by 1.38d. to the low figure of 10.88d., with the result that the nett profits rose by £25,038 to £51,300. With £29,248 brought in, the available surplus was £28,359 larger at £80,548, but in view of the possible liability for excess profits duty, the directors only increase the dividend from 12½ per cent. to 20 per cent., less tax, and carry forward £47,132, or £17,884 more. During the year options on 46,800 shares were exercised, bringing the subscribed capital up to £208,890, while the cost of the property, including a proportion of general expenditure, was increased by £3,904 to £229,703. For the current year a crop of 675,000 lbs. is expected.

A further 416 acres was brought into tapping by the Asahan Rubber Estates during the year ended July 31, making 1,122 acres in bearing out of 2,464 acres planted. Notwithstanding this large addition of young trees the average yield per acre was 34 lbs. larger at 229 lbs., with the result that the total crop exceeded the estimate by 77,500 lbs., and was 119,912 lbs. larger than that of 1914-15 at 257,496 lbs. The gross price realised was 4.58d. better at 2s. 7.99d., and as the "all-in" cost was reduced by .73d. to 1s. 3.40d., the nett profits showed the substantial improvement of £11,671 at £18,084. Of this, £5,000 is placed to reserve, compared with £2,646 written off preliminary expenses and underwriting commission last time, after which the dividend is increased from 2½ per cent. to 10, less tax, giving the directors £546 as additional remuneration under the articles of association, and £2,659 is carried forward, compared with £1,037 brought in. Development expenditure for the year amounted to £7,001, making a total of £106,762. Apparently the area under tapping will again be extended during the current year, and the crop is estimated at 360,000 lbs.

The Bantam (Java) Rubber Estates again made very substantial progress in the year ended June 30. A crop of 706,318 lbs. was obtained, compared with a revised estimate of 682,000 lbs. and an output of 441,757 lbs. in the previous year. Owing, no doubt, to the heavier freight and insurance charges the "all-in" cost was only slightly lower, but was satisfactory enough at 1s. 1.75d., while the average price realised rose by 4.33d. to 2s. 7½d. A year ago £1,374 was set aside for agency commission and directors' fees that might be held to be payable to the former agents in London and German directors, but the directors are advised that there is little prospect of any such claims being substantiated in the future, and have brought the

amount back into profit and loss. Including this and £4,951, or £1,815 less, brought forward, the nett profits show a further substantial improvement of £27,516 at £60,211, but the directors apparently expect the charge for excess profits duty to be heavy, and carry forward the greater part of the gain. After transferring £489, or £1,808 less, to development account, and writing off £2,719 for depreciation, the dividend is increased from 12½ per cent. to 20 per cent., less tax. Directors' extra remuneration takes £1,000, as last year, but nothing is transferred to reserve compared with £3,000, and £21,052 more at £26,003 is carried to the new accounts. Before deducting the amounts now written off the property account, including buildings and machinery, shows a reduction of £1,700 at £153,643. Cash is £16,216 up at £26,094, and the company has £5,000 temporarily invested in Exchequer bonds, so that it is amply provided with funds. The crop for 1916-17 is estimated at 770,000 lbs., of which 330,169 lbs. had been harvested at the end of November.

Satisfactory progress is recorded by the Pilmoor Rubber Co. in the year ended June 30, the crop of 261,480 lbs. having exceeded the estimate by 11,500 lbs. and the previous output by 55,550 lbs. An "all-in" cost of 1s. 1.41d., or 2.55d. less, is given in the accounts, but the directors say that this is somewhat misleading, as 112,000 lbs. were sold f.o.b. Port Swettenham, and therefore bore no shipping and insurance charges. The gross price of 2s. 4.90d. is also misleading, as a portion of the rubber bore no shipping charges, and the gross price of the rubber sold in London was 2s. 6½d. A profit of £17,058 was earned, or nearly 33 per cent. on the issued capital, but a large sum has to be retained for excess profits duty for 1914-15 and 1915-16, and the dividend is only increased by 2½ per cent. to 17½ per cent. Owing, however, to the income-tax being treated as though the company was a continuing business, and therefore assessable on a three years' average, there is a small gain under this head, of which it is proposed to give the shareholders the benefit by paying the final dividend of 10 per cent. tax free, so that the total distribution for the year is practically 20 per cent. For the current year the crop is estimated at 330,000 lbs. to cost about 10½d. f.o.b., and in the first five months 144,980 lbs. were harvested compared with 113,900 lbs. in the corresponding period of 1915-16. Forward sales have been made of 6 tons of smoked sheet per month throughout 1917 at what looks like a highly satisfactory price of 2s. 7½d.

Although the Bandar Sumatra Rubber Co. showed a substantial advance in profits for the year ended July 31, the report was regarded as a disappointing one, as owing to the large amount required for excess profits duty the dividend is only increased by 5 per cent. During the 12 months 11,944 trees were brought into tapping and the crop rose by 85,679 lbs. to 291,085 lbs., while the gross price was 5.69d. better at 2s. 7.89d. The coffee bushes are being gradually removed, with the result that the yield fell off by 404 cwts. to 1,246 cwts., but the price realised was 29s. 3d. up at 72s. Receipts from all sources improved by £15,114 to £39,651, and after charging the whole of management and general estate charges, compared with 75 per cent. a year ago, and writing off £1,000, or half last year's amount, for depreciation, the nett profits were £10,819 larger at £19,071. Of this, however, £6,500 is set aside for excess profits duty, as against £2,000 transferred to general reserve, and after raising the dividend from 7½ per cent. to 12½, less tax, the balance carried forward is increased by £507 to £1,073. The directors state that the pre-war percentage standard for purposes of assessment in connection with the excess profits duty has been fixed at £7.418. A further £5,605 was received on capital account, making the total paid up £99,842, while the cost of the property, exclusive of buildings and machinery, was only increased by £1,464 to £77,846. Investments are £3,020 up at £9,840, and the holding of Treasury bills is £17,582 larger at £25,436, while £5,149, or £3,190 more, is due to sundry creditors.

The crops for the current year are estimated at 360,000 lbs. rubber and 480 cwts. coffee, of which 128,690 lbs. rubber and 162 cwts. coffee had been harvested by the end of November.

As the Emba Caspian Oil Co. may be said to be in a state of suspended animation pending the reorganisation to which we referred in our issue of the 2nd inst., the report for the year to October 31 is not of much interest, especially as the accounts of the Russian Company for 1915 have not yet been received. Revenue for the year was only £420, against £3,680 for the previous twelve months, but the loss is only a trifle higher at £4,675, which raises the debit balance to £456,400. It is stated that the nett production of oil for the period to July 31 (O.S.) was 1,561,690 poods, and a pipeline has been erected between Dos-Sor and Makat, but labour and transport difficulties have greatly impeded the operations of the Russian Company. In view of the fact that the balance-sheet will shortly be overhauled, the present items are of no practical interest.

CALEDONIAN (CEYLON) TEA AND RUBBER.—The crop of tea in the year ended June 30 was only 7,472 lbs. larger at 638,609 lbs., and the nett prices were substantially lower, but rubber gave 23,584 lbs. more at 116,471 lbs., and prices were substantially higher, while the "all-in" costs showed a further reduction. Notwithstanding this, the profit was slightly smaller at £13,579. After repeating the appropriations of £1,000 for depreciation and £500 for coast advances reserve, the directors pay two years' preference dividend, as against three years' last time, clearing off all arrears, and give the ordinary shareholders 6 per cent., leaving £4,677, or £290 less, to be carried forward. The crops for the current year are estimated at 650,000 lbs. tea and 135,000 lbs. rubber.

NAMUNAKULA TEA.—Nett profits for the year ended June 30 showed a decrease of £4,776 at £4,141, but the balance brought in, after providing £1,990 for excess profits duty, 1914-15, was £354 up, giving a total of £4,757, or £4,422 less, to be dealt with. Of this £500, as against £2,350, is transferred to reserve, and the dividend is reduced from 12 per cent. to 10, less tax, leaving £737, or £1,868 less, to be carried forward. The crop was 9,285 lbs. smaller at 773,330 lbs., while the nett price, owing mainly to an increase of 0.64d. in freight, war risk insurance, and selling charges, was 0.86d. down at 8.58d.

KURUNEGALA RUBBER.—In the year ended June 30, a crop of 69,273 lbs., or 20,273 more, was obtained, and the company has now reached the stage when it is possible to present a profit and loss account. The average price realised was 4d. better at 2s. 6½d. and the profit amounted to £5,049. After providing for debenture interest and writing off £323 for debenture underwriting commission, together with £203 for depreciation, the nett balance is £3,543, out of which an initial dividend of 6 per cent., less tax, is paid. Like many other undertakings, the company has found it advisable to thin out its plantations, and the number of trees was reduced last year by 14,553 to 110,549. A crop of 90,120 lbs. is expected in the current year.

DJASINGA RUBBER AND PRODUCE.—The directors announce that owing to the increase of work and the impossibility of augmenting staff in the East consequent on existing war conditions, the despatch of the final accounts for the period ended June 30 has been delayed. They, however, hope to be able to submit their report and balance-sheet before the middle of February.

TROLAK PLANTATIONS.—In the year ended September 30 a crop of 263,525 lbs. was obtained, as against an estimate of 225,000 lbs., and an output of 184,382 lbs. in 1914-15. The price realised was 7d. better at 2s. 11d., and the cost of production, exclusive of interest, depreciation, and income tax, showed a further reduction of ¾d. at 1s. 2¼d. Including £2,575, or £1,254 more, brought in, the nett profits were £13,136 up at £23,759, but the company, being a young producer, will be heavily hit by the excess profits duty. The dividend is therefore restricted to 20 per cent., less tax, or the same as for the previous year, and by transferring nothing to reserve compared with £2,599, the balance carried forward is increased by £15,151 to £18,759, practically the whole amount being in cash and Treasury Bills, which have risen by £10,070 to £18,454. A further instalment of £2,500 of the Government loan was paid off in January, and the balance of £5,000 has been repaid since the close of the financial year. The crop for 1916-17 is estimated at 280,000 lbs.

NARBOROUGH (F.M.S.) RUBBER.—During the year ended June 30 the number of trees in tapping was increased by 35,500 to 68,500, but notwithstanding the large proportion tapped for the first time an average of 3 lbs. per tree was obtained. The crop exceeded the estimate by 11,000 lbs., and the previous year's output by 65,010 lbs. at 180,916 lbs., while the price realised rose by 7½d. to the satisfactory figure of 2s. 8½d. The all-in cost, however, was pretty high at 1s. 5.8d., and after providing £2,500, or 3.3d. per lb., for income-tax and excess profits duty, the nett profits amounted to £8,667, or £3,754 more. Adding £2,310 brought in, the available total is £5,667 up at £10,977, and the company enters the dividend-paying list with a distribution of 12½ per cent., tax free. Nothing, however, is written off compared with £3,000 for underwriting expenses, but the balance carried forward is increased by

£1,040 to £3,350. For the current year a crop of 240,000 lbs. is expected at an all-in cost of 1s. 2½d., and of this 100,600 lbs. had been harvested by the end of November.

DALKEITH (CEYLON) RUBBER AND TEA ESTATES.—At a meeting held on Tuesday to consider the desirability of dividing the £1 shares into 2s. shares, the resolution was carried. It was further resolved that the name of the company should be changed to the Dalkeith (Ceylon) Rubber Estates, Ltd.

ANKOLA TEA AND RUBBER.—Although there was a further improvement in the general condition of the estate in the year ended April 30, the yield of tea per acre was still very small, and the crop fell very far short of the estimate at 207,980 lbs. This was 127,179 lbs. more than for the previous season, but the nett price realised was .64d. down at 8.48d., and after providing for all charges and paying £1,965, or £824 more, for debenture interest, a debit balance of £6,331 is carried forward. The crop for 1916-17 was originally estimated at 398,000 lbs., but as the actual production for the first seven months was only 149,000 lbs., there is not much prospect of this figure being realised. Expenditure on the property amounted to £5,667, making a total of £106,765, but buildings and machinery have been written down pretty liberally, and show decreases of £1,337 and £1,031 respectively at £7,960 and £2,011. A further £12,500 was received on the 7 per cent. first debenture stock, but owing to the conditions to which the estate was reduced by the attacks of pests and blight the £25,000 raised in this manner has proved insufficient to bring the tea to maturity. Arrangements have, therefore, been made with the Rubber Plantations Investment Trust and Messrs. Harrison and Crosfield to provide advances up to a further £15,000 as required.

The following forward sales of rubber have been announced this week:—Ledbury 60 tons, Lanadron 48 tons, and Cluny 30 tons, all of smoked ribbed sheet, in equal quantities monthly, during the first six months of 1917, at 2s. 9½d. per lb. f.o.b. Eastern port.

What Balance Sheets Tell.

MELBOURNE ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO., LTD.

In the year ended August 31 the demand for light and power from firms engaged in munition work showed further expansion, and in Melbourne 4,522 new consumers were added to the system, with the result that sales of current rose by 6,415,784 units to 23,902,084 units. Progress was less marked in Geelong, but there also there were increases of 283 in the number of consumers and of 249,428 units in the sales. Gross profits from the two undertakings were £24,648 up at £142,315, and after providing for debenture and other interest and for the various sinking funds, there was £107,476, or £25,268 more, available. Of this £20,000, as against £5,000, is transferred to general reserve, making that fund £90,000, and £15,000 is set aside for income-tax and excess profits duty. A dividend of 10 per cent., tax free, is again paid on the ordinary stock, together with £2,699 for interest on partly paid ordinary shares, and the balance carried forward is increased by £21,366 to £62,144. During the year £100,362 was received on the new ordinary shares issued in Australia, making the paid-up capital £625,362. The cost of the Melbourne undertaking was increased by £137,561 to £1,077,108, and of the Geelong undertaking by £6,844 to £178,930, while stores have risen by £24,912 to £53,469. Sundry creditors have risen by £42,316 to £62,540, and further capital will shortly be wanted for future expansion. Power is therefore sought to increase the capital by £750,000, divided into 50,000 preference shares of £5 each, and 500,000 ordinary shares of £1 each, the latter to be converted when fully paid into consolidated ordinary stock, ranking equally with the existing stock, and the borrowing powers of the directors by £250,000.

R. AND J. DICK, LTD.

For the year to August 31 gross profits show an increase of £41,000 at £118,480, after making provision for excess profits duty, and the nett profit is £31,000 higher at £96,635. The dividend on the ordinary shares is doubled at 12 per cent., and £35,000 against £20,000 is written off goodwill account, while £10,000 is again placed to preference dividend reserve fund, raising it to £60,000, the full amount specified in the articles of association. There then remains £13,275, or £2,600 more, to be carried forward. Goodwill is now reduced to £50,000, and the position is a strong one. As might be expected, creditors, debtors, stocks, and cash are all higher, but we need not go into details. It is said that the home belting business has been maintained and increased, while in parts of the world outside the war zone the business has not been seriously affected. The output of the Passaic factory has increased, and the change of management in the boot department, referred to last year, has produced good results.

R. HOOD HAGGIE AND SON, LTD.

Last year £40,630 was carried forward, against excess profits tax and other contingencies, and the Government annexed £25,500 of it in respect of duty for 1914-15. The directors strike a responsive chord when they say "they are proud to be in a position to help the State to such a large extent." This time profits to October 31 are struck after making provision for estimated liabilities to the Government, and they consequently show an apparent decline of £4,700 at £80,200, but as directors' fees and commission on profits are up £2,000 at £5,155, we should say the company must have had a very prosperous year. The dividend and bonus of 20 per cent. is repeated, and £10,000 is

again written off capital expenditure account, but the appropriation to reserve is halved at £10,000. All this, however, leaves £40,480 to be carried forward, against £15,200 brought in, so ample provision is made for contingencies. Stocks have increased £77,000 to £211,000, but the company is fortunate in being able to secure them, and we need not worry about cash being temporarily depleted to less than £300. Everything points to sound and vigorous management, and a healthy condition of affairs.

FERRANTI, LTD.

Thanks to its munition work, the trading profits of this company for the year ended June 30 showed an improvement of £17,147 at £54,377, as against a decrease of £10,026 in the previous twelve months. After providing for general establishment charges, interest, and repairs and renewals, and transferring £10,000 to depreciation reserve as before, there was a surplus of £3,546, as against a loss of £1,022, making, with £1,028 brought in, a total of £4,574 to be carried forward. During the year leasehold lands and buildings were increased by £5,842 to £59,390, and plant, machinery, &c., by £7,950 to £136,795, but the entry of £11,856 for equipment of shell department shown a year ago has disappeared from the balance-sheet. Expenditure on work in hand is £29,730 up at £97,158, stocks are £9,156 larger at £31,153, and debtors owe £59,563 more at £117,686, while cash is £2,800 higher at £5,593. On the other hand, sundry creditors have risen by £77,217 to £118,389, and special loans against security are £17,486 larger at £24,816, but other loans show small decreases at £7,960 and £11,276 respectively.

BARNAGORE JUTE FACTORY CO., LTD.

A further big increase of £94,369 to £271,289 is shown in the gross profits for the year ended August 31, but provision for British and Indian war taxation absorbed £40,511 more at £64,532, and after meeting other charges and writing off £40,000 for depreciation the nett profit was £32,734 better at £100,891. The dividend on the ordinary shares is raised from 10 per cent. to 25, but £3,500 less at £10,000 is transferred to general reserve, and the amount written off for land purchased is only £1,177 as against £9,611 a year ago. Directors' fees, however, take an extra £2,877 at £4,752, and after again transferring £5,000 to debenture sinking fund the balance carried forward is increased by £1,210 to £1,986. Property account has been reduced by £12,938 to £738,419, but stocks are £94,222 up at £409,393, debtors owe £33,339 more at £52,663 and in addition to an increase of £16,186 to £20,772 in cash, investments in British Government securities have risen by £4,000 to £10,000. On the other hand, sundry creditors, including the reserve for war taxation, &c., are £81,390 higher at £219,123, and the amount due to the Calcutta agents is £6,434 up at £200,252.

LIVERPOOL WAREHOUSING CO., LTD.

Gross receipts from storage rents, profits on portorage, &c., for the year ended September 30 showed a further increase of £35,450 at £230,051, against which expenses and provision for income-tax and excess profits duty came to £156,089, or £30,917 more. Interest charges were lighter, and with £20,479 brought in, the nett balance was £6,848 up at £91,990. The provision for amortisation of long leaseholds is increased by £1,000 to £3,000, and £25,000, or £6,270 more, is written off goodwill account, reducing it to £45,000. The dividend on the ordinary shares is then raised by another 3s. to 1s. 3d., or 6½ per cent., less tax, and the balance carried forward is increased by £531 to £21,010. Freehold and leasehold properties appropriated to the trustees for the debenture stock have been reduced by £2,039 to £814,625, but other properties not so appropriated are £59,284 up at £325,979. Debtors owe £126,185, or £28,608 more, while on the other hand current liabilities, including secured bank loans, are £65,057 up at £171,227, but mortgages show a decrease of £7,500 at £65,750.

IMPERIAL TOBACCO CO. OF CANADA, LTD.

Nett profits for the year to September 30 amounted to the handsome total of £566,400, an increase of £91,000, but the directors are content to repeat the dividend of 7 per cent., and to increase the carry forward by £79,000 to £200,430. We think they are prudent to keep a substantial surplus in default of strengthening the reserve funds, of which there are two aggregating £328,000, but the issued capital is £7,200,000, of which no less than £5,510,000 is represented by such shadowy assets as goodwill and trade marks. It is all right as long as such sumptuous profits can be earned, but the shareholders' money would be safer if it had more solid backing. Nothing else in the balance-sheet calls for remark. We are told that the figures given do not include the company's proportion of the undivided profits of associated companies which they have not thought fit to declare as dividends. What extraordinary self-denial!

FINLAY AND CO., LTD.

This business of retail tobacconists had the happy experience of finding that so far from the demand being adversely affected by the higher duties, its turnover actually showed a considerable increase. This, and the steps taken to ensure that the whole of the extra duty should fall on the consumer, resulted in the company earning a "record" profit of £15,590, or practically double that of the previous year. After providing for depreciation, and adding £1,015, or £406 more, brought in, the available balance was £8,103 larger at £15,278. Most of the increase is kept in hand, an extra £3,000 at £4,000 being transferred to reserve, and £5,000, or £4,000 more, being added to the special reserve to provide for the extra Imperial taxation.

The dividend on the ordinary shares is then increased from 5 per cent. to 7½ per cent., leaving £1,054 to be carried forward. Except for increases of £13,198 to £77,708 in stocks, on the one hand, and £3,853 to £37,146 in current liabilities on the other hand, the changes in the balance-sheet are trifling.

LONDON SCOTTISH AMERICAN TRUST, LTD.

The directors have decided to follow the example set by other undertakings of similar character, and set out the income for the year ended October 31 without deduction of income-tax. Owing to this change the gross income shows an apparent increase of £11,308 at £89,544, but the gain is more than offset by a charge of £13,945 for income-tax, and after providing for debenture interest, &c., the nett profit is £5,879 down at £42,000. The balance brought in was £3,512 smaller at £9,527, but only £218, or £1,312 less, is transferred to capital reserve for profit on realisations, and after repeating the dividend of 7 per cent. on the deferred stock, £5,789, or £3,738 less, is carried forward. Considerable realisations have been made of American securities, railway bonds showing a reduction of £143,846 and bonds and shares of other undertakings being respectively £94,359 and £30,027 down. A large proportion of the money thus set free has been employed in the purchase of British War Loan, Exchequer bonds and Treasury bills, the holding of which has risen by £243,558 to £343,225. As the articles of association provide that not more than one-thirtieth of the subscribed or borrowed capital may be invested in any one stock, share, or obligation, the directors ask that this provision should be waived in the case of British Government securities. The total investments at book cost show a reduction of £15,034 at £1,914,002, and it is stated that a valuation made as at October 31 shows that, after setting the reserves against depreciation, the debenture and share capital is intact.

ARMY AND NAVY INVESTMENT TRUST CO., LTD.

Receipts for the year ended November 30, less income-tax, show a reduction of £3,104 at £47,383, but there was a saving in outgoings, and the nett balance, including £6,057, or £707 more, brought in, was only £846 smaller at £37,764. Of this £2,000 is again transferred to reserve, and the dividend of 8½ per cent., less tax, paid on the deferred stock a year ago is also repeated, leaving £2,245 more at £8,302 to be carried forward. Capital reserve was credited with £14,226 for profit on realisations and debited with £16,368 written off for depreciation, so that on balance there is a decrease of £2,142 at £148,411. No valuation has been made of the securities, but the book value is £11,944 higher at £1,211,336, and cash shows a corresponding reduction of £11,645 at £12,544.

GOVERNMENT AND GENERAL INVESTMENT CO., LTD.

A further reduction of £2,411 to £19,482 is shown in the revenue for the year ended November 30, but interest charges took rather less, and the nett profit was only £1,679 down at £11,235. Out of this the deferred stock again gets a dividend of 8 per cent., and £2,520 is, as usual, set aside for the participating certificates service fund, leaving undivided profits of £95, or £700 less. After providing for interest on the participating certificates there is a balance of £505 applicable to the redemption of the same. In December last £632 nominal of certificates were redeemed at an average price of 158. per £1 certificate, or 1s. less than in the previous year, leaving £40,291 outstanding. Investments have been reduced by £30,484 to £383,908, and loans are £1,975 down at £7,125, but cash has risen by £6,120 to £7,862, while the liabilities on deposits are £26,050 smaller at £29,622.

RIO CLARO RAILWAY AND INVESTMENT CO., LTD.

This company's chief source of revenue is its holding of Paulista Railway bonds, and the directors state that the nett receipts of the line for 1915 amounted at the exchange of 12d. to £818,048, of which only £165,015 was required to provide for the interest and redemption of the bonds held. Including £11,369, or £7,505 more, brought in, the gross revenue for the 12 months ended November 30 was £9,368 up at £143,739, and after providing for debenture interest and other charges the dividend on the ordinary stock is increased from 4½ per cent. to 5, leaving a slightly smaller balance of £10,588 to be carried forward. During the year a further 695 Paulista bonds were paid off, reducing the amounts outstanding to £1,840,800, against which sundry investments were increased by £68,502 to £885,186. In addition, £19,723 has been invested in Treasury bills, and the company has had to borrow £4,520, while its cash balances are £7,998 down at £5,410.

CORDOVA LAND CO., LTD.

This company again did well with its sales of cattle in the year ended September 30, the average price obtained being £1 18s. 6d. per head higher at £14 10s. 4d. Sales of live stock produced £24,458 more, and the total income from all sources was £26,975 up at £163,962. Expenses in Argentina and London were only £4,372 heavier, but income-tax and excess profits duty for 1915 absorbed £20,269 more at £25,782, and the nett profit was, therefore, only £2,334 larger at £103,762. Adding £70,606, or £24,559 more, brought forward, and deducting £11,497 for excess profits duty, 1914, the available surplus of £162,871 was £15,396 up, and after repeating the dividend of 5 per cent., the balance carried forward is increased by this amount to £86,002. Property and stock account is unchanged at £1,580,858, notwithstanding small increases in the live stock. Debtors have risen by £4,200 to £31,991, and cash is £31,931 up at £78,328, against an increase of £20,766 to £46,217 in sundry creditors.

HUGGINS AND CO., LTD.

This brewery company has not done so well as many of its neighbours, and there has been a further contraction in the profits. For the year to September 30 these amounted to £87,240, a decrease of £11,800, which follows a decline of £10,000 for the previous 12 months, and after allowing for depreciation, &c., the nett profit is £31,810, a decrease of £9,990. Debenture interest and other charges absorb £25,910, leaving only £5,900 to dispose of. It is proposed to add this to the carry forward, which will amount to £22,195, an increase of £8,980. Last year the ordinary shares received a dividend of 5 per cent., but it would have been wiser to keep the money in hand to strengthen the reserves. Depreciation and loss on investments amounted to £4,000, which has been debited to the reserve fund, reducing it to the meagre sum of £21,350. The share capital is £217,500, and there are mortgages for £625,000 against properties valued at £700,000. It is a melancholy position.

NORTH-EASTERN BREWERIES, LTD.

The directors remark that the year (to October 31) has again been one of considerable anxiety and difficulty, but they have pulled through it well, and the profits of £88,025 show an increase of £8,000, in addition to which £7,400 more was brought in. They have no difficulty, therefore, in maintaining the substantial dividend of 12 per cent.; it might easily have been increased, but they have prudently placed £15,000 against £3,000 to reserve, raising it to £215,000, and they increase the carry forward by £5,600 to £38,015. It is this cautious policy which has enabled them to weather hard times. The share capital is £525,000, and there are debentures for £366,700, but the properties are valued at well over a million—not overvalued either, we should judge—so that the company is not too heavily loaded, and as already mentioned, there is a very substantial reserve fund. And the shareholders must be hard to please if they are not satisfied with 12 per cent. in these times.

EDINBURGH UNITED BREWERIES, LTD.

Most brewery companies have been able to show improvement during the past 12 months, in spite of the restrictions put upon the trade and other drawbacks, but this undertaking proves to be one of the few exceptions. Its nett profits for the year ended October 31 were £2,275 down at £14,928, and after making the annual contribution to the service and redemption of debentures fund, a surplus of £4,569 was left. A year ago, however, a debit balance of £6,494 had to be wiped out, whereas this time there is a small credit of £316, giving £4,885 available, and the preference shares get a dividend of 5 per cent., leaving £1,585 to be carried forward. This covers the year to April 30, 1912, and leaves 4½ years, or £14,850, still to be cleared off, so that prospects for the ordinary shares, which have received nothing since 1901-2, returning to the dividend-paying list seem very remote. During the year £19,970 debentures were purchased out of the sinking fund at a cost of £12,958, and a further £1,000 was redeemed out of the proceeds of estate held by the trustees, reducing the amount outstanding to £130,630.

CANADIAN WESTERN NATURAL GAS, ETC., CO., LTD.

Total sales of gas for the year to September 30 amounted to \$898,000, a decrease of \$16,300, or 1.78 per cent., which is entirely accounted for by the decrease of population in Calgary and Lethbridge caused by the war. Nett profits amounted to £46,435, a decrease of £1,600, but the loss of the Calgary Gas Co. was £1,400 less at £8,250, so that the final result is very much the same as last year. Then, however, the directors saw their way to pay two dividends of 1 per cent. each, which absorbed £33,000, but no distribution is proposed on this occasion, and the balance of £38,180 is carried forward, raising the undivided surplus to £47,160. The company is terribly overloaded with capital—\$8,000,000 in ordinary stock and \$4,300,000 in debentures—and it has a long way to go to live up to such distended glory.

BALANCE SHEET FACTS.

BIRKENHEAD BREWERY CO., LTD.—Nett profits for the year ended September 30 fell off by £6,700 to £34,600, but £1,200 more was brought forward, making a total of £41,900. Out of this 10,000 is set aside to meet debenture redemption fund, as against £8,000 transferred to reserve a year ago, and £7,000 less at £10,000 is added to the renewal and alteration fund, after which the shareholders again get a dividend of 14 per cent., less tax, and £9,200, or £800 more, is carried forward. Property account shows a small increase of £3,000 at £370,000, but cash, book debts, and investments have been reduced by £11,800 to £47,300, while, on the other hand, debenture and other liabilities are £26,900 down at £100,450.

BUENOS AIRES CENTRAL RAILWAY, LTD.—This company is under the same control as the Buenos Ayres Lactose Tramways, but had a much more fortunate experience than that undertaking in the year ended June 30. Passenger traffic dropped by \$4,026 m/n, mainly through a reduction in the receipts for hire of rolling stock, but the carriage of live stock brought in \$153,185 more, and general goods traffic also showed substantial gains. The total revenue was consequently \$523,888 up at \$3,328,463, while working expenses only rose by \$163,561 to \$1,614,398, the ratio to receipts being 3.23 per cent. down at 48.50 per cent. Adding the balance brought forward, and miscellaneous items, and deducting debenture interest, the nett revenue is \$569,756 larger at \$1,084,608. After making the

usual appropriations of 5 per cent. to reserve, 5 per cent. to the directors, and $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to the Syndic, a dividend of $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., or $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. more, is paid, \$230,000, as against \$50,000, is transferred to the extraordinary fund, and \$30,277, or \$26,190 more, is carried forward.

BUENOS AYRES LACROZE TRAMWAYS CO., LTD.—During the year ended June 30 a considerable falling off in the number of passengers carried was caused by people having left the country owing to the European war and by the stoppage of works in general, and the gross receipts consequently showed a reduction of \$207,389 m/n at \$5,883,262. On the other hand, working expenses were \$135,006 heavier, owing largely to the rise of over 100 per cent. in the cost of fuel, so that the nett revenue was \$352,395 smaller at \$1,987,475. Deducting debenture interest and other charges, and adding \$83,639, or \$66,764 more, brought in, the available balance is \$487,632 down at \$728,158. Of this 5 per cent. goes to the reserve, 5 per cent. to the directors, and $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to the Syndic, after which the shareholders get a dividend of $\frac{2}{4}$ per cent., as against 4 per cent. last time, and the balance carried forward is reduced by \$48,155 to \$35,483.

RIO NEGRO (ARGENTINA) LAND CO., LTD.—Although this company did not do so well with its live stock in the year ended June 30, the transactions resulting in a small debit of £650 compared with a credit of £6,500 in the previous 12 months, its receipts from produce, &c., were substantially better. The wool clip was 23,800 lbs. larger at 877,158 lbs., and both in quality and return per head showed a marked improvement. Gross revenue was £16,500 up at £39,400, and after providing for general expenses, the profit, including £10,350, or £4,800 more brought in, was £7,100 up at £29,400. Out of this the dividend is increased from 4 per cent. to 5, leaving £4,100 more at £14,400 to be carried forward. Property and stock account has risen by £21,400 to £286,700, and debtors are £24,500 higher at £25,600, against an increase of £14,900 to £19,200 in sundry creditors, but cash has been reduced by £22,500 to £30,500.

It is announced that the whole of the enemy shares of the Sterling Telephone and Electric Co., Limited, of London and Dagenham, have been acquired from the Public Trustee by Sir John Bethell, Bart, M.P., who has consented to act as chairman of the company. Sir Thomas Bethell and C. S. Syrett, Esq., have also been elected directors of the company.

Canada's Position in the Great European War.—The policy of the Dominion should follow in order to be all the better prepared for post bellum conditions, and the resolve of the country to continue to give in youth and money full assistance to the great cause were among some of the outstanding features of the recent annual meeting of the shareholders of the Bank of Montreal. The importance of the announcements made, and their bearing on the conditions the Dominion would most likely have to meet, seemed to impart a special significance to the meeting, and the shareholders were quick to give their heartiest support to the suggestions firmly offered by Sir Vincent Meredith, Bart. (the president), and Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor (the general manager). There was no misunderstanding the firmness of the suggestions, as it was clearly shown that many of the conditions that prevail in the country are purely of a temporary character, and what was most important was to get ready for the time when normal conditions only might exist. In this connection it was pointed out that all efforts should be centred on the attainment of three objects—viz., economy, production, and immigration—but, at the same time, a note of confidence was struck as to the ability the country would show in dealing with any new problems that might present themselves. Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor pointed out that the Bank of Montreal had assumed a position among the important and appreciated lenders of short money in the London market, and thought it was not the desire of the bank to take praise for this, yet the fact should not be lost sight of when weighing Canada's assistance to the Empire in this war. The bank's record in overseas service showed that 48 per cent. of the total male staff or 67 per cent. of those of military age had enlisted, 51 had been killed and 107 wounded, missing, or prisoners of war. Several of the bank's men had been decorated by the King for conspicuous valour. A very cordial demonstration was given by the shareholders complimenting Sir Vincent Meredith on the great honour which had been conferred upon him during the course of the past year in being created a baronet. The vacancies on the board of directors were filled by the election of Capt. Herbert Molson, of Montreal, and Mr. Harold Kennedy, of Quebec. At the first meeting of the new board of directors Sir Vincent Meredith, Bart., was re-elected president, and the vice-presidency, which had been vacant for the past few years, was re-established by the appointment of Mr. C. B. Gordon, president of the Dominion Textile Company.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1916, and Dec. 16, 1916:—

	Estimate for the Year 1916-1917. (See note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1916, to Dec. 16, 1916.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1915, to Dec. 18, 1915.
Balances in Exchequer on April 1—	£	£	£
Bank of England	—	25,111,065	81,898,728
Bank of Ireland	—	463,941	1,552,224
REVENUE.		25,575,006	83,450,952
Customs	71,000,000	48,134,000	36,251,000
Excise	65,000,000	38,745,000	43,490,000
Estate, &c., Duties	30,000,000	21,021,000	22,832,000
Stamps	7,000,000	5,289,000	4,739,000
Land Tax and House Duty	2,650,000	350,000	350,000
Property and Income Tax and Super Tax	195,000,000	48,509,000	23,155,000
Excess Profits Duty (including Munitions Levy)	86,000,000	73,699,000	—
Land Value Duties	475,000	141,000	62,000
Post Office	36,100,000	23,150,000	22,650,000
Crown Lands	550,000	420,000	350,000
Receipts from Suez Canal Shares and Sundry Loans	5,000,000	4,822,119	774,312
Miscellaneous	3,500,000	11,650,381	4,469,116
Revenue	502,275,000	275,930,500	159,122,428
Total, including Balance		301,505,506	242,573,380
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion		2,800,000	2,000,000
For Treasury Bills (for supply)		1,591,514,000	387,457,000
For Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		3,087,600	—
For War Loan, 1925-1928		—	35,798,408
For 3% Exchequer Bonds, 1920		—	242,345
For War Loan, 1925-1945		424	586,316,000
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919		34,222,000	—
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920		84,140,469	1,484,900
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1921		62,464,000	—
For 6% Exchequer Bonds, 1920		143,759,000	—
For War Expenditure Certificates		29,471,200	—
For War Savings Certificates		39,350,000	—
For American Loan		—	35,329,400
For other Debt created under the War Loan Act, 1915, and Finance Act, 1916		150,117,751	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913		180,000	1,400,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913		160,000	190,000
Under Housing Act, 1914		45,200	744,000
East Africa Protectorate Loan Repayments on account of Principal and Interest		—	3,825
Cunard Loan—Repayment on Account of Principal		130,000	130,000
Temporary Advances—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £345,000,000 in 1916-1917 and £231,150,000 in 1915-1916)		464,156,500	302,196,000
Total		2,907,103,650	1,595,865,858

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Estimate for the Year 1916-17. (See note.)	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1916, to Dec. 16, 1916.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1915, to Dec. 18, 1915.
EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£
Permanent Charge of Debt ..	12,818,000	15,189,637	17,320,728
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	114,436,000	96,301,436	28,045,869
Road Improvement Fund	—	—	694,395
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c.	9,500,000	6,345,312	6,597,433
Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,700,000	1,304,452	1,215,883
Supply Services	1,837,708,000	1,315,951,191	997,954,760
Expenditure	1,976,162,000	1,435,092,028	1,051,829,068
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion		2,830,000	2,565,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		91,370	91,370
For Treasury Bills for Supply		1,041,353,000	112,304,000
For Exchequer Bonds under the War Loan (Redemption) Act, 1910		—	16,395,600
For Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	£4,060,900	3,087,600	—
Less: paid off by the National Debt Commissioners	973,300	—	—
For Exchequer Bonds under Section 61 of the Finance Act, 1916		235,915	—
For Issues under Section 1 (5) of the War Loan Act, 1915		—	170,143,313
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913		210,000	1,400,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913		160,000	190,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		8,000	—
Under Housing Act, 1914		44,500	744,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8, issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1908		69,000	60,000
Old Sinking Fund—1910-1911: Issued under the Finance Act, 1911—			
Section 16 (1) (a)		53,160	104,836
Old Sinking Fund, 1911-1912—Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Co. (Acquisition of Capital) Act, 1914		250,000	250,000
East Africa Protectorate Loan Repayments:—			
Issued to reduce Debt under the Finance Act, 1911		—	3,825
Cunard Loan Repayments—Issued to reduce debt under the Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904		130,000	130,000
Temporary Advances repaid—Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £312,806,000 in 1916-17 and £212,420,000 in 1915-16)		396,702,500	212,420,000
Balances in Exchequer—			
Bank of England	25,815,470	26,066,771	27,234,446
Bank of Ireland	971,107	1,227,675	—
Total		2,907,103,650	1,595,865,858

MEMO.—Treasury Bills outstanding on Dec. 16, 1916 £1,148,545,000.

* Includes £222,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the Account.

NOTE.—Estimate as in House of Commons Paper No. 50 of 1916, and Supplementary Grants. Treasury, December 18, 1916.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

SOUTH AMERICAN STORES (GATH AND CHAVES).

The fourth ordinary general meeting of the South American Stores (Gath and Chaves), Ltd., was held on Tuesday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, Baron Frederic A. d'Erlanger presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. George Frampton) read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman said that he had been requested by Sir William Slaughter (chairman of the company) to convey to the shareholders his deep regret at being unable to address them on that occasion. Sir William had been laid up for some time, but, although still confined to his house, he was progressing very favourably. Proceeding to analyse the figures in the accounts, the Chairman remarked that the general reserve, which amounted to £66,272 last year, was now increased to £107,444 by the transfer of over £41,000 from the profit and loss account under review; in addition, they possessed an extraordinary reserve of £35,098. The following items represented the undivided profits appertaining to the three classes of shares. These balances would be drawn upon for the respective amounts shown in the report in connection with the dividends, which it was now proposed to distribute. The nett balance of the profit and loss account was £148,751, out of which £12,000 had already been applied to the payment in May of an interim dividend of 3 per cent. on the preference shares. An interim dividend of 3 per cent. was also paid on the ordinary shares, but only in August, and the payment, therefore, did not figure in this balance-sheet. It was proposed to deal with the balance as shown in the directors' report. Commenting on several items on the credit side of the balance-sheet, he remarked that their investment in the Chilean stores, of which they held all the issued shares, stood at the same figure as last year, and they would be gratified to learn that the results of this business for the year ended July 31, 1916, had been exceptionally satisfactory, a dividend of 8½ per cent. having been declared on the preference shares and of 11½ per cent. on the ordinary shares. Their investments in British and Russian Government securities and cash represented the company's liquid resources on July 31 and amounted together to very nearly £700,000. There was nothing special to remark with reference to the profit and loss account, but it was interesting to note that the profit of £223,439, after deducting the debenture service and income-tax, compared with £125,453 in the previous year, and that if they took into account the respective amounts credited to reserve last year and this year the nett balance of profit for 1915-16 exceeded that of the previous year by £83,287. On the whole, the shareholders had, the board thought, reason to congratulate themselves on the results of the year, for the company had again had to contend with various adverse factors. The board were in hopes that their general manager, Mr. Della Valle, would reach Europe in time for this meeting, but he had been detained in New York, where he had gone, accompanied by Mr. Gibbs, the representative in Buenos Aires of the London board, in order to study the market there. They trusted that the journey of these two gentlemen would prove very beneficial to the company, as, owing to the war, the company's purchases in that country had increased. The general manager was also desirous to acquaint himself with all the latest improvements introduced, not only in the organisation of enterprises similar to their own, but also in their installation and equipment. The directors were, indeed, contemplating the erection of additional premises on land which they had acquired since the close of the financial year under review. In this connection, he must remind them that, apart from their big central store, opened over two years ago, they had other stores situated close by, but not adjoining. Not only was the rent of these premises very high, but they were not well suited to the company's trade, and not quite up-to-date as regards their installation. Owing to special and unforeseen circumstances, the opportunity arose quite recently for them to acquire a plot of land immediately adjoining their central store in Calle Cangallo, and also another, the position of which was unique, as it faced, like their central store, the Calle Florida, the Bond Street of Buenos Aires, and was only separated from their premises by the Calle Cangallo. The intention was to connect the two buildings by an underground passage, and also by covered bridges. They were unfortunately unable to proceed forthwith with the construction of the new premises, as their application to the Treasury for permission to raise the requisite funds had been refused. It would mean a loss of interest on the purchase price until they were allowed to make their financial arrangements, but that was a factor which had not been overlooked by them when they decided to follow the advice tendered unanimously by their local board. The opportunity that offered itself to secure the land in question could not be lost, for had they let it pass they would have jeopardised the future of their enterprise. It was rather too early to make forecasts as to the results of their trading for the current year. So far they had no reason to complain, and every possible precaution had been taken to ensure the receipt in due time of the goods required, as well as regards quantity as in respect of quality. On the other hand, they must bear in mind that the crisis in the Argentine Republic, which had been to a certain extent alleviated during the year under review, owing to fair crops and high prices for many of the country's products, was likely to be greatly intensified in the near future by reason of most disappointing crops. So much

had been reported in the Press concerning this subject that he need not enlarge upon it, but it seemed to them most unlikely that the adverse conditions prevailing in the country should not react in a measure on their business. He might say that, from cables just received, it appeared that the local board, and the management on the other side, viewed the future with confidence. In conclusion, the Chairman moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. B. Nathan seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously, and the dividends as recommended in the report were also agreed to.

PAHANG CONSOLIDATED.

The tenth ordinary general meeting of the Pahang Consolidated Co., Ltd., was held on Tuesday at Winchester House, E.C., Mr. J. E. Champney, the chairman, presiding.

The Secretary, Mr. Arthur Giffard, having read the notice and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: The mill returns for the four expired months of the current year (August-November) amount to 881 tons of black tin, against 831 last year. The alluvial production is, however, 7 tons less. As regards the development of the mines, the workings extend over about 60 miles. The sinking of the shafts for deep working has been continued. The Gunong series of lodes, which had recently been found when we met last year, have been energetically developed. As regards the future, I will merely draw your attention to a few points in the report of the superintendent. Our experience points to his being very cautious in his estimates, but he goes somewhat further on this occasion than before when he states:—"Developments indicate that sufficient ore will be obtained to keep the mill supplied at its present capacity for more than two years, provided the price of tin remains at about its average for the first six months of 1916. Both the general prospects and the possibilities of obtaining ore are more favourable than they were a year ago, and compare well with those of any of the past five years." And, again:—"In Willink's mine one is justified in expecting tin will be obtained in payable quantities for an indefinite period." Now, as to our planting operations. We have reason to be very satisfied with the progress and position of our two plantations. They were not appreciably extended during the year, but the growth of trees, more especially at Kuala Reman, has been most rapid. In some instances, a letter told us the other day, trees of two years and eight months old were 20 ins. in circumference. It was estimated that at July 31, 1916, 42,500 trees would be in tapping, but the actual number was 53,586, and the yield was 89,295 lbs., against the estimate of 50,000. The latest reports state that 67,155 are now being tapped and that an additional number are ready. The Sungei Talam plantation, while not able to show quite such satisfactory figures, also exceeded the estimate, producing 117,949 lbs., against 95,000 lbs. anticipated. Here 3,000 additional trees have been brought into tapping since the close of the year. The estimate for the current year is 270,000 lbs. from Kuala Reman and 180,000 lbs. from Sungei Talam, a total of 450,000 lbs. As to quality, we had a report from our brokers yesterday upon 88 cases just received. The three largest lots (12, 28 and 19 cases, or a total of 59 cases) are classed as "fully standard quality." Great credit is due to Mr. Marriner and those under him for this result. At much less than present prices this should show a handsome return on our outlay. An extension of the plantation at Kuala Reman has recently been authorised, in order to utilise the ground as it is cleared in that district for firewood. The mines will bear a proportion of the cost of clearing and felling. On the whole, I think I am justified in congratulating the shareholders on the position both of the mines and the rubber estates. To come now to the practical part of to-day's business, you will have seen the financial position and our recommendations as to the final dividends for the year. We have written off the cost of the sinking of the shafts, and have dealt, I think it will be admitted, generously with depreciation, and have placed a further £10,000 to reserve, bringing that up to £50,000. We have not, however, earmarked any special sum against the contingency of excess profits tax. We cannot tell our position until the Board of Referees have fixed the percentage standard for mines. We shall do our best to protect your interests, and should we be called upon to pay, the reserve fund referred to is available for the purpose if necessary. I now beg to propose: "That the report and accounts be received and adopted."

Mr. H. Frisby, jun., seconded the resolution, which was carried after a short discussion.

LONDON AND RIVER PLATE BANK.

The 54th ordinary meeting of the London and River Plate Bank, Ltd., was held on Tuesday at River Plate House, Mr. E. Ross Duffield, the chairman, presiding.

The Sub-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George R. Hutchinson, then read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman stated that the profit made in the past year had been quite as satisfactory as they could have expected—more so, in fact. The general result, however, had been adversely affected by the unfavourable liquidation of those doubtful debts arising in a large measure from the crisis which commenced at about the time the war broke out, and which the directors believed they had amply provided for.

They had consequently found themselves called upon again this year to make further considerable provision for losses ascertained and expected from that liquidation, as well as for those which had resulted generally from the unsatisfactory condition of one section of business during the year, besides the amount required to meet depreciation of securities, from which all banks had suffered. Trade, especially import trade, had not developed as had been expected in the face of a large balance in favour of the countries concerned, but the comparative inactivity in the import trade was showing signs of disappearing in those parts where the bank's business chiefly lay. The main factor, however, in replacing confidence and business activity would be the conclusion of the war. He then called attention to the main features in the accounts, and stated that the balance brought forward at credit of profit and loss account had enabled the directors to maintain the dividend this year without touching the contingency fund, and to carry forward £228,750—a strong surplus and a necessary standby in these most anxiously difficult and menacing times. With regard to the question of how they were likely to do this year, forecasts were more than difficult. The countries where they carried on their work had all the elements they looked for in the pursuit of good banking business. Unfortunately, the latest advices from Argentina pointed to a serious diminution in the wheat, linseed, and oat crops. The estimated outturn of this season's crop of wheat, &c., was published in *The Times* of that morning, from which he quoted the chief figures. There remained, however, a not inconsiderable amount over from last year's crop of wheat which should be available. Present prices were very remunerative to producers, and there were always the hopes of the maize crop and the certainty of the meat exports. Brazil, in so far as regarded her chief export, coffee, had always been considered more or less immune from those weather troubles which her neighbours in the River Plate were liable to. In her other exports they might look for at least a maintenance of present figures, and prices all round were good. Chile was reaping a valuable harvest with her nitrate. It was from the business which was to be transacted in those countries that were such important producers of necessary staple commodities that they looked for the continued success of the bank.

Mr. John G. Griffiths, M.V.O., seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

IND, COOPE, AND CO. (1912).

The fourth ordinary general meeting of Ind, Coope and Co. (1912), Ltd., was held on Monday at the registered office, 65, Aldersgate Street, Mr. Louis E. Walker (chairman and managing director) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. E. M. Wilks) read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman moved the adoption of the report and accounts, and dealing with the balance-sheet said that there had been a further issue of prior lien stock, amounting to £3,367. The shares had not yet been issued, owing to the final winding-up proceedings of the old company not having yet been carried through. The Chancery proceedings, so far as the I.M.D. stockholders of the old company were concerned, were now cleared up. Turning to the profit and loss account, he said:—This year interest will be paid on the income debenture stock for the first time since the formation of the company in 1912. Having regard to the balance available, the board, after careful thought, decided to pay 2 per cent. interest on that stock. During the past financial year the company has paid to the Imperial Exchequer over £500,000 in beer duty, brewer's licence, and licences. The difficulties referred to last year still continue, and still further restrictions have been placed on the "trade." Business has been carried on during the year under exceptional difficulties. A large proportion of the company's houses are trading under restricted hours, and, further, the output of the breweries is restricted. The breweries and fixed plant have been kept in good order and repair. I think I can honestly say that the affairs of the company during the year under consideration have been managed with due regard to the interests of the stockholders. We sometimes think that we are not fairly treated by the inveterate opponents of the "trade" and the Press which they control, but the great outstanding feature of the situation is undoubtedly the fact that the great majority of the people of this country require good beer as part of their daily diet, whatever faddists may say to the contrary, and in spite of all the gigantic efforts and expenditure of the prohibitionist (so-called temperance) party, that national demand for beer continues. It is a unique position for breweries to have to refuse, and cut down, orders as they are doing daily. The experience to be learned from this state of things is encouraging to the brewing trade for the future, as it has absolutely established the certainty that there is a public demand for beer. This company has always been closely connected with the supply of beer to the troops, and since the war a large proportion of our trade has been with the canteens of the large armies at home and abroad, and the greatest difficulty has been to satisfy the demands of the military authorities in face of the restriction of output by the Board of Trade. It is evident that those authorities who control the supply of beer to the troops recognise that beer is an essential and necessary article of the daily diet of the soldier in view of the strenuous efforts they make in order to obtain the full supplies they are entitled to. The same may be said of the Labour party, who, when the "Restriction of Output of Beer" Bill was before the House of Commons, clamoured that all working men's clubs should be given the right to obtain their full sup-

plies of beer, so that anyhow we have two very powerful and substantial adherents to our trade—namely, the Army and the Labour party. The company has seen troublous times in the past, but there is no doubt that out of all that trouble there is now being built up, on solid foundations, a sound and successful business; but I must point out the grave conditions with which we are faced, and it would be unwise to look forward to any great prosperity for the brewing trade in the near future.

Mr. H. W. E. Storey seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

COMMERCIAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED.

The annual general meeting of shareholders was held at the head office in Edinburgh on the 18th inst., the Marquis of Breadalbane, K.G., Governor of the Bank, presiding.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, mentioned that, in addition to meeting in a broad and generous manner the requirements of traders, the directors had, on behalf of the bank, willingly and fully contributed their share of help to the Government in the financing of the gigantic and costly war, by subscribing very substantially to the long term loans and the Government short term bonds and Treasury bills, the larger resources available having enabled them to place from six to seven millions in Treasury bills; and they had at once lodged with the Treasury the securities held, which were desired by the Government under their mobilisation scheme for regulating the American exchange, and, along with the other joint stock banks, had done their part in the establishment of credits abroad in connection with matters of exchange and with the importation to this country of necessary commodities.

A striking feature was the large increase in the deposits, which now amount to £22,873,000, showing an increase over last year of £3,800,000.

The depreciation of the year in the market value of the investments has been severe, attributable largely to the withdrawal of the official minimum prices on the Stock Exchange, and the higher rates of interest on Government issues, and having in view the uncertainties of the future and the large funding operations yet to be undertaken by the British Government, the board had deemed it prudent to value all the investments—including the large holding of 4½ per cent. War Loan—at the market prices ruling at the close of the financial year.

The report, which provides for provision of £100,000 out of the year's profits and withdrawal of £100,000 from reserve for the purpose of meeting the depreciation, and recommends dividend at the rate of 16 per cent. for the year, less income-tax, was unanimously adopted, and after transacting other routine business the proceedings terminated with a cordial vote of thanks to the chairman.

SULPHIDE CORPORATION.

The ordinary general meeting of the Sulphide Corporation, Ltd., was held on Thursday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

The Rt. Hon. the Earl of Kintore, G.C.M.G., presided, and in moving the adoption of the report and accounts said that in the time of long-continued stress through which the nation had been passing its eyes were being opened to a good many things which formerly were disregarded. Among these things was the great national importance of companies such as theirs, which produced on a large scale metals even more indispensable in war than in peace. Never again, he hoped, would the control of the zinc and lead industries be allowed complacently to drift, as in the past, into the hands of the enemies of this country. The British Empire was abundantly rich in the raw materials from which those metals were produced, but it was not sufficient that they should be merely hewers of ores while the manufacture of metal from those ores and the control of the metal markets was left in the hands of Germany. He hoped their Government would recognise more fully that to make the Empire less dependent on foreign sources of supply for metals such as zinc and lead was a matter of urgent national interest. Their own corporation had certainly done its full share towards the production of metal as well as of ores. They had established their own smelting works at Cockle Creek, and ten years ago, by the formation of the Central Zinc Co., they established zinc works in England, where, in spite of many difficulties and discouragements, the first successful effort was made in this country to wrest from the Germans their practical monopoly of the Broken Hill zinc industry. Henceforward, with the extension of their Seaton works, a much larger proportion of their zinc concentrates would be so dealt with, and the balance would either be treated in other English and Australian works or disposed of to their Allies. Their past year had had many exceptional features, not the least being abnormal taxation. The only thing normal had been the continued excellence of their technical work and the continued progress in recovery of metals. Taxation had been on a really colossal scale. They had had to run the gauntlet of cumulative taxation by the State of New South Wales, the Federal Australian Government, and their own Government at home, with the result that their taxes had amounted to very nearly as much as their nett profits, and they expected to have to pay to the several Governments concerned actually more than they were paying to their own shareholders. As to whether indiscriminate taxation on such a

scale was wise, in view of the importance of strengthening the British metal industries, he felt grave doubt. If such industries were not allowed to retain more than a small fraction of any excess over their pre-war standard of profit, and a large proportion of their remaining income was taken from them for income-tax, it was not easy to see where the capital was to come from for purposes of expansion. If the British industries were to hold their own, the very best and most modern plants were an absolute necessity. At present, so far from assisting in the establishment of such plant, the Government merely taxed on an immense scale the income derived from them, while, owing to the niggardly and grasping principles on which income-taxes were administered, it did not allow even adequate amortisation on them to be debited against revenue. It would be more conducive to the permanent welfare of the country if profits put into new plant were specially treated, and not exposed to the full rigour of excess profits duties. Especially should that principle apply to companies like theirs, which were subject to multiple taxation, and whose chief asset was a wasting security. Meanwhile, they must console themselves with the reflection that they were contributing on a great scale towards the financing of the war. At Broken Hill the most interesting feature had been the further improvement in total recoveries of lead and zinc from the milling plant, and in the distribution of the metals between the two classes of concentrates. The reduction in tonnage of ore raised from the mine was entirely due to labour difficulties. As to the Central Zinc Co.'s undertaking, by arrangement with the Ministry of Munitions, the greater part of the cost of the duplication of plant in progress would be allowed to them out of the excess earnings of the Seaton establishment, which would otherwise have been taken away by taxation. When those extensions were completed the works would have a capacity of about 30,000 tons of zinc concentrates a year. At Cockle Creek a considerable increase of tonnage and of products was shown. The Commonwealth Government required that not only all lead concentrates at Broken Hill should be smelted into bullion in Australia, but that the bullion should be refined there too. They had commenced the necessary construction work, the cost of which would be not less than £40,000, and in view of the heavy expenditure forced on them he thought they had a very strong claim on the Australian and home Governments for some relief from taxation in respect of such expenditure undertaken to promote Australian interests. The subsidiary plants at Cockle Creek had continued to make progress. Dealing with the accounts, the chairman pointed to the item of £470,000 for sundry creditors and credit balances, remarking that the increase of nearly £300,000 was accounted for by the fact that their provision for taxation was higher by £303,000. He would also point to another injustice and anomaly in connection with taxation arising from the fact of duplication of taxation falling upon the same earnings, because, although the bulk of their business was in Australia, they had their registered domicile in this country. That injustice, if it continued, would have the effect not only of driving all Anglo-Australian companies out of this country, but all free English capital out of Australia.

Mr. F. A. Keating seconded the resolution, which was unanimously agreed to.

THE AMALGAMATED PRESS.

The ordinary general meeting of the Amalgamated Press, Ltd., was held on Thursday at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, E.C., Mr. G. A. Sutton (chairman of the company) presiding.

Mr. J. R. Sumpter, joint secretary, having read the notice calling the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said: It is our privilege and pleasure to come before you to-day with a balance-sheet which I think we may claim is something of an achievement, covering, as it does, a period which a weekly financial review, in referring to our balance-sheet, described as "harrowing times." After writing off depreciation of plant and buildings, the profits amount to £326,678 5s. 3d. This is a great tribute to the superb organisation of your company and the permanence of the magazines and journals you possess. The way in which they have withstood the upheaval of the past two years is a complete answer to any idea there may have been that periodicals and magazines such as yours are ephemeral. Many of your most successful publications—*Answers*, the *London Magazine*, the *War Illustrated*, *Home Chat*, and *Woman's World*, to name only a few—have, if anything, increased their prestige during the past two years, and this despite the fact that hundreds of thousands of our regular readers have left the country. Magazines and periodicals are very popular at the front. Only recently Sir Douglas Haig wrote urging all those at home, who have been accustomed to buy books and magazines in the past, to continue to do so freely, if possible in increasing numbers, and pass them on for circulation among the troops. It may not be generally known that the Post Office has intimated that any magazines and periodicals simply handed over the counter at any post office in the country will be despatched to the troops, and I hope this offer will be taken advantage of fully. In all our papers we appeal to our readers to send their copies to the men at the front when they have finished reading them, because every day we receive letters from our soldiers and sailors saying—"Send us more magazines and papers." All our magazines and periodicals are in great demand among the forces. The magazines especially have done exceedingly well this year. The strides made by the *London Magazine* in cir-

culation have carried it to a position unapproached by any other popular monthly magazine. During 1916 the circulation rose from 194,000 to 260,000 of the October issue. This is a figure untouched by any competing monthly, and has enabled us to issue a challenge offering the sum of £5,000 to war charities, if any competing magazine can show a larger nett sale, and a lower proportionate rate for advertising space. The challenge has not been taken up, and I think you will agree with me in accepting that as an acknowledgment of the pre-eminence of the *London Magazine*. I am pleased to state, also, that as an advertising medium the *London* has made good progress. The value of advertising contained in the Christmas number was equal to the best pre-war number, and was almost three times the value of the Christmas number of the preceding year. That is evidence of the high regard in which the *London* is held by advertisers, and I make bold to say that no large advertiser using monthly magazines, and no advertising agent whose recommendations are dictated by the trade interests of his clients, fail to use the *London Magazine* to-day. A feature of the Christmas number of the *London* is that, unlike most magazines, which make their Christmas issue double the usual price, its price was not raised. The *Premier Magazine* has earned for itself the reputation of being the premier fiction magazine. The *Red Magazine*, the only bi-monthly magazine issued in this country, has also more than maintained its position. The *Red* has in the past published practically all the books of that popular novelist, Ethel M. Dell, in serial form, and her latest novel has just started in the current issue. I would like to say a word about our principal paper—our old friend—*Answers*. It is still, as always, in the forefront of penny popular periodicals. During the past few months *Answers* has been more prominent than ever on account of the establishment of its wonderful Pensions Bureau. In securing the exclusive services of Mr. J. M. Hogge, M.P., the pensions expert (who recently declined an Under-Secretaryship in the new Government) as chief consultant of the bureau, the editor of *Answers* achieved one of the journalistic feats of the war, and although the bureau has only been at work for a few weeks, the practical results have been more than striking. Mr. Hogge has won over 250 pensions claims and appeals for increased allowances for readers of *Answers*, and he has personally answered close on six thousand inquiries from anxious readers. Many touching letters of thanks have been received by Mr. Hogge for his invaluable services. Since the war began many of the most distinguished men and women in the world have been contributors to the columns of *Answers*. Quite recently, ex-President Roosevelt wrote for *Answers* a series of impressive and eloquent articles on the Great War, and these articles were discussed and quoted not only in this country, but all over America.

Answers has always been the favourite paper of the Army and Navy since the day, many years ago, when Sapper Austin won the first of the great popular competitions—£1 a week for life—and I am delighted to be in a position to say that the paper is as popular to-day with the Services as it has ever been, and the good work it is now doing in connection with the soldiers' pensions is enhancing its popularity daily. Our advertising revenue, while, of course, it has not reached pre-war figures, has, I am glad to say, shown a gratifying increase in the past year. Although the year's trading has been highly satisfactory, I must emphasise the increasing difficulties of carrying on the business during the past year. The Government paper restrictions and the shortage of labour in all departments has made it very hard to maintain the present output, and I anticipate further troubles in all directions in the coming year. The coming twelve months must necessarily be an anxious and trying time for every industrial business, and publishing concerns in particular. As far as we are concerned, while developments, of course, are out of the question, every effort will be made to maintain, if possible, the position and circulations of our existing publications. We shall have to contend with a further increase in the cost of materials and shortage of labour, much of which cannot be replaced, so that it is impossible and would be unwise to make any forecast for the coming year. Our shareholders, however, can rely on the directors to spare no effort in the best interest of the company.

Mr. Arthur E. Linforth, Vice-Chairman, seconded the resolution, and after some congratulatory remarks from shareholders it was carried unanimously.

THE CORDOBA LIGHT, POWER AND TRACTION CO.

The eighth annual general meeting of the Cordoba Light, Power and Traction Co., Ltd., was held on Thursday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. G. A. Touche, M.P., chairman of the company, presiding.

The Secretary, Mr. A. C. Whitmee, having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: It is the irony of fate that in a year when, owing to shipping difficulties, the price of fuel is disastrous we should experience such a drought as has never been known in the history of the company. The drought has not only affected us indirectly by checking the gradual improvement of business, but it has hit us directly and very seriously in the manner indicated in our report. In the 21 years for which we have the official records the rainfall for the six months corresponding to the second half of the company's financial year has never been anything like as low as it was this year. In ordinary circumstances we use our reserve steam station only

as a stand-by in case of emergencies. This year we have had to generate a large proportion of the electrical energy supplied to our tramways and to our customers, both public and private, by means of steam. Notwithstanding the bad times in South America the gross receipts of our combined businesses were not only maintained, but increased. They amounted to £162,460, and constitute a record, comparing with £157,590 in 1915 and £160,420 in 1914, up till that date our highest figure. The tragedy comes in the expenses, which were £100,539 against £74,270 in 1915, an increase of £26,269. The nett receipts were £61,921, compared with £83,320, a decline of £21,399. Taking the light and Power Co. by itself, the gross receipts were £90,577, against £88,550 in 1915, an increase of £2,027. The expenses were £55,633, as compared with £30,906 in 1915, an increase of £24,727. The nett receipts were £34,944, against £57,644, or a decline of £22,700. The number of customers for light and power on our books at the end of September last showed an increase of 7.38 per cent. over the number at September 30, 1915. The records of the Tramways Co. during the year do not show any great progress; nevertheless, it has not gone back. The gross receipts were £71,883, against £69,040 in 1915, an increase of £2,843. The expenses increased to some extent, being £44,906, compared with £43,360, but the ratio of expenses to gross receipts was slightly less at 62.47 per cent., against 62.8 per cent. in the year to September 30, 1915. The nett receipts were £26,977, against £25,680, an increase of £1,297. The revenue brought into the accounts of the holding company was £62,383, compared with £78,451 last year. But for the additional abnormal operating expense of the lighting and power business there should have been a profit of about £23,000, or £5,000 more than suffices to pay the dividend on the preference shares for the year in full. As it is, there is a small loss of £230, after meeting all fixed charges, including debenture stock interest, and sinking fund, and interest on the promissory notes. In present circumstances, we have no alternative but to defer the payment of the preference dividend, much as we regret it. The outlook with regard to the financial situation is still too serious to enable us, with any prudence, to distribute the accumulations at the credit of profit and loss. When we consider the misfortunes of the year, it is, perhaps, a matter of some congratulation that we are able to pay, out of the year's earnings, the interest charges on practically a million pounds of loan capital. The reason for the falling off is only too obvious. It is the unhappy linking together of two abnormal events: the drought and the war freights. The condition is unprecedented, and we trust it may never recur. He concluded by moving the adoption of the report, which was seconded by Mr. G. Kitchen and carried unanimously.

MANAOS HARBOUR, LTD.—General trade conditions in the Amazon were distinctly better in the year ended June 30, and the improvement was naturally reflected in the results obtained by this company. After meeting debenture interest, the accounts showed a profit of £6,300, as against a deficiency of almost equal amount in the previous 12 months. Nothing has been paid on the preference shares since December 31, 1913, but the directors do not appear to see their way to a resumption of the payments, and the surplus is added to the balance brought forward, increasing it to £25,400. Preliminary expenses of £16,700 and debenture issue expenses of £3,100 still figure amongst the assets.

WM. FISON AND CO., LTD.—This business of spinners and manufacturers again did well in the year ended October 31, and its gross profits after providing for excess profits duty showed a further increase of £6,200 at £30,700. Of this an extra £9,000, at £12,000, is transferred to reserve, and £1,000, or double last year's amount, is written off investments. A year ago the arrears of preference dividend were cleared off, and a dividend of 4 per cent. was paid on the ordinary shares, while on the present occasion the ordinary shares get a distribution of 6 per cent., which leaves £3,200, or £225 more, to be carried forward. Current liabilities are £53,000 up at £89,600, against which debtors owe £44,500 more at £96,500, stocks are £9,300 up at £156,500, and cash has risen by £12,000 to £14,600.

COVENTRY CHAIN CO., LTD.—Having been a "controlled" establishment throughout the whole of the year ended August 31, the company finds it impossible to present proper accounts until adjustments have been made with the Ministry of Munitions and the Inland Revenue Department. The output of the works, however, has been larger and more varied than in any previous year, and the directors propose to pay a dividend of 10 per cent. and bonus of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares, compared with 8 per cent. and 2 per cent. for 1914-15.

Owing to the restrictions placed upon paper supplies we cannot guarantee to provide newsagents with copies for chance sales. Would regular readers of the "Investors' Review," therefore, kindly place an order with their local newsagents or, better still, subscribe direct to the publisher?

NOTICES.

CONSOLIDATED LANGLAAGTE MINES, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Transvaal.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a DIVIDEND of 10 per cent. (2s. per share) has been DECLARED for the half-year ending 31st December, 1916, payable to all shareholders registered at that date.

The Transfer Books will be Closed from the 1st to the 10th January, 1917, both days inclusive.

The Dividend Warrants will be posted to shareholders as early in February as possible.

By Order, Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, Ltd., London Agents. T. HONEY, Secretary.

10 and 11, Austin Friars, London, E.C., 21st December, 1916

GINSBERG GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Transvaal.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a DIVIDEND of 7½ per cent. (1s. 6d. per share) has been DECLARED for the half-year ending 31st December, 1916, payable to all shareholders registered at that date. The Transfer Books will be Closed from the 1st to the 10th January, 1917, both days inclusive.

The Dividend Warrants will be posted to shareholders as early in February as possible.

By Order, Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, Ltd., London Agents. T. HONEY, Secretary.

10 and 11, Austin Friars, London, E.C., 21st December, 1916.

NEW PRIMROSE GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Transvaal.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a DIVIDEND of 5 per cent. (1s. per share) has been DECLARED for the half-year ending 31st December, 1916, payable to all shareholders registered at that date. The Transfer Books will be Closed from the 1st to the 10th January, 1917, both days inclusive.

The Dividend Warrants will be posted to shareholders as early in February as possible.

By Order, Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, Ltd., London Agents. T. HONEY, Secretary.

10 and 11, Austin Friars, London, E.C., 21st December, 1916.

NEW UNIFIED MAIN REEF GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Transvaal.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a DIVIDEND of 10 per cent. (2s. per share) has been DECLARED for the half-year ending 31st December, 1916, payable to all shareholders registered at that date. The Transfer Books will be Closed from the 1st to the 10th January, 1917, both days inclusive.

The Dividend Warrants will be posted to shareholders as early in February as possible.

By Order, Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, Ltd., London Agents. T. HONEY, Secretary.

10 and 11, Austin Friars, London, E.C., 21st December, 1916.

VAN RYN DEEP, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Transvaal.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a DIVIDEND of 20 per cent. (4s. per share) has been DECLARED for the half-year ending 31st December, 1916, payable to all shareholders registered at that date.

The Transfer Books will be Closed from the 1st to the 10th January, 1917, both days inclusive.

The Dividend Warrants will be posted to shareholders as early in February as possible.

By Order, Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, Ltd., London Agents. T. HONEY, Secretary.

10 and 11, Austin Friars, London, E.C., 21st December, 1916.

WITWATERSRAND GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

(Incorporated in the Transvaal.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a DIVIDEND of 25 per cent. (5s. per share) has been DECLARED for the half-year ending 31st December, 1916, payable to all shareholders registered at that date.

The Transfer Books will be Closed from the 1st to the 10th January, 1917, both days inclusive.

The Dividend Warrants will be posted to shareholders as early in February as possible.

By Order, Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, Ltd., London Agents. T. HONEY, Secretary.

10 and 11, Austin Friars, London, E.C., 21st December, 1916.

Regulation of Foreign Exchanges

DEPOSIT SCHEME B.

The Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury hereby give notice of the following amendment to the terms of Scheme B in respect of the under-mentioned securities :

- (1) Securities included in any lists of securities which are stated to be subject to a special Income Tax, at present 2s. in the £, if not sold or deposited with the Treasury.
- (2) Securities which are accepted on deposit by the Treasury, the principal and interest of which is payable only in United States Dollars.
- (3) Any other securities which, on application to the National Debt Office, are stated in writing to be entitled to the benefit of this provision.

The terms of Clause 4 of Scheme A giving the depositor the right to have his deposited securities realised will also apply to any of the above-mentioned securities deposited under Scheme B, subject to the reservation that the securities must first be offered to the Treasury on the terms specified in such Clause and provided that the power of sale conferred upon the Treasury by the terms of Scheme B has not been exercised.

The Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury further give notice that from and after this date no deposit of securities under Scheme A will be received, the acceptance of suitable securities being limited to Scheme B.

December 16, 1916.

The Investors' Review

FOUNDED BY A. J. WILSON, FEBRUARY, 1892.

Vol. XXXVIII.—No. 991.]

[Registered as a
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Price 6d.

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THE BANK OF TAIWAN, LTD.

Incorporated by the Special Charter of the Imperial Japanese Government, 1899.

HEAD OFFICE - - TAIPEH, FORMOSA.

BRANCHES—Tokio, Kobe, Osaka, Amoy, Canton, Foochow, Hongkong, Hankow, Shanghai, Singapore, Swatow, Soerabaya, and principal towns in Formosa (Taiwan), &c.

The Bank has correspondents in the Commercial Centres of Russia, Manchuria, Indo-China, India, Philippine Islands, Java, Australia, America, and elsewhere.

LONDON OFFICE - 58, OLD BROAD STREET, E.C.

THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.

(Registered in Japan.)
ESTABLISHED 1880.

Subscribed Capital	.. .. .	Yen 48,000,000
Capital Paid Up	.. .. .	Yen 30,000,000
Reserve Fund	.. .. .	Yen 20,800,000

Head Office: YOKOHAMA.

Branches and Agencies at

Antung-Hsien.	Harbin.	Shanghai.
Bombay.	Hong Kong.	Singapore.
Calcutta.	Kobe.	Sydney.
Changchun.	Liaoyang.	Tientsin.
Dairen (Dalny).	Los Angeles.	Tokyo.
Fengtien (Mukden).	Lyons.	Tsinanfu.
Hankow.		Tsingtau.

The Bank buys and receives for collection Bills of Exchange, issues Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit on above places and elsewhere, and transacts General Banking Business.

Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be obtained on application.

London Office: 7, BISHOPSGATE, E.C.
K. TATSUMI, Manager.

BANK OF NEW ZEALAND.

(Incorporated July 29th, 1861.)

BANKERS TO THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT.

London Office: 1, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL £5,500,000

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL.

Four per Cent. Guaranteed Stock	.. .. .	£529,588
"A" Preference Shares issued to New Zealand Government	.. .. .	500,000
"B" Preference Shares issued to New Zealand Government	.. .. .	250,000
Ordinary Shares	.. .. .	1,500,000

Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits £2,779,988

Negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange.
Grants drafts on its Offices in New Zealand, Australia, Fiji and Samoa. Remittances made by telegraphic transfer.

ALEXANDER KAY, Manager.

CANADA.

THE DOMINION BANK.

Head Office, TORONTO.

Total Assets - - \$88,890,000.

SIR EDMUND B. OSLER, M.P., President.

W. D. MATTHEWS, Vice-President.

C. A. BOGERT, General Manager.

London Branch, 73, CORNHILL, E.C.

J. HAYDN HORSEY, Manager.

Dealers in Canadian and American Exchange.
General Banking business transacted. Information furnished regarding Canadian matters.

ENGLISH, SCOTTISH, AND AUSTRALIAN BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office—38, Lombard Street, E.C.

Subscribed Capital	.. .. .	£1,078,875 0 0
Paid-up Capital	.. .. .	539,437 10 0
Further Liability of Proprietors	.. .. .	539,437 10 0
Reserve Fund	.. .. .	459,000 0 0

LETTERS OF CREDIT and DRAFTS on the Branches and Agencies of the Bank in Australia can be obtained at the Head Office, or through the Agents of the Bank, in the chief Provincial towns throughout the United Kingdom.

REMITTANCES made by TELEGRAPHIC TRANSFER.

BILLS NEGOTIATED or forwarded for COLLECTION.

BANKING and EXCHANGE Business of every description transacted with Australia.

E. M. JANION, Manager.

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND.

Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1727.

CAPITAL PAID UP £2,000,000

REST & UNDIVIDED PROFITS £800,986

Head Office: ST. ANDREW SQUARE, EDINBURGH.

ADAM TAIT, Cashier and General Manager
A. K. WRIGHT, Secretary.

London Office: 3, BISHOPSGATE, E.C.

WILLIAM WALLACE, Manager.

166 Branch Offices throughout Scotland.

Banking Business of every description transacted. Accounts opened for Foreign and Colonial Correspondents. Bills, Cheques, and other documents collected Deposit received at interest repayable at call or at notice.

BANKS.

STANDARD BANK

OF SOUTH AFRICA, LTD.

Bankers to the Government of the Union of South Africa in Cape Province, to the Imperial Government in South Africa, and to the Administration of Rhodesia.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	£6,194,100
PAID-UP CAPITAL	£1,548,525
RESERVE FUND	£2,000,000
UNCALLED CAPITAL	£4,645,575
	£8,194,100

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Wm. Relerson Arbutnot, Esq.	Horace Peel, Esq.
Sir David Miller Barbour, K.C.S.I.,	William Smart, Esq.
K.C.M.G.	Right Hon. Lord Sydenham, G.C.S.I.,
Robert E. Dickinson, Esq.	G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E.
James Fairbairn Finlay, Esq., C.S.I.	H. L. M. Tritton, Esq.

HEAD OFFICE: 10, CLEMENTS LANE, LOMBARD ST., LONDON, E.C.
New York Agency: 55, WALL STREET.

OVER 245 BRANCHES AND AGENCIES IN SOUTH AND EAST AFRICA.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF BANKING BUSINESS transacted with the Cape Province, Natal, Orange Free State, Transvaal, Rhodesia, Nyasaland, East Africa Protectorate, Uganda, Zanzibar, Portuguese East Africa, South-West Africa Protectorate and the Belgian Congo, and with the Bank's Agencies in New York, and elsewhere.

CURRENT ACCOUNTS are opened on the usual terms.
DEPOSITS RECEIVED for fixed periods at rates which may be ascertained on application.

BILLS NEGOTIATED AND COLLECTED.

MAIL AND TELEGRAPHIC REMITTANCES made.

LETTERS OF CREDIT AND DRAFTS granted on the Branches and Agencies of the Bank.

THE BANK ISSUES CIRCULAR LETTERS OF CREDIT available in all parts of the world.

COMMERCIAL LETTERS OF CREDIT issued.

PURCHASE AND SALE of Stocks and Shares effected.

DIVIDENDS, ANNUITIES, Etc., received.

EXECUTOR AND TRUSTEE BUSINESS undertaken.

The Officers of the Bank are bound not to disclose the transaction of any of its customers.

FRANCIS SHIPTON, London Manager.

THE MERCANTILE

BANK OF INDIA, LTD.

Head Office: 15, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.

Capital Authorised	£1,500,000
Capital Issued	1,125,000
Capital Paid Up	562,500
Reserve Fund	550,000

Branches:

INDIA, BURMAH, CEYLON, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS
CHINA, AND PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS.

The Bank buys and sells Bills of Exchange, issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, and transacts banking and agency business in connection with the East, on terms to be had on application.

DEPOSITS received for one year at 5 per cent. per annum. Rates for other periods on application.

On current accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on daily balances.

THE LONDON & RIVER PLATE

BANK (LIMITED).

ESTABLISHED 1862.

Authorised Capital	£4,000,000
Paid-up Capital	1,800,000
Reserve Fund	2,000,000

BRANCHES—

ARGENTINE.—Buenos Aires, Rosario, Mendoza, Concordia, Bahia Blanca, Córdoba, Tucumán, Paraná, Barracas (Buenos Aires), Once (Buenos Aires), Boca (Buenos Aires), Calle Santa Fé (Buenos Aires), Calle B de Irigoyen (Buenos Aires). URUGUAY.—Montevideo, Montevideo Agency (Calle Río Negro), Paysandu (Agency), Salto (Agency). BRAZIL.—Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Santos, Pernambuco, Para, Bahia, Victoria, Curitiba, Manaus (Agency). CHILI—Valparaíso. FRANCE—Paris (16 Rue Halévy). Agency in New York and Agents throughout the world.

Letters of Credit, Drafts, and Cable Transfers issued. Bills negotiated, advanced upon or sent for collection.—7, Princes Street, E.C.

THE BANK OF ADELAIDE.

(Incorporated by Act of Parliament, 1865.)

Authorised Capital	£1,000,000.	Subscribed Capital	£625,000
Paid-up Capital	£500,000		
Reserve Fund	510,000		
	£1,010,000		
Uncalled Capital	125,000		
Reserve Liability of Shareholders	625,000		
	£1,760,000		

London Office—11, Leadenhall Street, E.C.

BILLS on Australasia purchased or collected.
DRAFTS issued and REMITTANCES cabled.

DEPOSITS received for fixed periods at rates to be ascertained on application.
PERCY ARNOLD, Manager

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BANK.

Established 1841.

Established 1941.			
Paid-up Capital ..	£250,000 0 0	(25,000 Shares of £10 each.	
Reserve Fund	£200,000 0 0	Reserve Profits ..	£29,979
Reserved Liability of Shareholders		£250,000.	

Drafts, issued, Remittances cabled, Bills negotiated or collected. Deposits received for fixed periods at rates to be ascertained on application, and all banking and exchange business connected with Western Australia conducted through the London Agents. The Bank of Adelaide, 11, Leadenhall St., E.C.

BANKS.

BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Established 1817.



Paid up Capital	£3,500,000
Reserve Fund	2,725,000
Reserve Liability of	
Proprietors	3,500,000
	£9,725,000

Head Office: SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES.

London Directors:

Sir FREDERICK GREEN, Chairman.

H. L. M. TRITTON, Esq.

WALTER S. M. BURNS, Esq.

DAVID GEORGE, Manager.

J. S. CAMPBELL, Secretary.

HALKERSTONE MELDUM,
Assistant Manager

DAVID GIDDIE,
Accountant.

The Bank has 341 Branches and Agencies in the Australian States, New Zealand, Fiji, Papua (New Guinea), and London, and Agents and Correspondents all over the World, on whom the London Office grants Circular Letters of Credit and Circular Notes. Also issues Drafts on demand. Makes Mail and Cable Transfers. Negotiates and Collects Bills of Exchange. Receives Deposits for Fixed Periods on terms which may be known on application, and transacts every description of Australian Banking business.

London Office: 29, THREADNEEDLE STREET, E.C.

THE LONDON BANK OF AUSTRALIA, LIMITED.

Head Office—71 Old Broad Street, E.C.

Subscribed Capital	£1,276,747	10 0
Paid up Capital	889,665	0 0
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits	354,791	5 3
Reserve Liability of Proprietors	806,982	10 0

REMITTANCES made by CABLE.

DRAFTS, LETTERS OF CREDIT and CIRCULAR NOTES issued upon Branches and Agents.

BILLS on Australasia NEGOTIATED or sent for collection.

DEPOSITS RECEIVED for periods and at rates which may be ascertained on application, and Banking Business of every description conducted with Australia.

THE UNION BANK OF AUSTRALIA

ESTABLISHED 1837.

LIMITED.

INCORPORATED 1880.

Authorised and Issued Capital, £6,000,000.

Paid-up Capital, £2,000,000; Reserve Fund, £1,960,000; together £3,960,000

Reserve Liability of Proprietors 4,000,000

Total Capital and Reserves £7,960,000

HEAD OFFICE - - - 71, CORNHILL, LONDON, E.

DRAFTS are granted on the Bank's Branches throughout the Australian States and Dominion of New Zealand.

TELEGRAPHIC REMITTANCES are also made.

BILLS are purchased or sent for Collection.

DEPOSITS are received for fixed periods on terms which may be ascertained on application.

INSURANCE.

PRUDENTIAL

ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED,

HOLBORN BARS, LONDON.

Invested Funds exceed - £94,000,000.

CLAIMS PAID £126,000,000.

NOTICE.

IMPERIAL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT 4 ¹/₂

PER CENT. LOAN.

SECOND SERIES.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the COUPONS of the above-described Loan, due on the 10th January, 1917, will be paid on and after that date (Saturdays excepted), between the hours of 11 and 3, at the Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd., where lists may be obtained.

Coupons must be left three clear days for examination prior to their payment.

For the Yokohama Specie Bank, Ltd.,

K. TATSUMI, Manager.

7, Bishopsgate, London, E.C.,

27th December, 1916.

The Investors' Review.

Vol. XXXVIII.—No. 991. SATURDAY, DEC. 30, 1916.

(Registered as a Newspaper.) Price 6d.

PUBLISHERS' NOTICES.

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One Year, £1 5s. 0d. Six Months, 12s. 6d. Three Months, 6s. 6d.

For the Colonies and Abroad the charge is

One Year, £1 8s. 0d. Six Months, 14s. 0d. Three Months, 7s. 0d.

Short of Three months the Price is 8½d. per Copy Inland, and 7d. Abroad, Post Free.

Cloth cases for binding the Half Yearly Volumes price 1s. 6d., postage 4d. extra. Bound Volumes 15s. 6d., or 16s. 3d. postfree.

Cheques and P.O. Drafts should be made payable to

"Investors' Review,"

Norfolk House, Norfolk Street,
London, W.C.

Telephone No. :
Gerrard 9132.

Telegraphic Address :
"Unveiling, London."

The Editors cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

Letters from correspondents must, in every case, be authenticated by the name and address of the writer.

The Editors desire it to be understood that a charge is made for the insertion of reports under the heading of Company Meetings, and they cannot accept responsibility for statements made therein.

ANSWERS TO QUERIES.

One Reply to One Question — One Shilling. Any number of questions may be put and will be answered at the rate of **One Shilling** each. The questions should be numbered and a copy kept, as securities cannot be named with comments in the printed replies. Questions to be answered in the current issue should reach us not later than Friday morning.

For a fee of **One Guinea** per annum paid in advance, a **Key** to the previous week's replies will be sent early in the following week.

Deposits of "Query Money" may be made in advance, and will be acknowledged in the "Answers" column. Notice of exhaustion will also be given there.

Telegrams advising about new securities cost **Half-a-Crown** each, plus cost of the telegram.

Private Letters in answer to inquiries can be had if desired. The minimum charge for such letters is **Ten Shillings**, but for this three questions will be answered if desired. For every question beyond three replied to in any one letter the charge is **Half-a-Crown per question**.

Correspondents can have their lists of investments overhauled and advised upon by letter on terms varying according to the time taken.

Groups of Five Stocks for investment supplied at the rate of **One Guinea**, each list different.

Passing Events.

No inference of any moment is to be drawn from the Treasury exhibit for the week ended last Saturday, nor is any necessary, for to-morrow the Treasury statement covering the nine months of the fiscal year now expired will be made public, and we shall deal with it next week. Briefly, then, the receipts last week from taxation, &c., were £8,487,000, and the expenditure on supply limited to barely twice that sum, or to £16,523,000. Adding in debt interest £871,000, the week's outgoings came to £17,394,000, but the Government had also to meet £30,341,000 of Treasury bills falling due and to repay £2,447,000 of temporary advances, so the borrowings came to £32,475,000, in addition to which £6,251,000 was raised on Exchequer bonds, £600,000 on War Savings certificates, and £125,000 on Expenditure certificates. Also new temporary advances amounting to £2,000,000 had to be obtained, and still the resources were short of requirements by £302,000, which was drawn off the Exchequer balances. Of the real revenue £2,751,000 came from excess profits tax, and with that added the total receipts from it to date was £76,450,000. As less than £10,000,000 will now be required to cover the estimate for the whole year, this tax promises to be one of the most prolific a Chancellor of the Exchequer ever lighted upon. But its fertility may diminish sharply when the war is over.

Mr. Lloyd George possesses one quality, especially valuable at a time like the present. He is never reverential towards the fetish of "precedent." The things he proposes may be wise or the reverse, he never hesitates to try a new way, and has no dread of any step because it is "unusual" or "without precedent." So with no fuss preliminary at all we are to have a Conference of all the Colonial Premiers in the end of February, and with them will sit the Secretary of State for India. What are they to confer about? We do not know; probably the Government here does not yet fully know, but it is easy to indicate the things, or some of them, they ought to discuss. To read or listen to some of the speeches of colonial public men when over here they seem to expect the Mother Country to clothe and feed them, to pay their debts and subsidise their trade, lend them oceans of money cheap, and coddle them in

all ways. The very exaggeration of the demands adumbrated by these men makes it advisable that their representatives should meet together and hold conference with the Imperial Government, for thereby they may discover that they cannot all have everything they long or lust after, and that the United Kingdom has brave and loyal Allies in Europe whose interests are entitled to as great consideration as our own in all after-war arrangements relating to trade, industry, and helps towards the development of commercial intercourse. A great step in colonial education may be thus taken. Also these colonial gentlemen may learn to comprehend the maxim that there can be no share in the Imperial Government given to those who do not assume their part in bearing the Imperial charges. Most novel of all, however, is the inclusion of India in the Conference, for this will be the first occasion on which India is treated as a responsible division of the Empire, and not as a slave dependency, and it is a great and a welcome change. Soon we hope the Prime Minister may see his way to take a further step, and call to the Imperial Council a chosen representative of the Indian people. The Indian National Congress now sitting is perfectly competent to provide such a representative, and he, and not the Secretary of State, is the man to express India's wants and wishes. The Secretary of State at best can only represent the Simla-Delhi British over-lordship. But it is a mighty step forward to have even him there.

Whatever may still be the influence of German bureaucrats over the domestic administration of Russia there does not seem to be any trace of it in the Tsar's message to his troops which rings true from end to end. It is thus valuable, not only as a stimulating message of courage and hope to the nation and its armies, but as an indication of the purpose that lies behind, that inspires the gigantic efforts of the Russian people. Their sacrifices have been stupendous, and have been made ungrudgingly, but just because they have been so their reward must be great, and great the Tsar says it shall be, not in conquests but in liberation. We cannot give space for the whole of his message, but it begins by a vivid reminder of how the war began by a sudden attack on Russia and her "faithful Ally" France, an attack that brought in England, and which was accompanied by the violation of Belgium, and pitiless cruelty towards

the peaceful inhabitants of all the territory occupied. Thus little by little the great Powers were united against Germany and Austria. Although taken by surprise, moreover, these Powers held together and fought so loyally together that the inequality in men and armaments they suffered from at the beginning has gradually been obliterated, and now, when the Allies are gathering their strength for the final overthrow of this cunning aggressor, surely the time has not yet come to make peace. The enemy has not yet been driven out of the provinces occupied by him. "The attainment by Russia of the tasks created by the war, the regaining of Constantinople and the Dardanelles, as well as the creation of a free Poland from all three of her now incomplete tribal districts, has yet to be guaranteed." Russia, therefore, by the mouth of the Tsar, casts aside these peace machinations of the baffled and defeated Prussian with scorn, and takes the opportunity to confirm the pledge of the Grand Duke Nicolas to the Poles, as well as to indicate her own goal. "To conclude peace at this moment would mean the failure to utilise the fruits of the untold trials of you heroic Russian troops and sailors. Who dares think that he who brought about the commencement of the war shall have it in his power to conclude the war at any time he likes." These are the most significant expressions of his Russian Imperial Majesty's mind, and we have no doubt that they will be found in full accord with the joint answer to the German circular—a whine behind bold words—when it appears. Peace can only be given to the enemy, says the message in conclusion, "after he has been driven from our borders, and then only. When, finally broken, he shall give to us and our faithful Allies reliable proof of the impossibility of a repetition of the treacherous attack, and a firm assurance that he will keep to these promises." There is not much use in neutrals busying themselves with "paper-staining" exercises in imitation of the President of the United States when they have to encounter such words of stern resolve as these. But the Pope probably, and the Jews certainly, will persevere with the agitation, moved by self-interest and dread.

How disastrous the drought in Argentina has been to its agricultural and pastoral industries may be estimated from the particulars given in the circular of the British Bank of South America for the past month. In Argentina, when the harvest fails, all fails for the time being, because 95 per cent. of the total exports consists of the products of agriculture and livestock. The past winter has been one of widespread, nay, almost universal, drought, but within the past month some rain has fallen in many parts of the country, though not enough, and even were moist weather to continue only a fair yield of grain can be expected. The maize harvest may possibly do better, and the position in the south of the Province of Buenos Aires is said to give good prospects of fair crops of wheat and oats, but in the north from Buenos Aires to Rosario, and including the Provinces of Cordoba, Santa Fé, and Entre Rios, a complete failure of the wheat and linseed crops seems inevitable. In some districts where the linseed and wheat crops have been total failures owing to the drought the ground is being replanted with maize, which may do something to retrieve the position, but at present it is estimated that the amount of wheat available for export will not reach 1,000,000 tons, most estimates being much below that figure. Linseed, it is thought, will only give about 200,000 tons, and oats between 400,000 and 600,000. If this is the position as regards grain, what must it be with reference to livestock?

From a cabled summary of the report of the Royal Bank of Canada for the year to November 30 we gather that it has had by far the best results in its history. In the past 12 months the assets have increased by £11,000,000, a sum which exceeds the total assets of the bank a decade ago. The total is now over £50,000,000, and the liquid assets amount to £24,000,000, or 52½ per cent. of the liabilities as com-

pared with £17,000,000 last year. During the year deposits bearing interest have risen from £23,500,000 to £28,000,000, and current accounts from £7,500,000 to nearly £12,000,000. Discounts and advances have risen from £21,300,000 to £25,000,000, which affords one of the surest indications of the bank's commercial vitality. Nett profits amounted to £420,000, or nearly 18 per cent. on the paid-up capital, against £380,000, or 16½ per cent., last year, and the carry forward is raised from £135,000 to £170,000. The bank has been active in promoting business with the West Indies, where it has established numerous branches for the furtherance of inter-colonial trade.

So many of our men are now leading an open-air life, and consequently smoking more, that tobacco manufacturers are having the time of their lives, in spite of increased taxation. Consequently we are not surprised to find that the British-American Tobacco Co., Ltd., in the year to September 30, has made a nett profit of £2,733,360, an increase of £900,000 following a decrease of £300,000 for the previous 12 months. Dividends of 25 per cent. have already been paid, and a final distribution of 5 per cent. (free of income-tax) is proposed, making 30 per cent. for the year, against 22½ per cent. The earnings would justify a larger final dividend, but the directors, rather than pay the whole amount in cash, propose to distribute shares in the Imperial Tobacco Co. of Canada as a bonus in the proportion of one Canadian share for every four shares in this company. The number of Canadian shares required is 1,563,580 of \$5 each, but they stand in the books at only £37,060, or about 5¼d. apiece, so that everybody ought to be well pleased. After providing for the final dividend and writing off the Canadian shares, the balance to be carried forward is £595,000 higher at £1,743,000, subject to excess profits duty which has not yet been ascertained. It is a wonderful record, but when "Tommy" ceases to get most of his smokes for nothing he may begin to ask questions.

All that remains for the Capitol Freehold Land and Investment Co., Ltd., is to wind itself up, and it is the intention of the directors to liquidate the company during the coming year, by which time the remaining assets are expected to be in such form that they will be easily distributable amongst the shareholders as soon as the necessary steps can be taken. Litigation with the late lessees resulted in judgment in the latter's favour for \$1,788,560, but after lodging an appeal, the company managed to arrange a compromise for \$850,000, part of which will be paid in lands taken back under foreclosure (£14,660) and part in bills receivable (£90,690) at a discount of 15 per cent. The company has liquid assets amounting to about £170,000, besides a credit balance at ranch suspense account of £560,000. Against these items there are deficiencies of £410,000 in suspense and the balance of £276,600 due to the deferred shareholders, £1,073,000 having been repaid to the latter during the past year. Without going carefully through the accounts for a number of years it is impossible to hazard a guess how the liquidation will turn out, but the shareholders are not likely to go very short.

We are glad to see a decided improvement in the affairs of the Argentine Navigation Co. (Nicolas Mihanovich), Ltd., but it is disappointing that for the third year in succession no dividend can be paid on the preference or ordinary shares. Gross profits to June 30 were £130,000 higher at £320,260, and charges increased £43,000 to £225,950. After meeting debenture interest and management expenses there is a nett profit of £30,445, against a loss of £51,000 last year, and this suffices to wipe out the debit balance of £20,300, leaving £4,080, which it is proposed to carry to reserve. It is said that the company's trading showed a marked improvement, which would have yielded much more satisfactory results but for the abnormal price of coal. Since June 30 several of the

company's vessels have been sold at a substantial profit, and out of the proceeds it is intended to redeem the outstanding 1913 debentures (£285,000) and to ask for tenders for a certain number of the first mortgage debentures. Nothing in the balance-sheet need detain us, but the position looks healthier all round.

A statement has been issued by Messrs. Arthur F. Whinney and Harold F. Kemp, the joint receivers and managers of Spiers and Pond, Ltd., who were appointed by Mr. Justice Astbury on July 21 last. As a result of careful investigation of the accounts, they say, it was evident that the general prosperity of the company had been seriously hampered by losses incurred in respect of certain of the properties. They came to the conclusion that under no circumstances could some of the properties be made profitable, and with the sanction of the Court some of them have been surrendered. A scheme of reconstruction beneficial to all parties will, it is hoped, be prepared, and it is proposed that the properties retained should be valued, so as to arrive at the interest which each class of debenture stockholder possesses, and application is to be made to the Court for the appointment of valuers. Two of the company's hotels have been taken over under the Defence of the Realm Acts, one at Buxton and the other at Ramsgate, but no offer has yet been made in either case to pay any occupation rental. Except in certain departments which it is proposed to abandon, the general business continues to yield satisfactory profits, and the result of the operations is such as to justify the payment of a sum equal to the year's interest on the first mortgage debentures. The Court has given leave for this to be done, the payment to be treated as on account of the amount due under the debentures generally and subject to the usual inquiry under the judgment as to the present holders of the debentures, and warrants will be issued as soon after January 1 as possible.

When the complete statistics of Japanese trade in the past year are available they ought to prove of exceptional interest. It is known that the country is enjoying a spell of unparalleled prosperity, largely owing to the supplies it is able to provide for the Allies, and in October exports reached 113,960,000 yen, an increase of 41,200,000 yen. Imports amounted to 63,900,000 yen, an increase of 24,400,000 yen, mainly consisting of raw materials. For the 10 months ended October exports show an excess of 255,770,000 yen over imports.

For the year to June 30 the Salvador Railway Co., Ltd., had an increase in revenue apart from the Government subsidy, half of which (£12,000) was paid last year. The Government has agreed to pay by instalments of £2,000 per month after the war, and in the meantime to pay interest at 5 per cent. on the amounts in arrear. Passenger receipts increased £3,800 and goods receipts £13,000, but in the case of the steamer service, instead of a profit of £5,065 there is a loss of £5,795. Nett revenue comes out at £35,150, a decrease of £27,200, which is insufficient to meet the service of the mortgage debentures, and a scheme was approved last May relieving the company from the obligation to redeem any of the debentures for three years, and allowing it to pay interest in deferred certificates if the profits are inadequate to pay in cash. This arrangement will give the company an opportunity of getting on its feet again. During the year the terminal 5½ per cent. bonds were paid off, and the balance of the cost of issue, £11,615, has been debited to revenue, while £10,500 has been set aside as a reserve for depreciation of steamers, with the result that the year ended with a debit balance of £36,970. It is just as well to get over these troubles all together, and we hope the company will soon be able to give a better account of itself.

No revenue account is furnished by the National Steam Car Co., Ltd., for the year to October 31, but

after providing for maintenance and depreciation the nett profit is £52,380, an increase of £19,000. Of this sum £19,500, or £3,000 more, is placed to special reserve for the renewal of 'buses, and £9,300 has been applied to special writings off. Even so the dividend can be raised from 6 per cent. to 10 per cent., and the carry forward is increased £8,000 to £12,225, subject to excess profits duty. The average number of 'buses has remained at 160, but the works at Chelmsford have been largely employed in the production of munitions under Government control. Further proof has been afforded of the excellent and economical working of the company's coke-motor lorries, and the Ministry of Munitions has authorised the production of a considerable number of these vehicles. In order to take advantage of this development of the business the shareholders are asked to sanction an increase in the capital from £200,000 to £300,000. Nothing in the balance-sheet calls for mention, but the company is steadily improving its position.

One of the biggest financial deals on the Rand has just been completed. Mr. S. Joel, on behalf of the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Co., which controls the Barnato group of mines, has concluded a provisional agreement to purchase Sir Joseph Robinson's entire holdings in the Randfontein Estates, the Randfontein Central, and Langlaagte Estate companies. It is understood that the transaction involves a sum of about two millions sterling, but details of the arrangement have not yet been published. It is believed that the Randfontein Deep, already controlled by the Barnato interests, will benefit from the scheme. This mine, which consists of about 1,200 claims, is really the deep level of the Randfontein Central. Two shafts have been sunk on the property, but owing to lack of funds work has been suspended since early in 1912. There is no doubt that the shareholders of the Robinson group will welcome the change of control, for their past experience has been very disappointing. A vast undertaking, the Randfontein Central has never succeeded in paying anything but a few meagre dividends. The Robinson group has, moreover, always acted independently, and refused to join in the co-operative efforts of the other groups in matters of common interest. The deal now arranged will no doubt mean the end of this short-sighted policy.

Misfortune seems to follow misfortune with unfailing regularity in the latter-day career of the East Rand Proprietary Mines. After paying steadily decreasing dividends since the amalgamation in 1908, the directors this half-year are compelled to pass the dividend altogether. Thus for the whole year the dividend is 2½ per cent., against 11¼ per cent. for 1915, and 17½ per cent. for 1914. The available balance at December 31 is estimated at £83,500. This cash balance the directors desire to keep in hand to maintain the financial position, having regard to the debenture debt and to the fact that funds may be required when the reef is met with in the sub-vertical shaft. Immediate prospects are by no means encouraging. Reef disclosures have continued unsatisfactory, and a further considerable depletion of ore reserves has taken place. At the end of last year the total was 4,800,000 tons, a decrease of nearly two millions since 1911. Consequently the tonnage to be milled next year will, according to the directors' statement, clearly be less than for the current year.

The first decision given by the Board of Referees in appeals under the excess profits duty provisions of the Finance (No. 2) Act, 1915, in the case of gold mining companies has just been rendered. It refers to gold mining in Rhodesia. The statutory percentage for companies engaged in this industry is raised from 6 per cent. to 22½ per cent., and for private firms the percentage is raised from 7 per cent. to 23½ per cent. Special interest attaches to the percentages fixed for gold mining companies, for the reason that as the price of gold is fixed, they cannot make excess profits except

by exhausting the mines at an accelerated pace under unfavourable conditions. For while the price of gold is fixed, the cost of getting it out of a mine is now much higher.

Minor Brewery Results.

In spite of heavy increases in excise and other duties, we know that great breweries like Guinness, Bass, Worthington, and Whitbread, which did not succumb to the temptation to water their capital till the investing public were completely swamped, have been able to withstand every buffet they have received—shrewd blows, too, many of them. Most of the others collapsed at the first puff of adversity, but a straw would have knocked them over, anyhow. The giants survived because they did not get swelled heads during the brewery boom, because they were well and prudently managed, and had large reserves to depend upon to carry them over every obstacle that arose. Tested by ordinary financial standards, they are probably quite as sound to-day as they ever were—in some cases they are even stronger—although they are not making as large profits and have had to reduce their dividends. At one time £1 of Guinness stock was valued in the market at nearly £7, and it is now less than £2½, but that decline would be far greater than the conditions warrant unless the top price had been on an inflated and purely artificial basis. At the same time, if we were inclined for brewery investments we would rather buy the stock now, with all the dangers and difficulties that may lie ahead, than have taken it at the market's boom valuation. However, the big companies are well enough able to look after themselves, and it may be of interest to see how some of the smaller concerns are faring, so we have gone through a batch of their reports, and summarise a few of the more salient figures.

Alton and Co., Limited, Derby, presents results that are practically identical with last year, the nett profits being £400 up at £22,500. Only the preference dividend can be paid, and £100,000 ordinary capital gets nothing; but a larger amount was brought in, and £2,500 more at £9,265 is carried forward. The company has £250,000 debentures against properties valued at £577,000, but there is no reserve fund. Bell and Co., Limited, Stockport, also did very much the same as last year. Nett profits were £480 higher at £27,580, and the dividend of 4 per cent. on the ordinary shares is repeated, while, thanks to the amount brought in being larger, the carry-forward is increased £2,400 to £9,600. There are debentures for £300,000, and there is a meagre reserve of £14,000 against fixed assets of £640,800. Buckley's Brewery, Limited, Llanelli, did considerably better, the trading profits being £8,500 higher, and £3,400 less was required for depreciation of plant, &c., but income-tax took £8,000 more, and the nett profit of £24,135 shows an increase of about £3,000. The dividend of 6 per cent. is repeated, and £5,000 is again placed to reserve fund, raising it to £55,000, while the carry-forward is increased by £2,450 to £4,690. Debentures amount to £130,000 against assets valued at £425,000. It looks a sound little concern. The Farnham United Breweries, Limited, show a drop of £7,600 in gross profits, and the nett profit, including a larger sum brought forward, comes out £3,000 less at £32,465. This necessitates cutting the dividend and bonus from 9 per cent. to 8 per cent., and £500 more at £8,350 is carried forward, so it has not done so badly. There is a reserve fund of £50,000, and debentures amount to £180,000 against assets valued at £530,000.

One of the best-managed and most successful of the smaller concerns is the Hull Brewery Co., Limited, the shareholders in which are again comforted for present trials and afflictions with a distribution of 13½ per cent. True, profits were £6,600 less at £54,860, but the amount brought in was larger, and after again placing £17,500 to reserve, the carry-forward is reduced by £4,000 to £16,280. The general reserve of £260,000 exactly equals the issued capital, and debentures amount to only £268,000 against properties

valued at £700,000. Short of total prohibition, it is difficult to see how the position of the company could be seriously assailed. Offler's Brewery, Limited, Derby, made practically the same profit as last year (£19,900), but on that occasion £3,000 was written off for depreciation of properties, an item which has not to be repeated. Rather more was brought in, and after again paying 5 per cent., there remains £13,040, or £4,280 more, to be carried forward. There is a reserve of £60,000, against a share capital of £100,000, and there are debentures for £125,000 against properties valued at £278,000, so the position is fairly sound. Russell's Gravesend Brewery, Limited, again pays 7 per cent., and puts £4,000 to reserve, although the profits were reduced £4,600 to £32,000. But £9,000 more was carried forward a year ago to provide for excess profits duty, which absorbed £5,400 for the two years 1914-15, and the carry-forward now is only a little less at £13,140. Reserves have been well looked after in recent years, and they now amount to £32,300, but the share capital is £200,000, and there are debentures for £236,000, against properties valued at £396,000. The position is not very strong, but it is steadily improving.

Bentley's Yorkshire Breweries, Ltd., had a good year with an increase of £5,000 at £64,410 in the nett profit and a total of £76,700, or £7,700 more, available. After repeating the dividend of 5 per cent. the appropriation to reserve is doubled at £10,000, and £2,700 is added to the carry forward, raising it to £15,000. The capital is £472,000, and there are debentures for £600,000 against properties valued at just over £1,000,000, while the reserve fund is only £30,000, half of which has been accumulated in two years. We cannot describe the position as satisfactory, but it is certainly improving, although it might be prudent to pass the dividend for a year or two. Leeds and Wakefield Breweries, Ltd., after providing more for depreciation and renewals, increased the profits by £2,300 to £19,425, but after meeting charges and again setting aside £3,500 to special reserve, there is only £2,825 left, which makes the carry forward up to £5,875. Last year £3,000 was charged to special reserve for expenditure; this time only £150 has been debited, but we should say there must have been serious neglect in the past or the results would now be more satisfactory to the shareholders. Capital is £150,000, and there is an equal amount of debentures against properties valued at £375,000, so that, with a general reserve of £50,000, the company ought not to be about five years in arrear with its preference dividend, and we shall expect to see an improvement before long. For some reason or other the Southdown and East Grinstead Breweries, Ltd., suffered badly, gross profits being £10,000 less at £44,300 and nett profits £5,000 less at £16,100. Consequently the dividend is cut down from 8½ per cent. to 6½ per cent., but the carry forward is slightly larger at £12,000. The capital is £165,000, and there are debentures of £161,000 against properties valued at £320,000, while the reserve fund is only £15,500. It would be prudent to cut the dividend still further for a few years. In the case of the Stroud Brewery Co., Ltd., the profits were just a shade better at £17,790, and both the dividend of 10 per cent. and the appropriation of £5,500 to reserves are repeated, while the carry forward is £1,600 higher at £6,660. The capital is £134,000, and there are debentures for £110,000 against properties valued at £272,600. With the present addition the general reserve will be £45,500, and the position looks reasonably healthy, the dividend being fairly and squarely earned.

In the reports of Thos. Salt and Co., Limited, Burton, there is a stock phrase to the effect that "the directors view with grave concern the prospects for the ensuing year," but it proved quite uncalled for a year ago, and may do so again. At any rate, the profits were £18,000 higher at £64,800, and for the first time since the reconstruction in 1911 it is possible to pay a dividend on the 4 per cent. income stock, leaving £18,945, or £13,700 more, to be carried forward. The company was in such terrible straits a few years ago that it

could not be expected to make much headway unless conditions had been miraculously favourable. Share capital stands at £227,000, and debentures at £612,000, against properties valued at £780,000, so there cannot be much margin for contingencies; but perhaps the corner is at last turned.

Showell's Brewery Co., Limited, Birmingham, begins to recover a little of its lost ground, the profits at £33,350 showing an increase of £3,600, and the available balance is £6,400 higher at £16,290. This allows of a distribution of 6d., against nil, on the shilling ordinary shares, and the balance forward is nearly £3,000 up at £5,170. But the capital is £350,000—all but £5,000 in 2½ per cent. preference stock—and there are debentures for £429,000, against properties valued at £706,000, which is not a very comfortable state of affairs. Stretton's Derby Brewery, Limited, obtained results almost identical with last year. Profits were £1,200 higher at £39,770, and after repeating the dividend of 9 per cent., there is £5,000 more at £21,810 to carry forward, as the amount brought in was larger, and nothing, against £1,000, is placed to property improvement account. Reserves amount to £112,500, while the capital is £310,000, and there are debentures for £315,000, against properties valued at £560,000, plus investments in other breweries which cost £162,000. It is quite a sound business, and we notice that the directors have no complaints to make about the terrible difficulties they have to surmount. As a matter of fact, the perusal of a large number of brewery reports shows clearly enough that wherever the business has not been scandalously over-capitalised, and where it has been managed with reasonable prudence and foresight, it can still be conducted at a very good profit. Of course, profits are not so handsome as they were when concerns like Allsopps, Meux, Watney-Combe, and a host of others tumbled headlong to ruin through the insensate greed of the promoter and the gullibility of the public; but "the trade" as a whole does very well, and it knows how to pass its burdens on to the consumer better than anyone can teach it.

By-the-Way War Notes.

Count Charles de Souza did well to warn us against the use of misleading phraseology about the war. To talk of waiting for this and that "until the Germans are beaten" is to ignore the facts and misconstrue our position. The Germans *are* beaten, have been beaten these two years or more, ever since the battle of the Marne in fact, in all that concerns the attainment of the objects for which they started the devastation. What has happened during the past two years has represented the efforts of the defeated Germans to avert from the class that tyrannises over them the consequences of their defeats in the field. And the best hope of an enduring peace would be in the discovery by the German people of the heinousness of the crime committed against themselves, and in their resolve themselves to mete out retribution to their tyrants. It is coming to that soon now, we are persuaded, and hence the frenzied efforts to trick us into a treacherous peace.

For what we witness in the war is the progress of a siege, and that is always a tedious and nerve-wearing business for both the containers and the contained. A man who in his youth did his part manfully in the war of 1870 on the besiegers' side, and who took part in the siege of Paris, has often assured us that, in his opinion, if Paris had been able to hold out but for another fortnight the Prussians would have had to let go and raise the siege. Would it not be a thing unspeakable and of deadly import for civilisation were we to lose all, or most, of the benefits accruing from our victory by yielding to the peace intrigues now, and allowing Germany to go away unpunished? It would be for all the Allies ruin irretrievable if we did that. This winter is unquestionably the most critical and nerve straining period in the war. Both sides are war weary, both sides long for the war to end, and victory, or at least the fruits of victory, will fall most beneficially to the

side that is most steadfast in resisting the natural tendency to seek rest and a hasty peace.

Now the Allies of the Entente have every motive for holding on and pushing on. They have defeated the enemy in the field, in open fight, almost everywhere, times almost numberless, and now that enemy is beleaguered, shut in upon himself, deprived of his foreign commerce, of supplies of food, and also of men to be killed. His so-called allies are exhausted and a burden to him, and within the borders of his two Empires hunger becomes daily more acute, popular discontent more dangerous. Only at one point, Rumania, can he look around him to find a gleam of hope. But already Rumania, with Russia's help, has rallied well and checked the foe, and the country has proved a delusive source of supplies. The Falkenhayn-Mackensen food *rassia* has barely yielded sufficient to feed the invading hosts, and soon these hosts may be quarrelling among themselves over such spoil as they have lighted on. Naturally, however, all the dark side of the story is carefully hidden by the enemy, and every "success," real or imaginary, magnified to the utmost in the spirit and with the intention to beguile shown in the Kaiser's bestowal of decorations upon Prince Ruprecht of Bavaria for his "victories" on the Somme. The game of bluff is being played more furiously now than ever before, if that be possible, because the danger is greater. Are we to be cheated once more by that game? Surely not. Its playing in the sight of all men, with the crimes of the invader fresh in memory, should only brace us up to greater efforts in enduring, in countering all the enemy's schemes, and in destroying him on every opportunity, until the downtrodden and starving proletariat of the two Central Empires themselves turn and rend their oppressors. We have long doubted whether the way to a lasting peace could be opened otherwise than through an uprising of the people within the robber Empires, and one of the most hopeful indications of the trend of events is surely to be found in the frequent disturbances or food riots all over Germany. In Munich, too, the soldiers are reported to have refused to fire on the people. Soon they may go a step further and answer the order to mow down their hunger-gnawed kindred by turning their weapons on the tyrants who gave it. A hard winter would prove the most valuable of allies in helping the common people of Germany to attain to that degree of courage, and our opportunity to make *our* peace would follow.

Of one thing all men should be sure—no treaty of peace can be made with the lying Kaiser and his sycophants, because no treaty they might sign would be worth the parchment it was engrossed upon. In that fact is our hope and comfort. And we shall continue to cry, "No deluding peace." That is the answer to give to all intriguers.

Berlin has been prompt to catch and return the shuttlecock tricked up as a dove of peace sent out last week by Washington. "A peace conference! Yes, let us have that at once," exclaim the Kaiser and his tools. But not a word about the terms Germany would lay before the delegates in conference assembled. Could any one of the Allies accept the invitation to such a mystery-wrapt assemblage, and go there not knowing what Prussian arrogance and greed means to trick the victors into surrendering? We hope not. We hope that a deaf ear will be turned to Prussian urgings and wheedlings, at least as long as the beaten but still swaggering *Junker* conceals his greed. Naturally the rage of the baffled world-conqueror is "colossal," and moves him to strain his ingenuity to invent endless snares and traps with help of which he may cheat the Allies out of the reward to which their successful resistance entitles them. We can make allowances for the fumings and ragings of a beaten caste, already gazing forth on its future degradation, but the more we comprehend the motives at work the less should we be inclined to listen to the whining, wheedling, or bullying voice that says, "For the sake of humanity let us make peace now and bury and forget the past. If not, beware! we shall be more diabolically ruthless than ever."

Dare our rulers respond in facile compliance to a call like that? If they do they will probably condemn us and our civilisation to extinction, to hopeless, irretrievable ruin, as we explained last week.

Berlin shops, it seems, have made a brave show this Christmas, but it was all a sham. We have the authority of the Berlin correspondent of the *Frankfurter Zeitung* for saying so—all window glitter of empty packages, jars, &c. As an effort to deceive this Berlin illusion of plenty is appropriate to the actual position. It mirrors well the attitude of the defeated tyrants of Germany in their own peculiar field. The Kaiser and his Bethmann-Hollweg, and his marshals and generals are all scheming and toiling their hardest to hide the true position from the world until they have hustled and bullied and wheedled the Entente Powers into a disastrous peace. And behind them, suggesting, prompting, plotting, and devising, they have almost to a man all the cosmopolitan financial Jews who see desolation about to overtake them and their paper fortunes if this war is allowed to go on until it has drained all the world of accumulated wealth. Every form of self-interest is therefore at the present moment engaged in the effort to beguile the Allies, and not a garment in the wardrobe of the hypocrite or tool of the trickster in politics is left undisplayed. Humanitarianism of the self-complacent and short-sighted kind is to the fore, backed by its professors like Dr. Wilson, President of the United States, and other worldly pundits of all characters, and they all would give us the peace of slaves tomorrow with joyful mien. Beaten warriors scowling join the mob, hoping to browbeat politicians, and diplomatists are to the fore likewise, buzzing and fussing over rearrangements of frontiers, the division of the spoils, all the "giff-gaff" of soul-barter. And behind all stands the masterful Jew, anxious above everything for the security of his bond.

To all and every appeal and influence the Allies can make but one reply: "When the enemy acknowledges himself defeated, and makes reparation for his crimes and restitution of the property he has stolen, then, and not till then, can we talk of peace." The more unswervingly we hold to this attitude, the sooner will the beaten enemy collapse and obey. For beaten he is to his knees, to the dust. "Not in Rumania," he shouts back. We are not so sure. His feverishness in scrambling after the stocks of grain regardless of all military risks and of the lives of the troops he forces forward argues anything but a sure consciousness of victory. It would require to be a staggering victory to delay even for a month the impending catastrophe, and perhaps to prevent the Turks from falling away and deserting the Prussian cause.

For there are suggestive rumours of quarrels that are said to have already broken out between Turk, Bulgar and Teuton over the shares of each in such plunder as they have thus far picked up. What is certain is that both Turk and Bulgar must now be in the last stages of destitution. No news ever comes through from Constantinople, and as good as none from Sofia. We hear nothing either from Asia Minor save now and then vague reports about the destitution of the people in certain districts. But we do know that one of the most profitable temporary successes of the Germans in the war was the reopening of the railway to Constantinople, because it was possible by its help not merely to arm and equip the Turk for his final undoing, but to drain Asia Minor of foodstuffs and minerals sent to Germany. By now, therefore, the Turk must be on his last legs, drained of everything, short even of men for gun fodder; and the Bulgar is in no better position. Both States, therefore, are completely at the charges of the Berlin Government. Ay, and Austria is without the means to carry on the war unaided for a single week, and does not now command credit sufficient to enable her financiers to manoeuvre a mystification subscription to another loan. Both Austria and Hungary announced new war loans a month or so

ago, and we have never heard a word about them since. Were plentiful subscriptions to be in due course announced, that would not imply new money in the treasuries, but merely additional obligations laid upon the people of the two States, regardless of their capacity to pay.

Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey are all bankrupt, and the populations who have the misfortune to inhabit territories situated within these States are dying of starvation this winter, dying before the eyes of resourceless Governments, powerful still only for evil, and the empire of the Prussian, which brought about this horror, when called upon to succour those it has led into the morass, answers by annexing more than its share of the food stolen from the Rumanians. Money it, too, has none; but it still has men and guns and shot and shell. Therefore its rulers, and the equally guilty rulers of Austria and Hungary, persevere with the fighting in the hope that they may be bought off at a fancy price when the end is reached. But also they want peace because their defiance of every prudent rule in finance has brought even haughty Prussia to its last gasp, and now not even the sale of all the lands of the nobles and the Church in Germany, Austria and Hungary could provide means enough to save the Empires from ruin. Such is the position to which the "victories" of the enemy have brought him. Is it surprising that he should be urgent for peace? Let him urge his fill, and, meantime, in Bismarck's expressive phrase, "stew in" what is left of "his own juice."

By the fury of their onset in Rumania and their eager vauntings of victory, the Prussians excite the hope that all is not going well with them in the stealing of corn any more than in the capture of oil wells. Undoubtedly the strategy of Mackensen and Falkenhayn is bold to temerity, and up to now it has seemed to succeed. But every day that complete success is denied or postponed, as it has hitherto been, lessens the probability of ultimate complete victory. Resistance by Russia and Rumania increases, becomes more effective, and the energy of the attacking forces, whose waste of men must be enormous, steadily diminishes. From the point of view of the Turkish Empire and of Bulgarian ambitions the "victories" paraded in the German Press may, indeed, prove in the end to be the most crushing of defeats; for the fighting men of the Turks and Bulgars are being consumed until soon no power to resist will remain to them. As for exhausted Austria and Hungary, want-consumed even now, what can they gain, by the plundering progress of the Prussian marshals? Food for the starving home populations? Greater power to hold down Serbia and the Slav provinces taken from Turkey? Larger revenues to help in replenishing the exhausted treasuries of Vienna and Buda-Pesth? No; they can gain none of these things, and therefore, in spite of all the raidings and ravagings, the forward rushes, the turning movements, and the slaughtering of the Prussian generals, we fear the ceremony of the new King's crowning in the Hungarian capital is likely to be a gloomy one. For Prussian domineering in devastation and slaughter is rending the Empire of the Habsburgs in pieces.

American Business Notes.

An intense feeling of sadness and disappointment came over the mind on reading President Wilson's peace tract or homily in last Friday's papers. It was not a feeling attributable in any measure to selfish motives. The position was too serious even for anger. But that a man of whom most people here had continued to hope better things, in spite of his frequent blunders and his invariable iciness, that the head of a great State could have so far misjudged the purpose of the Entente Powers in this struggle, and so far remained oblivious to all the atrocities of the aggressor enemies with which it has been accompanied as to pen such steel-cold and untrue phrases about the rights of the fight was enough to tempt one to despair of the Ameri-

can Republic. As the *Daily Chronicle* put it in a very beautiful and dignified leader last Friday morning, the whole calamity continues to be viewed by the President from the mere standpoint of American interests. The humanity paraded as an excuse for the ungracious attempt at interference is circumscribed in its range to how it affects America, "We may suffer if this goes on"; and we are driven to conclude that if Dr. Woodrow Wilson had not been moved by fear about the effect of the war on the future prosperity of the Republic he rules, he would never have bestowed a thought on Europe's agony. It has never interested him enough to move him to make an attempt to comprehend its meaning.

An American journalist, Mr. E. P. Bell, London correspondent of the *Chicago Daily News*, intervened in a letter to the *Times* last Saturday to try and explain away that phrase in the President's Note, which wounded every one of the Allies so deeply as to excite in them a feeling of dismay or a sort of fury of despair. Here is the phrase:—"Each side desires to make the rights and privileges of weak peoples and small States as secure against aggression or denial in the future as the rights and privileges of the great and powerful States how at war. Each wishes itself to be secure in the future, along with all other nations and peoples, against the recurrence of wars like this. . . . Each is ready to consider the formation of a league of nations to insure peace and justice throughout the world."

The plain meaning of this language seems to be, "Both sides are equally selfish and equally unprincipled, why not drop it, then, and be friends?" The writer of these sentences "takes Germany's words at par," as the *Daily Chronicle* says, and in doing so not only ignores facts, but casts a stigma on the motives and actions of the Allies. Is it anything to be astonished at that unconscious misrepresentation of that kind drove publicists into the use of strong speech in denunciation of such ignorance and heartlessness? We think not, but Mr. Bell says we are all wrong:—"What he meant to say, I am sure, is that, according to the general affirmations of the statesmen of the combatants, they are fighting for virtually the same thing—a very different statement." Does this gloss make the significance of the President's sentences any the more just or manly, President Wilson's understanding of the vital interests of freedom involved in the war any the more patent? Again we think not. Mr. Bell's interpretation only accentuates the wrong done to the Allies, above all to France and England. But phrases like these reveal the inner soul of a man, and if the soul disclosed to the world in the President's words is the soul of the North American Republic, then the time when it, too, will be tried in the fire of suffering cannot be very far away.

It is said that the appearance of President Wilson's Note immediately on the heels of the German attempt to make the bedraggled, blood-smeared eagle of the Hohenzollern assume the appearance of the dove of peace was an accidental coincidence, not a pre-arranged stage effect. The President, it is explained, really composed his tract as an election bomb or squib, but did not find a suitable opportunity during the fight to let it off. But he considered it too profound and brilliant a piece of literary phrase-building to be lost altogether to an admiring world, and therefore promptly grasped the chance the German haggard disguised as dove gave to explode it in the sight of all men. The style and matter of the tract rather lead to the conclusion that here we have the true explanation of this unhappy essay in peace making, and if it meant no more than this it might be passed by in silence. Unfortunately, Dr. Wilson speaks in the name of a great nation—and defiles it by crediting it with motives so sordid and an appreciation of the facts relating to the origin and conduct of the war so inexpressibly mean and false as to put the Republic in imminent danger of being distrusted and shrunk from as instinctively as Prussian ruffianism has made all civilised men shrink from the Germans. Are Ameri-

cans quite sure that the composition was not, in some shape, disseminated among German voters in the States during the election? It will, we fear, be impossible to trust either the heart or the head of the President again in affairs international. He would be useless as a mediator in negotiations for peace, and that fact alone should make us thankful. As little shall we allow American interference with us as they did interference by us in the settlement the North imposed on the beaten South at the close of the Civil War.

It would appear that the flurry of credit dearth which overtook New York a month ago was due, not to the manoeuvres of speculators, but to the operation of the Federal Reserve Bank law; that at least is the explanation offered by the *New York Commercial Chronicle*. The reserve banks had to pay up the last instalment of their reserves, and in doing so were compelled to draw upon the New York clearing banks, who in this way found their reserves in turn seriously impinged upon, and it is contended that the Federal Banks thus really do nothing in the last resort to protect the ordinary banking system of the Republic from serious derangements in times of crises. Certainly it looks a strange thing that when gold was flowing into the country in such unprecedented amounts as to seem almost unendable, short credits on the New York market should rise to 7, 10, and 15 per cent. in the first week of December, but the explanation is that it was owing to the depletion of the Clearing Banks' reserves. These reserves showed a surplus of \$124,107,000 on November 4, and by December 1 that surplus had dwindled to \$41,000,000, and a pinch followed as a matter of course. The surplus was the smallest shown in any weekly return of the clearing banks since the Federal Reserve system was instituted, and it was so in spite of imports of gold this year amounting to \$700,000,000. This gold seems to be sucked away by the Federal Reserve banks throughout the country and to disappear from public ken.

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A curious fact has been brought to light by the investigations of the Georgian Bay Canal Commission. It is that two-thirds of the Canadian wheat export in 1913 passed through United States ports. That this should be so when the hundreds of millions of dollars sunk by the Dominion in developing facilities for the transit of goods by water and rail inside its boundary is remembered, suggests reflections and should cause inquiry. Why should the wheat prefer to leave the continent by United States ports? It is because of the Canadian tariff against British imports, says the *New York Chronicle*. This is a singular explanation for a strenuous Protectionist organ to give, but there seems to be some reason behind it. The ratio of British to American imports into Canada has fallen steadily with each addition to the tariff imposts against British goods, says the paper, and so has the number of ocean-going vessels calling at Canadian ports. There is no longer a keen inducement to send a British steamer to Canada with a cargo, for the reason that the 25 per cent. average tariff on British goods has been quite sufficient to discourage trade in a great many lines of British goods. Perhaps the Overseas Premiers, when they get into consultation about the affairs of the Empire next year, will consider the question thus indicated. Several years before the war a noticeable transfer of British tramp steamers from Canadian to United States ports took place, with a consequent increase in the facilities for overseas shipments from such ports as New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and Baltimore. Protectionism is evidently not just the best thing possible for Canada.

Recent investigations by Mr. Ellwood Wilson, chief forester of the Laurentide Paper Manufacturing Co., seem to indicate that the total area of timber land in Canada available for the pulp maker is very much less than was at one time estimated. It has fallen, in fact, from 800,000,000 acres to something like half that area, but Mr. Wilson estimates that there is 147,247 square miles of forest land in the Province of Quebec at present accessible to points of consumption by water or rail, and that the total available standing timber, spruce and balsam, in this major portion of Quebec is about 450,000,000 stacked cords. As the total consumption in 1915 was 3,050,000 cords or so, this means that there should be enough material in the Quebec forests to last for 150 years, but consumption may increase, and it will be wise not to neglect reforestation until half the area has been stripped barren and bare.

Insurance News.

The Car and General Insurance Corporation has entered into a provisional agreement for the transfer to them of the business of the Driving Accident and Third Party Indemnity Association, whose policies are guaranteed by the Corporation. The business thus to be taken over dates from 1907, when the company was formed under the title of the Workmen and General Insurance Society, and it is under the same direction as the Car and General, and for the past year its accounts showed a nett premium income of over £12,000. A petition for the sanction of the Court will be heard on January 16.

For November fire losses in Canada and the United States came to £3,979,700, as compared with £4,241,000 in the corresponding month last year. This brings the aggregate for the 11 months to date up to £41,876,000—an increase of £9,484,000 over the figures for the same period in 1915.

Monte Video Water Works.—Gross revenue for Oct., £17,065; increase, £1,780. Aggregate from Jan. 1, £168,145; increase, £20,538.

The branch office of the National Bank of South Africa, Limited, at 117, Cannon Street, has been removed to 18, St. Swithin's Lane.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company have just issued an ingenious and artistic desk mirror containing an almanack which can be adjusted each month, as necessary. This calendar will be a very useful article for the business man's desk. The company has also issued its customary pocket diary. This year it contains four photogravures from paintings by Charles Dixon, R.I., of the company's vessels in the service of the Government from the Crimean War of 1854 to the present conflict.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

MINES.

Central Mining and Investment.—8s. per share, tax free, payable Jan. 8.

Cook's Pioneer.—1s. per share, less tax, payable Jan. 10.

Consolidated Langlaagte.—10 per cent. (2s. per share), against 12½ per cent.

De Beers Consolidated.—On the preference, 40 per cent. (20s. per share), less tax at 5s. This is the preference dividend in respect of the 12 months to Dec. 31, 1916.

Ginsberg Gold.—7½ per cent. (1s. 6d. per share), same as a year ago.

Jupiter.—Interim of 3½ per cent. (9d. per share), for six months ending Dec. 31, payable Jan. 26. This is the first dividend since 1912.

Knights Deep.—Interim of 10 per cent. (2s. per share), for six months ending Dec. 31, being at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, payable Jan. 26, against 7½ per cent.

New Kleinfontein.—The directors announce that the financial position of the company does not permit declaration of a Dec. dividend.

New Primrose.—5 per cent. (1s. per share), against 7½ per cent.

New Unified Main Reef.—10 per cent. (2s. per share), same as a year ago.

Robinson Deep.—Interim on the "A" shares of 4s. per share for six months ending Dec. 31, payable Feb. 23.

Simmer and Jack Proprietary.—Interim of 3½ per cent. (9d. per share), for six months to Dec. 31, being at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum, payable Feb. 9, against 5 per cent.

Sub Nigel.—Interim 5 per cent. (1s. per share), for six months ending Dec. 31, being at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, payable Feb. 9, against 2½ per cent.

Van Ryn Deep.—20 per cent. (4s. per share), against 17½ per cent.

Witwatersrand.—25 per cent. (5s. per share), same as a year ago.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.—2½ per cent. on the common, payable March 1, same as a year ago.

British Assam Tea.—5 per cent. (actual), less tax at 4s. 6d., payable Feb. 1, same as a year ago.

Dooloogram Tea.—5 per cent. (actual), less tax at 4s. 6d., payable Feb. 1, same as a year ago.

European Gas.—Interim of 5s. per share, tax free, against 10s. a share a year ago.

Imperial Tea.—2½ per cent. (actual), less tax at 4s. 6d., payable Feb. 1.

Kawie (Java) Rubber.—Interim of 5 per cent. (actual), less tax, for year ending March 31, 1917.

Kuala Selangor Rubber.—Third interim on account of 1916 of 8½d. per share, payable (less tax at 4s. 6d.) Feb. 2.

Lautaro Nitrate.—Interim on account of 1916 of 6s. per share, tax free, payable Jan. 1, against 4s.

Nitrogen Products and Carbide Co., Limited.—Interim of 3 per cent. for half-year ending December 31, payable January 15.

Philadelphia Company.—Quarterly of 1½ per cent. on the common, payable Feb., against 1½ per cent.

Selangor Rubber.—Third interim of 8d. per share, less tax, same as a year ago.

Star Assurance.—Interim at the rate of 7d., less tax, per £1 share, payable Jan. 5, same as a year ago.

Toronto Railway.—2 per cent. for the quarter ending Dec. 31, being at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, payable Jan. 2, same as a year ago.

Mr. R. P. Hewit has resigned his position as a director of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank, Limited, and Mr. Alfred Watkin, of Manchester and Lymm, has been appointed to fill the vacancy.

The Midland Railway Co. announces that, with a view of simplifying the register, transfers of stock, after March 1, 1917, will be limited to sums of £1 and multiples of £1, unless the transaction involves no change of ownership.

Mr. Albert Edward Bowen has been elected chairman of the Buenos Ayres Great Southern Railway Co., Limited, in place of the late Mr. David Simson, M.Inst.C.E., and Mr. Henry Charles Allen has been elected deputy-chairman.

The trade returns of the Union of South Africa for September show total imports amounting to £3,982,746, and exports of £1,345,809, exclusive of gold. Gross revenue collections for the same period were £535,744.

Those handy publications, Mathieson's *Mining Highest and Lowest Prices*, &c., 1s. nett, and the *Handbook for Investors* for 1917, 2s. 6d. nett, make their eighteenth appearance this year, and seem to be brought quite up to date. They are concise and reliable in their information, and very useful, therefore, to all interested in stocks and shares.

We have received from the Government of the Australian Commonwealth its annual statistical digest covering the year 1916. While the booklet is crammed with statistics of all kinds relating to the welfare of the Commonwealth, it is small enough to fit into the waistcoat pocket, and is therefore most handy for reference.

The directors of the Carron Grove Paper Co. have decided to issue at par to the shareholders 12,000 ordinary shares of £5 each, which will bring the total issued up to 24,000 shares. Payment for these new shares will be made by the appropriation of £60,000 of the reserve, or such part thereof as may correspond to the number of shares accepted by the present shareholders.

IRISH RAILWAYS.

		£	£	£	£
Belfast and County Down ..	Dec. 22	3,373	+	33	187,459
Grand Canal ..	" 22	872	—	219	26,552
Great Northern ..	" 22	25,785	—	2,115	1,233,068
Gt. Southern and Western ..	" 22	33,833	—	1,417	1,715,990
Midland Great Western ..	" 22	13,267	+	452	677,481

* From Jan. 1. † From July 1.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Assam Bengal ..	Nov. 11	1,26,000	—	12,828	8,25,000
Bengal & N.W. ..	" 11	4,87,020	+	142,713	21,36,860
Bengal Nagpur ..	" 25	9,86,000	+	1,71,000	3,20,08,307
Bombay, Baroda ..	Dec. 16	15,66,000	+	99,000	1,40,09,000
Burma ..	Nov. 11	4,01,508	+	60,896	1,25,29,757
Delhi Umballa ..	Dec. 16	74,800	+	22,498	8,94,800
East Indian ..	" 23	21,49,000	+	19,000	2,57,40,000
Gt. Indian Penin. ..	" 16	23,83,600	+	2,12,900	2,15,00,300
Lucknow-Bareilly ..	Nov. 11	37,942	+	10,096	1,88,832
Madras and S. ..	" 18	8,75,000	+	1,45,435	58,91,000
Mahratta ..	" 11	89,454	—	22,436	6,37,318
Nizam's Gd. (Broad) ..	" 11	70,465	+	2,030	3,77,112
Robilkund and ..	" 11	35,582	+	4,759	1,97,127
Kumaon ..	" 11	5,92,720	+	42,050	39,64,374
South Indian ..	" 18				1,46,783

† April 1. † October 1.

COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

		£	£	£	£
Beira ..	Oct. *	30,086	—	12,071	130,775
Canadian Northern ..	Dec. 21	\$805,700	+	\$31,300	\$20,762,300
Canadian Pacific ..	" 21	\$2,979,000	+	\$34,000	\$73,270,000
Gr. Trk. Main Line ..	" 21	199,225	+	39,931	9,509,307
Gr. Trk. Western ..	" 21	29,074	—	11,630	1,852,512
Detroit G. H. & M. ..	" 21	11,131	—	2,636	658,838
Gr Trk Pac Prairie Sc ..	" 14	31,201	—	7,054	536,800
Mashonaland ..	Oct. *	54,580	—	6,128	—
Mid. of Westn. Aus. ..	" 11	6,878	—	317	24,048
New Cape Central ..	Nov. 4	1,748	—	386	68,069
Rhodesia ..	Oct. *	84,897	+	6,477	435,868

* Months. † July 1. † Jan. 1. c From Oct. 1.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

		\$	\$	\$	\$
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	Dec. 14	1,039,000	+	99,000	22,904,000
Chicago G.W. ..	" 7	325,000	+	40,000	7,500,000
Colorado & South'n ..	" 7	353,000	+	16,000	7,729,000
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	" 14	516,000	+	70,000	12,913,000
Louisv'e & Nashv'e ..	" 7	1,441,000	+	207,000	29,343,000
Minn. S.P. (Soo) ..	Nov. 30	819,000	—	243,000	15,456,000
Missouri Pacific ..	Dec. 14	864,000	+	208,000	18,820,000
Southern ..	" 14	—	—	153,000	—

§ Includes Wisconsin Central. † From July 1.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—HOME.

		£	£	£	£
Bristol ..	Dec. 22	11,265	—	1,433	515,184
Dublin United ..	" 8	6,070	—	314	298,706
Hastings and Dist. ..	" 22	928	—	79	52,711
Isle of Thanet ..	" 23	251	—	7	3,192
Lancashire United ..	" 20	1,402	—	144	92,853
Provincial ..	" 26	2,093	—	51	21,529
Yorks. (West. Rdn.) ..	" 24	1,733	—	7	91,222

* From Oct. 1. † From Jan. 1.

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Week ending	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.		GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.	
		Amount	In. or dec. on last year.	Amount	In. or dec. on last year.
Alcoy and Gandia ..	Dec. 23	Ps. 13,000	—	Ps. 3,500	Ps. 653,300
Antofagasta (Chili) ..	" 24	44,885	—	14,725	1,800,840
Arauco ..	Oct. 23	12,000	—	2,775	185,238
Argentine N.E. ..	Dec. 23	7,000	—	343	106,302
Bilbao R. and Canta ..	Nov. 11	5,437	—	221	52,244
Bolivar ..	" 8	6,100	—	2,015	37,250
Brazil ..	Sept. *	M3,863,000	+	M365,734	M320,900
Brazil Gt. Southern ..	" *	M18,50,500	+	M15,600	M332,570
B. Ayres & Pacific ..	Dec. 23	90,000	—	10,000	2,112,000
Do. Central ..	Nov. 23	22,855	—	5	128,374
Do. Gt. South'n ..	Dec. 24	118,000	—	4,000	2,641,254
Do. Western ..	" 24	48,000	—	4,000	1,309,000
Central Argentine ..	" 23	101,900	—	400	2,778,600
C. Ur. g'ay of Mts V. ..	" 23	13,903	—	1,177	310,384
Do. East'n Ex. ..	" 23	5,677	—	1,460	108,115
Do. West'n Ex. ..	" 23	2,075	—	1,029	50,851
Do. North'n Ex. ..	" 23	1,976	—	359	47,310
Colombian National ..	Oct. *	12,400	—	2,200	115,850
Cordoba Central ..	Dec. 23	27,500	—	430	755,475
Costa Rica ..	Oct. 21	4,313	—	2,123	81,875
Cuban Central ..	Dec. 23	9,647	—	492	228,647
Dorada Extension ..	Nov. 11	8,300	—	1,400	91,200
Egyptian Delta ..	Nov. 20a	3,484	—	1,797	133,901
Entre Rios ..	Dec. 23	10,800	—	100	286,400
French Sante Fé ..	Sept. *	99,264	—	21,521	818,311
Gt. South. of Spain ..	Dec. 16	Ps. 50,414	—	Ps. 34,933	Ps. 726,873
Gt. West. of Brazil ..	" 23	18,300	—	8,700	566,600
Havana Central ..	" 23	1,682	—	4,751	155,262
Inter. of C. Amer. ..	Nov. 11	38,219	—	5,736	516,760
La Guaira and Car. ..	" *	7,000	—	250	85,250
Leopoldina ..	Dec. 23	27,672	—	4,768	1,288,254
Manila (Nr. & Sth.) ..	" 16	10,444	—	4,113	465,589
Midland Uruguay ..	Nov. 23	13,404	—	4,403	58,886
Mogiana ..	Sept. *	M2,300,000	—	M131,436	M166,688
N.W. of Uruguay ..	Nov. 11	\$26,500	—	\$3,235	\$119,207
Nitrate ..	Dec. 15b	31,547	—	4,977	653,372
Paraguay Central ..	" 23	2,510	—	60	65,240
Paulista ..	Sept. *	M3,500,000	—	M393,044	M227,500
Peruvian Corp'n ..	Nov. *	\$925,826	—	\$174,100	\$4,514,650
Salvador ..	Dec. 23	\$23,500	—	—	\$43,480
S. Paulo (Brazilian) ..	Nov. 27	38,598	—	1,581	1,451,446
Sorocabana ..	Oct. *	M1,883,000	—	M60,765	M152,200
Taltal ..	Nov. 27	17,078	—	240	95,738
United of Havana ..	Dec. 23	34,304	—	4,822	790,237
West'n of Havana ..	" 23	3,582	—	1,275	140,517
Zafra and Huelva ..	Oct. *	12,003	—	657	116,211

* Months † From Jan. 1. † From July 1. c Net. b 28 days.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS.—FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.

		£	£	Ms.	£	£
Anglo-Argentine ..	Dec. 16	£3,833	—	1,999	2,561,219	6,196
Auckland Electric ..	Nov. 20b	20,729	—	181	105,015	979
Brazilian Traction ..	Oct. §	M3,821,000	—	M86,000	M38,194,000	M931,580
Brisbane Elec. Inv. ..	Nov. §	26,740	—	4,380	357,160	10,086
British Columbia ..	Oct. §	93,418	—	34,043	293,803	148,656
B. A. Lacroze ..	Nov. §	39,173	—	3,430	190,778	16,634
Burmah Electric ..	Nov 16b	Rs. 26,824	—	Rs. 3,129	Rs. 188,805	Rs. 8,205
Calcutta ..	Dec. 16	Rs. 72,265	—	Rs. 4,884	Rs31,79,698	Rs. 188,307
Cordoba ..	"	"	"	"	"	"
P. & T. ..	Oct. 13,533	—	92	6	98,087	740
Hongkong ..	Nov. 25	£11,686	—	985	£574,249	£157,234
La Plata ..	"	4,342	—	202	46,399	429
Lima ..	"	33,625	—	2,905	376,975	19,763
Madras Electric ..	Dec. 15	Rs. 31,938	—	Rs. 3,272	Rs7,27,108	Rs. 54,281
Mexico ..	Nov. §	£215,256	—	£108,669	£3,193,106	£197,227
Rangoon ..	"	5,033	—	5	46,555	1,839
Singapore Electric ..	"	£12,833	—	£707	£55,566	£55,527
Toronto ..	Oct. §	£437,623	—	£4,579	£4,355,734	£407,177
United of Monte V. ..	"	28,729	—	1,545	347,772	17,171
Vera Cruz ..	June	£380,700	—	£328,400	£753,300	£506,600
Winnipeg ..	Oct. §	£96,243	—	£8,727	£975,126	£23,556

b 28 days. * From Jan. 1. § Nett. a From July 1. c Two weeks.

MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

NAME.	Month.	NETT EARNINGS FOR MONTH.		No. of Mths.	NETT EARNINGS TO DATE.	
		Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year.		Amount.	In. or Dec. on last year.
Atchison T. & S. Fé ..	Oct.	Dols. 5,516,000	+	4	19,509,000	+
Atlantic Coast Line ..	"	882,000	+	4	2,480,000	+
Baltimore & Ohio ..	"	3,061,000	—	10	12,729,000	—
Canadian Northern ..	Nov.	1,250,000	+	4	5,472,300	+
Canadian Pacific ..	Oct.	5,675,000	—	10	20,200,000	—
Chesapeake & Ohio ..	"	1,394,000	+	4	5,684,000	+
Chicago & N.W. ..	"	3,395,000	—	10	11,665,000	—
Chicago Burl. & Q. ..	"	4,308,000	—	4	15,287,000	—
Chicago G.W. ..	"	503,000	—	4	1,800,000	—
Chicago Mil. & S.P. ..	"	3,572,000	—	4	13,191,000	—
Chicago, Rock I. & P. ..	"	2,321,000	—	4	8,391,000	—
Colorado & Southern ..	"	649,000	—	4	2,060,000	—
Cuba ..	Sept.	183,000	—	3	706,000	—
Delaware & Hud. ..	Oct.	716,000	—	10	6,622,000	—
Denver & Rio Gran. ..	"	1,080,000	—	4	3,634,000	—
Erie ..	"	1,638,000	—	10	15,610,000	—
Gr. Tr. Main Line ..	"	£277,000	—	10	£2,320,400	—
Grand Trunk Westn ..	"	£24,050	—	10	£384,150	—
Detroit G. H. & Mil. ..	"	£4,250	—	10	£31,100	—
Gt. Northern ..	"	3,590,000	—	4	13,565,000	—
Illinois Central ..	"	1,718,000	—	4	5,826,000	—
Kansas City Southn. ..	"	428,000	—	4	1,451,000	—
Lehigh Valley ..	"	1,211,000	—	4	4,725,000	—
Louisville & Nashv. ..	"	1,967,000	—	4	6,755,000	—
Minn. S.P. (Soo) ..	"	1,337,000	—	4	5,310,000	—
Miss. K. & Texas ..	"	1,096,000	—	4	3,177,000	—
Missouri Pacific ..	"	2,100,000	—	4	6,495,000	—
New York Cent. & H. ..	"	5,677,000	—	10	53,702,000	—
N.Y. N. Haven & H. ..	"	2,061,000	—	4	8,992,000	—
New York Ont. & W. ..	"	81,000	—	4	1,051,000	—
Norfolk & Western ..	"	2,124,000	—	4	8,073,000	—
Northern Pacific ..	"	3,272,000	—	4	11,777,000	—
Pennsylvania East ..	"	9,931,000	—	10	94,927,000	—
and West Lines ..	"	1,802,000	—	4	5,653,000	—
St. Louis & San F. ..	"	682,000	—	4	1,811,000	—
Seaboard Air Line ..	"	2,433,000	—	4	7,575,000	—
Southern ..	"	5,915,000	—	4	22,376,000	—
Southern Pacific ..	"	5,797,000	—	4	18,703,000	—
Union Pacific ..	"	1,236,000	—	10	9,493,000	—
Wabash ..	"	—	—	10	4,859,000	—

§ Includes Wisconsin Central. * Gross earnings. † Surplus.

Answers to Correspondents.

Sapper.—Yes to your first question, but as to No. 2 we are doubtful. Best, perhaps, stick to the bond for the present. (3) Neither stock is easy to sell, but No. 1 should fetch about par. Cannot give you a price, but perhaps about 80 if you are lucky.

Journalist.—Perhaps. This is what we think and say. (1) New. May hold, not worth averaging. (2) Permanent outlook dubious, but may have a war-impelled spurt. Sell when it occurs. (3) This might be bought now—it pays nearly 5½ per cent. (4) Quite good to hold. Get out if you see a profit, because the yield at present price is meagre. (5) A purely far-away gamble about the result, of which we have no opinion. But such romances of finance often pay. (6) A hopeless affair it seems to us. (7) We cannot give you a price for them, but they should be stuck to and bought on every good chance.

K. H. P.—We cannot be very definite, but probably during next month.

Mere.—(1) We have not a high opinion of this concern, and cannot recommend a purchase. (2) Those shares stand at, considerable premium, but it is a straightforward company carefully managed. On an average the dividends should be satisfactory.

S. R.—Exchequer 6 per cent. bonds.

C. M. & G.

NEW BONUS REPORT AND FULL DETAILED BALANCE-SHEET.

Apply to A. D. BESANT (General Manager),
Clerical, Medical and General Life Assurance Society,
15, St. James's Square, Pall Mall, London, S.W.

SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1824.

FUNDS OVER £10,500,000.

FIRE (INCLUDING LOSS OF PROFITS), LIFE, ACCIDENT, ILLNESS, ANNUITIES, PENSIONS, LEASEHOLD, BURGLARY, CLASS BREAKAGE, TRANSIT OF SECURITIES, FIDELITY, PROPERTY OWNERS' LIABILITIES, HORSE DRIVING ACCIDENTS, MOTOR CAR RISKS, THIRD PARTY, EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY AND MARINE INSURANCES EFFECTED ON THE MOST FAVOURABLE TERMS.

Edinburgh: 35, St. Andrew Square.

London: 5, Walbrook, E.C., and 5, Pall Mall, S.W.

PHENIX ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1782.

Head Office: PHENIX HOUSE, KING WILLIAM STREET, LONDON, E.C.

Total Assets Exceed **£16,000,000.**

Claims Paid Exceed **£94,000,000.**

Chairman—Rt. Hon. LORD GEORGE HAMILTON, P.C., G.C.S.I.

FIRE. LIFE. ACCIDENT. MARINE.

Loss of Profits following Fire, Workmen's Compensation, Fidelity Guarantee, Burglary, Trustee and Executor, &c.

Prospectuses and Proposal Forms may be obtained on application to any of Branch Offices or Agencies, or to the Head Offices.

General Manager - SIR GERALD H. RYAN.

The Investors' Review.

Money and Credit Notes.

BANK RATE 6 PER CENT. (Increased from 5 per cent. on Thursday, July 13.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

So far as rates go nothing has changed this week, but there has been a considerable overturn of money as will be seen by an examination of the Bank of England figures. There is nothing remarkable or, indeed, unusual in that at this time of year, but the market has felt no pressure for money. Instead of rushing to the Bank for help it has simply ceased to renew Treasury bills as they fell due, and by so doing obliged the Government itself to get advances from the Bank. Accordingly Government securities have increased £15,000,000 on the week, and all the money, together with the £1,464,000 drawn off the Government balances, has gone on to the "Other" deposits, which are £17,719,000 up at £126,727,000. At the same time the reserve has shrunk a further £493,000, and its proportion to the liabilities by reason of their large increase has fallen to 18½ per cent., which is 2½ per cent. less than it was a week ago and 2½ per cent. below a year ago. In the discount market there has been a keen inquiry for end of January and February Treasury bills, with few offering.

An interesting item of news has been published by the *Daily Telegraph* from its Paris correspondent. It supports in a remarkable way the contention of this journal, put forward almost from the outset of hostilities, that the Reichsbank was in the matter of its gold as much a deluding liar as the politicians in their clumsily astute diplomacy. A continual parade has been made by the Reichsbank of its financial strength in

bullion against all probabilities. The metal in stock has been made to look as if it had increased almost continually throughout the struggle, just as if the plunder drawn from the occupied territories had made good the strain of the war. We know that it cannot have been so, and now this correspondent tells us that gold has been passing into Switzerland from Germany for some time. A story quoted by him a month ago described a railway van with several millions of francs in gold brought to Berne to stop the decline of the German exchange in Switzerland. The story was contradicted at the time, but is now admitted to be true, and the amount conveyed is said to have been 10,000,000 francs (£400,000). Fresh news from Switzerland mentions three more consignments as having crossed the frontier en route for Berne, and the entire amount of the metal thus sent from Germany is now said to be £1,750,000. More is expected and more will have to go to that and to other places if the mark is to be propped up on foreign exchanges, so that if the obstinate Prussian persists in his fury of rage until he completes the ruin of the empire the Allies may find little or no gold left in the vaults of the Reichsbank or in the country.

It is announced that another loan, £18,000,000 in amount, is about to be issued by the Commonwealth of Australia. It was no doubt arranged for in the forecast of requirements made some time ago by the Commonwealth Ministry, and it may therefore be worth while to give a few facts illustrative of the effort Australia has made in this war. Mr. Higgs, the Commonwealth Treasurer, made a statement in September last, summarised by the *Australasian Insurance and Banking Record*, which gives us the means of comprehending what has been and is being done. Including the current fiscal year ended June 30 next, the estimated cost of the war to the Commonwealth is £141,506,000. For the current year alone, in fact, the outlay is put at £85,300,000, or about £1,640,000 per week. How is the money being found? In the three years £131,289,000 will have been borrowed, but £49,744,000 of this has been or will be supplied by the home Government. In Australia itself, however, another £81,144,000 has to be raised by loans, and £371,000 is expected to be provided by the Australian notes fund. Even this is not all, for £10,500,000 of deferred pay has to be added, making the total estimated war debt on June 30 next £141,789,000. And even that is not the last word, for during the three years then ended £33,808,000 will have been borrowed for railway construction, steamboats, &c., and that added in makes the total new debt of the three years £175,597,000. All these items take no account of the note issue, amounting to nearly another £46,000,000, which, however, is partly covered by cash and Government securities. Add the separate debts of the six State Governments, estimated to reach £370,000,000 by the

THE MANCHESTER AND LIVERPOOL DISTRICT BANKING COMPANY LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED 1829.

Head Office: Spring Gardens, Manchester.
London Office: 75, Cornhill.

Deposits	-	-	-	£30,630,010
Cash, etc., Bills, Investments	-	-	-	20,487,555
Advances	-	-	-	13,454,332

30th June, 1916.

*Foreign Banking Business transacted.
Bank acts as Trustee or Executor.*

end of June next, and the aggregate public debt of Australia will probably then exceed £540,000,000, exclusive of local and municipal debts. Can the population carry this load? That will depend largely on the wisdom of its guides.

With what minute care the French Government hunts out sources of taxation may be illustrated by some particulars of the estimated yield of the new taxes summarised by the Paris correspondent of the *Morning Post*:—"A modification of the income-tax provides £8,000,000; the exceptional war tax, £1,000,000; doubling the rates of various taxes, £950,000; increased duties on income from securities, £1,500,000; a new tax on the profits of directors of foreign companies, £20,000; additional taxes on music-halls, theatres, and cinemas, £280,000; increased duties on drinks, £3,280,000; a new tax on mineral waters, £80,000; a new tax on pharmaceutical products, £300,000; extra duties on colonial products, &c., such as tea, £2,024,000; an additional tax on sugar, £3,600,000; an additional tax on tobacco, £3,200,000; and increased revenue from postal, telegraphic, and telephonic charges and from dues on silver articles, £2,400,000. It should be noted that these estimates relate to a war year, and that in a normal year the figures would probably reach a much larger total."

It is alleged, but not officially confirmed, that the Federal Reserve Board has authorised the New York Federal Reserve Bank to appoint the Bank of England its correspondent. That, if true, shows that the Federal Board desires to bring American banking into closer touch with the banking institutions of the United Kingdom than they have ever been before. In America the opinion expressed is that it marks a radical departure in the financial policy of the States, and no doubt it will receive further extensions because the Bank of France and the Bank of the Netherlands, as well as the Banks of Italy and Russia, and by and by the Bank of restored Belgium, will all be worthy of more intimate relations with the banks of the United States, harmony and co-ordination in business, not rivalry and cut-throat competition, being the ideal of the future. And American banks should now more than ever before be able to afford good security.

SILVER.

Owing to the holidays there has been very little business passing in the silver market, where the only demand has been for coinage purposes. Supplies from America were larger, and with a little selling to secure profits the price has declined to 35½d. per oz.

Applications for the Rs. 1,20,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 13,26,04,826. Of these Rs. 1,30,000 were allotted in bills, Rs. 41,85,000 in deferred transfers, and Rs. 76,76,000 in immediate transfers. Tenders for bills and deferred transfers at rs. 4-5-32d., and for immediate transfers at rs. 4½d., received about 6 per cent. The amount to be offered next Wednesday is again Rs. 1,20,00,000. Since April 1st the total sales have been Rs. 32,27,77,364, realising £21,692,322.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict., cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, December 27, 1916.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued	£ 71,291,165	Government Debt	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion	52,840,163
		Silver Bullion	—
	£71,291,165		£71,291,165

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities	£ 57,187,707
Rest	3,310,501	Other Securities	106,461,404
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts)	52,116,381	Notes	31,614,630
Other Deposits	126,726,657	Gold and Silver Coin	1,664,750
Seven Day and other Bills	21,952		
	£196,728,491		£196,728,491

Dated Dec. 28, 1916.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year.

Last year. Dec. 29.		Dec. 20, 1916.	Dec. 27, 1916.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,312,122	Rest	3,277,154	3,310,501	33,347	—
49,677,317	Pub. Deposits	53,580,814	52,116,381	—	1,464,434
111,972,557	Other do.	109,007,255	126,726,657	17,719,402	—
17,882	7 Day Bills	23,891	21,952	—	1,939
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
32,840,016	Gov. Securities	42,187,508	57,187,707	—	15,000,199
112,075,710	Other do.	104,686,907	126,726,657	—	1,780,497
34,617,152	Total Reserve	33,573,700	33,079,380	494,320	—
				18,247,069	18,247,069
				Increase	Decrease.
£	Note Circulation	£	£	£	£
35,309,255	Coin and Bullion	39,224,100	39,675,535	451,435	—
51,476,407	Proportion	54,347,800	54,304,915	—	42,885
21.4 p.c.	Bank Rate	20.6 p.c.	18.5 p.c.	—	2.1 p.c.
5 "		6 "	6 "	—	—

CURRENCY NOTES.

Return of Currency Notes for the week ended December 27, 1916.

	Issued.	Cancelled.	Outstanding.
	£	£	£
£1 notes	3,537,130	1,605,068	103,717,392
10s. notes	974,200	601,881	31,236,748
Note certificates	320,000	—	15,190,000
Previous total	502,420,308	351,817,017	—
	507,251,638	357,107,462	150,144,176

Ratio of gold held against notes: this week, 22.11 p.c.; last week, 22.32 p.c.

SHORT TERM GOVERNMENT LOANS.

	Nett Sales Last Week.	Nett Sales This Week.	Total Outstanding.
	£	£	£
Treasury Bills	74,000	429,000*	1,148,116,000
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919	—	—	34,222,000
Do. 1920	—	—	237,805,969
Do. 1921	—	—	62,464,000
6% Exchequer Bonds	10,035,000	6,251,000	150,010,000
War Expenditure Certificates	321,100	123,300	29,594,500
War Savings Certificates	900,000	600,000	39,950,000

* Decrease.

IMPERIAL BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Dec. 21, 1916.	Dec. 14, 1916.	Dec. 6, 1916.	Dec. 24, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Notes in reserve	11,770,000	13,650,000	12,000,000	7,038,100
Gold	147,150,000	147,340,000	146,510,000	161,174,000
Gold in reserve abroad	214,970,000	214,990,000	214,990,000	27,000,900
Loans and Discounts, including Treasury Bonds	735,830,000	697,280,000	679,010,000	—
Circulation note issue	846,200,000	838,350,000	830,500,000	537,500,000
Deposits, including Treasury deposits	23,785,000	23,620,000	23,935,000	20,414,403

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For 7 days ended Dec. 23.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
	£
Customs	1,621,000
Excise	2,319,000
Estate, &c., Duties	420,000
Stamps	41,000
Land Tax and House Duty	20,000
Property and Income Tax	1,090,000
Excess Profits Tax	2,751,000
Land Values	—
Post Office	200,000
Crown Lands	—
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	26
Miscellaneous	25,015
Bullion advances repaid	—
For Treasury Bills	32,475,000
War Loan, 1925-8	—
War Loan, 1925-45	—
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919	—
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920	—
5% Exchequer Bonds, 1921	—
6% Exchequer Bonds, 1920	6,251,000
War Expenditure Certificates	123,300
War Savings Certificates	600,000
Other Debts created under War Loan Act, 1915, and Finance Act, 1916	—
Telegraph Money Act, 1913	—
Under Post Office Rly. Act, 1913	—
Under Military Works Acts, 1897-1903	—
Under Housing Act	—
Redemption of Exchequer Bonds, 1904	—
Canard Loan—repayment on account of principal	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares	—
Ways and Means Advances	2,000,000
Decrease in Exchequer balances	301,555
	£50,239,896
National Debt Service	—
Interest, &c., on War Debt	724,438
Development & Road Impvt.	—
Payments to Local Taxation	92,700
Other Consolidated Fund Charges	—
Supply Services	16,523,000
Bullion Advances	50,000
For Advance for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	—
For Treasury Bills	30,341,000
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the War Loan Redemption Act, 1910	—
Issues under Section 61 of Finance Act, 1916	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913	—
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913	—
Under Military Works Acts	8,008
Under Housing Act	—
Public Buildings Expenditure Act, 1903	—
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8	—
Old Sinking Fund, 1910-11	—
For Redemption of Exchequer Bonds, 1904	—
Exchequer Bonds, 1916	—
Canard Loan repayment issued to reduce debt under the Canard Agreement	—
Deficiency advances repaid	—
Ways and Means Advances repaid	2,447,000
Increase in Exchequer balances	—
	£50,239,896

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Date.	1916.	1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
January	1,071,948,000	918,685,000	153,263,000	—
February	1,107,655,000	960,743,000	146,912,000	—
March	1,364,599,000	1,231,392,000	133,207,000	—
April	1,090,356,000	976,204,000	114,092,000	—
May	1,447,416,000	1,164,194,000	283,222,000	—
June	1,147,630,000	960,209,000	187,421,000	—
July	1,239,193,000	1,116,695,000	—	77,502,000
August	1,364,782,000	1,352,519,000	12,263,000	—
September	1,136,590,000	1,000,008,000	136,582,000	—
October	1,304,880,000	1,090,919,000	213,961,000	—
Nov.	1,595,788,000	1,330,516,000	265,272,000	—
Dec. 6	363,003,000	271,441,000	91,562,000	—
" 13	319,639,000	255,433,000	64,206,000	—
" 20	323,036,000	266,660,000	56,376,000	—
" 27	198,760,000	201,996,000	—	3,236,000
Total ..	15,075,275,000	13,297,674,000	1,777,601,000	—

FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (U.S.) (dollar at 4s.).

	Dec. 1, 1916.	Nov. 24, 1916.	Dec. 3, 1915.
	£	£	£
Gold coin and certificates ..	52,383,400	56,746,000	48,845,800
Gold Redemption Fund ..	295,200	280,800	250,400
Gold Settlement Fund ..	35,156,200	34,960,200	15,940,000
Legal tender notes, silver, &c.	2,167,200	3,594,800	6,536,200
Total reserves ..	90,002,000	95,581,800	71,572,400
5% redemption fund against F.R. bank notes ..	84,000	94,000	—
10-day bills and loans ..	3,944,800	3,493,000	1,356,800
30-day bills and loans ..	5,705,200	5,494,400	2,348,000
60-day bills and loans ..	10,060,200	10,150,200	3,722,000
90-day bills and loans ..	5,668,400	5,074,600	2,153,200
Maturities over 90 days ..	234,600	306,400	691,200
Total ..	25,622,200	24,518,600	10,271,200
Investments—			
U.S. Bonds ..	8,043,000	7,885,400	2,775,000
One year U.S. Treasury notes ..	2,233,400	2,233,400	—
Municipal Warrants ..	4,250,200	4,433,200	3,564,200
Federal Reserve notes—nett.	3,660,200	3,082,800	3,623,600
Due from Fed. Res. Bks.—nett.	7,637,600	8,652,600	3,955,000
All other assets ..	499,000	530,200	1,310,400
Total assets ..	142,032,200	147,012,000	97,071,800
Paid-up capital ..	11,147,400	11,142,200	10,971,800
Government Deposits ..	5,355,400	5,263,800	3,000,000
Reserve deposits—nett.	122,706,000	127,414,400	78,593,200
Note circulation—nett.	2,676,600	2,859,200	2,793,800
Fed. Res. notes in circulation	5,600	205,600	—
All other liabilities ..	141,200	126,800	1,713,000
Total liabilities ..	142,032,200	147,012,000	97,071,800
Gold reserve against nett liabilities ..	71.4%	72.5%	80.9%
Cash reserve against nett liabilities ..	73.1%	75.3%	89.0%

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	Dec. 23, 1916	Dec. 16, 1916	Dec. 9, 1916	Dec. 24, 1915
	£	£	£	£
Loans ..	669,728,000	670,030,000	666,296,000	641,490,000
Reserve held in own Vaults ..	83,554,000	82,974,000	80,674,000	99,564,000
Reserve held in Fed. Res. Bk.	34,640,000	33,682,000	34,676,000	33,360,000
Reserve held in Other Depos.	11,018,000	11,000,000	10,754,000	11,626,000
Nett Demand Deposits ..	657,784,000	655,744,000	650,684,000	653,562,000
Nett Time Deposits ..	33,466,000	34,462,000	34,068,000	29,870,000
Circulation ..	5,760,000	5,772,000	5,914,000	7,024,000
Excess Lawful Reserve ..	15,922,000	14,705,000	13,952,000	31,702,000

Lawful Reserve consists of 18% of the Demand Deposits and 5% of the Time Deposits.

NEW YORK STATE BANKS & TRUST COMPANIES (dollar at 4s.).

	Dec. 23, 1916.	Dec. 16, 1916.	Dec. 9, 1916.	Dec. 24, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Loans ..	151,979,000	153,940,000	153,782,000	125,416,000
Specie ..	12,540,000	12,366,000	12,518,000	10,612,000
Deposits ..	161,122,000	162,434,000	162,172,000	131,020,000
Legal Tenders ..	2,162,000	2,190,000	2,164,000	2,038,000

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Dec. 28, 1916.	Dec. 21, 1916.	Dec. 14, 1916.	Dec. 30, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold in hand ..	203,036,600	203,065,040	202,640,560	200,611,480
Silver in hand ..	11,794,760	11,963,680	12,318,960	14,083,520
Bills discounted ..	24,781,000	23,768,680	23,017,280	17,168,000
Advances ..	52,195,160	52,876,760	53,414,360	46,076,640
Note circulation ..	667,152,720	660,026,400	655,358,160	532,394,000
Public deposits ..	600,360	1,252,840	1,066,160	6,955,840
Private deposits ..	90,408,960	87,208,400	80,872,480	84,553,280
Foreign Bills ..	242,880	222,520	244,280	63,960

Proportion between bullion and circulation 32.20 per cent., against 32.57 per cent. last week. Advances to the State £296,000,000, increase £4,000,000. The adjourned payments of drafts in Paris on account of the moratorium, £24,188,560, decrease £62,360, and at the branches £29,364,760, decrease £52,120.

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Dec. 16, 1916	Dec. 9, 1916	Dec. 1, 1916	Dec. 18, 1915
	£	£	£	£
Gold ..	49,154,813	48,815,209	48,336,301	34,499,390
Silver ..	29,775,532	29,670,428	29,810,655	30,241,172
Foreign Bills ..	3,809,185	3,835,753	3,887,237	4,153,066
Discounts and Short Bills ..	26,135,793	25,877,205	25,977,682	26,184,959
Treasury Account, &c. ..	28,750,675	28,930,412	30,192,712	27,090,049
Notes in Circulation ..	92,634,632	92,903,356	92,904,859	82,187,439
Current Accounts, Deposits	29,078,629	28,599,244	28,019,507	27,373,198
Dividends, Interests, &c. ..	1,547,517	1,347,776	1,559,359	733,373
Government Securities ..	4,574,281	4,409,495	4,842,944	3,099,305

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Dec. 23, 1916.	Dec. 15, 1916.	Dec. 7, 1916.	Dec. 23, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Total Coin & Bullion ..	126,768,600	126,769,700	126,754,300	123,815,950
Treasury Notes ..	8,665,250	11,405,100	13,203,750	25,079,350
Bills discounted ..	412,835,700	393,378,150	390,534,200	263,295,050
Advances ..	495,354	641,350	574,950	660,700
Note circulation ..	376,745,650	373,576,450	370,094,500	304,519,000
Deposits ..	189,613,800	164,748,900	171,183,250	102,303,650

Clearing House returns during Nov., £285,269,765 against £309,547,600 in Oct

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	Nov. 20, 1916	Nov. 10, 1916	Oct. 31, 1916	Nov. 20, 1915
	£	£	£	£
Total cash ..	43,035,840	44,305,680	45,904,760	53,660,640
Inland Bills ..	19,473,240	19,403,040	20,072,960	19,470,200
Foreign Bills ..	832,600	832,600	834,080	834,520
Advances ..	5,053,880	8,581,160	8,128,720	7,396,046
Government securities	8,953,320	8,756,280	8,800,680	7,958,960
Circulation ..	148,276,120	148,367,960	147,662,080	115,798,200
Deposits at notice ..	16,950,920	16,075,360	15,142,560	11,690,040
Current accounts ..	15,304,760	14,556,320	15,398,280	19,808,800

BANK OF NORWAY.

	Dec. 15, 1916.	Dec. 7, 1916.	Nov. 30, 1916.	Dec. 15, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold ..	6,838,000	6,064,000	6,065,000	3,614,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	4,896,000	5,179,000	5,288,000	3,499,000
Gov't Securities ..	767,000	767,000	767,000	781,000
Discounts & Loans ..	6,754,000	7,006,000	7,356,000	4,509,000
Notes in Circulation ..	13,592,000	13,284,000	13,220,000	8,717,000
Deposits at notice ..	3,053,000	3,194,000	3,606,000	1,147,000

BANK OF SWEDEN.

	Dec. 16, 1916.	Dec. 9, 1916.	Dec. 2, 1916.	Dec. 18, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold ..	10,152,000	10,157,000	10,131,000	6,594,000
Balance abroad and Foreign Bills ..	8,049,000	8,083,000	8,019,000	7,126,000
Swedish and Foreign Gov't Securities ..	3,531,000	3,532,000	3,769,000	2,442,000
Discounts and Loans ..	7,143,000	7,072,000	6,317,000	6,432,000
Notes in circulation ..	21,478,000	21,142,000	21,429,000	16,899,000
Deposits at notice ..	7,132,000	6,733,000	5,559,000	6,294,000

SWISS NATIONAL BANK (25 francs to the £).

	Dec. 15, 1916.	Dec. 7, 1916.	Nov. 30, 1916.	Dec. 15, 1915.
	£	£	£	£
Gold and silver ..	15,000,832	14,070,756	14,531,768	12,966,796
Bills ..	6,099,156	6,746,180	7,054,792	5,390,712
Note circulation ..	18,574,516	18,801,888	19,167,040	16,480,524
Current and deposit accounts ..	4,543,568	4,703,188	4,531,476	3,856,800

NETHERLANDS BANK (12 Florins to the £).

	Dec. 23, 1916	Dec. 16, 1916	Dec. 9, 1916.	Dec. 24, 1915
	£	£	£	£
Gold and Silver ..	49,564,250	49,789,250	49,248,416	36,185,470
Bills and Advances ..	11,834,833	12,258,166	11,951,925	14,161,776
Note circulation ..	60,948,750	61,327,750	61,936,000	46,510,881
Deposits ..	4,575,417	4,491,250	2,892,500	5,032,335

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.	Place.	Usance.	Last Week.	This Week.
Paris ..	chqs.	27.80½	27.80	Antwerp ..	short	—	—
Brussels ..	chqs.	—	—	Italy ..	sight	32.80	32.60
Amsterdam ..	sight	11.68	11.68	Constantinople	3 mths	—	—
Christiania ..	—	17.05	17.03½	Rio de Janeiro	90 dys	124.40	124.40
Stockholm ..	—	16.04	16.05	Buenos Aires ..	90 dys	524.40	524.40
Copenhagen ..	—	17.40	17.41	Calcutta ..	T.T.	144.40	144.40
Petrograd ..	3 mths	155½	157	Bombay ..	T.T.	144.40	144.40
New York ..	cable	4.76½	4.76½	Hong Kong ..	T.T.	24.40	24.40
Lisbon ..	sight	31d.	31d.	Shanghai ..	T.T.	364.40	364.40
Madrid ..	sight	22.32½	22.35	Singapore ..	T.T.	24.40	24.40
Switzerland ..	—	24.00	24.15	Yokohama ..	4 mths	24.40	24.40

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Dec. 21, 1916.	Dec. 28, 1916.
		Sellers.	Buyers.
Amsterdam ..	Cable transfers ..	11.67	11.69
"	Three months' bills ..	11.83	11.88
Paris ..	Cable transfers ..	27.79	27.83
"	Three months' bills ..	28.15	28.20
Marseilles ..	Three months' bills ..	28.15	28.20
Switzerland ..	Cable transfers ..	23.98	24.08
"	Three months' bills ..	24.33	24.43
Petrograd ..	Cable transfers ..	155	154½
Genoa, &c. ..	Cable transfers ..	32.80	32.90
"	Three months' bills ..	33.20	33.30
Spain ..	Cable transfers ..	22.28	22.35
"	Three months' bills ..	49½	49½
Lisbon and Oporto	Cable transfers ..	30½	31½
Copenhagen ..	Cable transfers ..	17.35	17.45
Christiania ..	Cable transfers ..	17.00	17.15
Stockholm ..	Cable transfers ..	16.00	16.15

TREASURY BILLS.

	Last week.	This week
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Three months	5½	5½
Six months	(£98 12 10½) (£98 12 10½)	5½
Twelve months	(£97 5 1½) (£97 5 1½)	5½
	(£94 10 0) (£94 10 0)	

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Last week.	This week
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted	5½-5½	5½-5½
Three months	5½-5½	5½-5½
Four months	5½-5½	5½-5½
Six months	5½-5½	5½-5½
Three months fine inland bills	5½-5½	5½-5½
Four months	5½-5½	5½-5½
Six months	5½-5½	5½-5½

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Last week.	This week
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	6	6
" " short loan rates	6½	6½
Bankers' rate on deposits	4	4
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	4½	4½
7 and 14 days' notice	4½	4½
Current rates for 7 day loans	5	5
" " for call loans	4½-5	4½-5

The Week's Stock Markets.

Looking back on the past year we can find very few bright spots to relieve the general gloom that has overhung the markets, and as we have frequently pointed out, this condition of affairs must continue while war expenditure remains at its present level. Calculations show that on a selected list of representative securities there has been a further depreciation of £149,000,000, but this is partly accounted for by the removal of the last of the minimum prices which were imposed when the House re-opened in January last year, and which were found to be widely divorced from actual dealing values. Consequently we find declines of 20 per cent. in Home Corporation stocks, of nearly 19 per cent. in British Railway debentures, and of 15 per cent. in Indian Railway securities. Since the outbreak of the war there has been a total depreciation of £583,000,000. On the other hand, a selection of Shipping shares shows an advance of 24 per cent., Iron and Coal shares 21 per cent., and Industrial shares 12½ per cent., while several groups of Mines have also registered large gains. These, however, afford poor compensation for the heavy losses in other directions, and investors must just have patience until we can see the end of this terrible struggle of civilisation against barbarism. There is nothing to be said about this week's markets, as they have been of a holiday character with dealings at a terribly low ebb. Americans have partly recovered from the panic caused by President Wilson's "Peace" message, but elsewhere everything has been deadlly dull.

With the holidays intervening, and with another one in prospect on Monday, business in the Stock Markets this week has been reduced to very small proportions. On the eve of the holiday the 4½ per cent. War Loan rose smartly on the powers taken by the Government to issue a new loan at any time, and a little further advance was recorded when the market re-opened on Wednesday. The price touched 96¾, but selling followed, and it relapsed to 96¼, showing a net gain of ¾ on the week. Consols fluctuated within narrow limits, and closed unchanged, but Irish Land stock was ¼ up at 52½. A number of Australian and New Zealand Government issues were marked up ½ to ½. The Foreign Bond market was quiet, but there was an inquiry for Japanese loans on the Budget, and the 4 and 4½ per cents. improved ½. Russian Government loans were inclined to give way at first, but hardened again, and the City of Baku recovered 1 to 77. German 3 per cent. stock was marked up 2 to 50.

Home Railway stocks have moved in sympathy with the gilt-edged section, but the changes on balance were unimportant. Canadian Pacific shares were lifted to 175½, but the improvement was wiped out, and they finished unchanged at 175. Grand Trunk stocks were harder, with improvements of 2 in the first preference, ¾ each in the second and third, and 1½ in the guaranteed. American Railroad shares reacted sharply on the President's Note, but recovered a good part of the loss on Wall Street while our market was closed. International Mercantile Marine common and preferred, however, both finished 14 down, and United States Steel, after touching 108, closed with a loss of 4¾ at 115¼. Argentine Railway stocks were firm, with gains of ¾ to ¾ in the ordinary stocks of the principal lines.

Bank shares were in some request, and Lloyds rose ¾, London County and Westminster ½, London Joint Stock ½, Barclay "B" ¾, and Union of London ¾, while London City

and Midland and London and South-Western were ¾ up. Hongkong and Shanghai were marked up 1½ to 78 and London and Brazilian improved ¼ to 21. Shipping shares remained depressed under the influence of nationalisation, P. and O. deferred being marked down a further 6½ to 309½ xd., and Royal Mail dropping 1½ to 115. Some little recovery, however, was shown in Cunard, Court Line and Furness, Withy.

	Last Week	This Week		Last Week	This Week
Consols	55½	55½	N.S.W. 4½ 1922-7	92	92
War Loan 3½	85½	85½	" 5½ 1921-3	95½	95½
India 3½	95½	96½	" 5½ 1921-2	97½	97½
" 3½	57	57½	New Zealand 4½	84½	84½
Australian 5½, 1920-22	65	65½	Queensland 4½	82	82
Canada 4½, 1940-60	94	94	" 4½ new	93	92½
" 4½, 1920-5	83	83	Union of S. Africa 4½	90½	90½
N.S.W. 4½	81½	82	1920-5	92	92½
" 4½ 5 yr. bds.	95	96	Victoria 4½, 1920-5	80	80
Belgian 3½	60	60	Westn. Aus. 4½	80	80
Brazil, 1913	62	62	French War Loan, 5½	80	80
" New Funding	75	75½	New	80	80
Chinese 1896	91	91	Japan 4½ (1st)	95	95½
" 1912	75	74½	" (2nd)	95	95½
Egypt Unified 4½	78½	78½	Russia 4½	64	64
French War Loan, 5½	80	80	" 4½	74	74
Brighton defd.	66	66	" 5½	80	80½
Caledonian defd.	9½	9½	London and S.-W. defd.	24½	24½
Chatham ord.	88	88	Do. new pf.	98	98
Gt. Central pf.	14½	14	Metropolitan	25	25
" defd.	7½	7½	Do. 5½ New pf.	90	90
Gt. Eastern	36½	36½	Met. District	16½	16
Gt. Northern defd.	37½	37½	Midland defd.	58½	58½
Gt. Western	90½	90½	Nth. British defd.	14½	14
Lancs. and Yorks.	68	67½	Nth.-Eastern	102½	102½
Canadian Pacific	175	175	Nth.-Western	97½	97½
Do. 6% Notes	108½	108½	Sth.-Eastern defd.	27½	27½
E. Indian Guar. 4½ debs.	108	108	Chesapeake	69½	69
Grand Trunk ord.	108	108	Erie	40	38½
Do. 3rd pf.	25½	25½	Milwaukee	97½	95
Do. 5½ 3-yr. Notes	96	96	N. Y. Central	110½	109½
Do. 5½ 5-yr. "	109½	109½	Southern	36½	34½
Atchison	89	88	Southern Pacific	103½	102½
Baltimore	125	123	Union Pacific	155½	156½
Antofagasta defd.	4	3½	U. S. Steel	122	125
Brazil Common	41½	42	Cent. Argentine ord.	65½	65½
B. A. & Pacific	78	78½	Do. 5% Notes	94½	94½
B. A. Gt. Southern	78½	79	Do. 6% "	99	99
B. A. Western	78½	79	Leopoldina	32	32
Bank of Australasia	111	111	Mexican ord.	14	14½
Barclay & Co. "A"	7½	7½	San Paulo (Brazilian)	172	173
Do. "B"	108	11	United of Havana	82	81½
Capital & Counties	24½	24½	London City & Midland	78	76
Chartered of India	56	56	London County & West.	14½	152
Hongkong & Shanghai	76½	78	London Joint Stock	21½	22
Lloyds	24½	25½	Nat. Prov. of Eng. (£10½ pd)	25½	25
London & Provincial	16½	16½	Do. (£12 pd)	30½	30½
London & S.W.	118	118	Parr's	28½	28½
Apollinaris ord.	38/6	37/9	Standard of S.A.	104	104
Armstrong, Whitworth	2½	3	Union & Smiths.	22½	22½
Associated Cement	46/6	45/6	Forestal Land	51/6	51/
Birmingham Small Arms	32/6	31/9	Furness, Withy	42/6	44/
Bovril	20/9	20/9	Hudson's Bay	6½	6½
Brazil Traction	47½	49½	Imperial Tobacco 'B' pf.	21/	21/
British Amer. Tobacco	5½	5½	Do. 'C' pf.	34/	34/
Brown (John), & Co.	34/	34/	Kynochs	30/	30/
Brunner, Mond	4½	4½	Lever Bros. 'C' pf.	20/	20/
Cammell-Laird	6½	6½	Lyons, J.	3½	3½
Castner-Kellner	3½	3½	Marconi	22½	22½
Coats	6½	6½	Maypole Dairy defd.	18/6	18/3
Cunard	4½	4½	Mond Nickel ord.	3½	3½
Dennis Bros.	34/6	34/	National Steam Car	21/6	22/
Dorman, Long	31/6x	30/x	Pears, A. & F.	1½	1½
Eastmans	6/9	6/9	P. & O. defd.	316x	309½
English Sewing Cotton	45/	45/	Royal Mail	115½	115
Fine Cotton Spinners	29/	29/	South Durham Steel	30/	30/
Anglo-Egyptian "B"	10/6	11/	Underground Inc. Bds.	93	92½
Baku (ros.)	3/	3/	Vickers	36/9	36/6
Burmah	4½	4½	Mexican Eagle pf.	39/3	41/3
Lobitos	42/6	43/3	North Caucasian	25/	25/
Maikop Combine (ros.)	3/	3/	Roumanian Cons.	9/3	10/6
Maikop Pipeline	3/3	3/3	Royal Dutch (100 gulden)	45½	45
Mexican Eagle	39/3	41/3	Shell	53½	53½
Anglo-Java Rub. (2/-)	5/9	5/9	Spies (10/-)	13/6	13/6
Anglo-Malay 2/-	12/3	12/3	Ural Caspian	30/	30/
Ayer Kuning 2/-	37/	37/	Malayalam 1/-	37/	37/9
Bukit Mertajam 2/-	5/	5/	Merlimau 2/-	5/	5/3
Bukit Sembawang 2/-	3/7	3/6	Pataing 2/-	33/9	35/2½
Carey United 1/-	42/	42/	Port Dickson 2/-	24/6	24/6
Grand Central 1/-	26/6	26/6	Rubber Trust 2/-	22/9	22/9
Gula Kalumpung 1/-	30/x	30/x	Sapumakande 1/-	68/6x	68/6x
Highlands 1/-	56/x	56/x	Sialang 1/-	22/9	22/9
Java Para 1/-	29/6	28/9	Singapore Para 2/-	31/10½	31/10½
Johore Rubber Lands 1/-	30/1½	29/6	Singapore United 2/-	31/x	31/x
Langen Java 1/-	45/	43/9	Taiping 2/-	4/	3/11
Linggi 2/-	23/6	23/4½	Tandjong 1/-	86/3	80/3
London Asiatic 2/-	71/10½	71/10½	Tandjong Malin 1/-	33/	32/9
Malacca 1/-	85/	85/	Tebrau 1/-	76/3	76/3
Abbottiakoon (10/-)	5/	5/	United Serdang 2/-	12/3	12/3
Brakpan	47½	47½	Vallambrosa 2/-	191x	191x
Broken Hill Prop. (8/-)	52/	51/9	De Beers defd. (£2 ros.)	13	13½
Cam & Motor	9/6	9/9	East Rand	13/6	11/6
Central Mining (£12)	6½	6½	Gt. Boulder (2/-)	12/1½	12/3
Chartered	11/	12/4½	Meyer & Charlton	5½	5½
City Deep	4½	4½	Modder "B"	7½	7½
Cons. Gold Fields	29/x	28/	Do. Deep	7½	7½
Cons. Langlaagte	28/	28/	New Modder (£4)	2½	2½
Crown Mines (10/-)	3	3½	Rand Mines (5/-)	3½	3½
			Rio Tinto (£5)	62½	62½
			Van Ryn Deep	1½	1½

Armament and Engineering shares were dull, without much change in prices. Otis Steel relapsed 15 to 108, but recovered to 110½. Canadian things followed the movements in New York and Montreal, a sharp fall on the eve of the holiday being followed by a rally. Brazilian Traction shares were supported, and improved 1¾ to 49½, but Cities Services closed with a loss of 10 at 335, after having been down to 325. Hudson's Bay shares improved to 6½ xd., but finished a shade below this figure, and Forestal Land shares were easier. British American Tobacco shares jumped smartly on the divi.

dend and bonus. Associated Cement met with good support, and improved $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$, but Borax Consolidated deferred were easier. Amongst Catering things, Lyons gained $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$, and Meat shares were quietly steady. Textiles were easier, and Courtaulds dropped $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$.

Oil shares were not much dealt in, but Roumanian Consols, after touching 11s. 3d. on the chairman's statement regarding the company's claim for compensation for the damage done to its property, reacted to 10s. 6d. Mexican Eagle ordinary and preference were wanted on the dividends announced in the end of last week, and improved to 41s. 3d., and Eagle Transport preference hardened to $\frac{5}{8}$ in sympathy. "Shell" were unchanged at 51s. 3d., but Royal Dutch were offered, and declined to 45. The Rubber share market was quiet, but fairly firm in tone. Carey United relapsed to 40s. 3d. on the report, and Sungei Bahrui and United Sua Betong were both easier. On the other hand, Bandar Sumatra, Bukit Rajah, Pataling, Seafield and Golden Hope all met with support. Java descriptions were easier, Java Amalgamated and Java Para dropping 9d. and Langen Java being 1s. 3d. down. Amongst Trusts, the only change was a decline of 1s. 3d. to 25s. 9d. in Batavia Plantations.

LONDON PRODUCE MARKETS.

SUGAR.—Market remained firm without alteration in prices during the week, though business was only of limited extent.

CURRENT PRICES OF CHIEF ARTICLES.

WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 29, 1916.

	Last Week.	This Week.		Last Week.	This Week.
Sugar —per cwt.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Wool —per lb.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
duty 14, 98%			Australian		
polarisation			Scoured Merino	2 8-5 3	2 8-5 3
Tate's Cakes No. 1	2 7 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 7 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Scoured Cr'ssbr'd	2 4-3 6	2 4-3 6
Ditto, H.T.S.	2 6 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 6 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	Greasy Merino	2 0-2 8	2 0-2 8
Fine granulated	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	1 9-2 4	1 9-2 4
Lyle's granulated	41 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ -42 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	41 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ -42 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	New Zealand		
Foreign granulated	nom.	nom.	(Scoured) Merino	2 10-4 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 10-4 3 $\frac{1}{2}$
first marks	nom.	nom.	Greasy Crossbred	1 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ -2 2	1 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ -2 2
f.o.b., spot	nom.	nom.	Cape snow white	2 3-3 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 3-3 6 $\frac{1}{2}$
German Cane f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Indian Rubber		
French Cane	nom.	nom.	Plantation, Spot		
Crystallised, West	nom.	nom.	Crepe	0 3 0	0 2 11 $\frac{1}{2}$
India	nom.	nom.	Coal —per ton		
Beet, 88% f.o.b.	nom.	nom.	Durham, best	nom.	nom.
Tea —per lb., duty	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Seconds	nom.	nom.
1/ lb.			East Hartlepool ..	nom.	nom.
Indian Pekoe	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	Seconds	nom.	nom.
Broken	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 2	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 2	Steamers, best	30 0	30 0
Orange	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Seconds	25 0-26 0	25 0-26 0
Broken	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 8	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 8	Lead —per ton	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Pekoe Souchong	0 11-1 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 11-1 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	English Pig	nom.	nom.
Ceylon Pekoe	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 2	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 2	Foreign soft	£ 30 $\frac{1}{2}$ -29 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Broken	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Quicksilver —per		
Orange	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 2	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 2	bottle first hand	£ 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ -18 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Broken	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	Flm —per ton		
Pekoe Souchong	0 11-1 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 11-1 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	English Ingots ..	£ 181-182	
Cocoa —per cwt.			Do, bars	£ 182-183	
duty 6d. per lb.	s. s.	s. s.	Standard cash ..	178 $\frac{1}{2}$ -178 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Trinidad—per cwt.	74 0-79 0	74 0-79 0	Fin Plates, per box	nom.	nom.
Grenada	60 0-69 0	60 0-69 0	Copper —per ton		
West Africa ..	52 0-59 0	52 0-59 0	English, Tough	nom.	nom.
Ceylon Plantation	70 0-90 0	70 0-90 0	per ton	nom.	nom.
Guayaquil Arabia	81 0-88 0	81 0-88 0	Best Selected ..	£ 153-150	
Coffee —per cwt.			Sheets	£ 175	
duty 42 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cwt.			Standard	£ 138 $\frac{1}{2}$ -139	
East India ..	67 0-95 0	67 0-95 0	Jute —per ton		
Jamaica	62 0-120 6	62 0-120 6	Native firsts for		
Costa Rica ..	62 0-84 0	62 0-84 0	shipment Nov-Dec	£ 42 0 0	£ 42 0 0
Provisions —			Oil —		
Butter, per cwt.			Linseed, per ton ..	£ 51 $\frac{1}{2}$ -£ 52 $\frac{1}{2}$	£ 50 $\frac{1}{2}$ -£ 51 $\frac{1}{2}$
Australian finest	208/-212/-	206/-208/-	Rape, ref., English	£ 56-£ 58	£ 57-£ 59
Irish Creameries	208/-214/-	210/-212/-	barrels		
Dutch ditto ..	206/-212/-	nom.	Brown English		
Russian finest ..	nom.	nom.	naked	£ 54 0 0	£ 54 0 0
Normandy baskets	nom.	nom.	Cott'n Seed, crude	£ 52 10 0	£ 52 10 0
Danish finest ..	220/-222/-	218/-220/-	Ditto, refined ..	£ 59-£ 60	£ 59-£ 60
Brittany rolls ..			Petroleum Oil, per		
doz. lb.	21/6-23/6	21/6-23/6	8 lbs.	1/1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1/1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bacon —per cwt.			Water White ..	1/2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1/2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Irish	111 0-120 0	111 0-120 0	Oil Seeds, Linseed		
Continental ..	102 0-120 0	102 0-120 0	Calcutta—per 410		
Canadian	100 0-110 0	100 0-110 0	lbs. ..Dec-Jan	5 7 6	5 3 0
American	86 0-111 0	86 0-111 0	Kupe, Toria	92/-	92/-
Hams —per cwt.			Iron —per ton		
Irish	148/-168/-	148/-168/-	Cleveland Cash ..	nom.	nom.
Canadian			Tobacco —duty		
American	72/-106/-	72 0-106 0	unmanufactured		
Cheese —per cwt.			5/6 to 6 1/2 per lb.		
Dutch	116 0-126 0	110 0-126 0	Maryland & Ohio		
Canadian	130 0-134 0	132 0-134 0	per lb. bond ..	0 6-0 10	0 6-0 10
English Cheddar	132 0-140 0	132 0-140 0	Virginaleat ..	0 8-1 6	0 8-1 6
Wilt's loaf ..	nom.	nom.	Kentucky leaf ..	0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ -0 10	0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ -0 10
New Zealand ..	nom.	nom.	Latakia	1 0-3 0	1 0-3 0
Rice —per cwt.	s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.	Havana	1 0-0 0	1 0-0 0
Garden Siam			Manila	0 6-2 0	0 6-2 0
spot	20 6	20 6	Cigars, duty 10/6		
Rangoon 2 stars ..	20 0	20 0	per lb.	2/ upds.	2/ upds.
Eggs —per 120.			Timber —Wood.		
English	33 0-35 0	33 0-35 0	Pitch Pine	250/-270/-	250/-270/-
Irish	30 0-32 0	30 0-32 0	Indian Teak ..	400/-600/-	400/-600/-
Danish	30 0-32 0	30 0-32 0	Turpentine —		
Spelter —			American Spot ..	2 12 6	2 13 9
G.O.B. as to position	nom.	£ 51-£ 48	Copra —		
Flour —per sack.			Malabar, London	nom.	nom.
G. R.	59/-	59/-	Dec.-Feb.	nom.	nom.
American First			Ceylon, London	42 0 0	43 12 6
Patents	62/ upds	62/6 upds	South Sea	40 15 0	42 17 6
			F.M.S.	41 2 6	43 2

COFFEE.—No auctions held, while spot parcels met with quiet request at about previous prices. Future delivery market exhibited a firmer tone, while moderate dealings were effected. May done at 48s. 9d., and September at 49s. 6d. to 49s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

COCOA.—Private market inactive, but values showed no material change, while no public sales were held.

TEA.—Market practically closed.

SPICE.—Pepper experienced a slow demand, but previous prices were maintained. Black Singapore, January-March shipment, quoted 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; Muntok, ditto, sellers, 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., c.f. and i. Cloves firm, but quiet. Fair Zanzibar, on spot, quoted 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and January-March shipment, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., c.f. and i. Tapioca and sago held for firm rates, but business proceeded quietly.

RICE unaltered, and demand remained without improvement. Rangoon, No. 2, on spot, quoted 20s., and Japan, 24s. Bran slow unchanged. Beans dull of sale. Rangoon, spot, £41 5s., value. Japanese peas inactive. Madagascar butter beans slow. Spot quoted 47s. to 48s., as to quality.

FRUIT (DRIED) quiet in all directions, but rates steady.

FIBRES.—The market presented a general tone of quietness, but values ruled firm, and in the case of Manila hemp dearer. Of jute, native first marks, spot, London, sold, £41 5s. With regard to hemp, Manila coarse, February-April, changed hands at £57, c.f. and i.

SHELLAC.—Tone quiet, but prices were steady. Fair T.N. orange, on spot, value 141s. Of futures, T.N., March delivery, sold at 144s.

RUBBER in moderate request, and values tended in an upward direction. Standard plantation crepe, spot, sold 2s. 11d. to 3s.; January-June, 2s. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 3s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Smoked ribbed sheet, spot, 2s. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 3s. Fine hard Para, spot, 3s. 3d.

COPRA firmer, and sellers acted with reserve.

CORN (Mark Lane).—Since last Wednesday's reopening, the market presented a listless but firm tone, and quotations show very little change from the previous week's close. Of English wheat, both whites and reds range at 76s. 6d. to 82s. per qr. delivered, according to quality. Imported descriptions nominal. Flour: Minneapolis first patents, 62s. 6d. upwards, landed. Sound Plate maize, 66s. 6d., landed. Barley: Indian, 70s. upwards, landed. Oats: Plate, 49s. upwards, landed; Canadian Western No. 2, 51s.; Irish black, 47s., both quay terms.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—This has been a short and broken week in the market, and operations of importance cannot be expected. Holiday influences have prevailed throughout, and buyers and sellers have not been in the mood to enter into transactions of weight. A feature of interest has been the hardening tendency in raw cotton rates, and quotations in yarn and cloth have rather gone against buyers. No particular change in the general outlook can be recorded. Prices will have to be steadier before free operations are likely to be resumed. The general prospects for supplies and consumption in the raw material show scarcely any change. As anticipated, the operative spinners are about to make an application for an increase in wages, but according to Sir George Askwith's award of last June, it will be necessary for six weeks' notice to be given. The cardroom wages question is still in abeyance. A limited inquiry has been reported in cloth for abroad, and only small sales have transpired. India has not given much support, and buyers seem to be waiting for more settled conditions. Very few workable bids have come through from China, and grey staples have particularly attracted small attention. Some unimportant transactions have been put through for the minor outlets, chiefly in stock lots. The position of manufacturers remains strong, and fresh orders are not sought after. American yarns for home use have tended to harden in price, but there has not been much response from manufacturers to the higher figures, and the turnover may be described as unimportant. Only odd lines have been mentioned in yarns suitable for shipment abroad. Bolton spinnings remain firm, and users have purchased sparingly.

The Week in Mines.

The intervention of the holidays has, of course, curtailed opportunities for doing business, but the Mining markets have by no means had an uneventful week. The outstanding incident has been the strength of the Robinson group of companies, the shares of which have been heavily bought in intelligent anticipation that the Barnato interests would very shortly acquire control. An official announcement confirming this anticipation was published on Thursday. On the other hand, East Rand were depressed by the passing of the December dividend, and New Kleinfonteins suffered from a similar disappointment.

SOUTH AND WEST AFRICANS.

The South African market was generally depressed for a short time owing to the East Rand's announcement that no dividend could be paid for the second half of the year. The shares of the company fell heavily, and finally showed a fall of 2s. 3d. to 11s. 6d. The rest of the market, however, was cheered by the resumption of dividends by the Central Mining; but though the shares of this corporation were unaltered on balance, Rand Mines showed a rise of 5-32 to 3 $\frac{1}{2}$. The Robinson group of shares have been very actively bought, and exhibit substantial advances on the week. Randfontein Estates have risen 2s. 3d. to 16s. 6d., Randfontein Centrals 1s. 6d. to 13s. 6d., and Langlaagte Estates 1s. to 18s. 6d. Johnnies have also been in request, and are 6d. higher at 18s. 6d. Randfontein Deeps have also been galvanised into life in connection

with the Barnato deal, over 8s. being bid for the shares. Knight Centrals have been lively, but are only 6d. to the good at 10s. 6d. Springs Mines have been supported, and are 3-32 higher at 3 1-32. In the Rhodesian market, interest has been centred in Lonely Reefs, which have risen 1s. 3d. to 22s. 6d. Giants have fallen 6d. to 6s. on the report, and Cam and Motors at 9s. 6d. have declined. Among Diamond shares, De Beers deferreds and Premier deferreds have both risen 1/2 to 13 1/2 and 7 1/2 respectively. De Beers prefs. were unaffected by the declaration of a further dividend bringing payments up to date. West Africans have been quietly steady.

COPPER AND MISCELLANEOUS.

The peace flutter has caused sharp fluctuations in base metals and in the shares of companies which produce them. Copper has fallen another 1/2 a ton, and the shares show a general decline, though closing much above the lowest points touched. Anacondas have fallen 3/4 to 18. Utah 1/2 to 22, Capes 1/4 to 4 1/2, and Mount Elliotts 1/2 to 5 1/2. Rio Tintos are unaltered at 62 1/2. Tin shares have been remarkably steady in the face of a fall of over 1/9 a ton in the price of the metal. Dolcoaths have been active, and are actually 6d. higher at 11s. on rumours of favourable developments. Broken Hills have been dull, Sulphides weakening on the statements made at the meeting regarding the treble taxation to which the company is subjected. The Alaska group has been on offer, Treadwells being quoted at 2 3/8 and Uniteds at 1 3/8.

Russians, after making a good recovery, relapsed slightly on profit-taking. Burmas have been bought, and are 7/8 higher at 3 1/8, while Baldwins have also risen 1/2 to 1 7/8. Indian Gold shares have been irregular; Mysore have fallen 1/2 to 3 1/8, but Ooregums have recovered 3d. to 20s. Westralians have been featureless.

MINING NEWS.

RHODESIAN MINERAL OUTPUT.—The production of gold in Southern Rhodesia last month amounted to £317,135, an increase of £3,975 on November, 1915. The following table shows the production since January, 1912:—

MONTH.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915	1916
January	£ 214,918	£ 220,776	£ 249,032	£ 203,133	£ 318,586
February	209,744	208,744	259,888	286,789	313,769
March	215,102	257,797	273,236	299,686	335,368
April	221,476	241,098	295,907	315,541	339,386
May	234,407	242,452	290,062	318,898	323,783
June	226,867	241,303	306,421	322,473	333,070
July	240,514	249,301	320,670	336,565	322,365
August	239,077	250,376	316,972	344,493	338,001
September	230,573	250,420	309,398	321,085	322,035
October	230,072	247,068	337,241	339,967	325,608
November	225,957	239,036	311,711	313,160	317,135
December	218,661	254,687	309,669	331,376	—
Totals	2,707,368	2,903,267	3,580,207	3,823,166	3,589,106

The number of producers was 194, or 27 less than in October; and the output of other metals was 18,157 ounces of silver, 47,397 tons of coal, 325 tons of copper, 12,040 tons of chrome ore, 690 tons of asbestos, and 57 1/2 carats of diamonds.

GIANT.—The accounts for the year ended June 30 show that the profit increased from £10,610 to £18,207. Of this, £9,913 is absorbed in income-tax, and £7,879 is transferred to reserve, leaving £2,932 to be carried forward, as against £2,518 brought in. The directors have allocated various amounts, totalling £17,879, towards the further writing down of assets, as they consider this course advisable in view of the position of the Giant Mine. This leaves the reserve fund at £40,000. During the year, 80,602 tons were crushed, which yielded £52,610. Working costs averaged 10s. 0.4d. per ton, as compared with 12s. 9.3d. in 1914-15. It is impossible, the management state, to give any reliable figures of payable ore reserves as at June 30.

DAGGAFONTEIN PROSPECTING SYNDICATE.—The profits of this company for the year ended June 30 amounted to £1,199, making the balance at the credit of profit and loss £1,641, which is carried forward. Since June 30 the directors have been able to effect realisations of investments at satisfactory prices, and they have therefore decided to declare a maiden interim dividend for the current year at the rate of 5 per cent. For the year ended June 30, 1915, there was a loss of £351.

SHEBA GOLD.—This company sustained a set-back in the year ended June 30, the profit falling from £38,161 to £11,610, to which has to be added £10,028 brought forward. Provision for taxes absorbed £4,345, and £4,915 is written off development, plant, and other assets, leaving £12,378, which is carried forward. No dividends are paid, against 10 per cent. for 1914-15. Working costs increased by 1.71d. to 13s. 3.3d. per ton. Expenditure on mine development amounted to £19,618, which has been charged against the revenue. Ore reserves at June 30 were estimated at 100,900 tons, averaging 7.5 dwts., against 100,100 tons last year.

YUANMI GOLD.—The profit and loss account for the year ended June 30 shows, after charging £10,837 for development, a credit of £4,849. But income-tax absorbs £5,891; other taxes, £1,228; Warriedar option, balance written off, £14,756; and depreciation, £11,092; leaving a debit balance of £28,118. For the preceding year there was a debit balance of £6,379. At the Yuanmi Mine working costs rose by 14s. 1d. to 41s. 1 1/2d. per ton. Reserves of ore above the sixth level are estimated at 51,308 tons, valued at 50s. per ton, showing an increase of

5,746 tons, and a rise of 9s. per ton in value. No dividend has been paid since 1913-14.

PIGG'S PEAK DEVELOPMENT.—This company, which has been a sore disappointment to the shareholders, reports a loss for the year ended March 31 last of £12,685, which reduces the credit balance brought in to £7,086. During the period the gold yield was £26,374, but the cost of getting it, including £4,495 spent on development, was £33,501. Although the ore reserves were estimated at March 31, 1915, at only 18,261 tons, the amount of ore extracted from the mine from that date down to the end of November was 36,290 tons. It is intended to continue development work, as it is hoped to open up new lenses of higher-grade ore.

NARAGUTA TIN.—Although the output of tin concentrates declined from 651 tons to 580 tons in the year ended March 31 last, the financial results were very much better than in the preceding year. The nett profits amounted to £14,326, an increase of £12,296. Including £3,804 brought forward, the available total is £18,130, which is carried forward. But on account of the current year an interim dividend of 1s. per share, tax free, has been paid, and a second interim of the same amount will be payable on January 16. For the year 1915-16 no dividend was paid as for 1914-15, the previous payment having been 1s. per share for the year 1913-14.

NORTHERN NIGERIA (BAUCHI) TIN.—In the year ended June 30 this company made a gross profit of £21,623, against £5,614, and a nett profit of £16,481, against nil. A dividend of 10 per cent., less tax, on the preference shares, is paid, against nil for 1914-15, absorbing £12,628, the balance being carried forward. The output of tin shows a considerable increase over the tonnage recovered in the preceding year, the total being 565 tons, against 314 tons. During the past 12 months 559 tons of tin concentrates were sold at an average price of £121 4s. 2d. per ton, as against £112 12s. 11d. per ton realised in the year to June 30, 1915. Meanwhile, costs of production decreased from £62 8s. 10d. per ton to £55 5s. 5d. per ton.

RAMBUTAN.—A profit of £11,395 is shown in the accounts for the year ended June 30, against £11,876. Four dividends of 6d. each have again been paid, and the balance to be carried forward is increased by £1,395 to £3,333. But £2,000 has been written off underwriters' commission. The returns of tin for the first five months of this year show a satisfactory improvement on the preceding months, and it is expected that this improvement will be maintained.

FRANK SMITH.—The report for the year ended June 30 states that operations are still suspended. But the balance of diamonds on hand has now been disposed of, and advances have been reduced from £76,341 to £28,517.

NATAL NAVIGATION COLLIERIES.—The profit on coal and coke sales in the year ended June 30 shows a substantial increase, the total being £79,955, against £47,588 last year. The increase has been chiefly due to an additional 69,049 tons of output, but higher prices have also favourably affected the company's operations. The amount written off for depreciation is £15,527 against £16,553, and £4,329, the cost of options and drilling, has been written off. Cash and liquid assets amount to £102,824.

WANKIE COLLIERY.—Operations in the year ended August 31 resulted in a profit of £57,730, against £36,195 in the preceding eight months, when the accounting period was altered. The dividend is 12 1/2 per cent. for the year, less tax, against 7 1/2 per cent. for the first eight months of 1915. Sales of coal and coke amounted to 304,628 tons and 45,964 tons respectively.

CYNON COLLIERY.—After providing for excess profits, the accounts for the year ended September 30 show a profit of £21,018, and the total profit is £21,785 against £33,600. Reserve is credited with £3,000 instead of £15,000, but the dividend is raised from 12 1/2 per cent. to the record level of 15 per cent., and £10,683 against £9,939 is carried forward.

Tea, Oil and Rubber.

After dipping to 2s. 11d. the price of rubber has recovered to 3s., and this has helped to impart a firm tone to the share market. Business, however, has been of extremely small dimensions, and contrary to the hopes, if not the expectations of dealers, there was scarcely any accumulation of orders over the holidays. What little interest was shown has been mainly directed to the older established shares, which have little to fear from the bugbear of the excess profits duty. It may be noted, however, that the Legislature of the Straits Settlements is considering the imposition of an export tax of 5 per cent. on rubber, and if it is adopted planters may have some difficulty in passing the whole of it on to consumers. But the industry can easily stand such a tax while profits remain at their present level.

Another highly satisfactory report has been issued by the Ampat (Sumatra) Rubber Estate for the year ended September 30. The crop of Hevea amounted to 150,651 lbs., compared with an estimate of 130,000 lbs. and an output of 88,280 lbs. last year, and in addition 6,177 lbs. of Ramboeng were obtained. The price was 3.38d. better at 2s. 8.45d., and as the all-in cost was further

reduced by 1.95d. to 1s. 1.35d. the nett profit, after providing for debenture interest, manager's commission, &c., was £7,385 up at £11,884. With £918 brought forward the divisible total is £7,850 larger at £12,803, and although the share capital has been increased through the conversion of debentures, the directors are able to raise the dividend from 10 per cent. to 25 per cent. In addition an extra £1,000 at £3,000 is transferred to reserve, making that fund £5,000, and £599 more at £1,678 is carried forward. The debenture debt of £10,000 has disappeared from the balance-sheet, together with £1,267 for forfeited shares, while the issued capital is £13,910 up at £32,500. At the date of the balance-sheet the shares were of 10s. each, but they have since been subdivided into 2s. shares. Expenditure on the immature area for the year amounted to £1,509, making a total of £27,871, exclusive of buildings and machinery valued at £2,430. The crop of Hevea for 1916-17 is estimated at 180,000 lbs. at an all-in cost of 1s. 0.80d.

A large area of young rubber was brought into tapping by the Langkapoera (Sumatra) Rubber Estate in the year ended June 30, with the result that the cost of production rose by 2½d. to 1s. 5½d. f.o.b., and the all-in cost reached the high figure of 1s. 11d. The crop, however, was 59,849 lbs. larger at 122,062 lbs., while the price improved by 5½d. to 2s. 8½d., and as the company also did well with its coffee, which yielded 4,111 piculs, or 1,832 piculs more, the nett profits showed an increase of £12,382 at £16,043. Of this £1,806 is written off for depreciation, compared with £2,108 for preliminary and debenture issue expenses a year ago, and the ordinary shareholders receive an initial dividend of 10 per cent., less tax, which entitles the directors to £802 as additional remuneration. A balance of £8,859 is then left to be carried forward, subject to excess profits duty, compared with £1,774 brought in. For the current year the crops are estimated at 187,000 lbs. rubber and 4,000 piculs coffee.

The year ended September 30 again proved unfortunate for the Carey United Rubber Estates, so far as its crop was concerned. Severe drought during the wintering months caused a further considerable decrease in the output from the Paradise estate, and the total of 217,388 lbs. was 17,775 lbs. smaller than the crop for the previous year. Some compensation, however, was found in an advance of 5.06d. to 2s. 9.22d. in the price realised, against an increase of 2.05d. to 9.52d. in the revenue expenditure exclusive of depreciation and interest, and the nett profit, with £2,055 brought in, was £5,662 up at £21,936. On the Carey Island property matters still appear to be very backward, and as the trees were rested for three months on the advice of the visiting agent the crop obtained fell very far short of the estimate at 14,892 lbs. This realised £768, which has been deducted from the cost of development. Out of the available balance of £21,936 dividends aggregating 10 per cent., less tax, or the same as a year ago, have been paid, but a larger amount of capital ranks for dividend owing to the conversion of £19,015 debenture stock into shares, and the balance carried forward is therefore only £1,912 larger at £4,936. The conversion of debenture stock into shares at a premium leaves £10,985 nominal outstanding, on which 20 per cent., or £2,197, has been paid up. The new shares were issued at a premium of 2s. 6d. per share, giving £2,377. Loans for £6,000 have been paid off, but current liabilities are £4,116 higher at £7,286. Expenditure on developments amounted to £14,041, making the cost of the property to date £168,083. Crops for the current year are estimated at 250,000 lbs. from Paradise estate and 90,000 lbs. from Carey Island.

In view of the conditions which have prevailed no one could have expected a very good report from the Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields, Ltd., for the year to June 30, but neither shareholders nor the market looked for such dismal results as those now presented. The production of oil was 60,700 tons, against 103,920 tons in the previous year, but all that the management

could make out of it was a gross profit of £14,000, as compared with £128,000, and including a loss of £3,720 on exchange, there is a trading loss of £5,550. Depreciation requires £57,000, and plant, machinery, &c., are treated as totally destroyed, so that the total loss is brought out at £198,700, and the credit balance of £113,450 brought forward from last year is turned into a debit of £85,250. It would be futile to attempt to go closely into these extraordinary figures at present, but as the issued capital is over a million, the public are deeply interested in the fortunes of the company, and we can only hope that the directors have erred on the side of over-caution in taking an unnecessarily gloomy view of the position. No doubt compensation will be obtained for part of the losses incurred, but we have an uneasy feeling that the local management is not all that could be desired.

Some improvement is shown in the report of the Oil Trust, Ltd., for the year to September 30, the nett profit being £2,050, against a loss of £250 in the previous 12 months, and of £1,040 in 1914. But there is still the terrible incubus of £85,000 lost in the first year of the company's existence, and although the profit and loss account shows a credit balance of £7,100, none of it can be distributed until the capital is reorganised, and the time is not opportune for such an operation. The value of the trust's interest in the Cuban Asphalt Co. is improving, and the work of re-opening the mines is proceeding satisfactorily. A railway connecting the property with the port has been put into running repair, the equipment has been thoroughly overhauled, and a refining plant is being erected. It is believed that the asphalt properties, if revalued, would wipe out past losses, but the directors prefer to leave that question in abeyance for the present. A thorough geological survey of the properties is being made, and there are indications that it will prove satisfactory to the proprietors, but for the present it may be just as well not to be too sanguine.

It must be so nice to be a shareholder in the Oilfields Finance Corporation, Ltd., that the galaxy of talent on the board deserves to be put on record. The directors are Messrs. Richard Whieldon Barnett, M.P., W. Watson Rutherford, M.P., Percy C. Quilter, J. S. Smith-Winby, Alfred Rutherford, J.P., and Sir J. S. Harmood Banner, M.P. It is a mixture that gives anyone with vague City recollections furiously to think. Of course, conditions have been adverse, and the overshadowing cloud of the war covers a multitude of sins, but even so it is rather startling to find a realised loss of £93,450 for the year to June 30, which raises the total debit balance to £109,910. There must be heaps of talent to produce figures like these, but we should have thought that less than three M.P.'s would have sufficed. And so the capital has to be reduced by cutting the £1 shares down to 4s. When this surgical operation is completed, the balance-sheet will look quite blushing modest, as thus:—Capital, £74,000; creditors, £39,145; cash, £6,115; assorted investments, £107,030. Naturally the shareholders joyfully accepted their good fortune with only one ungrateful dissident.

UNITED SERDANG (SUMATRA) RUBBER.—Owing to existing war conditions, the dispatch of the final accounts and valuation certificates from the East for the period ended August 31, 1916, has been delayed, and the directors are therefore unable at present to issue a properly audited balance-sheet. They hope, however, if the mails are not unduly delayed, to have the accounts ready before the end of January.

What Balance Sheets Tell.

NEW ZEALAND AND RIVER PLATE LAND MORTGAGE CO., LTD.

During the year ended October 31 this company reduced by a substantial amount its loans on mortgages in the River Plate, and put most of the money thus obtained into Treasury bills. Thanks to these changes, the income from the River Plate was £2,631 smaller at £100,604, but interest received in London rose by £1,686, and £2,478 more was realised on commission exchange accounts. Including £17,549 brought forward and a trifle from New Zealand, the total revenue was £8,297 better at £127,816, and after providing for taxes in London, River

Plate, and New Zealand the nett profit showed an increase of £7,295 at £84,844. The dividend is increased from 10 per cent. to 12, but is this time paid subject to income-tax, as against tax free a year ago, and £2,000 more at £27,000 is transferred to reserve, leaving the balance carried out £1,705 down at £15,844. Realisations in New Zealand gave a surplus of £885, and the remaining assets in that country are valued at £2,115, so that a further £3,000 is added to reserve on this account. With this sum and the appropriation from revenue, the reserve will stand at £515,000, as against a paid-up capital of £350,000, and the position generally seems very sound. Liabilities on terminable debentures have been reduced by £11,537 to £468,997, and other liabilities are only slightly higher. On the other hand, a decrease of £90,357 to £1,146,772 in loans in the River Plate, is more than offset by a purchase of £87,000 Treasury bills and an increase of £9,637 to £105,205 in investments in London, while bills receivable are £15,500 up at £58,500.

CREDIT FONCIER OF MAURITIUS, LTD.

For the year to June 30 interest and management fees were £7,000 higher at £46,800, but the profit on working properties was £11,600 less at £4,345. Sundry receipts, however, increased £3,600, and the nett profit, after providing for interest and depreciation was £2,700 up at £27,650. With £7,300 more brought in, the available balance is £10,000 larger at £37,475, but only 5 per cent., against 7 per cent., is paid on the ordinary and the balance forward is increased by £17,500 to £27,390, subject to excess profits duty. As regards the outlook for the coming year it is stated that the cost of machinery and cultivation expenses are abnormal, and considerable damage was caused to the growing canes by a cyclone in May. Balances due on properties sold have been reduced £34,000, and cash is £27,200 lower, but investments have increased £83,200 to £242,000.

EAST INDIA DISTILLERIES AND SUGAR FACTORIES, LTD.

A year ago this company was able to restore its ordinary shares to the dividend-paying list, after an absence of ten years, and has evidently enjoyed a much greater measure of prosperity in the 12 months ended September 30. After providing £7,373, or £3,363 more, for income-tax, law costs, &c., and meeting fixed charges, the nett profits showed a further satisfactory improvement of £7,405 at £39,400. The preference dividend having been paid, the dividend on the ordinary shares is doubled at 10 per cent., and £17,000, or £10,000 more, is transferred to contingency account, leaving £3,013 to be carried forward, as against £2,613 brought in. Additions to buildings and plant cost £7,935, making a total of £17,251, but the expenditure in the Central Provinces Abkari and on the new factory remains at last year's figures. Stocks are £98,271 up at £224,794, against which loans in Madras have risen by £87,494 to £136,643. Creditors are £11,948 higher at £42,291, while, on the other hand, debtors owe £3,255 more at £31,794, duty paid in advance is £2,995 up at £6,885, and cash is £2,233 up at £9,090.

UNITED TOBACCO COMPANIES, LTD.

This associate of the anti-smokers' league did nothing wonderful in the year to September 30. Nett profits were only £6,000 higher at £193,500, and although £19,500 more was brought forward, the shareholders have to be content with the same dividend as last year—25 per cent., free of income-tax—but £25,500 more at £141,500 is carried forward, subject to excess profits duty. It is a nice fat sum, but as the reserve is only £30,000, against an issued capital of £900,000, the directors are prudent not to divide up to the hilt. Sundry creditors have been reduced £68,000, but £161,000 is owing to associated companies, whereas a year ago the latter owed £21,000. The cash position, however, is very strong, cash and Treasury bills amounting to £178,000, an increase of £134,000.

NEWCASTLE BREWERIES, LTD.

They are thirsty souls Tyneside way, and dearer beer makes them swear a bit, but drink none the less. And so this company made an additional profit of £20,000 at £108,370 in the year to October 31, besides which £9,000 more was brought forward. But the directors very wisely do not recommend an increase in the dividend; 10 per cent. is quite sufficient in these times. But £10,000 more at £29,000 is added to the reserve fund, raising it to £250,000, against an issued capital of £400,000, and the carry forward is increased by £18,000 to £40,700, subject to excess profits duty. It is stated that the properties of the company have been well maintained, £15,760, or £2,500 more, having been spent on them during the past year, and so far as we can judge the company is well and prudently managed. Changes in the balance-sheet are comparatively trifling, and merely reflect the increased business transacted.

BARTHOLOMAW BREWING CO. (OF ROCHESTER), LTD.

In the year to September 30 the sales of beer amounted to 331,380 barrels, an increase of 5,500 barrels, but profits were slightly smaller, owing to the higher cost of materials, and this will be a more important factor in the current season. The company has placed on the market a temperance beverage which it hopes will prove a very useful adjunct to the business in "dry" territories, as it is of high quality, and giving general satisfaction to the trade. Dividends received from the American company amounted to £52,400, and after adjustments there is an available balance of £51,430, or £1,380 less. The dividend of 3 per cent. on the ordinary shares is repeated, and the balance forward is reduced by £1,380 to £850. The floating assets of the American company show a surplus of £258,000

over current liabilities, an increase of £26,000. In the English accounts investments now stand at only £760, a reduction of £34,400, but the American company owes £29,200 more at £37,200, and cash is up £4,400 at £15,650.

HALLEY'S INDUSTRIAL MOTORS, LTD.

This became a controlled establishment on October 2 last year, and the report to September 30 cannot properly be compared with the previous one. Apparently there was a drop of £40,000 in the profits to £27,745, but this sum is arrived at after charging £7,850 for income-tax and making provision for excess duty, &c. Anyhow, the directors feel justified in repeating the dividend and bonus of 15 per cent., and the carry forward is only £5,500 less at £15,800. Moreover, they propose to capitalise part of the reserve fund (£76,000) by distributing £35,000 by the allotment of one fully-paid share in respect of every three at present held, so we take it that everything is as rosy as need be. Creditors are up £32,000, and debtors £19,000, but £5,600 has been written off plant, &c., stocks are £4,400 lower, and cash is down £7,000, but it still amounts to £33,645, besides which the company has £30,000 of War Loan stock, so all is well.

ORCHESTRELLE CO., LTD.

This company is beginning to surmount the adverse effects of the war, and the subsidiary concerns operating in Allied or neutral territories made a profit of £700 to June 30, as against a loss of £11,400 last year. As to what is happening in enemy countries it is best not to be too inquisitive at present. At June 30, 1914, a balance of £45,100 was set aside for contingencies, and out of this the preference dividend has been paid and last year's loss written off, so that the amount is now reduced to £3,720. It looks as though the preference holders will have to go short after this year unless things take a decided turn for the better; but the general business of the company is improving, and arrears will easily be made good when conditions become normal again. There is nothing in the balance-sheet that need detain us.

ANGOSTURA BITTERS (DR. SIEGERT AND SONS), LTD.

For the year to September 30 the gross profits were £9,300 higher at £25,000, and the nett profit shows an increase of £8,100 at £15,540. This allows of a dividend of 6 per cent., against 3 per cent., on the ordinary shares, and after placing £2,000 (new) to reserve fund, the balance forward is £1,800 larger at £2,150. Business during the year has been very satisfactory, and it is mentioned as a gratifying fact that additional business has been secured in markets hitherto well stocked with cheap imitations of German origin, and it is hoped that this advantage may be of a permanent nature. Nothing in the balance-sheet calls for mention, but the company ought to be getting into a stronger financial position. It was sadly overweighted with capital to start with.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

MINERALS SEPARATION, LIMITED.

IMPORTANT LEGAL VICTORY IN THE UNITED STATES.

DISTRIBUTION OF NORTH AMERICAN CORPORATION TRUST CERTIFICATES.

The 11th annual ordinary general meeting of Minerals Separation, Ltd., was held on Thursday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, Mr. Francis L. Gibbs, a director of the company, presiding.

The Secretary, Mr. A. O. Williams, read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—I must commence with an apology that the issue of the report and accounts for 1915 has been so long delayed. In future I think there is no reason why this annual statement should not be issued at a much earlier date, which will, I hope, not be later than the end of June in any year. Since the formation of our company in 1903 we have frequently had occasion to congratulate ourselves at our general meetings on legal victories in defence of our patent rights both here and in Australia, but this year we have to celebrate a triumphant victory in the United States far greater in its effect than any other we have hitherto succeeded in obtaining. (Cheers.) The only regret in my mind, and this I know you will share with me, is that on this auspicious occasion our chairman, Mr. John Ballot, is not here to address you. Our success before the Supreme Court at Washington is chiefly due to his unflagging industry on behalf of your interests, and especially to his devoted attention to the detailed patent work of which there must be so much in our business. If any important detail of this patent work had been neglected, disaster instead of victory might easily have followed. Mr. Ballot has twice visited the United States during the past

year, and Dr. Gregory has been resident there for the whole of the past three years looking after the interests of our American syndicate, arranging contracts, such as the Anaconda contract of which you were told last year, and generally superintending the company's business in America. Mr. Curle, who is another absentee from the board to-day, has gone abroad on certain matters connected with the war.

TONNAGE TREATED BY LICENSEES OF AFFILIATED COMPANIES.

Although your minds are full of the victory we have won, and you naturally desire to hear more from me about our American business than anything else, I must first ask you to bear with me while I briefly explain to you the accounts for 1915 which you have before you. The chairman then dealt exhaustively with the details of the balance-sheet and profit and loss account, and, continuing, said: In our chairman's address to you last year he expressed a hope that early in the current year our patent position in the United States would be so firmly established that the board would be able to recommend the payment of a substantial dividend. After exercising patience, in some cases for nearly 13 years, you will now receive your first reward if you sanction the distribution of trust certificates in the new North American Corporation as proposed by the board. A little later on I will give you some information as to the prospects of this new American Corporation, so that you may be able to form some idea of the value of this proposed distribution; but I will say at once that this value is certainly far greater than any dividend which we had in contemplation last year. (Hear, hear.) You may remember that when Mr. Ballot addressed you last year he estimated that during 1915 the licensees of our affiliated companies and of this company would treat over 4,500,000 tons of ore by our flotation process, and that during the current year, 1916, the same licensees would treat over 13,000,000 tons of ore by our flotation process. You will be glad to hear that the estimate of 4,500,000 tons for 1915 proved to be correct, and the figure of 13,000,000 tons in 1916 will prove to be more like 14,000,000. (Cheers.) You will realise from the figures of tonnages which I have just mentioned what an important position your company occupies in assisting the production of metals so much needed by this country and her Allies. Your board regret any inconvenience which may have been caused by the closing of the books of the company on the 11th inst. at such short notice, but the chairman cabled from New York that it was essential this should be done at once so that the board might be able to send out to him by the mail which left on the 15th inst. a list of the names into which the trust certificates were to be registered in the new American Corporation.

MINERALS SEPARATION NORTH AMERICAN CORPORATION.

I will now give you as much information as I have available as to the Minerals Separation North American Corporation, which is the full name of the Corporation which has acquired the business of your American subsidiary syndicate. First, I will say that I have no doubt that the decision of the American syndicate to remove its domicile from London to the United States has your entire approval. This change has been contemplated for some time, and the growing business of the syndicate and the general adoption in the United States of our flotation process made it a necessity. It was becoming increasingly difficult to manage this American business effectively from London, and it was felt that a strong board in New York and a complete organisation in the country where all the business was being conducted could not fail to be of great advantage. The chairman of the new Corporation will be Mr. Ballot, and he will be assisted by Dr. Gregory, and also by a partner in the New York house of Messrs. Lazard and Co. These are the members of the board so far as I know at present, but from the names which I have mentioned you will know that our American interests are in good hands. (Hear, hear.) There will also be voting trustees appointed who will represent the shares for a period of five years, as you were informed in the circular letter of the 8th inst. The reason which prompted the decision to have the new American

Corporation registered as a Trust Corporation was to ensure that to whatever extent the 500,000 Trust Certificates representing the 500,000 shares of the new Corporation (which I may mention have no nominal or face value) might change hands, the actual control of the Corporation will remain with these trustees for that period of time. Mr. Ballot and Dr. Gregory will both act as trustees, and probably one other will also be appointed. Under the agreement with the Anaconda Copper Co. that company combined with certain other companies undertook to pay to us at least \$300,000, whether the Supreme Court decided for us or against us. Now that the Supreme Court have heard our case and delivered judgment, it will interest you to know that the actual amount which we shall receive from the Anaconda Co. in respect of that contract up to the date of the Supreme Court judgment will be approximately \$500,000. (Applause.) The details of the contract were very fully explained to you last year by our chairman, and so I do not think it necessary to repeat this information to-day.

FUTURE VALUE OF THE NORTH AMERICAN BUSINESS.

It is, of course, difficult to form any estimate yet as to the value of the American business, but I hope that what I am now going to tell you will assist you to some extent to appraise its value. In the current year, if you take all our licensees together in the United States into account, they have treated in the aggregate roughly 11½ million tons of ore, from which the gross revenue will probably amount to about £140,000. It is estimated also (and please bear in mind that it is only an estimate) that the tonnage treated by the very numerous infringers of our process in plants actually in operation during the current year alone will also amount to 13,500,000 tons. Even if the rate of royalty charged on this latter tonnage were to be no larger than the rates which we have charged to those licensees who have loyally respected our patent rights, the gross annual revenue from plants already now using our process in the United States would be not far short of £300,000. (Hear, hear.) It is, however, unreasonable to suppose that those who in future will control our American interests will charge those who have been infringers of our process the same exceptionally favourable terms which were granted to large users like the Anaconda Copper Company before our patent position was established. We shall not, you may be sure, act otherwise than reasonably and equitably, even towards infringers, but it is obvious that those who for the past three years have been making enormous profits by the unlawful use of our process must be prepared to hand over to us at least a considerable proportion of these profits. (Applause.) It is estimated that by means of our process these infringers have made profits of more than £5,000,000 beyond those which they could have made without our process, and by the American law we are, I believe, entitled to claim the whole of this excess. (Laughter and applause.) We anticipate also, that not only large recoveries in cash will be obtained from the infringers of our process, but now that the patent question in the United States has been, we believe, finally settled by the highest Court, it appears certain that a very large increase in the tonnage treated under licence will take place, and that the 25,000,000 tons treated this year will be greatly exceeded in future years.

ADVANTAGES OF THE USE OF THE FLOTATION PROCESS.

While on the subject of this American part of our business I should like to give you some striking information which will show you the immense advantage obtained by those who have adopted our methods of concentration on a large scale. The working of our flotation process has now arrived at such a pitch of perfection that in the case of large installations of our plant we are informed that the total operating cost per ton of ore treated is no higher than before the adoption of flotation, with a result that the whole of the extra recovery obtained by the use of our process in large installations is additional profit. I think, gentlemen, that this statement bodes well for the future of our business generally, and that from what I have been able to tell you about our new American Corporation you will consider that its prospects are excellent. (Applause.) As regards Australia, I am glad to tell you that our Australian Company has just declared a dividend at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum for the quarter ending December 31 in the current year, which is a hopeful sign that this company is gradually returning to pre-war conditions. During the period under review several new important licences have been entered into with mine-owners in Allied and neutral countries for the production of copper, molybdenite, and other metals. These installations are being pushed forward with all possible speed.

THE BRADEN COPPER COMPANY AND THE PROCESS.

The Braden Copper Company, which are the largest users of our process outside North America, are, we understand, now

taking steps to triple the capacity of their mill, so that we may expect an increasing income from this source for some time to come. It is estimated that the tonnage of ore treated by our process during the current year by this mine will amount to about 1,500,000 tons.

The members of your staff here and abroad have done excellent work in the past year, and your thanks are due to them. (Hear, hear.) Fifteen members of the company's staff are now serving at the war, most of them in France. Since our last annual general meeting Captain Walter Broadbridge, our chief engineer, has been mentioned in despatches; Major Howard has been twice wounded; Captain A. Mowbray Jones has been awarded the Military Cross, but I regret to say he has been severely wounded for the second time, and is now in hospital in London, where he is making satisfactory progress. (Applause.) With deep regret I have to record the loss of Battalion Sergeant-Major G. Button, of the Royal West Kents, who was killed in action in France on July 1. Sergeant Button was a splendid type of man, and by his death the company has lost a most valuable and faithful servant. While at the front he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal and also mentioned in despatches. Private Wardle, after being twice wounded, has been pronounced unfit for further military service, and has rejoined our office staff. Before I sit down I should like to mention two other members of our staff, Mr. George A. Chapman and Mr. Howard Higgins, both of whom have done splendid work for our company, particularly in America, in connection with the legal work there, and also on the technical side of our business there.

I now move, "That the report and accounts for 1915 be adopted," and I shall be pleased to answer any question you may wish to ask me.

Mr. W. W. Webster seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously, and the proposal of the directors to distribute 250,000 Trust Certificates of the new North American Corporation to the shareholders was approved.

On the motion of Mr. Webster, seconded by Mr. Vyvyan Trubshawe, the re-election of Mr. H. A. Krohn and Mr. Francis L. Gibbs, the retiring directors, was unanimously agreed to; and the auditors, Messrs. Monkhouse, Stoneham, and Co., were also reappointed.

A vote of thanks was passed to the staff, and a similar compliment having been paid to the chairman, the proceedings terminated.

BRITISH COLUMBIA ELECTRIC RAILWAY.

The twentieth ordinary general meeting of the members of the British Columbia Electric Railway Co., Limited, was held on Friday, December 22, at the Liverpool Street Hotel, E.C., Mr. G. P. Norton presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. Michael Urwin, A.C.A.), read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman: Gentlemen,—I presume that all of you have copies of the report and balance-sheet, and with your consent I will take them as having been read. Unfortunately, our chairman, Mr. Horne-Payne, is not able to be here, but he has prepared a speech, and Mr. Harold Brown will kindly read it to us.

Mr. Harold G. Brown then read Mr. Horne-Payne's speech, which was as follows:—

Ladies and Gentlemen,—We exceedingly regret that this meeting has not been held at an earlier and more convenient date, but it has been quite impossible to issue the accounts sooner, and the fact that they are ready now reflects great credit upon our secretary, who is the sole male employee left in the London office. I do not think there is a great deal to say to you about the position and prospects of the company. The report itself tells you almost all there is to be said on the subject, but there are one or two matters about which you may expect me to give some further explanation. The total gross income of the company for the year under review—namely, the year ended June 30 last—was only £258,000, as compared with £370,000 in the preceding year and £560,000 for the year ended June 30, 1914—a decrease in the two years since the outbreak of war of considerably more than 50 per cent. This unfortunate state of affairs has been due mainly to two causes—namely, a reduction, amounting to some 30 per cent., in the population of the districts we serve, owing to or consequent upon the extraordinary proportion of the manhood of the province who have voluntarily enlisted in the Army of the Empire; and, secondly, to the continuance of the unfair competition of what we call jitney cars. These are privately owned motor-cars which ply for hire at ordinary tram fares in opposition to the company's cars. We must all feel a grim satisfaction and pride in the first-named cause of our misfortunes, and, moreover, it is a trouble that we can safely trust to right itself after the war. A loss or gain of 30 per cent. in the population served means the loss or gain of a great deal more than 30 per cent. in the profits of a company such as ours, because there is a certain minimum population necessary to produce the minimum earnings required to meet the fixed and irreducible expense of main-

taining the services. It is therefore reasonable to look for an increase in profits on the return of the troops almost as rapid as the decrease has been. I do not mean to say that we shall get back all at once to the dividend we formerly received on the deferred ordinary stock, but I do think that we shall again receive a moderate return on the money invested in that stock within a year or two of the end of the war. Meanwhile, we have maintained most efficient services for the convenience of the public and the great advantages of the cities and districts served, and should be able to continue to do so were it not for the piratical competition of the jitney cars. As stated in the report, although since January 1 this competition has been less acute than in the previous year, these cars are still depriving the company of earnings amounting to approximately £350,000 a year. This company has deserved well of the people of British Columbia, and was entitled to expect not only fair treatment, but every encouragement, and in this matter they certainly have not received it. Every effort has been made to obtain fair treatment by endeavouring to secure that the jitneys shall be subject to similar control of service, accommodation, and construction of cars and other matters as is imposed upon the company, and that they shall contribute to municipal revenue and expenses in some fair proportion to the contribution of this company, but it has as yet been impossible to convince the authorities and the public of the folly of maintaining by preferential treatment, to the detriment of a great enterprise, which has done in the past and can do in the future as much for the province, a service which is merely a convenience to a certain section of the public, and can do nothing to advance permanently the general welfare, by the expenditure of capital, the employment of labour or the encouragement of industries. Very little capital expenditure has been incurred during the past year, and none which was not immediately remunerative or which was not necessary in order to comply with franchises or agreements previously entered into. From the nature of the services supplied and the conditions under which we have acquired the right to supply them, it is impossible for the company ever to close its capital account entirely. Throughout the year the most strenuous efforts were made by the management to enforce every possible economy, and with a large measure of success, but we are now called upon to face a large increase in the cost of labour. There has been for some time past a great deal of trouble in connection with labour throughout the American continent, and British Columbia has not escaped. The shortage of men and the increase in prices of commodities created a difficult situation. These conditions seriously affected the employees of the company, and although the agreement with them still had a few months to run, it was recently decided to grant an immediate increase of wages. This concession involves an increase in working expenses of considerably more than \$100,000 per annum, and is to remain in force until June 30, 1918. A more agreeable side of the situation is the fact that during the four months of the current year for which we have the figures, there is an increase in net earnings over the same period last year of well over £30,000. As a matter of fact, this improvement commenced in February, and although varying in amount has been continuous month by month up to and including October, which is the last return we have received. We think there are grounds to hope that this increase in earnings may continue on a sufficiently large scale to enable us this year to meet the dividend on the 5 per cent. cumulative preference stock without having recourse to the reserve fund, and with perhaps a small surplus.

In estimating the prospects of the company, one has largely to be guided by the general outlook in British Columbia. From its geographical position, British Columbia has experienced a more severe set-back from the war and less benefit from war trade than any other province of Canada, the mining industry alone having derived substantial benefit, while such important industries as the shipping trade and the lumber trade have been practically paralysed. There can be no doubt, however, that during the last six months these trades and commercial and industrial conditions generally have been steadily improving. Much attention is being given to the development of the mining industry, and the mines have experienced a great demand for their products for munition purposes. The Provincial Government are assisting the development of the shipbuilding industry, and there seems no reason why Vancouver and Victoria should not successfully rival Seattle and San Francisco in shipbuilding. There is an increasing export trade with Russia and the East, particularly in munitions, railway materials, &c., and it is believed that after the war the exchange of commodities with Russia across the Pacific will be permanently established. I think that undoubtedly the worst times were experienced towards the end of last year, and that from now on we shall see continued improvement.

The Chairman: I have now to propose: "That the balance-sheet as at June 30, 1916, and the revenue account for the year ended on that date, together with the reports of the directors and auditors thereon, be, and are hereby, received and adopted."

Mr. E. L. Evan-Thomas seconded the resolution.

The Chairman, in reply to questions, said it was the practice of the board before appointing any new directors, or suggesting such appointments, to consult some of the large stockholders, and their consent and approval had been obtained. With regard to management, the company had had the advantage of Mr. Sperling's services until he received his appointment in the Army, and the directors had always been very glad to have his assistance, and they hoped to have it again after the war. Mr. Sperling had had a long experience, and it was always an ad-

vantage to have the help of someone who had lived on the spot. He (the speaker) had been connected with the company since its inception, and in his opinion it had never been better managed than it was to-day, if so well. It was in the best of hands, and their people in British Columbia were doing splendidly for the company against the adverse circumstances. With reference to the subsidiary companies, the great bulk of the money was in the Vancouver Power Co., which was the company that owned their power, and was, of course, the most important and perhaps the best asset that the company had.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

BANTAM (JAVA) RUBBER ESTATES.

The sixth ordinary general meeting of the Bantam (Java) Rubber Estates, Limited, was held, on Thursday, at the Council Room of the Rubber Growers' Association, 38, Eastcheap, E.C., Mr. H. de C. Hamilton (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. Donald Laing) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: You will see that we have had a very satisfactory year as far as profits are concerned, but, as you are well aware, we are unable to treat you as liberally as we should have liked to. We trust, however, you will be contented with the final distribution of 10 per cent., which we propose to declare to-day, making 20 per cent. for the year. As you will see, the total amount we have to deal with is £60,211 10s. 10d.—a very big increase on last year's showing. We have already paid you an interim dividend of 10 per cent. (£15,000), we carry to development fund the amount spent on the non-productive area during the year, £486 6s. 6d., and write off the usual 20 per cent. depreciation of buildings, £2,718 14s. 3d. We propose to pay a final dividend of 10 per cent., less income-tax, which takes £15,000, and the directors receive extra remuneration under the articles of association of £1,000, leaving a fairly large amount to carry forward—namely, £26,003 9s. 11d.—which is subject to excess profit tax. The amount of tax we have to pay is not definitely settled yet, but, as far as we can judge, we may have somewhere about £5,000 in hand to bring into the current year's account. You will notice we have so far carried nothing to suspense account, but this will have attention in due course. Now as to the estates—the reports we receive are on the whole quite satisfactory. The whole of the estates are now in bearing and partial bearing, so there will be no further capital expenditure on unproductive areas. Weeding has been carried on as previously, and mostly clean weeding, excepting on the hillsides, where harmless grasses are allowed to grow to prevent wash. The cost has been 1d. per acre more than last year. Tapping is reported as being well and carefully done. The yield was good, and the manager was able to revise the original estimate, which again was exceeded by 24,318 lbs. No forward contracts were made, and the rubber crop sold for an average price of 2s. 7½d. per lb. for all grades. As to all-in costs, I think we may consider them quite satisfactory, considering the high freights and high charges owing to the war, although they only show an infinitesimal reduction from last year. As you will see, the estimated crop for the year is 770,000 lbs. As more than half the crop will be collected during the first six months, this should be exceeded. The buildings have all been well looked after, and no further additions of any magnitude are contemplated at present. Labour—there seems to be very little trouble now in getting all the necessary labour. This has been brought about by treating the people well and liberally, and having them comfortably housed. Thinning out has been drastically continued. By degrees the estates will not carry more than 80 trees to the acre. This is none too few, as light and air are most essential to the well-being of the trees and the renewal of the bark. Shareholders may desire some information with regard to the conduct of the company's affairs in Java, and in any event the board are desirous that shareholders should be acquainted with the difficulties with which the board have had to contend. Ever since the outbreak of war the position has been a very delicate one, because some years prior to 1914—in fact, at the inception of the company—and as a condition of the sale of the property of the company, a company known as Behn Meyer and Co., Limited, which was incorporated in the Straits Settlements, were appointed as the company's agents in the East for a period of ten years, and this agreement provided that the successors in business of Behn Meyer and Co., Limited, were to be continued as the company's agents during that period. Behn Meyer and Co., Limited, were a very powerful concern, and soon after the outbreak of war—namely, in December, 1914—the Straits Settlements Government passed an Ordinance entitling them to wind up enemy concerns, and one of the companies ordered to be wound up was Behn Meyer and Co., Limited. The board then immediately took up the position that, in consequence of this forced liquidation, Behn Meyer and Co., Limited, ceased to be agents. Immediately prior to the liquidation of Behn Meyer and Co., Limited, in Singapore, the parties constituting that company formed another company in Java, under Dutch law, called Behn Meyer and Co. Handels Maatschappij. By executing various documents, these persons endeavoured to create such a position as would enable them to contend that this new Dutch company were the successors in business of Behn Meyer and Co., Limited, Singapore, and they claimed, and are still claiming, that, as such, they are still agents of this company. It would be a very long story for me to detail all that has happened, but the position, shortly, is that we have been in close communication with the Foreign Trade Department and the Foreign Office, and, through them, with the Consul in Batavia, and legal steps are now being taken for the purpose of

having the question determined that Behn Meyer and Co. Handels Maatschappij are not entitled to act as agents of this company, and we hope that the result of the steps that have been taken will be satisfactory to this country. In the meantime, measures have been resorted to which prevent the Dutch company from dealing with the proceeds of this company's rubber, and to a very considerable extent eliminating it from interference with this company's affairs. The legal difficulties, however, which arise are very troublesome, because of the fact that the estates are situated in Dutch—that is, neutral—territory, and the Dutch authorities cannot do anything which would appear to be antagonistic either to the enemy interests or to the British interests. Shareholders must, however, realise that the directors have had a very anxious time in dealing with these difficulties, and trust them, in conjunction with the strong support which they are receiving from the Foreign Office, to successfully overcome them.

Mr. A. H. Dunsinure seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

SAMUEL ALLSOPP AND SONS.

THE BREWING INDUSTRY.

The twenty-eighth ordinary annual general meeting of Samuel Allsopp and Sons, Ltd., was held on Thursday, at the Cannon Street Hotel, Sir William B. Peat presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. J. Hartshorn) read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said the trading profit for the past year amounted to £132,092, as compared with £92,547 in the previous year, and there was a profit balance of £60,791, as compared with £31,825—an increase of 100 per cent. This the directors considered a relatively good result. In their opinion Allsopp's ought to do better than they had done in the past year; but whether circumstances would ever enable them to put before the shareholders what they themselves considered a prosperous state of affairs remained in the hands of powers which they could not control. The most important feature of the brewing trade since the war began was that, first of all, the company had been restricted, in common with other breweries, by some 30 per cent. upon their pre-war standard of brewing, and they had had to curtail their trade to meet Government requirements. Then there had been the restriction of hours, the "no treating" order, and various other demands on the trade. While all brewers very readily made such arrangements as were necessary to carry out the views of the Government, enormous and costly advertisements had recently appeared which sought to influence the mind of the public and induce them to believe that the brewing of beer was a monstrous waste of food, leading more promptly than would otherwise be the case to food tickets; that the brewing industry supplied a mere luxury, while the food of the people was at stake; that those who took alcohol in any form whatever were robbing the nation's food supplies; and, lastly, that beer sapped our man-power, reduced our efficiency, and wasted our resources. This attack had come from those who had agitated for 40 years, spent endless sums of money, and failed to secure by Parliamentary legislation what they now sought to obtain by putting before the public the fear of food shortage. The merits of the question were not seriously discussed in these advertisements. The food qualities at present supplied by beer must be filled up with some other materials of human food of equal value to the beer which was now supplied. Therefore, total prohibition could not possibly save the country either the whole of the man-power or the whole of the food value which had hitherto been used in the production of beer. In this connection he drew attention to a letter which had appeared in the *Times* over the signature of Dr. Waller, of the University of London, which, he said, was well worth being read by people who wanted to look at the matter from an independent standpoint. Continuing, he said that when he saw the necessities of the war exploited as a means to obtain the destruction of the brewing industry, and when assertions were made without any adequate proof, so as to influence the minds of the people with a view to bringing about that result, in order to meet the views of faddists and the militant teetotaler, it was time for those engaged in the industry to band themselves together for mutual protection in asking that an independent inquiry—if necessary, of a public nature—should be made into the merits of the question. The brewing trade generally were quite prepared to do everything that was absolutely necessary so that the war might be successfully prosecuted to a victorious end, but they did object to the publication of an advertisement which dealt entirely with one side and appealed to the fears of the people instead of to what was just and right.

The Managing Director (Mr. John J. Calder) seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

CAPITOL FREEHOLD LAND AND INVESTMENT.

The twenty-ninth annual general meeting of the Capitol Freehold Land and Investment Co., Ltd., was held on Friday at the offices of the company, 33-36, King William Street, London, E.C., Mr. F. M. Crisp, chairman of the company, presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. H. Milner Willis) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, after dealing with the balance-sheet, said: I now come to the matter of the accounting suit. If you need any reminder as to the origin of this suit, it will be sufficient to say that it was for the adjudication of sundry claims made

respectively by the lessees on the one hand and the company on the other, in respect of the 15-year lease of the lands and cattle. Every question between the lessees and the company has now been adjudicated upon, the result being a decree in favour of the lessees for a balance of \$1,788,559. The company's legal adviser in America, where the case was, of course, tried, strongly recommended an appeal against the decisions, being emphatic as to the prospect of largely reducing the award. Without in any way detracting from the opinion of our American counsel, who, in the opinion of the board, conducted our case in the most able manner, I must say that equally emphatic opinions were expressed as to the certainty of our success prior to the trial of our last action, and your board decided, on the advice of their legal adviser and counsel here, that it would be much more to the shareholders' interest to endeavour to effect a compromise than to run the serious risk of the judgment being upheld. Under the circumstances, we are pleased to be able to report, as a result of our efforts, the settlement of the whole matter for a sum of \$850,000, instead of \$1,788,559. The assets of the company consist of the lands retaken for non-payment, some 17,000 odd acres, bills receivable and cash, and as a part of the settlement, and, with the object of leaving any remaining assets, after paying the agreed sum in as liquid a form as possible, the directors have arranged that the lessees accept as part payment: (1) The lands referred to at the same valuation as that adopted in the scheme sanctioned by the Court, viz., \$4.84 per acre; (2) the bills receivable at a discount of 10 per cent. off their face value; and (3) the balance in cash. It is the intention to distribute the remaining assets amongst the shareholders at as early a date as it can possibly be done, and the company will be wound up during the coming year. Shareholders will be anxious to know what further distribution they are likely to receive, but this information, I regret, at the moment I am unable definitely to forecast. I can only say that our assets, after paying \$850,000 mentioned, will roughly be between \$300,000 and \$400,000, out of which the current debts of the company will have to be met. For several years past, in view of our inability to submit completed yearly accounts, the income-tax authorities have assessed the company at a sum of £50,000 per annum for income-tax. Appeals have, of course, been lodged, but the hearing has had to be deferred until the accounts for the current year are ready. In view of the loss which we have made on our chief asset, the land, to which I referred in the early part of my speech, we shall, we hope, be able to show that we are under no liability in respect of the assessments. When we are able to get these appeals out of the way, we shall be in a position to proceed with the winding up, and get whatever sum the remaining assets will produce distributed.

Mr. Bernard Crisp seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

LONDON-AMERICAN MARITIME TRADING.

The annual general meeting of the shareholders of the London-American Maritime Trading Co., Ltd., was held on Friday at the Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool Street, E.C., the Earl of Wemyss, chairman of the company, presiding.

The Assistant Secretary having read the notice calling the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: Whereas last year they had to deplore the loss of two of their ships owing to attacks by the enemy, they had not this year lost any. He was also glad to be able to say that the company had received the appreciation of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty for services rendered by one of their captains in warding off the attacks of a submarine. Lloyd's were recognising his service by awarding him their medal for meritorious service, and they were giving also a monetary reward to the crew. He reminded the shareholders last year that they were under a time charter with the Rio de Janeiro Co. with a great number of their ships, and though this was a favourable arrangement when freights were low, it was not satisfactory when freights were high, so they had made a supplementary arrangement with them, which increased the profits. Since the accounts were issued they had purchased from the Leonidas S.S. Co. their ships, the *Venus*, *Leander*, *Marie Suzanne*, and the *Marie Elsie*, aggregating 19,420 tons dead weight. These ships had already shown good results. In addition to the limitation of their profits by the fact that they were under time charter, they had had three things to contend with which had affected their profits. They had the fact that the Government had far more extensively commandeered their ships this year than they did last year, thereby limiting the profit. They had also had to pay considerably increased taxation, and also to considerably increase their insurance rates to keep up to the value of the ships. These three things had tended against their profits, and he thought that, under all the circumstances, it was very satisfactory that they were able to show not a diminished profit, but a *pro rata* increased profit compared to last year. This year their profit was £118,835. There was a small, but quite satisfactory, increase in the profits per month. They were therefore in a position, if they wished, to give the shareholders as large, or perhaps a larger dividend than last year, but he was sure there was not a shareholder in the room who would not agree with him that, in the face of the present financial uncertainty, and the possibilities of which they knew nothing that might affect shipping, it would be the height of imprudence to divide their profits, he would not say up to the hilt, but even half-way up the blade. They therefore

proposed to pay another 15 per cent., making with the interim dividend 20 per cent. for the year. There was also a supplementary dividend at the rate of 3 per cent. to be paid on the cumulative and participating preference shares, which absorbed £3,000, and left them a balance to carry forward to next year of £17,941, compared with the balance brought forward of £2,545.

With regard to the other financial features of the balance-sheet, he wished to point out that the cost of underwriting commission and preliminary expenses was high, and it was their duty in favourable times to pay this off as quickly as possible. Last year they paid off £5,500, and this year they had paid off £15,000, so that they had now paid off more than half of the preliminary expenses. They had also paid off £29,000 of debentures. As regarded reserves, they last year set aside £25,000 as reserve for contingencies, and the whole of that had been used with the exception of £863. They had set aside £50,000 this year, so that their reserve for contingencies was £50,863. They also had a special reserve account amounting to £28,887. There was a further general reserve untouched and carried forward from last year, which amounted to £20,000, and they were also carrying forward £17,941. That was the situation up to date. In two years they had paid the preference shareholders their 14 per cent. and their 7½ per cent. bonus. They had returned to the shareholders 47 per cent. on their investments, and they had considerably reduced the debentures. They had increased their assets, they had increased the number of their ships, and they had to reserve at the present moment a sum which was nearly 50 per cent. of their issued capital. He hoped the shareholders would think that a satisfactory balance-sheet, but he was sorry to see that it had not found universal favour amongst the shareholders. They had been threatened with legal proceedings by a shareholder, who said he represented a great many others, because they had delayed holding the meeting until the present date. He reminded shareholders of the extensive nature of their interest, and the fact that they had dealings practically all over the world, that they had also dilatory Government Departments of various kinds to deal with, and that their accounts were very complicated, so that in times when everything was disjointed and communications almost impossible, it seemed to him a wonder that those responsible for collecting and preparing the accounts had been able to get them together as quickly as they had. There was one further reason for the delay in calling the meeting together. As the shareholders knew, they had litigation with the Charter Co. There was an original agreement, and there was a supplementary agreement, and there were verbal understandings which were not put into writing. There were many things which were not clearly understood, and it was therefore thought best that the matter should be settled in the Law Courts. There was an action—not an unfriendly action—with the Rio de Janeiro Light and Power Co. The case was tried by Justice Atkin, and he was bound to say that, though the decision was against this company, he never read or heard a more masterly or a more fair summing up of the situation than that of Mr. Justice Atkin. The Judge left several points which he advised the parties to settle at a round-table conference, and it was in the hope of this that the managing director, Mr. Petersen, who never lost an opportunity of serving the board, went, at the request of the board, to Canada to try and arrange matters. These points are still being negotiated, and therefore he would say no more about them, but would only remark that they had taken things at their very worst, and that therefore there was nothing behind which any shareholder need fear as the result of this conference. That was the position up to date as regarded the litigation.

They had had a change of Government, and had now a new Government composed of men connected with the great branches of trade and industry, men who had a really wide experience, men who were able not only eloquently to explain their views, but to carry out their duty. He was glad to think that in Sir Joseph Maclay the shipping industry had as good a man as could be found in the whole of this country. He was a man whose whole life, whose whole interests, were bound in the shipping industry. He knew as well as anybody in this country the inestimable value that the mercantile marine had been to England in the past, he knew the indispensable value of its services during the war, and he knew how necessary, after the war, their efficiency would be. He was aware, as well as anyone else, of the fact that all the neutral Powers were making enormous shipping profits; that Japan, our Ally, had paid as much as 600 per cent. dividend on some of her shipping companies, that the Scandinavian companies, in spite of their losses, were making great profits, and that America was laying aside enormous sums for ship-building. He knew all that this competition would mean to them. Was it likely that Sir Joseph Maclay would do anything, or be a party to anything being done that would unfairly or unnecessarily hamper or cripple the mercantile marine? Two things were absolutely necessary, and these he had to do. These were to reduce freights and increase the number of ships, and that these things should be done was as important and necessary for shareholders of shipping companies as for anyone else. If, in doing this, Sir Joseph Maclay had to put burdens upon or place restrictions upon shipping companies, shareholders in this company and other shipping companies, if the burden were fairly distributed, would accept them with patriotic resignation, if not with equanimity. The uncertainties of the position made prophecy extremely difficult, but it was certain that shipping companies that were best managed would come out best in the end.

Mr. Wm. Petersen seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

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PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1916, and Dec. 23, 1916:—

	Estimate for the Year 1916-1917. (See note.)	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1916, to Dec. 23, 1916.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1915, to Dec. 23, 1915.
Balances in Exchequer on April 1—	£	£	£
Bank of England	—	25,111,065	81,898,728
Bank of Ireland	—	463,941	1,552,224
REVENUE.		25,575,006	83,450,952
Customs	71,000,000	49,755,000	37,546,000
Excise	65,000,000	41,064,000	44,082,000
Estate, &c., Duties	30,000,000	21,441,000	23,387,000
Stamps	7,000,000	5,330,000	4,740,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,650,000	370,000	360,000
Property and Income Tax and Super Tax	195,000,000	49,599,000	24,179,000
Excess Profits Duty (including Munitions Levy)	86,000,000	76,450,000	—
Land Value Duties	475,000	141,000	61,000
Post Office	36,100,000	23,350,000	22,850,000
Crown Lands	550,000	420,000	380,000
Receipts from Suez Canal Shares and Sundry Loans ..	5,000,000	4,822,145	776,199
Miscellaneous	3,500,000	11,675,396	4,705,017
Revenue	502,275,000	284,417,541	163,067,246
Total, including Balance ..		309,992,547	246,518,198
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion		2,800,000	2,120,000
For Treasury Bills (for supply) ..		1,623,989,000	408,941,000
For Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		3,087,600	—
For War Loan, 1925-1928		—	35,798,468
For 3% Exchequer Bonds, 1920		—	242,345
For War Loan, 1925-1928		424	596,316,000
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1919		34,222,000	—
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1920		84,140,469	10,362,100
For 5% Exchequer Bonds, 1921		62,464,000	—
For 6% Exchequer Bonds, 1920		150,010,000	—
For War Expenditure Certificates		29,596,500	—
For War Savings Certificates		39,950,000	—
For American Loan		—	35,329,000
For other Debt created under the War Loan Act, 1915, and Finance Act, 1916 ..		150,117,751	—
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913 ..		180,000	1,400,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 ..		160,000	190,000
Under Housing Act, 1914		45,200	744,000
East Africa Protectorate Loan Repayments on account of Principal and Interest ..		—	3,845
Cunard Loan—Repayment on Account of Principal		130,000	130,000
Temporary Advances—			
Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £15,000,000 in 1916-1917 and £231,150,000 in 1915-1916)		466,156,500	302,196,500
Total		2,957,041,991	1,630,291,876

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EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.	Estimate for the Year 1916-17. (See note.)	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1916, to Dec. 23, 1916.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1915, to Dec. 23, 1915.
EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£
Permanent Charge of Debt ..	12,818,000	15,189,637	14,329,725
Interest, &c., on War Debt ..	114,436,000	97,025,874	28,496,911
Road Improvement Fund	—	—	691,395
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts, &c.	9,500,000	6,438,012	6,706,552
Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,700,000	1,358,202	1,269,633
Supply Services	1,837,708,000	1,332,474,191	1,020,019,911
Expenditure	1,976,162,000	1,452,485,916	1,074,508,130
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion		2,880,000	2,565,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		91,370	91,370
For Treasury Bills for Supply		1,071,694,000	122,330,000
For Exchequer Bonds under the War Loan (Redemption) Act, 1910		—	16,395,500
For Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	£4,060,900		
Less: paid off by the National Debt Commissioners	973,300	3,087,600	—
For Exchequer Bonds under Section 61 of the Finance Act, 1916		235,915	—
For Issues under Section 1 (5) of the War Loan Act, 1915		—	170,114,315
Under Telegraph (Money) Act, 1913		210,000	1,400,000
Under Post Office (London) Railway Act, 1913 ..		160,000	190,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897-1903		8,008	—
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		8,000	—
Under Housing Act, 1914		44,500	744,000
Old Sinking Fund, 1907-8, issued under Section 9 of the Finance Act, 1905		69,000	60,000
Old Sinking Fund—1910-1911: Issued under the Finance Act, 1911—			
Section 16 (1) (a)		53,160	194,856
Old Sinking Fund, 1911-1912—Issued under the Anglo-Persian Oil Co. (Acquisition of Capital) Act, 1914		250,000	250,000
East Africa Protectorate Loan Repayments:—			
Issued to reduce Debt under the Finance Act, 1911		—	3,825
Cunard Loan Repayments—Issued to reduce debt under the Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904		130,000	130,000
Temporary Advances repaid—Ways and Means (including Treasury Bills £315,253,000 in 1916-17 and £214,596,000 in 1915-16)		399,149,500	214,596,000
Balances in Exchequer—			
Bank of England	25,719,615	25,521,727	—
Bank of Ireland	765,407	1,257,675	26,435,022
Total		2,957,041,991	1,630,291,876
MEMO.—Treasury Bills outstanding on Dec. 23, 1916			£1,148,118,000
* Includes £106,000, the proceeds of which were not carried to the Exchequer within the period of the Account.			
NOTE.—Estimate as in House of Commons Paper No. 50 of 1916, and Supplementary Grants.			Treasury, December 26, 1916.

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